AN INVESTIGATION INTO CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE CASE OF MUTEMA IRRIGATION SCHEME, WARD 3 CHIPINGE.

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ABSTRACT

The study looks at the challenges facing women engaged in agricultural production activities a case of Mutema village, Ward 3 in Chipinge. The focus of the study was to document the challenges that women included agricultural production activities are facing, assess the successes registered by women engaging in agricultural activities and the strategies being employed by women engaged in agricultural activities in response to the challenges faced. Through the Sen’s Capability approach and the Human Rights Based approach to Development (HRBD), the researcher was able to understand and highlight the social and economic dynamics in everyday life of Mutema villagers and in the irrigation scheme in particular. Drawing from both quantitative and qualitative methodologies using questionnaires and key informant interviews respectively, the researcher found out that women residing in rural play a significant role in agricultural production activities and are dependent on land and, therefore there is need to consider them as key players in building the national productivity base.