

**AFRA**

Association  
For Rural Advancement

# Background

- 4% of South Africa's population lived on farms in 2011
- Not much is known about current living conditions and tenure of farm dwellers
- Specificity of farm dwellers in KwaZulu-Natal - attachment to land they live on extends beyond their relationship to the farm as farm workers
- Pathways Survey: addresses these gaps - quantitative data relating to farm dwellers in the Umgungundlovu District



# Method

- Estimate that Umgungundlovu District has about 42 288 farm dwellers
- Survey from April to September 2017
- 842 farm dweller households
  - 6,478 men, women and children
  - 81 farms (just confirming that it is 81)
  - across the seven local municipalities of the Umgungundlovu District
  - 15,3% of the farm dweller
- Information on household composition, consent to be on the farm and off-farm migration pushes, housing and use of land, incomes from all sources, access to services and expenditure on services, and in some cases tracked changes to these over time.
- An enormous amount of data – we invite government departments also to consider using the data for their own analyses and programme planning



# Overview of data presented

- Selection of income related data:
  - Income distribution
  - Income sources
  - Land based livelihoods
- In order to:
  - Inform a vision for agrarian reform in the district
  - Contribute to a better understanding of the specific context of farm dwellers in the province



# What is a farm dweller?

- OR: Are farm dwellers the same as farm workers? We would say, no, although some farm workers are also farm dwellers.
  - Waged farm workers who have long histories of living on the farm together with their families
  - Waged farm workers who have recently come to live on the farm with their families and have no homes elsewhere
  - Migrant farm workers who have homes elsewhere (often in other countries) but visit them infrequently
  - Families with nobody working on the farm but who have lived many generations on the farm and have no homes elsewhere.



## Monthly income in quartiles

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> quartile | < R 1500        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> quartile | R1 501 – R2 000 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile | R2 001 – R3 000 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> quartile | > R3 001        |

- 75% of the sample earns below the minimum farm worker wage (R3 000 per month)
- On average – R2 300 - income is below minimum farm worker wage
- Bear in mind that:
  - income sources include off farm income
  - does not include unemployed individuals

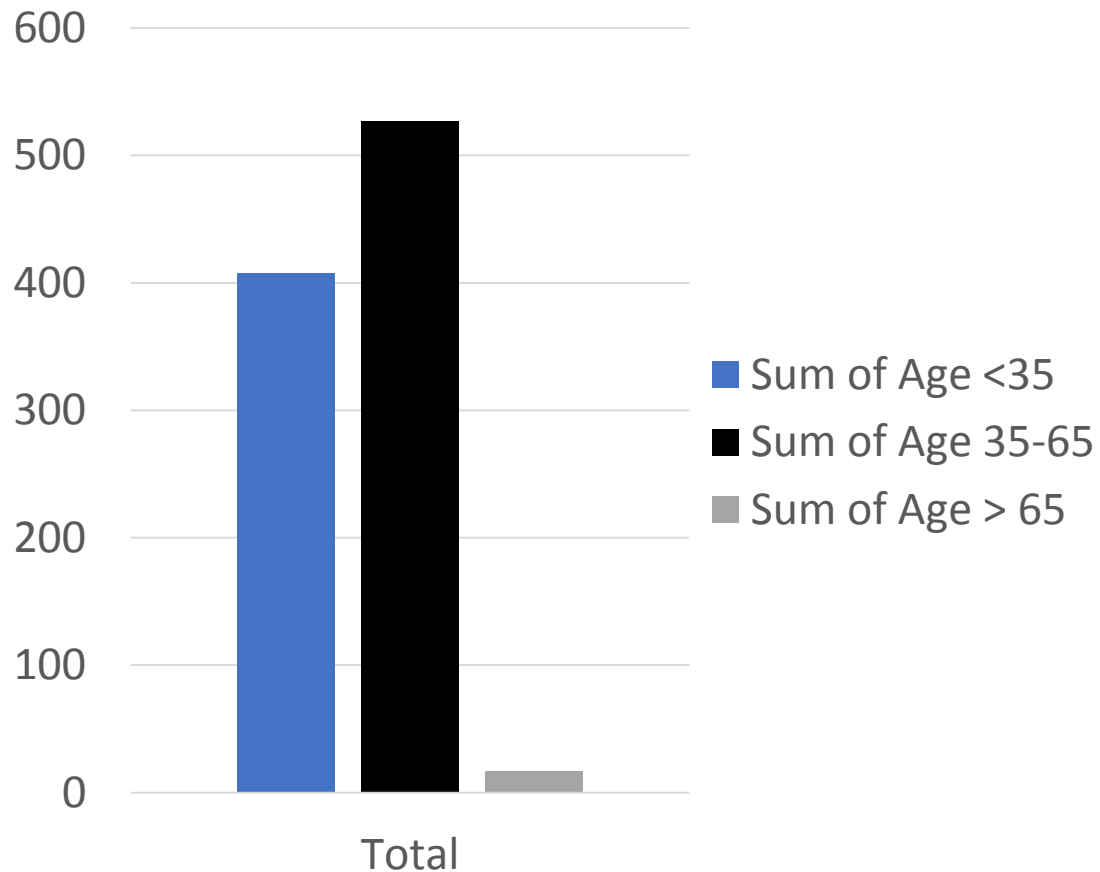
# Income distribution - households

## Monthly income in quartiles

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> quartile | < R2 300        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> quartile | R2 301 – R4 000 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile | R4 001 – R6 400 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> quartile | > R6 400        |

- Enormous range: from no household income to a maximum of R90 000 in one case
- Over one quarter of households earnings below the minimum farm worker wage (R3 000)
- Nearly 50% of households qualify for the housing subsidy on income criteria (R3 500)
- Massive nutritional issue: R8 000 basic nutritional food basket for a family of five people
- (Average hh income is R5 200)

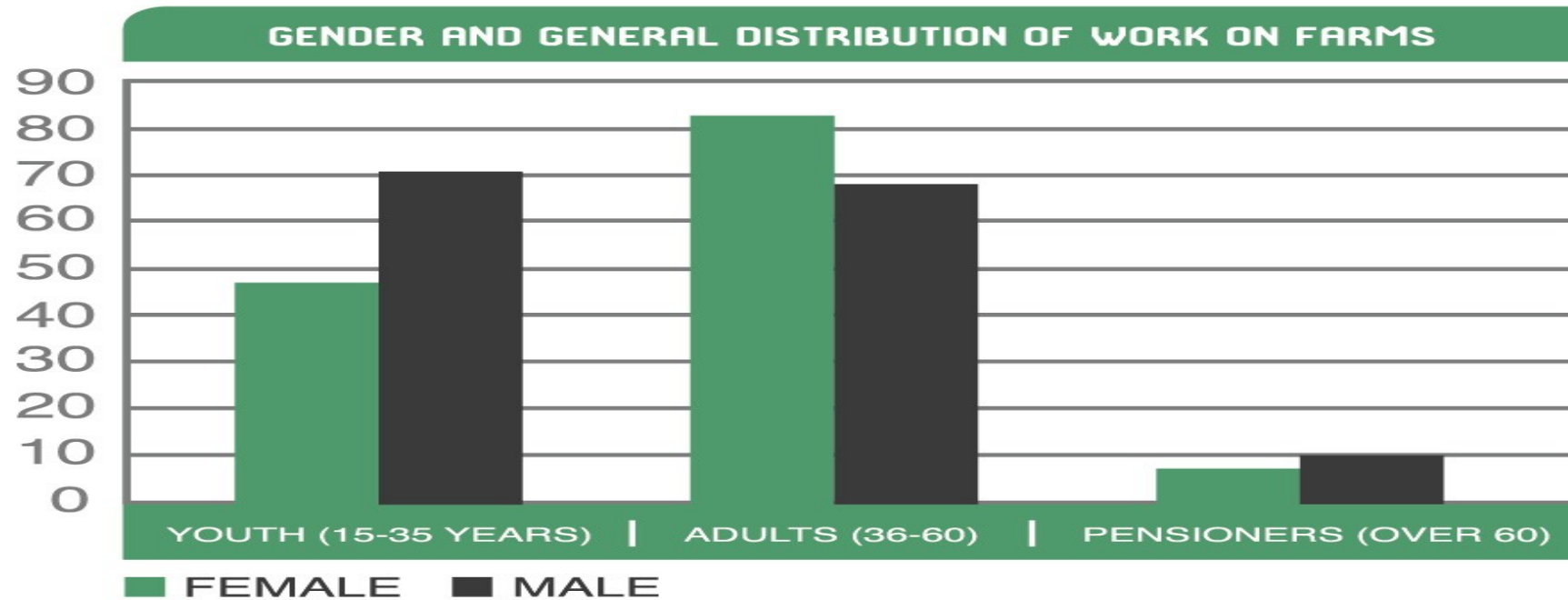
# Farm employment by age



- As we would expect, people over 65 are the smallest category of farm employed
- Young people are employed on farms
- Includes all farm employment
  - On this farm & another farm
  - Full time, part time / contract and seasonal

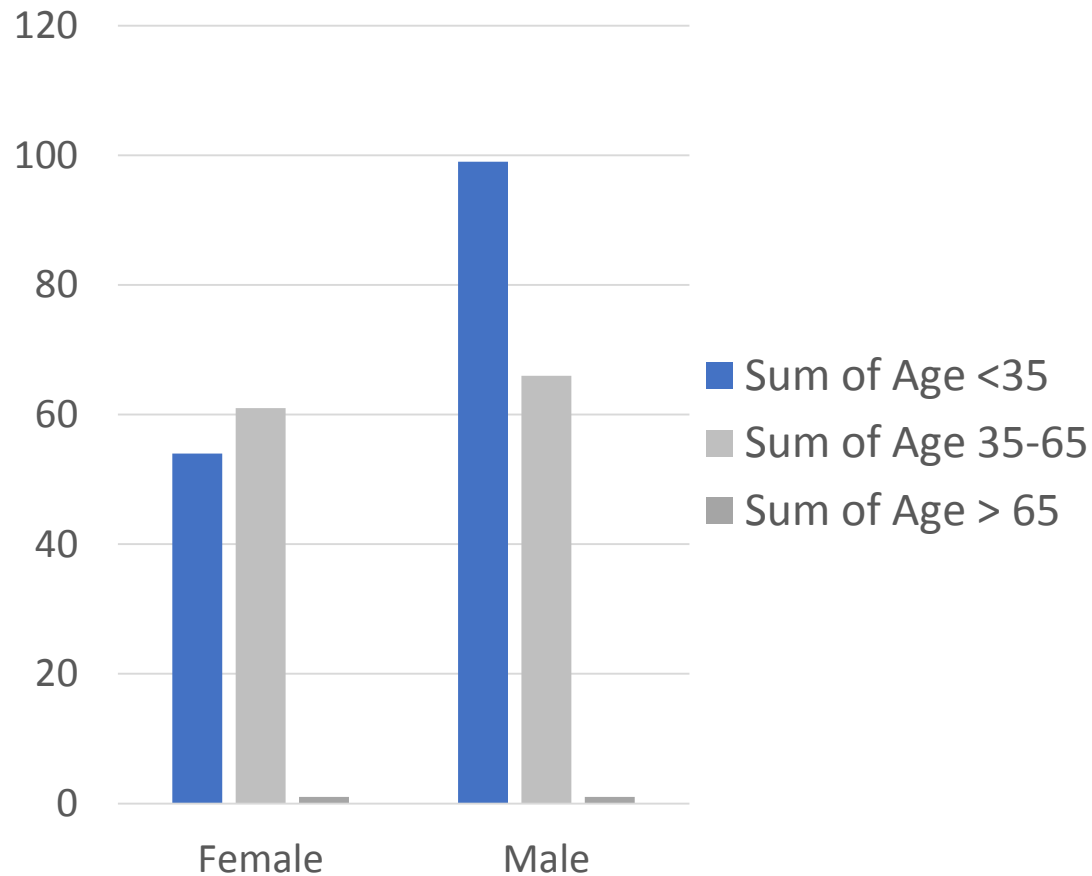


# Farm employment: age and gender



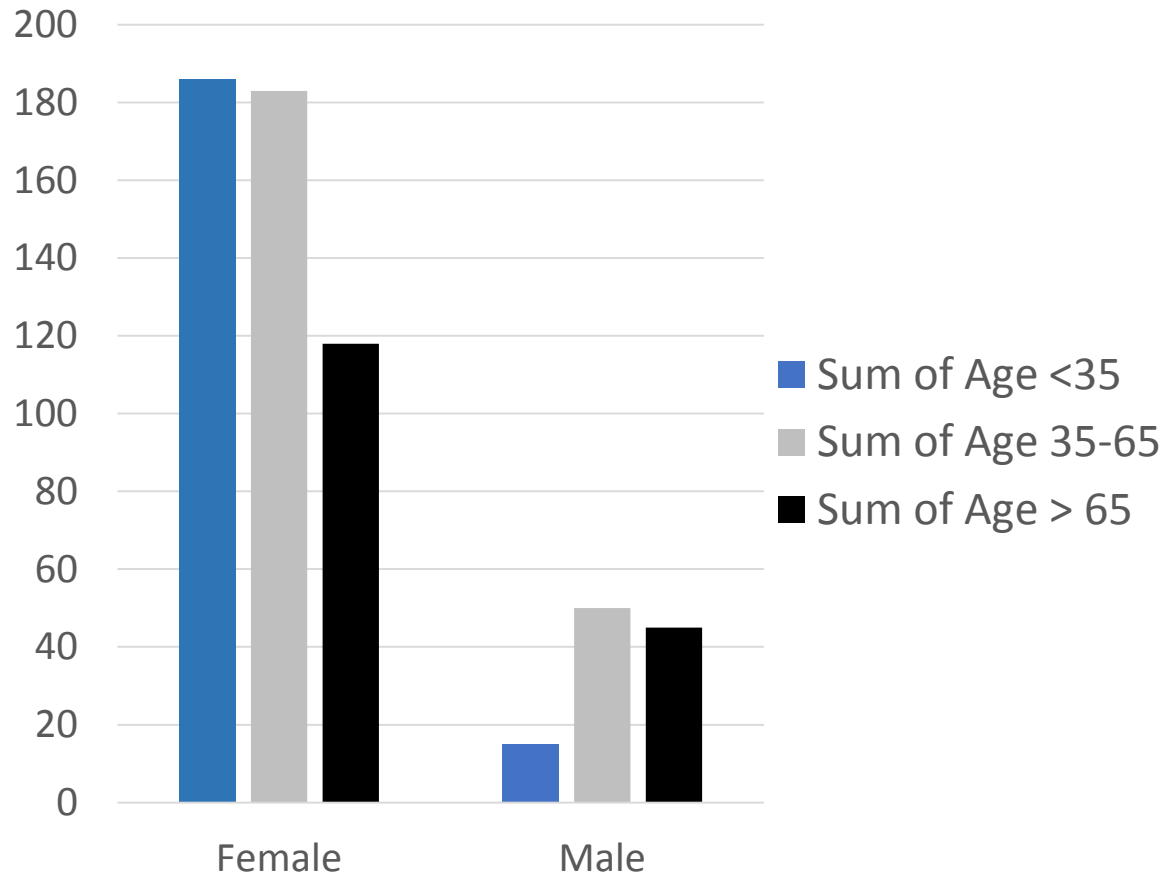
- Gender bias in farm employment
  - Slight but significant (see government grants results)

# Off farm employment: age and gender



- Off farm employment includes full time, part time and seasonal
- Young men most significant category
- Farm employment is more significant than off farm employment for men and women in both age categories

# Government grants



- Significance of government grants for older men and women compared with other income sources, to be expected
- Significance for women both young and middle aged
  - More significant than off farm employment – why?
  - Social grants a buffer for women against leaving the home for employment?
  - Link to gendered roles?
  - Cost of transport?
- Vulnerability of young men

# Key processes driving change on farms

- We often attribute all of today's horrors as belonging to the apartheid era. But it's important to understand that some drivers of change have emerged or become more pronounced *since* 1994. So here we look at:

- Key post-apartheid drivers of change

AND

- Key areas of intersection with our colonial and apartheid history



# The emergence of an agricultural precariat

- “Precariat” – the collapse of the proletariat and the emergence of a “new dangerous class” (Standing, 2011) that is unable to secure the conditions for its reproduction and survival through traditional means
- Social reproduction of farm dwellers in SA today is through multiple, fragile and intermittent livelihood strategies
- We believe an agricultural precariat has emerged on commercial farms, and this requires the intervention of government to support them to find *new pathways* out of poverty



# Post-apartheid drivers of change on farms

- “De-agrarianisation” (Bryceson, 2000; Manona, 1999))
- Reorganisation of agricultural wage labour by commercial farmers (Visser and Ferrer, 2015)
- Rising unemployment and collapse of manufacturing
- Failing state and elite capture of land reform



# Intersection with colonial & apartheid history

- Current drivers of social change built on the back of:
  - A violent racialized colonial history
  - Systematic colonial and apartheid dispossession of Africans from land
  - Making possible a highly exploitative labour regime in mining and agriculture
- Created a structural legacy that continues to condition **who** is surplus to capital's accumulation drives today and **where** this surplus population is located



# What do the findings and the drivers imply?

- Farm dweller households secure their livelihoods in multiple ways
- Their strategies are characterized by fragility and precarity
- Government support is required for new pathways out of poverty





# Points of departure

- Differentiation is required to accommodate a range of farm dweller household incomes
- Income for the vast majority of farm dwellers is extremely low (below the minimum farm worker wage for 75%)
- Nutrition is a priority concern for farm dweller households
- Young people on farms are an important sub-group as they contribute significantly to farm based household income
- In addition, young men contribute significantly to off farm household income and lack the safety net of social grants more than any other group
- Government grants are a critical household income source, especially for women

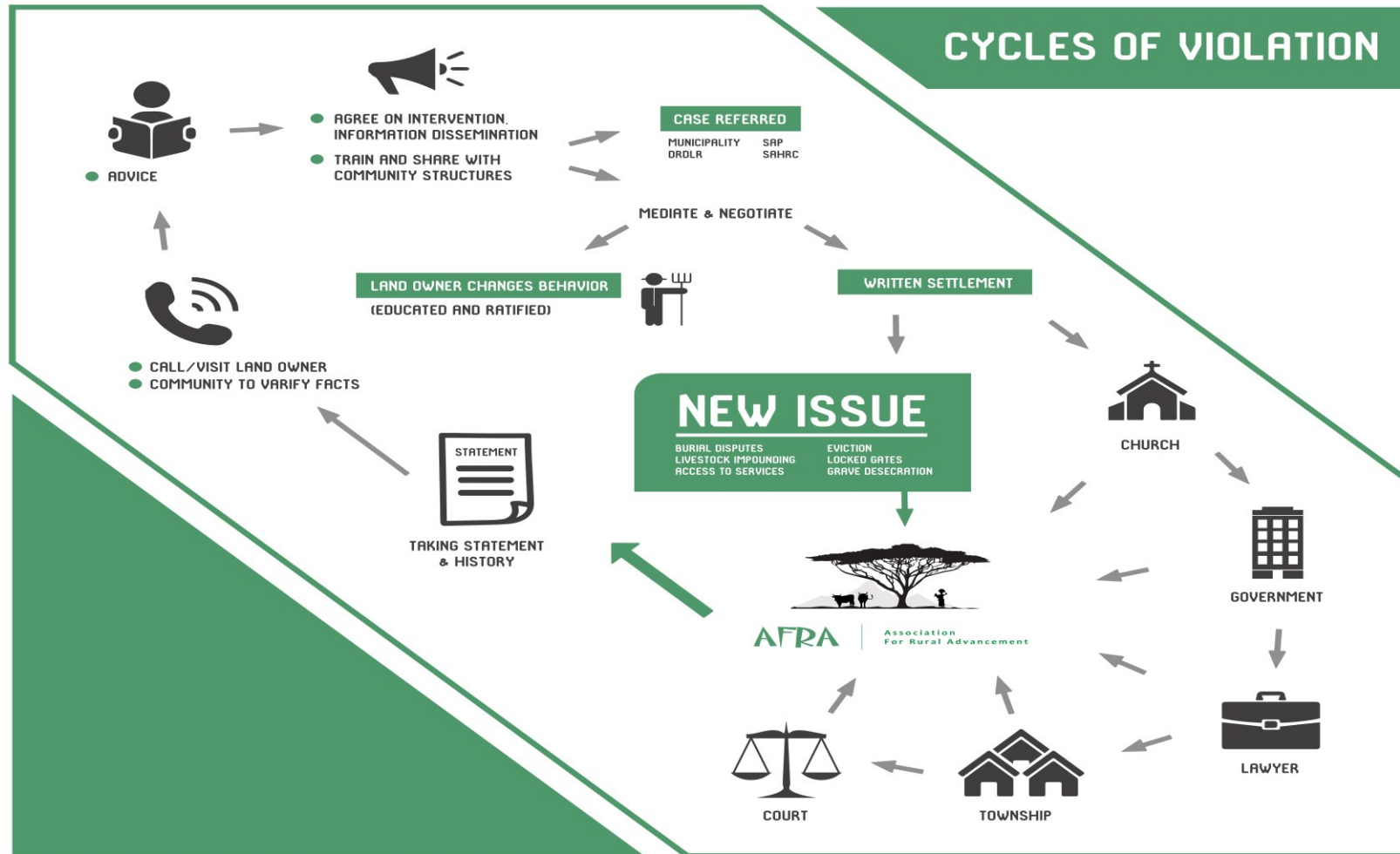


# Begin with VISIBILITY

- Put farm dwellers on the map
  - Municipal SDFs and IDPs
  - Use our data
- Count farm dwellers in
  - Extend enumeration to the entire district and province
    - Our survey enumerates farm dwellers in the district
  - Develop, issue and hold land records for farm dwellers in the district and province
  - Maintain the records over time, with the involvement of farmers and farm dwellers

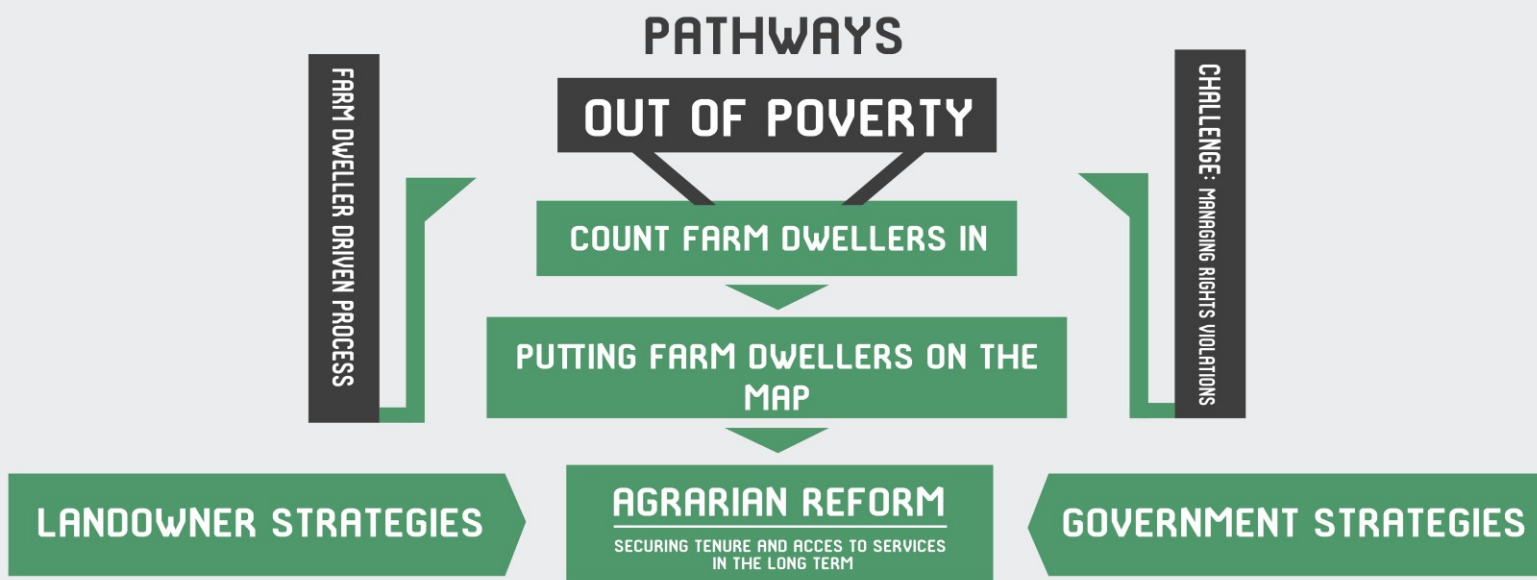


# Address the cycle of VIOLATIONS with farm dwellers and farm owners



# Plan for the LONG TERM

## THEORY OF CHANGE



# Plan for the LONG TERM

- Drive the development of a PLAN for agrarian reform for the province, with district specificity, which responds to the drivers of change in the sector and to the specific experiences of farm dwellers
- Secure TENURE for farm dwellers in the long term
  - ESTA S4 is an immediate priority for long term security
- The link to the Descriptive dash is given below:
- <https://app.spisys.gov.za/?dashboard=322127346>



**THANK YOU**

**#OURLANDRIGHTS**

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