



Approaches for Emerging Farmer Participation in Water Resource Management: The Case of the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA), Western Cape

Bongani Ncube



Context

- Water allocation in South Africa - Equity
- Role of CMAs and Water User Associations
 - BGCMA/CPUT/UWC signed MOA in 2013 - Research
 - Water assessments for resource poor farmers
 - Impact of past and current legislation
 - Support for emerging farmers
 - Water allocation reform challenges
 - Specific problems with emerging and small scale farmers, access, participation and capacity

Project Aims

- Review progress in accessing water resources by emerging farmers in two selected areas in the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency
- Explore the role and challenges faced by emerging farmers in participating in water user associations.
- Explore opportunities for engaging emerging farmers to participate in water user associations and water allocation processes.
- Develop a general approach for engaging emerging farmers to participate in water user associations in the Western Cape (and South Africa)

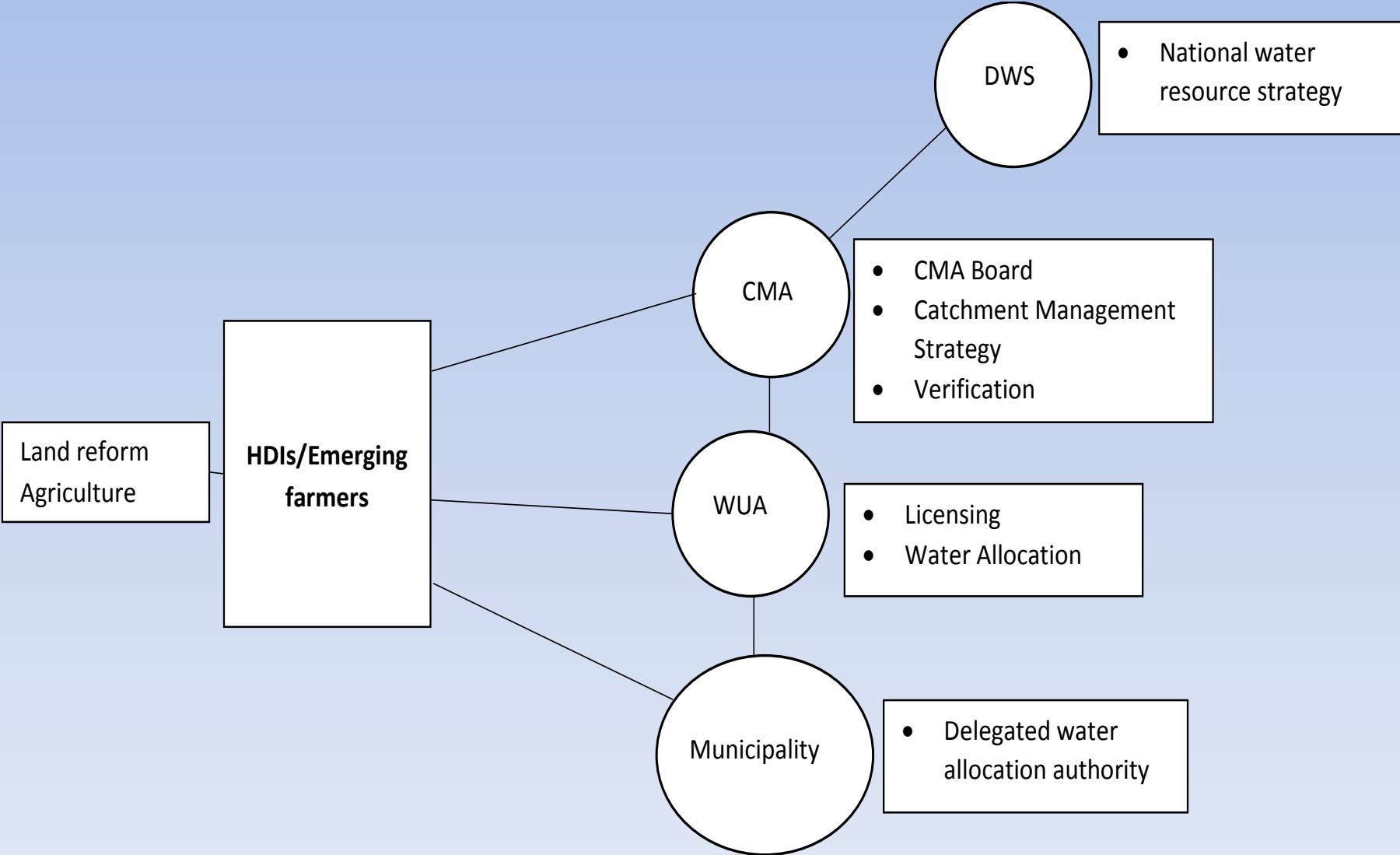
Hypothesis

- Effective emerging farmer participation in water allocation reform in a catchment management agency will contribute towards the achievement of the strategic intent of (integrated) water resource management
- Key words:
 - Emerging farmers
 - Historically disadvantaged individuals (HDIs)
 - Water allocation reforms
 - Participation

Research Tools

- Approach is qualitative – case studies
- Tools and Methods
 - Document review
 - Participatory Research Methods
 - Focus group discussions
 - Interviews
 - Field observations, etc
- Sustainable Livelihoods Approach – Scoones 1998
- Governance Framework – Frank and Cleaver 2008

Water Institutions



Initial Findings

- Institutional support to EF not coordinated
- Major differences between the emerging farmers
- Water user association members
 - Few in number
 - Have access to land and water
 - Actively participate in the water allocation processes
 - Representation at all levels
 - Access to grants and subsidies
 - Access to infrastructure
- Non members of WUA
 - Larger number of farmers
 - Little or no access to water
 - Small plots of leased land
 - Most farmers are passive participants in water related issues
 - Limited access to grants
 - Limited infrastructure (shared)

Priority issues for emerging farmers

- Shortage of water for productive use
 - Access mechanisms and reliability of supply
- Lack of information e.g. the licensing process
- Lack funding
 - Access to grants
 - Start up programs
- Land shortage
 - Lease agreements too short
- Lack of participation *

Next steps

- Engage water institutions
 - Discuss findings on institutional support to emerging farmers
 - Present findings from emerging farmers
 - Initial recommendations to CMA
- Engage emerging farmers again
 - Detailed analysis and reflection on problems/challenges
 - Develop/design ways of encouraging participation
- Bring institutions and farmers together
 - Dialogue – CMA, water institutions and emerging farmers ?
 - Dialogue – CMA, commercial farmers, WUA, emerging farmers?