

Research Projects 2015/16

Rural areas in South Africa are important politically, economically and demographically. Government has recognised that policy reforms, especially agricultural and rural policy, have vital roles in the success of sustained development. Promoting rural development poses numerous policy and governance challenges because it requires co-ordination across sectors, across levels of government, and between public and private actors. A significant component of service delivery in the rural areas (and consequently rural development) is performed by provinces and local government as implementers of national policy. National, provincial, and local governments' intervention programmes have not fully achieved their objects. Against this background, the thesis statement of the 2017/18 Financial and Fiscal Commission's submission for the Division of Revenue is that South Africa has fiscal and structural challenges that impede effectiveness of rural development spending and programs. Intergovernmental fiscal relations instruments are the key to improving economic wellbeing in rural areas, thereby leading to improved rural growth and less inequality. The overriding research question: How can the intergovernmental fiscal relations instruments assist provinces and municipalities in stimulating, promoting, and facilitating rural development? The following project concepts underpin the theme for the Commission's work plan for 2015/16:

- Socio-Economic and Policy Context: Rural Development and IGFR Instruments
- Defining Rural Areas and Rural Development for South Africa
- The Model of Rural Development Underpinning FFC Recommendations
- Rural Economy and National Government Initiatives for Rural Development
- National Land Reform Programs and Rural Development
- Public Employment Programs and Rural Development
- Provincial Own Revenue Mobilisation for Rural Development
- Provincial Equitable Share and Conditional Grants for Rural Development
- Increasing Rural Local Municipalities Responsibilities: Farm Evictions
- The Funding Model for Rural Local Municipalities
- Developing Rural Municipalities Own Revenue Sources
- The Adequacy of Local Equitable Share
- The Effective Use of LES and Conditional Grants
- The Financing and Expenditure of District Municipalities
- Funding Sanitation in Rural Areas
- Development Finance Institutions and Rural Development
- State Owned Entities and Rural Development