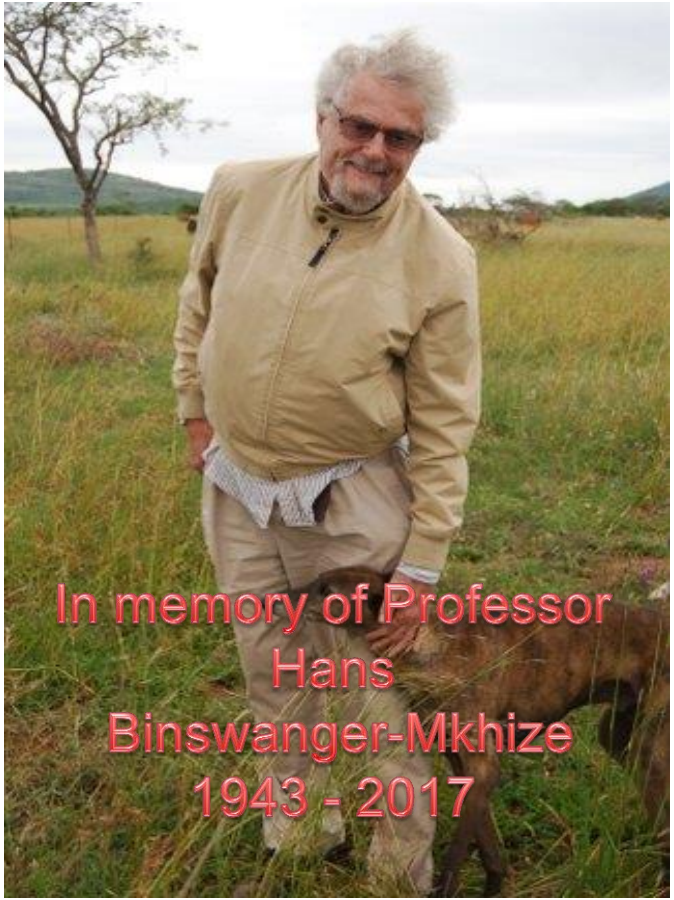
Landbou Weekblad, AgriSA Land Summit

Presentation by Roland Henderson (Besters KZN)

24TH August 2018



Who am I ?

- Fifth Generation Commercial Farmer at Besters, KZN
- I farm beef, sheep, and hens
- I have two sons, one cat, seven dogs, two piglets and one wife (who I cant do without.)
- I have a love of our land, a belief that we are merely custodians and believe that every-one of us can make a difference

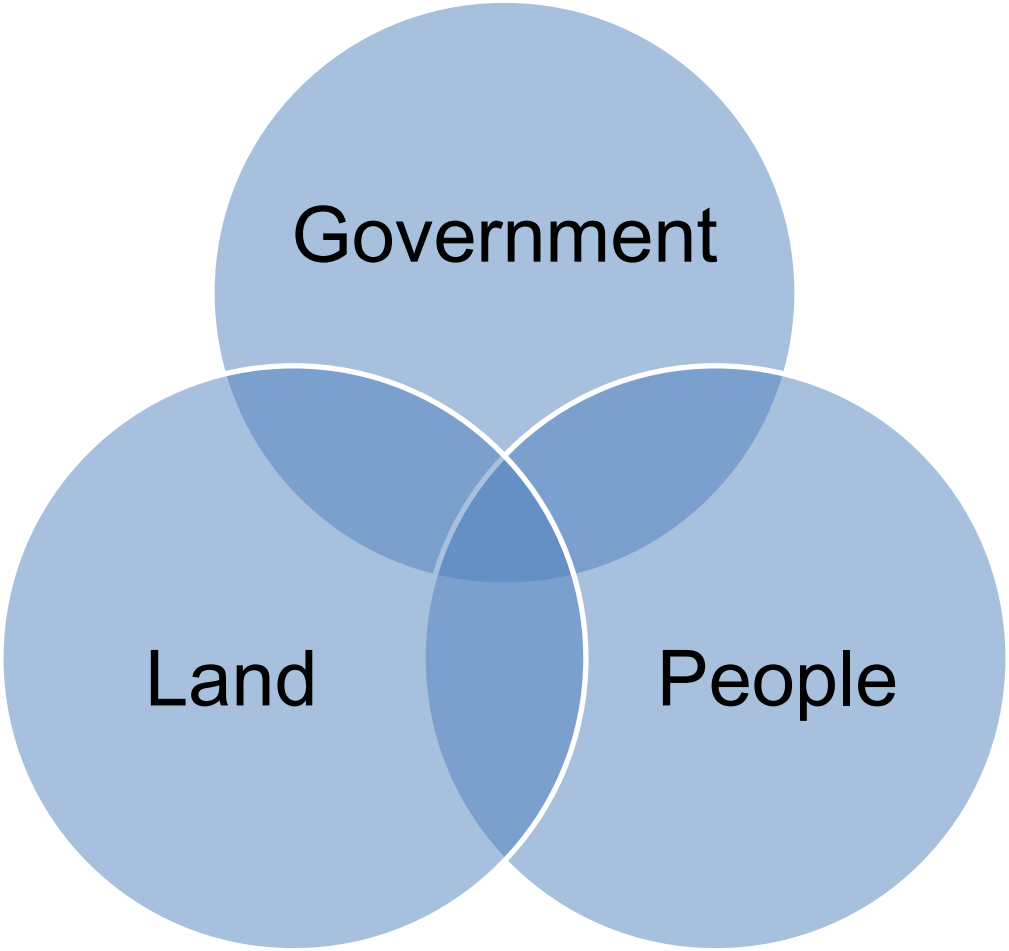
My personal experience

- **Besters :** Was the ‘Model’ for land reform and Communal structures led to conflict but communities have developed their own solutions over 12 years.
- **eDumbe :** Presidential Pilot project. Area based initiative involving 6000 beneficiaries, 162 farmers, 25 000 ha for sale & R650 million in grants available, but politicians didn’t keep their word.
- **Eskom Ingula Project :** How to fail as a Corporation
- **Manual on Land Reform** written for DLA and World Bank
- **Weenen Study (financed by Vumelana):** what does a single block of 83 000 ha of failed land reform projects look like

Land reform is not only about land, trees and maize

- How do we improve people's lives.
- How do we make a difference in people's pockets.
- International experience indicates very strongly that land reform is only successful at increasing output and providing improved livelihoods to beneficiaries, where the new beneficiaries are fully engaged and empowered in the process. To achieve this, the projects need to enhance planning and implementation directly by beneficiaries wherever possible and to establish secure tenure with clear entry and exit rules, rights and responsibilities over shared resources and to ensure optimal incentives for increased and sustainable production by closely linking costs and benefits.

Put Simply the Stakeholders are as follows…..



Stakeholder Driven Development

- Area-based approach to land reform is centred on direct stakeholder involvement.
- This emphasises empowering beneficiaries and building consensus.
- All transactions are Transparent
- Learn by doing
- Change attitudes of all Stakeholders
- Adaptable to local circumstances

Lessons learnt over the years

- A structure to allow this process must be developed, eg a Section 21 Company, District Land Reform Committee or Special Purpose Vehicle.
- Develop skills within your Association to tackle the future challenges especially given the present environment.
- There are always latent capacities within a district and you need :access to mapping, facilitators, legal advice, liasion with Councillor, SAPS, Inkosi's and other Stakeholders.
- Aim to be inclusive and don't assume that Organised Agriculture, Government and attorneys are going to do this for you.

Land reform projects will exhibit the following general characteristics:

- Each land reform problem is unique with many factors and conditions embedded in a dynamic social context.
- Defining the exact solution and problem is difficult and projects tend to have extensive life-spans.
- The problem is generally ill-structured with an evolving set of interlocking issues and constraints.

Wicked Problem

Land Reform is a verb

- Work as a committee
- Define that this is your work ; set an end goal and start to learn the language
- Map : Restitution claims, farm workers, land for sale, vulnerable farms, state and transferred land.
- List Stakeholders and define a plan for the next three years for your district. If you don’t have a plan of your own, some-one else will plan your district for you…be pro-active.

Lastly….you will need Faith & Trust

- Hebrews 11 v 1 :

  To have Faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.
- Building Trust allows for speed.
- In Besters we had 120 meetings to only develop Trust, in eDumbe 350, and in Weenen 200.
- Teams are critical

Thank You