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Factors influencing the performance of emerging agricultural cooperatives in post-apartheid South Africa

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Appendix A

Actual Research Instrument

Research Questions

1. How would you define an agricultural cooperative?
2. Do you think that the cooperative principles are being adhered to in the formation of agricultural cooperatives in South Africa? And if so why?
3. What do you believe the main reasons are for the formation of a cooperative?
4. Describe the types and level of training and education around agricultural cooperatives.
5. What has been the greatest hurdle to the development of agricultural cooperatives in post apartheid South Africa?
6. How has South African society and culture influenced agricultural cooperatives?
7. How does the structure in rural communities affect the concept and operations of cooperatives?
8. Is policy is being filtered down to the actual agricultural cooperatives? And if so how and why?
9. Do you believe that cooperatives should rather be structured as companies? If so why?
10. How, in your view, do the following factors influence the operations of an agricultural cooperative?
    a. Agency problem, specifically relating to the financial management of the agricultural cooperative.
    b. Asset specificity, specifically relating to operations of the agricultural cooperative.
    c. Hold up, specifically relating to operations of the agricultural cooperative.
    d. Free rider problem, specifically relating to operations of the agricultural cooperative and South African culture.

e. Horizon problem, specifically relating to operations and the long sustainability of the agricultural cooperative.

f. Portfolio problem, specifically relating to sustainability of the agricultural cooperative.

g. Control problem, specifically relating to operations of the agricultural cooperative and South African culture.

h. Influence cost problem, specifically relating to financial management of the agricultural cooperative.

i. The cooperative principles, specifically relating to South African culture.

11. Do agricultural cooperatives struggle to raise finance and why?

12. How large a factor does market access play in the formation of a cooperative?

13. Do you believe that the level of financial reporting in agricultural cooperatives is sufficient?

14. To what extent is the legacy of Apartheid affecting agricultural cooperatives today?

15. Do you believe agricultural cooperatives have been operating sustainably in South Africa and why?

16. How have the following factors affected the sustainability of cooperatives?

    a. Cooperation of members.

    b. Accountability of members to each other.

    c. Loyalty of members to the cooperative.

    d. Democracy within the cooperative.

    e. Equality within the cooperative.

17. How would you compare South African agricultural cooperatives' performance to other African countries, and why?

18. How do you perceive the future of agricultural cooperatives in South Africa?