Going for broke: The fate of farm workers in arid South Africa

Citation:

Abstract:
South African agriculture has always been ideologically contested, because of its relationship with controversial land ownership issues. This book takes the question of farm workers' fortunes beyond the land debate, to consider their current and future livelihoods. The book argues that the question of farm workers needs to be understood as part of a broader spectrum of economic and social questions. Where should farm workers live? Should rural-urban migration be encouraged? What kind of job prospects can be fostered? How can their participation in the rural and peri-urban economy be promoted? Do farm workers need land, or jobs, or municipal services? Who should provide support to this neglected segment of society? A valuable study of past policy failures and future policy options, the book is primarily aimed at policy-makers and students of rural development. It is explicitly aimed at promoting new approaches, synergies and partnerships amongst stakeholders, including government, commercial farmers, agricultural co-operatives, municipalities, training agencies, and farm worker trade unions. The book also offers suggestions that transcend the South African rural experience. It can therefore serve as a case study for students and practitioners of rural development elsewhere in the developing world.

Keywords:
FARM WORKERS
FARMING

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One of the most helpful things you can do is share this video and spread the word about what is happening in South Africa - but if you want to go a step even further here are a few things to check out. If you'd like to support trips like this and help us turn these stories into a real documentary, here are some links to do that. If there are any legal experts in South Africa or elsewhere who can offer her any aid, please reach out. Or if you would simply like to send her a kind message, I can forward that as well.

They are a civil defence force preparing for peaceful aid and protection of South Africa's minority Afrikaner population if any sort of civil war or serious government persecution breaks out. You can check out their website and support them at https://suidlanders.org/. One last thing! Trade liberalisation has also deepened South African producers' integration into global food value chains. It has done so at a point in time when international (and local) retail power has become increasingly consolidated and more powerful. To this end field work was conducted in ten case study sites across South Africa. In total, 48 farms were visited. Non-permanent workers in the sugar industry are especially vulnerable: not only is their employment externalised, but they are often migrants and, in case of Nkomazi, foreign migrants. Yet, the majority of farm workers are currently employed on a seasonal basis. The policy seems myopic.