APPENDIX 5: Sample interview transcript, response to Questionnaire A

Demographics
Female, aged 26 - Grade 10 and has completed a secretarial course. She is the oldest daughter in a household consisting of eight people and has three brothers and a sister. Solane Community, Mpumalanga.

Before the redistribution project
1) I was born in this area and I have lived in this township [close to Komatipoort] my whole life. My parents and grand parents are also from this area.
2) My father works in a shop in Malelane and my mother sometimes works for a farmer. She sometimes cleans house and sometimes does farm work outside. But only sometimes. My grandmother gets pension and that also helps with school fees.
3) This is the first time that I have worked on a farm, but I don’t do farm work. We use the old farmhouse for administration and that is what I do. I like the work, but I do not get enough money. I can get more money if I get a secretarial or reception job in Nelspruit, but I am helping on the farm because I have the secretarial qualification. My mother knows about farming, from working on the farm and from growing vegetables and my grandmother also. My dad has not farmed before – I don’t think that he has.

Joining the redistribution project
1) The man who is now our chairperson, he spoke to people from the township and explained to us about the Settlement Grant and that if there were enough people we could get enough money to buy this farm. When the new government came to power we heard that there was going to be land reform and that they would help us to buy a farm. So when this man explained it, some of the families in the township went with him. Some of them went to see the Department of Land Affairs people and so we got the grant and we bought this farm. Then we formed a trust and the people from the township, who were interested were registered as part of the community and the trust.
2) We were formed when the ones who were interested registered.
3) There are about 200 families who are part of this project. But some people have died. About 13 people have died, but mostly their relatives took their places.
4) The DLA people and the chairperson helped us to make the claim, but we did not get help from anybody else – not that I know of.
8) We started in August 1996 and in about seven months (in 1997) the farm was transferred. It did not take very long.
9) Women were involved, but not so much, it was mostly the men who make the decisions, but women also talked and went to the meetings. Also two women are on the trust, and the Secretary and the Operations Officer are also women. The other eight on the trust are men.
10) I think we paid about R2.5 million for the farm.
11) It was the right price to pay for the farm, because the farm is already developed. If the land was not developed then things would be different and then the price should be lower.
12) We knew what the price was going to be, the DLA man told us and the chairperson also explained to us.
13) Yes.
14) The grant money was not enough. It was enough to pay for the farm but then we needed money for other things, we had to buy things for farming and we had to get water to the farm, and other things. We also need money to pay people to help us.
15) No, that is why we tried to borrow money and we also asked the DLA to help us to fix the roads.
16) Yes, we did borrow money from a bank to pay for water. We borrowed money from the bank, I think it was R1 million and then we used it to make the irrigation system. But then there was the flood last year and the irrigation system was destroyed and now we do not have water. We were supposed to have the first sugarcane harvest this year. But now there is no water. Did you see the yellow leaves? That is because there is not enough water. Now we maybe will not make money. And it is also hard because we have to pay back the bank and there is interest. It is difficult after the flood. In the beginning, everybody was happy and all the families went to work on the farm on the weekends, but now there are these problems and people are not so happy to work anymore. We asked the government to help us with this problem, but they have not helped us. That is also why the oranges are so small. You saw we have many rows of oranges, but now we won’t have such a good harvest because they are all small. Maybe next year will go better.
19) I don’t know so much about how we got the money from the bank, I think you can ask the chairman or maybe one of the others on the trust.
20) Yes, we got a good farm, some of the older people really know the land and what is good and how to farm. So they got this good farm. It was used before for oranges, we planted new trees and started the sugarcane because the soil is good for that. The big problem is the water.
21) We have enough land to farm, but we do not have enough water. You see, we do not live on the farm. There is one old man who lives on the farm, but most of us still stay in the township and go to the farm to work there if we have to.

After settlement
1) We wanted to get the farm to have an income, we heard that you could get enough money from farming, but so far, we have not really made any money for ourselves. There is some money that we used for things on the farm, like we bought a tractor, but we have not really got money for the family. I am working on the farm and I don’t want to leave because I am helping with the administration, but I also want to leave because if I get a job in town I will get more money than I am getting on the farm. But we got the farm to get money also for families where all the people are jobless.
2) You saw that we are using the land to grow oranges that we want to sell and also sugarcane. We use the house for administration and meetings. But we don’t live there and we are not making much money because of the flood.
3) Each family put in the money they got from the government, but the farm belongs to all of us. Each family owns the farm. We did not say one piece is for this family and that piece is for another family. But some people who did not have jobs work on the
farm everyday and they get paid every month. For the others we will share equally when we make money.

4) Every family that was interested and paid their money together own the farm.
5) Yes, we have the ten trustees and the chairman is very good, they managed the buying of the land, but not so much the farming. The farming is difficult and we need someone who knows farming to be there all the time, but we cannot pay somebody like that. We asked the government if they could help us pay somebody or if they could train one of us to do that. I think they said they would, but they have not helped us with that yet.
6) We had an election, all the families in the project voted in the town hall for the people they wanted.
7) Yes, two trustees and the Secretary and the Operations manager are women.
9) The women have important positions, but they are not as important as the men.
10) The women also voted, but not all of the women voted, in many of the families only the men voted and sometimes the women voted for the people their husbands said. But they voted for the chairman.
11) Yes, we have a good relationship, we always talk and have meetings.
12) Yes, that is how we bought the tractor, but I told you we are not making money for ourselves so much at the moment. Maybe next year we will.
13) No.
14) The people who had jobs before still have their jobs and there are old people with pensions. Every house is different, some people have no jobs and only the pensions. But when we get water it will help them also.
15) Not for me, but for some people, but maybe it will be next year.
17) I don’t think so.
18) Yes, now there are women who speak at the meetings and I have this job so I say some things that the men must listen to and there are also others who the men have to listen to now. Also we can all vote and we all work on the farm. But some husbands are bad husbands and they don’t like it if women say things or speak in front of people. Some men don’t like it if women do their own things and then they get angry. Some women will not speak to you because their husbands will be angry. And some of the women only do what their husbands say. It is the same with some fathers.
19) It belongs to the group.
20) It would be better if everybody could have their own land but we could not do that because there were no small farms, only this one big farm and nobody had enough money to buy the big farm. Also if we had small farms we would not need so many people to work on the farm.
21) If you have to buy a big farm, it is better if the whole community owns the farm and they all work there, but if you get a small farm it will be better if it belongs to only one family.
22) In the township we don’t like chiefs so much, but maybe for some people it is good. But I think many of the chiefs did bad things in the past and then it will not be good if the land belongs to them. If the land belongs to a chief, maybe you will have to pay him to use it, or he tells you only the families he knows can be on the farm.
23) Yes, women must own land and women must own the land and not the men. Also women with children and with no husbands, it will be better if they have the land. Also if the land belongs to a woman she does not have to stay with a bad man and can take better care of her children.

24) I don’t know about the inheritance thing, but when people died some of their relatives took their place in the scheme.

25) Not many, we talk a lot, but not bad fights.

26) Mostly people are worried that we are not making so much money and also some people work every weekend and then some people are lazy and they don’t work so much.

**Infrastructure**

1) Not really, we asked for help after this flood, but nobody helped us. The roads are also very bad and are worse now after the flood. We also asked the government to help us with fixing the roads, because they are very bad. You saw that your car could not drive on those roads! You must have a big car. It is difficult to take the crops to the towns if the roads are so bad. We also asked for help to get a farmer on the farm all the time or for training for one of us to do this, but they have not helped us with that.

9) There are schools and a clinic in the township so we all go there and the children go to school in the township. We also have churches and a hall and one field for the boys to play sports on in the township.

**Other**

Q: What about the other members of the project, do they have farming experience?
A: Yes, some of the people have been farming for themselves and some people grow food to eat in the house. Some of the people also work on the farms and some of the old people had farms long ago. But, all small farms, not so big farms as this.

Q: Did you hear about the land invasions in Kuruman this week?
A: Yes, the people took the land back because they were waiting too long. I feel sorry for them, because maybe they did not know how to follow the right process, we used the government’s land reform and we bought our farm.

Q: Are you planning to stay on the farm and remain part of the project?
A: I will help until there is somebody else, but then I will leave for a better job in the town. There I will get more money.

Q: Do the other young people also want to leave?
A: Yes, my friends all want to work in town and some want to go to Johannesburg because there is more money there.