

# RURAL REJUVENATION

Buffering against instability  
Active Partnering



# Rural rejuvenation

## Introduction

- Declining business conditions in rural area amongst the top priorities;
- Disproportionately large impact on members, but difficult to influence;
- Rural Rejuvenation Initiative to address instability, failing infrastructure and energy.

## Challenges

- Scope definition;
- Measure of success.

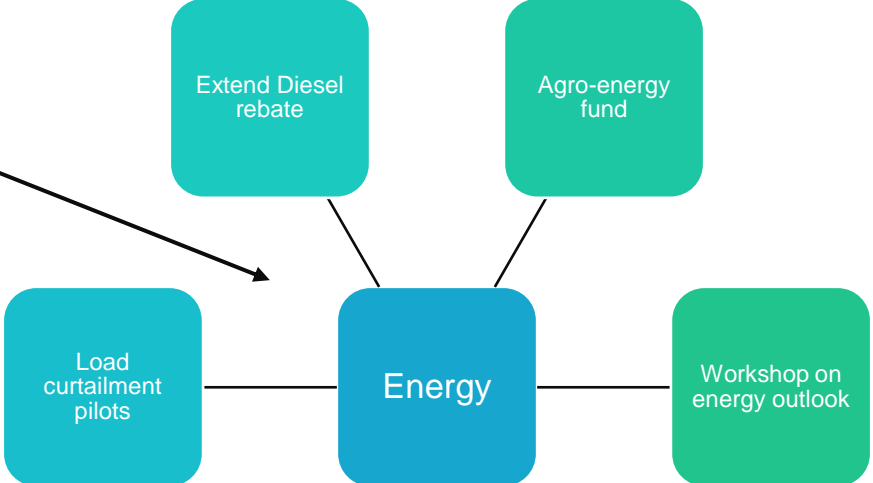
Challenges faced by Agbiz members	Initiatives to address challenge	Ability to influence	Impact	Total (average)
Declining rail & port logistics	-Agbiz / Transnet Interface agreement -Agbiz Trade and Supply Chains Committee	8	8	8
Declining rural, road infrastructure	-Rural roads task team	5	9	7
High cost & time delays experienced by DALRRD in carrying out their core regulatory functions	-Tamdev -Agbiz / SAIF efforts on Act 36 -Assignee working groups	7	7	7
Enabling environment for tech and innovation	-Ad hoc – e.g. GMO appeal	8	6	7
Declining municipal service delivery	-Rural rejuvenation workshops	4	10	7

# Rural rejuvenation project charter

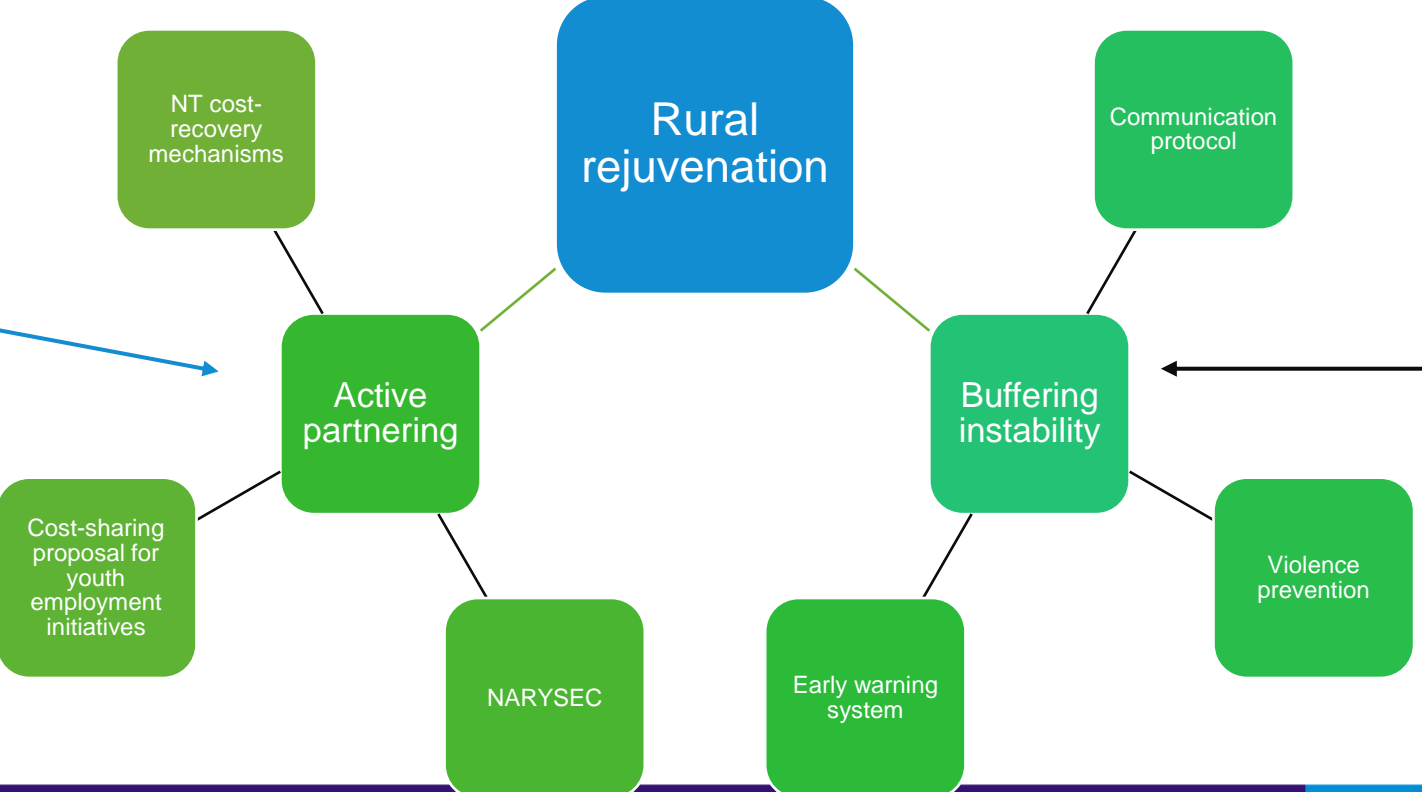
Objectives		Deliverables	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empower members with information to better prepare and avoid being targeted during unrest and protest action;</li> <li>Lobby for mechanisms to enable rural development;</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication protocol;</li> <li>Workshops for information sharing;</li> <li>Early warning systems for unrest?</li> <li>Active partnering mechanisms.</li> </ul>	
Inclusions	Exclusions	Milestones	Outcomes to be avoided
Peer learning	Pilot projects	Workshops on energy, buffering against instability, active partnering.	Shifting focus from national policy interventions to local level
Outside expertise	Negotiations with municipalities		
Lobbying		Policy proposals to encourage PPPs on a local level	Scope creep – must distinguish Agbiz role vs company roles
Identify credible partners			

Project team	Partners
Thapelo Machaba (coordinator)	Members' working group
Annelize Crosby	ISS Violence prevention unit
Theo Boshoff	Business Against Crime (B4SA)
	Manufacturing circle / CGCSA
	Kwanalu WYRE programme
	DALRRD

Parallel work being done in the energy task team



On the horizon for 2024



Current focus & next steps



# Initiatives under ‘buffering against instability’

- Established a working group to address rural instability.
- Conducted two workshops in collaboration with the ISS.
- The workshops focused on understanding the nature of the problem of unrest, crime and violence and considering the benefits of establishing violence prevention forums.
- It was agreed that awareness of the concept of violence prevention and the link between violence and social instability needs to be created.
- The ISS team is in the process of creating a course with UCT institutions to train people in dialogue facilitation and in the use of evidence and data to prevent violence. Details can be shared and agribusinesses can consider the value of training their staff .
- ISS has done a lot of research that can be studied. • A cost-benefit analysis of violence prevention measures in the agricultural sector can be considered to make a business case for investing in community-based projects to create social stability.
- More research should be done on how agribusinesses and communities can work together to prevent violence and awareness created;
- There is currently no list of credible, community-based organisations and their initiatives but ongoing engagement with the ISS team will be pursued to assist agribusinesses who want to become involved.

# Initiatives under ‘buffering against instability’

## Communication plan

- Sent a comprehensive emergency communication plan to the entire membership;
- **Investigated early warning system for unrest**
- Engaged with a service provider on the establishment of an early warning system;
- Premised on monitoring social media for signs of impending unrest;
- We do however have certain concerns regarding their proposals –
  - is it legal?
  - Huge costs;
  - Best left for each member to decide? (business facilitation risk);
- Also engaged with B4SA who are directing efforts to upskilling law enforcement & judicial system via the Business Against Crime initiative.

# Gantt chart on progress



# Future plans and conclusion

- Proposed visit to KZN to engage with businesses affected by the July 2021 unrest.
- Aim to understand how certain areas remained unaffected during unrest and how business owners coped with the unrest and the aftermath.
- To capture interviews with affected business owners and staff on video for awareness purposes.
- Workshop early next year – would like members who are engaged in community projects to share their projects. Will invite partners such as ISS to share insights and share lessons learnt from the July 2021 unrest.



# Thank you

Grain Building, 1st Floor, 477 Witherite Street, The Willows, Pretoria, South Africa, 0184

PO Box 76297, Lynnwood Ridge, South Africa, 0040

Tel. +27 12 807 6686 | Fax. +27 12 807 5600

admin@agbiz.co.za | www.agbiz.co.za

Vat nr. 4920204684

