

# AGRICULTURE: A South African Perspective

By

Francis Wilson

University of Cape Town



KEY	
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #c8e6c9; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Winter rainfall
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #c8e6c9; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Summer rainfall
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #fff9c4; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Non-arable land
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #fff9c4; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	(pump-out used for water)
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Ice-age coast-line
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #fff9c4; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Archaeological site

Winter rainfall

Summer rainfall

Non-arable land

(pump-out used for water)

Ice-age coast-line

Archaeological site

NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

KALAHARI

Karoo

Karoo

MOZAMBIQUE

ZIMBABWE

SWAZI-LAND

LESOTHO

N

0 100 200 km

62 Mopungubwe

Schobu

Polokwane

Lydenburg

Johannesburg

Secundaria

Wessfontein

Bloemfontein

Kimberley

Hotfontein

East London

Stanger

Port of Callisto

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

Stanger

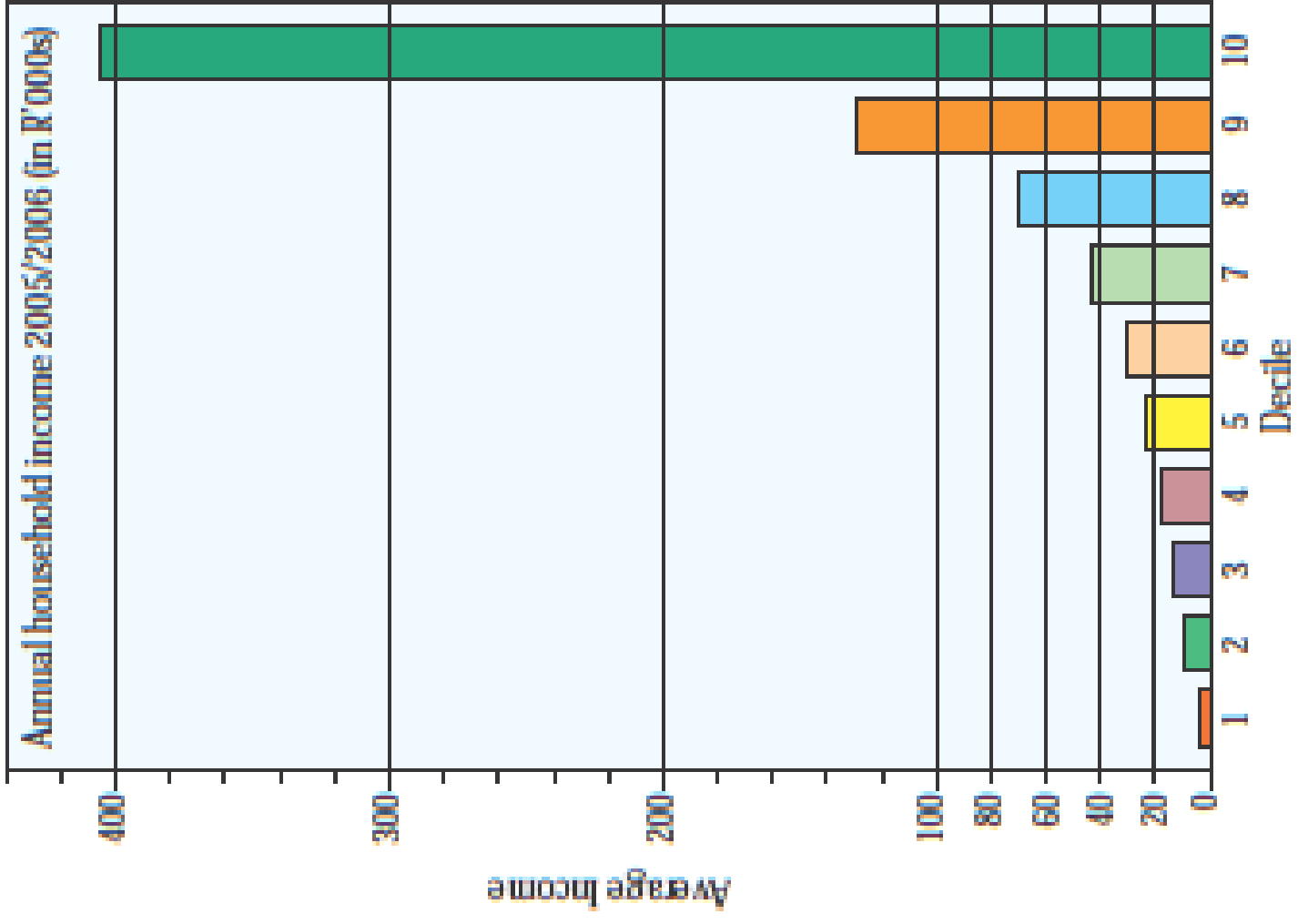
Stanger

Stanger









South Africa has one of the deepest levels of inequality in the world. Interpreting this graph we see that the poorest 40% of households [deciles 1-4] had average incomes of less than R20 000 per annum whilst the richest 10% received over R400 000 per household. This was more than 90 times greater than the income of the poorest 10%.

- Further reading

- Lungisile Ntsebeza & Ruth Hall (eds.), *The Land Question in South Africa: The Challenge of Transformation and Redistribution*, HSRC Press, Cape Town, 2007
- David Catling, *An Elusive Harvest Working with Smallholder Farmers in South Africa*, Fanele (Jacana Media), 2008, Auckland Park
- Ruth Hall (ed), *Another Countryside ? Policy Options for Land and Agrarian Reform in South Africa*, Inst. For Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), UWC, 2009.
- SA Journal of Science, Jan/Feb 2009, Academy of Science of South Africa,  
Special Issue on Arid ecosystems and agricultural policy