In the 2015/2016 farming season, significantly low agricultural productivity were recorded in South Africa (Nkhata and Breen, 2016).

The challenge of reduced food production among small-scale farmers in South Africa and the region is due to:

- Production that is dependent on risky rain-fed systems
- Climate induced droughts

Water security is integral for small-scale farmers’ resilience

However, the extent of water security along the value chains of rural small-scale crop farming in South Africa and the broader SADC region has not been adequately assessed.
Research Approach: Quantitative and Qualitative

- Desktop study: detailed literature review
- Application of the value chain analysis framework to understand water issues along the small-scale crop value chains
- Perform detailed value chain mapping for selected crops
- Estimating water footprint for selected crops within the Limpopo and Zambezi River Basins
Key results of your research/project so far:

- The project has just started
- Project preliminary meetings held
- Stakeholder meetings held in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Zambia
- Phase one commenced, structure of the review paper is in place
The project is still in the initiation phase, hence there are no empirical results to report on.
Water Security and Social-Hydrological Resilience for Rural Small-scale Crop Value Chains
M. Manjoro/University of Venda

Top next steps for your project:
- Completion of the review work
- Student and study sites identification
- Value chain mapping

How data and results from your project will impact stakeholder decisions and the development problem:
- How can we improve water security and thus contribute to household food security, poverty alleviation and overall social-hydrological resilience to increasing drought events in line with South Africa’s National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.
- Inform policy and USAID strategies

Challenges you have faced in collecting meaningful data:
- Data has not been collected as yet.