

## **THE CONTRIBUTION OF MICROFINANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL FARMING IN ZIMBABWE: THE CASE OF DOMBOSHAVA RURAL FARMERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study sought to evaluate the contribution of microfinance in the development of rural farming in Zimbabwe. The rural populace represents a marginalized segment of society as far as access to financial services is concerned despite the important role that rural farmers play in the development of the rural economy and the national economy at large. Thus, the study focused on horticulture farmers in Domboshava in Goromonzi District of Mashonaland East province. The study adopted a phenomenological research philosophy and used questionnaires and focus groups. Furthermore, a cross-sectional research design was adopted. A sample of 500 respondents was used and it represented all the stakeholders. The study established that microfinance is significant and will contribute towards the development of the rural farming sector and this requires also the support of the RBZ and government. It was recommended that the government should create an enabling environment through the establishment of modern infrastructure.

**KEYWORDS:** Rural Farming, Microfinance, Government, Economic Development, Livelihood, Rural Economy, Infrastructure