

GAP ANALYSIS IN POST-GRADUATE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION RESEARCH IN ESWATINI

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ABSTRACT

Post-graduate student research is fundamental for the growth of a young discipline such as agricultural education. However, no study was conducted on research themes covered by post-graduate Agricultural Education students in Eswatini. Thus, this study sought to identify thematic research gaps in post-graduates students' theses in Agricultural Education in Eswatini. The study was a desk review research on Agricultural Education masters' degree theses completed from 1996 to 2017 in the Department of Agricultural Education and Extension(AEE), Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Eswatini (UNESWA). The validity of the instrument was ensured through the use of experts from the AEE Department at UNESWA. Data analysis was performed using frequencies and percentages. Results of the study revealed that in Agricultural Education post-graduates research, gaps existed in the following thematic areas: primary themes - Delivery methodologies and Curriculum programme and secondary themes- Educational methodologies for teaching and learning; Innovative instructional technologies; History, philosophy, future and policy in Agricultural Education; Teaching basic and academic skills; and Creative thinking and problem solving. The study concluded that some of the thematic areas were still under-researched in Agricultural Education in Eswatini. The study also recommended that the Department of AEE at UNESWA needs to have a research agenda that will ensure that the research conducted is thematically balance.

KEYWORDS: *Agricultural Education, Gap Analysis, Research Thematic Areas, Primary Themes, Post Graduate, Secondary Themes*