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An Appraisal of the Socio-economic Impacts and Challenges of Fair Trade among Emerging Farmers in the Eastern Cape, South Africa

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Abstract

This paper examines the socio-economic impacts of fair trade on black emerging citrus fruit farmers in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. It also evaluates the impacts of fair trade's social dividend on public infrastructure investments in fair trade farming communities. The paper uses a qualitative approach. Data was collected using in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. It finds that farmers benefit from transparency within the fair trade system thereby generating significant net profits that are channeled into onfarm investments and household livelihood activities.

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