

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY, 2013

**TITLE OF PAPER: AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
COURSE CODE: ECON 412
TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.
2. Show all relevant workings to your answer
3. All Questions carry a total of 25 marks

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR

**DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY
THE INVIGILATOR.**

Question 1 (Compulsory)

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term agricultural policy. [4 marks]
- (b) What are the three fundamental objectives of agricultural policy? [9 marks]
- (c) Discuss the main policy outcomes that policymakers would expect from agricultural policy. [12 marks]
- (d) Discuss any five major challenges facing agriculture that call for policy formulation. [15 marks]

Question 2

- (a) What is meant by food security? [5 marks]
- (b) Discuss the factors that compromise the food security situation in Swaziland. [20 marks]

Question 3

- (a) Define the concept of "Rural Development" in the context of agriculture. [5 marks]
- (b) Discuss eight major characteristics that define the rural poor. [15 marks]
- (c) "Family size is the cause and not a consequence of poverty". Explain the meaning of the statement. [5 marks]

Question 4

- a) Given the great benefits to increasing investment in women in agriculture, why is it so hard to change the focus on funding? [10 marks]
- b) What are the key priority areas for renewed investment in gender equality in agriculture? [15 marks]

Question 5

- a) "Protectionism and discrimination are key features of international trade in agricultural products". Discuss the extent to which the above statement explains the ways in which countries have closed or prevented access to their agricultural sectors. [15 marks]
- b) Why is it believed that developing countries stand to benefit from the conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda? [10 marks]