

SPECIAL COLLECTION
LIBRARY USE ONLY

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**FACTORS INFLUENCING ACCESS TO AND USE OF AGRICULTURAL
INFORMATION: A CASE OF FARMERS IN THE SVOSVE AREA, ZIMBABWE**

BY

**Shamiso Audrey Mutavayi
(N01521870M)**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Academic Supervisor

Mr E. Mupaikwa

LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY P.O. BOX 346 BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
DATE	ACCESSION	CLASS No.
08/03/18	GC 15 1005	
BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE		

YEAR: 2017

ON S	DA
	
* 9 2 0 0 4 0 4 4 6 8 9 *	
NUST Library	
ICE	NATI

ABSTRACT

This study was aimed at identifying factors influencing access to and utilization of information by farmers, identify the information needs of the farmers and finally to suggest ways of improving access to and utilization of the information. To this end, a survey was conducted in Svosve and covered 6 villages in the area. The convenience sampling technique was employed and it was for the 88 farmers while 4 extension workers were selected purposively. Both primary and secondary data were collected and analyzed. Qualitative data were used to compliment quantitative data. Data was analysed using SPSS and content analysis. The results obtained led to conclusions that there was general access to information within the Svosve area. However, farmers had different information needs according to their different problems and expectations. Besides the responses displaying high rates in access, there were a number of other reasons that led to utilization being affected. These included the type of source disseminating information, costs to get information, dependency on indigenous knowledge and extension workers not being forthcoming, among other constraints. The researcher recommended that there was need for there to be a needs assessment done in the area and have information packaged to fit rural community.