NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE PRACTICES ON FOOD PRODUCTION IN RELATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: A CASE OF NTSHENE VILLAGE IN WARD 6 (UMZINGWANE DISTRICT)

BY

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to find out the indigenous knowledge practices used on climate change and food production in Ntshene village ward 6 (Mzingwane District). Climate change has become most critical issue at the global level, regional and local level to such an extent that climate change is considered as a gravest challenge for the mankind in the present century and the Ntshene community has been no exception to these effects. The study mainly focused on subsistence farmers and their farming practices in crop production, storage of agricultural output, animal husbandry and water conservation. Subsistence farmers do not have to only rely on modern, western methods or smart technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change but can rely on their home grown knowledge that is Indigenous Knowledge (IK). The trigger of the study was to therefore bring out the practices that could be used by the Ntshene community to improve their productivity. Qualitative methodology was adopted for the study and the case study research strategy was used. It was found that indigenous knowledge is vital in food production and adapting to climate change. The major recommendations were that subsistence farmers should continue to utilize their indigenous knowledge practices for their agricultural activities as they prove to yield better results.