

THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE



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LET'S **GROW** OUR PROVINCE
BETTER TOGETHER



Western Cape
Government

Agriculture

BETTER TOGETHER.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC SERVICES

The economic security of the Western Cape agricultural sector is something that cannot be taken for granted, but which must be nurtured and cultivated. In the extremely competitive global environment characterised by fast-changing consumer preferences and the market environment, the services of this Programme provide a buttress for this security. The services are provided through its four divisions i.e. Marketing and Agribusiness, Productions Economics, Statistics and Macro and Resource Economics.

MARKETING AND AGRIBUSINESS

Access to markets and information, fair participation, retaining and repositioning into sustainable markets are some of the critical concerns that this division aims to address. The focus is skewed towards the identification of market opportunities and risks through research, packaging and dissemination of such information through appropriate channels. While the research conducted focuses on traditional markets, there is also research conducted for niche and differentiated products and industries that need to be developed and exploited. Facilitation of market access to ensure uptake of identified opportunities at both local and international markets is also one of the services provided. This component also aims to improve the bargaining power of farmers, sharing of expertise and collective pulling of resources through facilitation of co-operative development. The division also promotes agribusiness support through value-adding, provision of advisory services to unlock opportunities provided by AgriBEE Charter, facilitation of partnerships and acquisition of funding for increased investment in the sector.

PRODUCTION ECONOMICS

With the change of the nature of competitiveness from land labour and capital to information and knowledge, the root of global agricultural competitiveness is embodied in farming systems and farm management practices. This division research and analyse the relative competitiveness of local farming systems and management practices in relation to international best practice. The results of these actions are wrapped in advice packages and disseminated to the whole spectrum of clients. Due emphasis is also placed on advice in financial record-keeping, budgeting, business plan development and evaluation, and facilitation of funding alternatives.

STATISTICS

In order to monitor trends and to make good decisions at all levels of responsibility (both within and outside the Department) good and reliable data or statistics is critical. It follows that it is necessary to develop a comprehensive database in order to monitor certain actual trends in the agricultural sector. The Statistics Division maintains several databases ranging from enterprise prices to land price movements, game species prices and pluri-activity data and information. Aggregated data is generally available to clients. The client data needs play an important role in developing new databases on demand. The data is also analysed and packaged for dissemination through various platforms.

MACRO AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

Trends and data is not enough to ensure sound decisions, but it is needed to distill the truly crucial variables and to evaluate the impact of these on the agricultural economy of the Western Cape. As mathematical and/or computerised models are a representation of reality, reality can be “changed” under controlled conditions in order to evaluate the impact of a specific variable. However, models are only a representation and simplification of reality. Consequently various angles on the same problem need to be developed. The purpose of this division is to develop and use the necessary sector and multisector level models to evaluate the impact of various local and international environmental and policy measures on the agricultural sector and the economy of the Province. Due emphasis is also placed on resource economics research to promote sustainable use of natural resources in the context of climate change (valuation and management of the natural resources, renewable resources as alternatives; water resource allocation and management, agriculture and the environment).



RURAL DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATION

This programme provides the following services and support:

- Facilitation of the implementation of the National Comprehensive Rural Development Programme in the 15 selected rural nodes in the Western Cape for the period 2010 to 2014 to increase opportunities for growth and development.
- Enhancing the image and the socio-economic conditions of farm workers and their families by providing them with life skills to improve their quality of life.



DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The 15 rural nodes selected for development include:

[1] Ceres, [2] Dysselsdorp, [3] Ebenhaeser – Lutzville-West – Papendorp – Strandfontein – Doringbaai, [4] Elandsbaai, [5] Knysna, [6] Leeu-Gamka – Merweville, [7] Malmesbury, [8] Mamre – Atlantis – Pella, [9] Matjiesfontein, [10] Mossel Bay, [11] Murraysburg, [12] New Horizons, [13] Struisbaai, [14] Suurbraak, and [15] Villiersdorp

The sub-programme is responsible for the following:

- Facilitating co-ordination of provincial departments and local government authorities to deliver services an integrated way through the establishment of Interdepartmental Steering Committees (ISCs);
- Institutionalising community organisational structures by establishing Councils of Stakeholders (CoSs) to empower communities to identify and implement new community projects;

- Prioritising the implementation of economic, social development and infrastructure projects amongst private and public sector partners to address critical rural needs towards economic growth;
- Skills development/training for the unemployed, and
- Creation of sustainable employment.

FARM WORKER DEVELOPMENT

Key services and support to improve the quality of life of farm workers and their families include:

- Facilitating the provision of social awareness campaigns;
- Facilitating skills development and training opportunities for farm workers, their families and farm worker communities;
- Co-ordinating the involvement of different government departments in the development of farm workers and their families, and
- Hosting the annual Provincial Farm-Worker-of-the-Year Competition.



STRUCTURED AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ELSENBURG AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute was established in 1898 and was the first centre for agricultural training in Africa. In the Republic of South Africa, the College has secured an eminent track record in agriculture and especially in the field of agricultural training.

At present, training programmes are offered at Higher Education and Training (HET) and Further Education and Training (FET) level. The following qualifications can be obtained:

- B.AGRIC DEGREE (3 years)
- HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE (2 years)
- DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE (3 years)
- SHORT COURSES (NQF levels 1 to 4)
- LEARNERSHIPS (1 year)

The above-mentioned training is based on farming enterprises and demands, with the main focus on the agro-ecological regions of the Western Cape.

The major subjects for the B.Agric degree are: Agronomy and Pastures, Large and Small Stock Production, Pomology, Vegetable Production, Viticulture, Wine Science, Agri-tourism and Extension. A choice of any two of these subjects must be completed as majors, supplemented by prescribed compulsory subjects.

The Higher Certificate in Agriculture is a two-year course specialising in one of two programme options: the same as for B.Agric except for Wine Sciences.

An objective is to maintain a healthy balance between theory and practice and practicing the philosophy of “Training by doing” is an important feature during practical sessions. Close collaboration with researchers from the Department of Agriculture and commercial farmers is a special supporting feature, enhancing the standard of tuition.



DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE: Cellar Technology

Training in Cellar Technology is very popular, with 85% of the wine-makers in the Western Cape having acquired their qualifications at Elsenburg. The practical training provided is unique and past students leave the Institute as professional and proficient wine-makers with expertise on a commercial scale.

This is a modular programme aimed at training candidates as wine-makers.

THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENT IS HIGHER CERTIFICATE WITH OENOLOGY AS MAJOR SUBJECT.

DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE: Extension

This is a one-year modular experiential training programme, dealing with various aspects of Extension Science.

DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE: Vegetables and Agronomy

This is a one-year modular experiential training programme regarding Production, Agricultural Management and Natural Resource Management.

THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENT FOR ABOVE DIPLOMAS IS A HIGHER CERTIFICATE

DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE: Equine Studies

Two years National Instructors Course for Riders (fulltime) and part-time training for horse handling and horse riding are available.

THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENT IS A MATRIC CERTIFICATE WITH MATHS



LEARNERSHIP: FET inputs

Learnerships is a structured learning programme based on specific outcomes as per the NQF level of the learning programme. Various learnerships are offered on NQF levels 1 to 4, which are registered by AgriSETA and accredited by SAQA.

SHORT COURSES

Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute also provides short courses for farm workers, commercial and resource poor farmers as well as beneficiaries of the national land reform programme. More than 35 different short courses are presented on farms, in rural communities, at the FET decentralised training campuses or at Elsenburg, Outeniqua, Oudtshoorn, Bredasdorp and Clanwilliam.

Should an employer wish to train his staff in his own orchards or vineyards, and with his own equipment, this can be arranged. These short courses cover a wide range of study fields, including Irrigation, Tractor Maintenance, AVCASA (responsible handling of agricultural chemicals), Marketing, Financial Management and Vegetable Production etc.

The focus of these short courses is on the practical applications, supported by relevant theoretical principles. Once completed, students will have the required skills to cope with the demands of the workplace.





RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

In order to keep abreast of technological developments in agriculture, and to ensure that all the agricultural role-players of the Western Cape are provided with the most advanced scientific and technical advice, the Department provides timely and relevant research and technology development services in the six districts of the Western Cape. Of utmost importance is converting the research rand into an information rand – this means that scientific information should reach the commercial and smallholder farmer at farm level, making our farmers more sustainable and competitive on local, national and international markets.

Because industrial development places tremendous pressure on our natural resources, the Department's resource scientists and geographical information centre play a prominent role to ensure the optimum utilisation of our scarce resources, soil, water and natural vegetation, whilst the agricultural practises which we apply and research are all focussed on optimal resource-use efficiency. The identification and prioritisation of research needs are of utmost importance, whilst networking with industry organisations and other partners are continuously strengthened and expanded.

The Programme is structured into the sub-programmes Research, Technology Transfer Services and Infrastructure Support Services and operates as the Directorates of Animal Sciences, Plant Sciences and Research Support Services. The latter Directorate includes the sub-directorates and Analytical Services and Farm Services.

The research portfolio of the Department is executed mainly within the Directorates of Animal Sciences and Plant Sciences, with a smaller research portfolio in the Directorate Research Support Services. The Programme also has seven research farms serving as open-air laboratories to support our research efforts in the districts of the Western Cape.

ANIMAL SCIENCES

The Directorate Animal Sciences provides animal science services to producers and focuses on ruminant and aquaculture research and includes the disciplines of breeding, reproduction, feeding and management. Extensive research facilities also include a feeds laboratory, whilst the Institute is the owner of eleven herds and flocks of national importance which are crucial in the research effort.

Did you know that the Directorate Animal Sciences

- Conducts research in the programmes of feeding, breeding/genomics and management of dairy cattle, sheep, ostriches and aquaculture?
- Focusses its research on improving efficiency of production under a variety of environments?
- Has a world-renowned ostrich research team and facilities?
- Has two dairy research facilities at Outeniqua and Elsenburg?
- Executes projects at Nortier, Langgewens, Elsenburg, Tygerhoek, Oudsthoorn and Outeniqua and on various farms of producers?
- Collaborates with various tertiary institutions locally, nationally and internationally on various research programmes and projects?

PLANT SCIENCES

The Directorate Plant Sciences focuses on the areas of sustainable agronomic, vegetable, rangeland and pasture production systems, alternative crops, crop protection in the areas of weed science, plant pathology and entomology, as well as soil-plant interactions.

Did you know that the Directorate Plant Sciences

- Conducts research in conservation agricultural practises in grain systems and also pasture systems for dairy?
- Has the only dairy pasture research group in South Africa linking biological soil management with pasture management and milk production, quality and ultimately gross margins for producers?
- Is pioneering soil biological research in pastures in the Southern Cape?
- Conducts research programmes on natural pastures and veld management, production of indigenous seed for arid areas, weed science, entomology, plant pathology, cultivar evaluation, vegetables and alternative crops?
- Has a diagnostic service for plant diseases?
- Executes research at Nortier, Langgewens, Worcester, Elsenburg, Tygerhoek and Outeniqua research farms?
- Has glass houses, laboratories, two indigenous seed production units at Worcester and near Lamberts Bay, implements and equipment for field trials?
- Established two large research trials on privately owned farms in the Southern Cape, which are now research hubs for the Western Cape in the field of grain production systems?
- Collaborates with various tertiary institutions in the Western Cape and other provinces, the ARC and various industry organisations?



RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

The Directorate Research Support Services renders a support service to our research team and external stakeholders. An analytical laboratory for soil, water and plant analyses provides a pivotal service to scientists and producers in the Western Cape. It also provides soil science, climatological (risk and potential management), crop estimates and spatial analysis services (GIS) to an array of clients. The Directorate also includes infrastructure support services (farm services) with our research farms situated at Nortier (near Lamberts Bay), Langgewens (near Moorreesburg), Elsenburg, Worcester (Veld reserve), Tygerhoek (near Riviersonderend), Outeniqua (near George) and Oudtshoorn and operate as open-air laboratories where research projects of particular importance for that region, are executed. Projects and trials are frequently visited by producers and other role-players from these regions. Our farms also serve as research hubs for tertiary institutions, locally and abroad, and the institutes of the ARC.

Did you know that the Directorate Research Support Services

- Also conducts research in the programmes of spatial analysis (GIS), risk and potential management and knowledge management?
- Conducts research on climate change and its impact on the crop industry in the Western Cape?
- Has extensive GIS expertise, infrastructure and equipment and provides decision making tools to internal and external clients?
- Plays a critical role in terms of the provision of information regarding crop estimates and the state of agriculture in the Western Cape?
- Serves a wide provincial and national client base, including other departments, local government, agri-businesses, other stakeholders and farmers, with GIS and pedology services?

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Information emanating from research is disseminated to producers in effective, problem-focussing and user-friendly technology packages. This includes on-farm visits and consultations, lectures, scientific and popular papers, radio talks, press releases and various other forms of technology transfer. Several farmers' and information days are also annually held and bring the latest technology to district and farmer level. The Department also boasts its own popular publication "Agriprobe" – a quarterly publication packed with interesting research articles and other topics. The famous "Elsenburg Joernaal" forms part of this publication.





FARMER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Farmer Support and Development Programme (FSD) encompasses the broad development agenda of the Department of Agriculture, meaning that the design and implementation are predominantly for supporting black farmers in the Western Cape Province, but does not exclude the commercial sector.

This programme aims to deliver on the provision of extension, support and facilitation of training to farmers, with special emphasis on developing of small holder farmers, implementation of land reform programmes and agricultural rural development projects.

WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES AND SUPPORT

- To ensure a sustainable support mechanism for new and established farmers (including land reform beneficiaries);
- To measure the impact of interventions as delivered by the Programme;
- To leverage investment from the private sector and commodity groupings;
- To ensure quality and standards of service and advice to farmers;
- To ensure we assist municipalities and other government departments with the implementation of food gardens for communities and households.





THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

FARMER SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: To support sustainable land and agrarian reform projects through the provision of planning and settlement support services.

EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES: To support farmers to increase production for markets through the provision of extension and advisory services; the facilitation of training for commercial, smallholder and subsistence farmers; the co-ordination of rural agricultural projects and the facilitation of organisation development and capacity building of farmer groups.

FOOD SECURITY: To facilitate access to affordable and diverse food through the co-ordination and implementation of household and community food security projects as highlighted and adopted in the Integrated Food Security Strategy of South Africa.

CASIDRA: To support the Department with project implementation and state farm management.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this Programme is to provide sustainable resource management solutions and methodologies through the provision of agricultural engineering and LandCare services, pro-active communication, facilitation and implementation of projects as well as technology transfer to our clients and partners.

The Programme is also responsible for the implementation and management of disaster aid schemes and to provide comments on applications for sub-division and/or rezoning of agricultural land.

The Programme is structured into four sub-programmes:

- Engineering Services
- LandCare
- Land Use Management
- Disaster Risk Management

ENGINEERING SERVICES

IRRIGATION

The irrigation section is responsible for improving the effective utilisation of irrigation water. This includes the evaluation of irrigation systems, both the designs and in-field evaluation, and technology transfer regarding scheduling and system operation. The service provided for small farmers include the evaluation of water resources and the design of irrigation systems.

MECHANISATION

The mechanisation section renders a full service regarding mechanisation planning and the utilisation of farming implements and equipment. Technical advice and support are provided to farmers that want to change from conventional to conservation farming practices.

FARM STRUCTURES

A comprehensive planning and design service is available for animal housing and handling facilities as well as the handling of waste from these facilities and labour accommodation. Plans for water reservoirs and farm worker accommodation are also available. Affordable animal housing structures are also designed for small-scale farmers.

FOOD PROCESSING AND VALUE ADDING

Technical advice is provided regarding on-farm food processing and value adding to products produced by farmers. This includes drying, cooling, canning and other value-adding processes.

SOIL CONSERVATION

The service rendered by this section includes the planning and design of intricate soil conservation and erosion protection structures.

LANDCARE

The conservation of the natural resources of the Western Cape is vital for the agriculture industry and all inhabitants of the Western Cape who rely directly and indirectly on these resources.

Here the Department concentrates on the following fields to obtain its mission of striving to rebuild, maintain and improve the natural resources by promoting efficient conservation practices to all land users.

- Resource conservation projects by means of Farm Planning specifying the location and design of protection, drainage and veld utilisation works.
- LandCare projects, which concentrate on the development of the natural resources of previously disadvantaged communities.
- Pro-active resource conservation projects, which involve pro-active ways of preventing the extensive degradation of the natural resources, for example area planning.

LAND USE MANAGEMENT

Protection of our limited agricultural resources is a priority of the department and this sub-programme provide comments on all applications for sub-dividing and/or rezoning of agricultural land.

Sub-division and rezoning of agricultural land evaluations is based on principles of sustainable agriculture, namely: socially acceptable, economically viable, ecologically feasible, reasonable production and long term sustainability. A sound balance between these principles is necessary when evaluating a proposal.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Providing support services to clients with regards to agricultural disaster risk management is the focus of this sub-programme. The services provided include risk prevention, mitigation and recovery services after natural disasters.



VETERINARY SERVICES

The Programme Veterinary Services is responsible for managing animal risks and the safety of foods from animal origin in accordance with national and international standards and conventions. The legal mandate for executing these functions is vested in the Animal Disease Act, 1984 and the Meat Safety Act, 2000. The primary focus is on active and passive disease surveillance, disease control and prevention interventions, export facilitation of animal products and the delivery of a diagnostic laboratory service.

ANIMAL HEALTH

The overall challenge for the Animal Health component of Veterinary Services is to address in full the needs of its expanded clientele and to effectively manage the risks posed through globalisation for the introduction and spread of animal and food-borne diseases.



Disease surveillance and monitoring activities are being adapted, moving away from manual and physical inspections to a more targeted and scientific approach supported by the effective utilisation of rapid and scientifically verifiable technologies and diagnostic procedures.

This component has the responsibility to apply the Animal Diseases Act within the Western Cape. Official veterinarians and animal health technicians stationed within 7 State Veterinary areas distributed within the Province execute the functions demanded by this Act.

In addition to the above regulatory responsibilities, officials are intimately involved in servicing the emerging farmer sector. This is achieved by regular visits to holdings to inspect livestock, providing assistance with treatment and vaccination of animals, collection of diagnostic samples and the dissemination of information on preventive and corrective animal health.



FOOD SAFETY AND EXPORT

The Food Safety and Export sections are responsible for the application of the Meat Safety Act. State veterinarians and meat inspectors monitor and audit the application of hygienic procedures at abattoirs to ensure compliance with the Meat Safety Act. Hygiene management practices at abattoirs, meat and dairy export establishments; the humane handling of animals presented for slaughter; the setting of standards for new abattoirs and the grading of existing facilities are important functions carried out by these officials.

VETERINARY LABORATORIES

The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (PVL) in Stellenbosch renders a diagnostic service to the Programme, the private veterinary sector, other departments, such as National Health and Nature Conservation, and commerce associated with the agricultural industry. A diagnostic service is also rendered to the dairy, beef, sheep, pork and racehorse industries, as well as the poultry, ostrich and aquaculture sectors. A veterinary laboratory has also been established at the state veterinary office in Beaufort West.

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VISION: A united, responsive and prosperous agricultural sector in balance with nature.



MISSION: Unlocking the full potential of agriculture to enhance the economic, ecological and social wealth of all the people of the Western Cape through:

- Encouraging sound stakeholder engagements
- Promoting the production of affordable, nutritious, safe and accessible food, fibre and agricultural products
- Ensuring sustainable management of natural resources
- Executing cutting edge and relevant research and technology development
- Developing, retaining and attracting skills and human capital
- Providing a competent and professional extension support service
- Enhancing market access for the entire agricultural sector
- Contributing towards alleviation of poverty and hunger
- Ensuring transparent and effective governance



BETTER TOGETHER

The Western Cape Government has a duty to provide opportunities. Citizens have the responsibility to make use of them.

VALUES



CARING

To care for those we serve and work with.



INTEGRITY

To be honest and to do the right thing.



COMPETENCE

The ability and capacity to do the job we were employed to do.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We take responsibility.



RESPONSIVENESS

To serve the needs of our citizens and employees.



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