

# **STATUS REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES POLICY**

**BRANCH: FOOD SECURITY and AGRARIAN REFORM  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY and FISHERIES**



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# Outline

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# Methodology

## Phase 1

### Inception

International Trends

Agriculture Status Quo

Forestry Status Quo

Fisheries Status Quo

Summary Report

## Phase 2

### Research led dialogue

One on one provincial consultations

9 Provincial workshops

Focus group

Consolidation

Think Pieces and other inputs

## Phase 3

### Drafting of Policy

Rough Draft 1 Policy

Project Team Meeting

30 Nov & 1 Dec

Draft 2 Policy

17 Dec to 10 Jan

Draft 2 Policy

10 Jan to date



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## Key Problem Areas

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- ☐ Poor linkage between research, extension and Producers.
  - ☐ Low Extension Practitioner to Producer ratio.
  - ☐ Disintegrated efforts from different Extension Support Agencies.
  - ☐ Lack of a National Policy and Regulatory Framework to provide formal guidelines, working standards and governing code of ethics.
  - ☐ Limitations with the Extension Education System and Narrow Service focus.
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# Purpose

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- ☐ To deliver and maintain a pluralistic, harmonised and co-ordinated extension and advisory service that operates on a common set of principles and values
- ☐ To respond to the needs, aspirations, opportunities and other circumstances of the many actors in the respective value chains
- ☐ To recognise the overall livelihood context within which extension and advisory services operate and task commit to the support of producers on a wider livelihood system and sustainable development initiatives
- ☐ To support the implementation of the NDP, IGDP (for agriculture forestry and fisheries) and APAP



*long term issues  
pertaining to the policy:*

# Aims

Set a regulatory framework to guide the agriculture forestry and fisheries sectors in the provision of extension and advisory services

Provide a common framework and set of principles to achieve shared over-arching objectives and priorities set out in the 2012 NDP, APAP and IGDP

Facilitate establishment of effective and efficient extension & advisory services



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*long term goals*

# Goals

ensure that all actors in the value chains enjoy equitable & optimum access to knowledge and skills; and have the capacity to explore opportunities for the advancement of their livelihoods and enterprises.

ensure knowledge transfer and skills development as the foundation for “equitable, productive, competitive, profitable and sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors growing to the benefit of all South Africans”.

respond to users’ expressed economically viable needs, ambitions & circumstances.



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## Policy Objectives

- ☐ To ensure effective linkages and exchange of information between research, extension and producers.
- ☐ To establish a professional, accessible, reliable, relevant and accountable national extension and advisory services that is results oriented.
- ☐ To ensure a pluralistic and coordinated approach for the provision of extension and advisory services by public, private and non-profit organizations;
- ☐ To transform and align the core competencies of extension practitioners towards the comprehensive development agenda; and
- ☐ To promote and implement the value chain approach for integrated and holistic support services.





## Scope of the policy

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- ❑ The policy applies to the 3 sectors in **all rural and urban areas** of South Africa.
- ❑ It covers **all scales of production and processing by all types of South Africans**, regardless of their socio-economic background or status.
- ❑ It applies to **all modes of extension and advisory service delivery**, by government, private sector, NGOs, producer organisations and producers.



# Role of Extension and Advisory Services

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- ☐ Assist producers to access relevant advisory services and facilities that are essential for the enhancement of farm productivity, securing finance and markets.
  - ☐ Assist producers to identify & overcome production, enterprise and marketing challenges, through the exchange of information among producers, extension practitioners, input suppliers, creditors and marketing agents.
  - ☐ Work with producers in technology development and innovation processes.
  - ☐ Provides information to research institutions on producers' production constraints so that appropriate basic, applied or adaptive research can be conducted.
  - ☐ Empowers and build capacity of producers, producer organizations' and commodity groups to ultimately become self-reliant for improved living standards.
  - ☐ Share knowledge and strengthen individual and collective capacity to work with greater self-reliance and confidence.
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# Core Extension Methods

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- ☐ There is no single extension model or approach suited to all situations in South Africa.
- ☐ Approaches and methods must be adapted to local situations and conform to the aforementioned principles.
- ☐ The choice and combination(s) of extension methods for implementation of the policy must be dictated by the prevailing conditions.
- ☐ In recent decades, **the concept of extension has broadened**. Current approaches emphasise the concepts of advice, facilitation, empowerment and learning.
- ☐ **Facilitation and learning-based extension** places the extension worker in a more responsive role as '**knowledge broker**' or guide through unfamiliar institutional or technical landscapes to the advice or information that the user needs.
- ☐ An effective extension facilitator helps producers find solutions to the complex challenges they face to secure their livelihoods.



# Policy Intervention Measures

Intervention Measure	Core Policy Actions
Improved Access to Quality Extension and Advisory Services that is Professional, Reliable, Relevant and Accountable	<p>Recruit competent extension practitioners to augment the current human capital.</p> <p>Certify and ensure the competence of extension professionals through registration with a recognised and credible professional body.</p>
Facilitate a Pluralistic and Integrated Approach to provide Extension and Advisory Services	<p>Identify and establish pluralistic and integrated extension and advisory services partnerships with private and non-profit organisations (at national, provincial and local levels).</p>
Advance the Extension Education System and Broaden Service Focus	<p>Review and develop multidisciplinary training curriculum for extension practitioners.</p> <p>Ensure continuous professional development through systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, and development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties of extension practitioners.</p>
Promote Commodity Value Chain Development Approach	<p>Integrate marketing and value chain aspects into extension and advisory services activities.</p> <p>Extension practitioners must become champions of the value chain approach to integrate comprehensive value chain aspects into farming operations.</p> <p>Support market access opportunities for producers (especially smallholders) by negotiating for marketing outlets including preferential procurement opportunities by state agencies.</p>



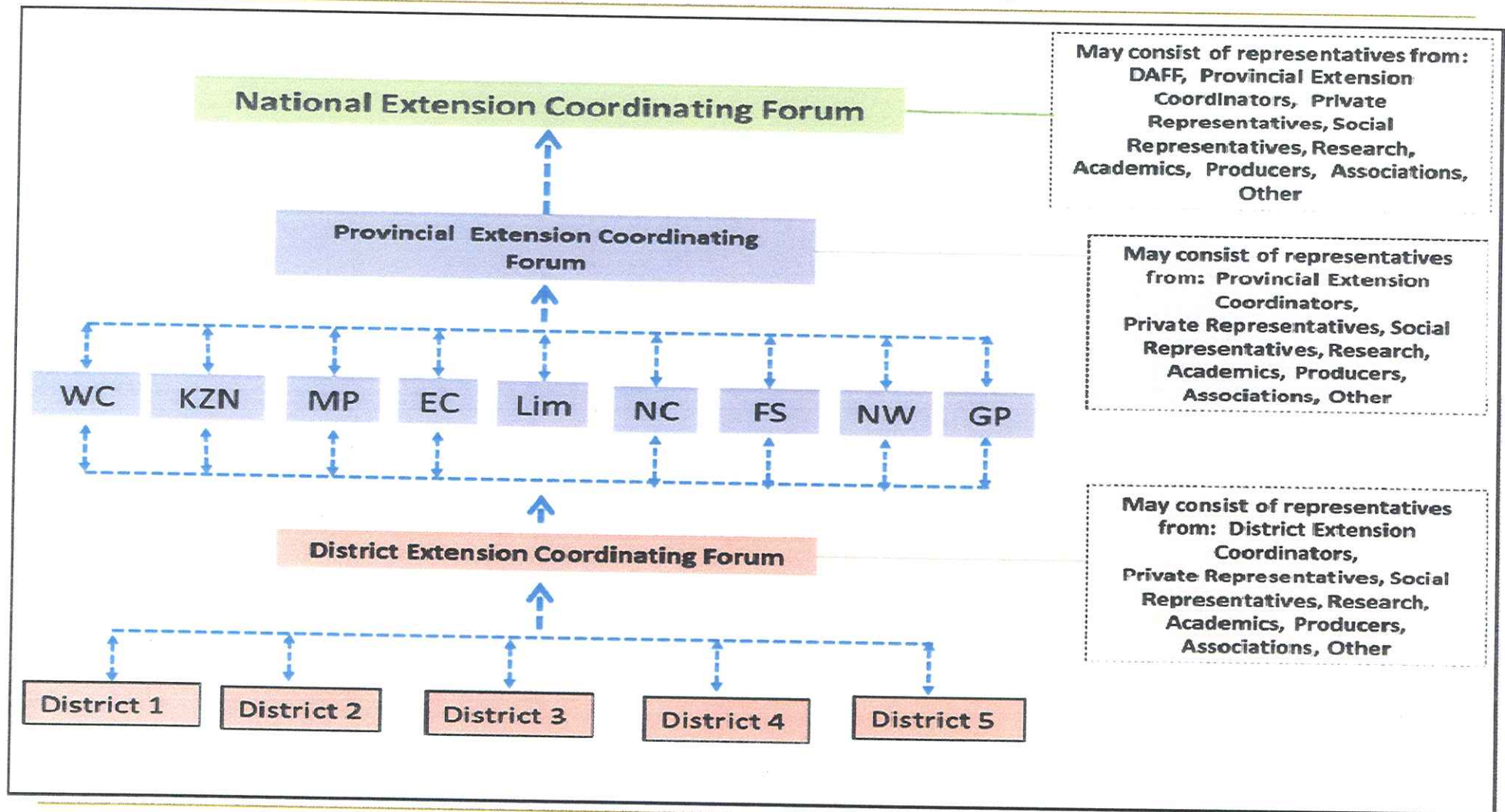


# Policy Intervention Measures

Intervention Measure	Core Policy Actions
Effective and efficient linkage mechanism between research, extension and producers	<p data-bbox="470 478 2105 574">Design participatory and integrated institutional structures that bring together extension, research and producers at national, provincial and district levels.</p> <p data-bbox="470 622 2105 718">Design user-friendly ICT knowledge sharing platforms, such as social networks, to effect mass communication amongst actors, which also ensures free accessibility to research outcomes.</p> <p data-bbox="470 766 2105 925">Facilitate demand-driven research and extension services by promoting action-based and producer-led research processes by supporting programmes based on participatory on-farm trials, research-station based research processes, to ensure inclusion of producers and extension practitioners in all research processes.</p> <p data-bbox="470 973 2105 1053">Organise smallholder producers into commodity groups to ensure that they have a voice in all research processes.</p> <p data-bbox="470 1101 2105 1212">Develop a multi-linguistic approach in line with the dissemination of information process, to enable open access to information by all actors across the value chain.</p> <p data-bbox="470 1260 2105 1324">Promote the adoption of locally viable technologies and indigenous knowledge systems by producers.</p>



# National Extension Coordinating Structure



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## Provincial Implications

- ☐ Enable the PDA to provide a holistic well-co-ordinated and collaborative approach
- ☐ Improve, implement and monitor extension and advisory services strategies, norms and standards
- ☐ Create a coordinated platform and space for different actors to play specific roles in the development of a prosperous and sustainable agriculture sector
- ☐ Ensure combined capacity and knowledge base within public, private and non-profit actors can be synergized and channelled towards the advancement of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors



## Key Policy Outcomes

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- ☐ Effective and Efficient Linkage Mechanism between Research, Extension and Producers
- ☐ Improved Access to Quality Extension and Advisory Services that is Professional, Reliable, Relevant and Accountable
- ☐ Well-Co-ordinated Pluralistic and Integrated Approach in provision of Extension and Advisory Services
- ☐ Advanced Extension Education System and Broaden Service Focus
- ☐ Commodity Value Chain Development Approach Promoted





# Policy Envisaged Impact

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- ☐ Sustainable food and nutrition security for all
- ☐ Self-reliant and confident producers through shared knowledge and strengthened individual and collective capacity
- ☐ Enabled producers and processors to contribute and benefit from the prosperity of South Africa while pursuing their chosen livelihoods
- ☐ Enhanced capacity of personnel (extension practitioners, producers, etc.)
- ☐ Strengthened and empowerment of producer organisations or commodity groups
- ☐ Integrated intervention through establishment of provincial Directorates for extension and advisory services to ensure effective implementation



## Funding Mechanism

- ☐ Government of SA remains committed to the **provision of extension and advisory services without charge** to those who cannot afford to pay.
- ☐ A user-pay principle will apply in the case of producers and members of producer organisations that can afford to pay for services rendered
- ☐ Outsourcing, co-financing, contracting of services and private funding should be implemented to solve the problem of fiscal sustainability.
- ☐ integration of the private sector into the public extension and advisory services is encouraged and promoted.





# Status on Progress

- ☐ The policy has been consulted with all relevant stakeholders e.g. ARC, Commodity Groups such as Grain South Africa (GSA), Citrus Growers Association (CGA) and Agricultural Unions such as African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA)
- ☐ The policy was presented at DAFF EXCO which recommended it for tabling at MINTECH
- ☐ MINTECH on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 recommended that the Policy and the Implementation Plan be sent to all CEOs of Public Entities and to all HODs of PDAs for comments and inputs and all inputs were incorporated into the policy on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2014
- ☐ The Policy document and its Implementation Plan were recommended by MINTECH at a meeting held on 11 September 2014, to be tabled at next MINMEC meeting
- ☐ The policy and Implementation Plan were tabled and approved at MINMEC meeting on the 26 September 2014



# Intergovernmental Approval Processes

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*to be done:*

- Consultations with DG's and Ministerial Clusters on Social and Economic Development (ESEC).
- Cabinet Committee tabling
- Cabinet Approval





# Thank You



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