



agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND  
FISHERIES  
INPUTS TO SONA 2019**

**November 2018**

## Achievements/Progress on commitments made over the past five years

Gross farming income made from all agricultural products increased by 2,1% and was estimated at R273 544 million for the year ended 30 June 2018. This was largely influenced by the increase in income derived from animal and horticultural products by 13,3% and 1,8%, respectively. Income made from field crops decreased drastically by 19,3%. **The Quarterly Labour Force Survey by Statistics South Africa** showed a percentage point annual increase in agricultural employment in the 2nd quarter of this year to 843 000 jobs compared to 835 000 jobs for the same period in 2017. This was supported by an improvement in employment in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and the Northern Cape provinces.

**Agricultural exports** continue to play an important role with the value of exports having increased by 7,3%, from R97 429 million in 2016/17 to R104 577 million in 2017/18 as compared to the estimated value of imports for 2017/18 which came to R75 412 million, a decrease of 5,2% from R79 515 million in 2016/17. The sector, remains critical for economic growth, employment, balance of payments and should be consistently sustained. The fruit industry, with the exception of the Western Cape and parts of the Eastern Cape, has recovered largely from the recent drought and record export volumes were recorded for citrus fruit (at 136 million cartons which is 9% up year on year) and avocados (at 20 million cartons doubled volumes year on year). *(Information compiled from Statistics SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey)*

**Investment** in agriculture showed an increase of 15,5% and was estimated at R13,5 billion for the period January 2018 to September 2018. In the long term, if this level of growth of investment is maintained, it is bound to boost aggregate demand for agricultural production and increase the rate of economic growth.

In support of the transformation of the sector, the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) increased the intake of its Agricultural Export Technologist Programme (AETP) to 46 students (24 African females and 22 African males who are all youth). This learnership programme is directed at up-skilling postgraduates from the designated groups in matters relating to agricultural exports. In March 2018, 35 students graduated under this programme and the PPECB offered employment contracts to all of them. PPECB also sponsored 6 disabled learners on a business administration learnership at a host employer to gain workplace exposure.

Even though the percentage of households with inadequate access to food decreased since 2010, the need to ensure increased availability and affordability of food for all South Africans remains critical. Fetsa Tlala Food Production initiatives intended to put one million hectares of fallow land under production continue to be a key programme that is being implemented. 80 000 smallholder producers were targeted to be supported through various interventions to which 245 658 have been supported to date. 711 628 hectares of unutilised land have been put under production against a target of 1 000 000 set for the current MTSF period. 1.6 million households were targeted to benefit from government food security and nutrition initiatives by 2019, to date 2.3 million households have benefited. 152 500 hectares of land were targeted to be rehabilitated and 179 214 was achieved. In the 2015/16 financial year, DAFF started a very important initiative of deploying veterinary graduates to resource poor communities, 396 vets have so far been placed with a further 150 to be placed by March 2019.

Since the launch of the Oceans Economy Operation Phakisa programme in 2014, various milestones were achieved in order to develop the sector. The Department of Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries has registered thirty five (35) Phakisa projects and identified eight (8) Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZ) throughout the country. These Zones will be dedicated for aquaculture development to create an enabling environment and to facilitate investment. In 2018, more than 4000 tons were farmed by the 35 projects and the total employment was 1943 jobs. During the period of 2017/2018 the projected additional investment was R615 million of which R236 million was from government and R379 million was from the private sector. In terms of skills and capacity building, five (5) state veterinarians were trained at Stirling University on fish health which is a scarce skill.

Since the recognition of previously marginalised small-scale fishers in South Africa through the amendment of the Marine Living Resources Act in 2014, Government commenced with a small-scale fisheries program whose aim is to establish a new small-scale fishery throughout the coastal communities of South Africa. This initiative has seen over 10 000 individual traditional fishers being recognised as small-scale fishers for the first time in South Africa's history. This, in essence, means that over 200 communities in the four coastal provinces will access marine resources legally for the purpose of participating in the ocean's economy and for food security. During 2018, Government has allocated the first 15-year fishing rights to Port Nolloth and Honderklipbaai in the Northern Cape Province where a total of 103 individually recognised small-scale fishers have been assisted to register two co-operatives for the purpose of receiving economically sustainable 15-year fishing rights. This will benefit the broader communities of Northern Cape.

In contributing towards achieving Outcome 10 targets, the department annually rehabilitates 300 hectares of state forestland and 7893 agricultural land. This contributes to climate change management initiatives and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, the Department has developed the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP) to address specific strategies on enhancing resilience of the food and agricultural production systems (adaptation), reducing Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and ensuring food security. DAFF has adopted Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) as an approach to address the above-mentioned elements, namely: Adaptation, Mitigation and Food Security. To this end, the DAFF CSA Strategic Framework (gazetted 2018) was developed to guide implementation of CSA practices throughout the country and in particular the sector. Implementation of the above-mentioned policies, plans, strategies and programmes focused attention on risk reduction measures.

In terms of forestry development and beneficiation to communities living in and around forests, about 4000 hectares of plantation forestry land was transferred to the Mkhwanazi community in the Uthungulu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal through the land restitution programme. . The transferred land is currently used by SiyaQhubeka Forest (Pty) Ltd for plantation forestry purposes through a lease agreement entered into between the company and government.

The company pays lease rentals annually for the benefit of the communities. As part of empowering the communities, the rentals will be used for community development and the State is in the process of transferring its shares to the communities.

The Department is in a process of developing the Eastern Cape Forestry Sector Plan to ensure that all role-players collaborate in unlocking potential for small growers in the province to own and manage forests throughout the value chain. The Eastern Cape is one of the Provinces that have been identified to have land that has potential for forestry development. This sector plan

will also ensure participation of government, private sector and Development Funding Institutions.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hosted a successful Summit with Stakeholders on Farm Killings, Murders and Stock Theft on 14 to 15 June 2018, as the follow up to the Round Table discussion that was held on the 14 June 2016, with the purpose of ensuring that sector stakeholders developed strategies and mechanisms in order to deal with all forms of violence against farming and rural communities.

Various government departments made their presentations on the role they are playing in improving the lives and conditions of rural and farming communities, and as well as security measures in combating all forms of brutality against farming and rural communities.

Stakeholders developed strategies, approaches and mechanisms in line with the Rural Safety Strategy in dealing with incidents of farm killings, murders and stock theft and further forge partnerships and work together with other government departments and stakeholders to combat brutal attacks against the farming community. SAPS committed to conduct awareness programmes on the Rural Safety Strategy to ensure that all stakeholders commit and participate in stakeholder forums that will seek to bring unity, safety and security within the sector.

#### **Key plans and upcoming programmes or projects for the remaining term of the current administration**

To meet the challenges that are facing the Agricultural Sector the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is compiling National Agriculture Investment Plan. This will constitute South Africa's commitment to the African Union's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Under this framework, the 2014 Malabo Declaration sets specific targets on the agriculture sector's contribution to economic growth, economic opportunities, nutrition and food security, and resilience. Moreover, the Malabo Declaration emphasizes private sector involvement and strengthening inclusive public-private partnerships. The National Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sector Investment Plan (NAIP) will guide public and private investment in sector during the period 2019 – 2025. This will enable budgetary planning and targets setting with estimated resource requirements for the agricultural sector for the next MTEF period. The National Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sector Investment Plan aims to: (i) achieve equity in the sector; (ii) increase sector contribution to the economy; (iii) increase profitable production of food, fibre and timber products by all categories of producers and (iv) sustain management of natural resources. In line with our endeavour to increase our agricultural trade with our BRICS partners, we will be re-capacitating our foreign agricultural offices in all BRICS countries.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is finalising the development of the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support (NPCPDS) to guide the provision of support interventions in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector. The policy was gazetted in August 2018 for public comments. The policy has also been referred to the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) where labour, business and government will engage on its contents.

DAFF adopted the results-driven Operation Phakisa to implement its programmes to highlight the urgency of delivery. Operation Phakisa involves setting clear plans and targets and on-going monitoring of progress. The primary aim of the approach is to ensure the formulation of required

interventions towards greater economic inclusion in Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Through Operation Phakisa the department seeks to speed up Land Reform, reform Market Access and Trade Development by supporting Agri-Parks. The department will continue to implement its Producer Support programmes and strengthen the Value Chains in the commodities identified as priorities to grow the sector. Investment in Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer is another important area as well as Climate Smart Agriculture.

DAFF will continue to focus on the following commodities: Poultry and Red Meat; Grains (Soya Bean, and Maize); Fruit, Wine and Vegetables; Forestry; Fisheries; Transforming Agriculture's labour market; Producer support and development and Sustainable Land Reform contributing to agrarian transformation and improved land administration and spatial planning.

In terms of aquaculture, the focus for 2019 is prioritisation of initiatives such as the finalisation of the Aquaculture Development Bill which is currently under consideration by the National Assembly. Implementation of the recently approved Saldanha Bay Aquaculture Development Zone Environmental Impact Assessment is projected to create around 2500 job opportunities and the potential production could increase by 15 000 tons of various fish products, through a phased approach. The department is sourcing investors to develop the Qolora Aquaculture Development Zone in the Eastern Cape and piloting trout farming in the Van Der Kloof Dam in the Northern Cape.

For 2019, the Government is in the process of finalising the allocation of 15-year fishing rights to 75 registered co-operatives comprised of 5335 small-scale fishers in the Eastern Cape; 45 registered co-operatives comprised of 2184 small-scale fishers in KwaZulu-Natal and co-operatives which will comprise of over 2500 small-scale fishers in the Western Cape. Through this programme, over 10 000 fishers and their families are being empowered and will be in a position to sustain their livelihoods.

The Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) will in the 2019/20 financial year build a Good Manufacturing Plant (GMP) compliant facility, estimated to be completed in 2020. The budgeted cost to build the facility including certification for GMP is R347 million Rand. The completion and certification of OBP as a GMP compliant facility will have the following national benefits: Large scale production of competitively priced vaccines manufactured under globally accepted quality standards; Consistent availability of OBP vaccines and improved responses to animal disease outbreaks through utilisation of new and efficient manufacturing technologies and platforms; and Positive contribution to the country's trade balance through increased exports of animal vaccines.

To ensure transformation in the forestry sector and beneficiation to communities, in line with consulted models for implementation in the 2019/20 financial year, the Department will be transferring forestry plantations to communities in line with consulted models for implementation in the 2019/20 financial year. Furthermore, to address the short term needs of small growers, the Department will continue to pilot the Agroforestry Strategy in Mpumalanga and Limpopo, working together with relevant stakeholders.

DAFF has finalized the framework on the commercialisation of 450 farmers in each of the Provinces to ensure that they become commercially and profitable businesses.

The Producer/farmer register will be implemented during 2019/20 financial year. This initiative was launched in 2018 and is led by DAFF with technical support provided by Stats SA. The

register will serve as a comprehensive database of all producers/farmers especially smallholders in the country. It will also improve planning, coordination and implementation of appropriate support, including tracking efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural support programmes to all farmers.

### **Envisaged policy interventions or changes**

DAFF will develop a Producer Support Bill once the policy is approved to ensure enforcement of the policy contents. The tabling of Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Framework Act (PDALFA) to Cabinet will be done during 2019. This act will provide for the Institutionalisation of the Regulatory Framework for land use which guide and support development initiatives. The following bills are undergoing parliamentary processes of approval, Liquor Products Amendment Bill, National Forest Amendment Bill and Aquaculture Development Bill.

DAFF is on its way to ensure the achievement of Government's objectives such as food security and job creation for all Communities in South Africa, thus contributing to economic development in South Africa.