



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNEXURE 1

POLICY PROPOSALS FOR THE MTEF BUDGET 2020/2021 TO 2022/2023

PROGRAMME: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

1. Purpose

To promote sustainable agricultural production through the management of risks associated with animal diseases, plant pests, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and registration of products used in agriculture, promote food safety and create an enabling environment for increased and sustainable agricultural production. For export driven economic growth through reciprocally balanced trade in agricultural products, this is essential.

2. Background deliberation of the programme

The programme comprises three sub-programmes, namely Plant Production and Health; Animal Production and Health; and Inspection and Quarantine Services. The Branch Agricultural Production and Health has quite a complex mandate and is responsible for the administration of most pieces of legislations in the department. The branch generates most of the revenue for the department in terms of the services it provides in terms of the various legislative mandates and can only improve on the revenue collection if there are systems and resources in place. The current budget constraints are limiting the ability of the branch to perform and also to improve on the services provided. The President of the Republic in his State of the Nation Address indicated that Agriculture is one of those sectors that will contribute towards growing the economy and make contribution towards job creation. The President specified export-led economic growth, and we have identified critical areas that will enhance our contribution to the new direction of the sixth administration. The branch focus is to prioritise biosecurity in order to mitigate risks of animal and plant diseases. Budget support is required towards stepping up surveillance of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the high risk areas in three provinces, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. The strengthening of biosecurity processes at our ports

Similarly, outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, African Swine Fever, Listeriosis affected exports adversely, made the country incur extra-ordinary costs in terms of control measures and made farmers lose their lively hoods.

If we have to consider the contribution to the farm income, animal production contributes 66% to income generation as compared to 15% field crop and 19% Horticulture, meaning that animals contribute largely to income to South Africans.

The opening of International markets in 1994, has led to increased exports and imports of agricultural products, as well as increased movement of goods and people which in turn have led to the necessity for increased vigilance for possible introductions of animal and plant pests and diseases and other undesirable unsafe food and feed including agricultural remedies. This proposal is aimed at responding to constraints associated with agricultural production and all activities associated therewith in the above-mentioned areas.

The role of government is to create an enabling environment for agricultural production and trade with these products whilst ensuring their safety and creating and promoting food security. Our strategy is to eliminate or reduce all the factors that hamper agricultural production whilst promoting biosecurity and food safety.

- The proposal will also support Agriculture's Vision of Food Security for All through:
 - The creation of decent work;
 - Improvement of livelihoods
 - Ensuring the safety of agricultural products and inputs, and

We aim to reduce and prevent, as appropriate, the incidence of animal and plant pests and diseases, support sustainable agricultural production within a value chain approach and improve on record management and efficient use of technologies for record keeping and traceability. We will introduce new programmes for improved food safety and food labelling. In addition to the above, by targeting important communicable diseases and plant pests and food security which impact on human life and the economy in general, we will contribute to the improvement of the health profile of South Africans.

Towards achieving the above, we will follow a multi-sectoral approach to minimise the negative impact of agricultural production on the environment, to unlock other resources and support, developing skills and capacities, improve regulatory service delivery.

Following the State of The Nation Address in which the President specified export-led economic growth, export led economy is dependent on the following:-

- 1) Sound biosecurity capacity of the country i.e. secured borders, strict import control, sound analytical and diagnostic services;
- 2) For number (1) above to be possible it relies on sound agricultural production processes that produces agricultural products in an

is to eliminate or reduce all the factors that hamper animal production whilst promoting biosecurity and food safety.

3.1.1 Animal Health

The Directorate intends to:

- Improve animal diseases prevention and control;
- Improve disease surveillance and monitoring;
- Improve capacity for import export control;
- Improve Risk Analysis capacity;
- Improving capacity for control of fish and bee diseases;
- Develop an on-line disease reporting system;
- Strengthening laboratory services;
- Improve auditing of disease control activities;
- Improving international fence control;
- Employing additional veterinarians and AHT's for disease control purposes;
- Improving Disease awareness drives
- Veterinary public health; and
- Animal production.

3.1.2 Veterinary Public Health

The Directorate intends to:

- Implement a national microbiological monitoring programme;
- Implement national residue monitoring programme;
- Implement a national auditing programme;
- Introduce community awareness programmes;
- Improve on the registration of animal identification marks; and
- Implement a national abattoir rating scheme.
- Implement Compulsory Community Service (CCS) for Veterinarians

- To be able to support local farmers with disaster relieve in case of disease outbreak

3.1.6 Implications of budget shortfalls on the Sub-programme Animal Production and Health:

Budget shortfalls continue to be a critical constraint for the delivery of some of the annual targets such as:

- Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (stepping up surveillance)
- Control of other diseases – Rabies, TB
- Disease monitoring and surveillance – finances for laboratory tests, procurement of fence material, vehicles and other equipment.
- Disease surveillance for early detection
- Implementation of veterinary strategy
 - Animal identification
 - Brucellosis control
- Securing market access for animal products – lack of human resources to develop policy (incl. norms and standards), conduct risk analysis, implement disease control, audit the implementation of the measures, laboratory capacity (residue monitoring).

Lack of resources will make it impossible to render the new mandates which emanate from the constitutional court judgements and this may result in more court actions against the department. The requests for additional funding are also cognizant of the new challenges related to export facilitation.

3.2 PROJECT NAME: STRENGTHENING PLANT PRODUCTION AND PLANT HEALTH

Plant Production and Health: Focuses on increasing agricultural productivity with the emphasis on sustainable plant production systems, efficient use of genetic resources for food and agriculture and managing risks associated with plant pests, diseases and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

3.2.1 Plant Production

The Directorate Plant Production intends to:

- Improving capacity and expertise of plant variety evaluation and registration officers.
- Transforming the plant breeders fraternity in South Africa by introducing a public awareness programme on the plant breeders' rights system and providing assistance to new entrants to the system.
- strengthen South Africa's GMO regulatory framework by:
 - Developing and implementing strategies to contribute to the safe use, handling and transfer of traditional genetically modified organisms;
 - Develop a regulatory framework for activities involving new genome editing technologies (limited to those falling within the scope of the current GMO framework);
 - Providing technical advice on matters relating to the application of genetically modified organisms in SA.
 - Facilitating a compliance system for assessing potential risks associated with the application of genetically modified organisms.

3.2.4 Implications of budget shortfalls on the Sub-programme Plant Production and Health:

- **Quality and availability of propagating material & Protection of new plant varieties**

The availability of new plant varieties and the quality of the propagating material of those varieties are critical to support sustainable agricultural plant production. This service is rendered by the Plant Variety Evaluation Centre and the Seed Testing Centre, respectively. These service points are located at Roodeplaat, Pretoria. Currently, the infrastructure does not support the effective rendering of these services. Laboratory equipment requires urgent replacement and even the building structure requires urgent attention (a project has been registered with Public works in this regard). It is also a challenge to procure the prescribed and specialised laboratory consumables due to inadequate budget. Combined, these challenges may affect the seed testing centre's international accreditation to the International Seed Testing Association which will affect the seed trade as SA would no longer be in a position to certify seedlots (which is a key requirement in the seed trade).

The protection intellectual property rights of new plant varieties requires the field testing of "new" varieties. These field tests are undertaken at Roodeplaat. Agricultural inputs

Advisory Committee who assists in the scientific evaluation. Equally as science develops, new approaches are being introduced and the regulatory framework is slow to respond to these due to financial constraints. This poses a risk as some of these developments may escape regulatory oversight and thus pose a risk to the SA consumer.

All legislation mentioned above is informed by international standard-setting bodies. Due to budget cuts, the sub-programme has significantly trimmed its engagement of these bodies. This continues to result in new standards being developed in SA's absence, yet we have to comply with such standards.

3.3 PROJECT NAME: STRENGTHENING INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE SERVICES

The sub-programme Inspection and Quarantine Services provides leadership, guidance and support in ensuring compliance with agricultural legislation and regulatory frameworks and oversee the effective implementation of risk management strategies and plans for regulated agricultural products.

3.3.1 Inspection Services

South Africa has experienced a drastic increase in international trade in livestock, plants and agricultural products over the past 20 years and has also become a significant world player in agricultural trade. With increased trade there are risks and these include risks of diseases, pests and trade in illegal agricultural products. The increase in trade has however not been adequately supported with concomitant human resources and other operational resources required to effectively deal with the risks faced. As the country pushes to increase Inter – African and international trade it is important to concurrently tackle challenges affecting domestic trade and address resources, capacity and capability requirements.

The directorate intends to:

- Strengthen Inspection Services at ports of entry and inland by procuring vehicles for inspectors to be able to visit inspection sites;
- Improve turnaround times at ports of entry and inspection points;

- Functions performed by the sub-programme Inspection and Quarantine Services cannot be rendered by any other sphere of government;
- All regulatory functions of this Branch attracts more revenue for the State than most Branches of the Department;
- Most industries have now seen a loophole of compelling us to render services beyond our human and financial capacity – by obtaining court judgements against the department that compel us to render services we may not have budget for.

4. Desired outcomes and outputs to strengthen Agricultural Production and Health Services

The proposed actions are to ensure that the **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY** system is strengthened and maintained to meet minimum basic requirements

4.1 Desired Outcomes

- Increased consumer and trading partner confidence;
- Increased access to information / knowledge and services by those who need them, increased early detection of risks and market participation;
- Reduced number in litigation cases;
- Harmonisation of regulatory systems, processes and information management
- Increased transparency and confidence in internationally and locally traded products;
- Enhanced food security at both national and household levels;
- Increased productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces or removes greenhouse gases and enhances achievement of national food security and development;
- Sustainable communities and improved livelihoods; and Food security for all.

5. Planned Outputs

FINANCIAL YEAR	OUTPUTS
2020/2021 - 2022/2023	1. Animal Production and Animal Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement individual animal identification and recording;

FINANCIAL YEAR	OUTPUTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved human resources capacity and expertise to undertake tests and trials for the granting of plant breeders' rights and release of varieties; ✓ Establishment of reference blocks for fruit crops e.g. kiwi, citrus, pear ✓ An on-line plant breeders' rights and varietal release application system ✓ Implementation of the Plant Breeder's Rights Amendment Act, 2019 and the Plant Improvement Amendment Act, 2019 ✓ Increased number of black entrants as holders of plant breeders' right holders. ✓ Improved seed testing services • Improved capacity in implementation of the SADC Seed Certification System. • Primary production support (technical) for the integration of smallholder producers in formal value chain • Research and innovation programme for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ key high growth commodities (wheat, soybean, etc.) ○ heat tolerant and drought tolerant crops; and ○ emerging plant pests and diseases • Programme on the commercialisation of hemp • Community certified seed production programme • Listing of newly detected pests is in South Africa. • Increasing capacity to manage risk to production, export programmes and the environment; • Surveillance and control of prioritised pests; • Support of South Africa's lucrative fruit export programmes; • Management of a credible regulatory framework by developing and implementing policies and strategies to

FINANCIAL YEAR	OUTPUTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Departmental capacity to monitor and control food adulteration and food and chemical residues; • Improved rate of agro-chemicals assessment and registrations • Augmented capacity to readily deal with and handle emergencies and outbreaks • Improved inspection efficiencies to ensure protection of human lives and irreversible environmental harm

Directorate Veterinary Public Health						
Personnel				20 000	22 000	24 000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meat inspection services ▪ AMR ▪ Residue monitoring & control programmes ▪ CCS ▪ PAPA implementation 			40 000	41 000	42 000	
Total for Veterinary public Health			60,000.00	63,000.00	66,000.00	
TOTAL FOR SUBPROGRAMME ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH			156,000.00	162,000.00	168,000.00	

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
	NO POSTS	NO POSTS	NO POSTS
PLANT PRODUCTION AND HEALTH			
Directorate Genetic Resources			
CoE (to cover shortfall on existing posts)	5 100	5 900	9 400
Strengthen the regulatory framework on plant variety protection			
New posts (2 plant variety evaluators)	2	1 300	1 400

Directorate Food Import & Export Standards							
Notification Bill Boards on Entering South Africa from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho & Eswatini about prohibited and restricted agricultural products.		4 000	2 500			2 000	
Biosecurity and SPS training and awareness mobile studio (modified bus)		2 000	1 000			1 000	
Total for FIES		6,000	3,500			3,000	
Directorate Inspection Services							
Import Control and Biosecurity enhancement at 20 Ports of Entry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 x Inspectors (additional to the CEO) 	60	15 500	16 400			17 400	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 x Inspectors to service the following export special markets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S Korea, China, Japan, Thailand, USA, Mexico, 	40	10 300	11 000			12 000	

Stellenbosch: boreholes, standby electricity, security access control, wet walls, etc.									
Associated Goods & Services				10 000			10 100		1 200
Total for DIS	100			49,650			46,500.00		38,850
Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance									
Development of Laboratory Information Management System				5 000			1 000		1 500
Development of Laboratory Information Management System				5 000			0		0
Laboratory running costs & consumables				2 000			2 200		2 400
Establishment of an Auditing & Inspection Capacity (Agricultural Products Standards Act, 1990 & Liquor Products Act, 1989)				2 000			2 200		2 400
COE (unfunded warm bodies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 x Dep Director 				800			8 800		9 600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 x Vacancies for Specialists ▪ Divisional Heads 				1 400			16 800		18 500

	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		TOTAL	
	NO POSTS	AMOUNT	NO POSTS	AMOUNT	NO POSTS	AMOUNT	MTEF	
TOTAL FOR PROGRAMME APHFS	132 (specified)	304,550.00		313,800.00		322,250.00	940,600.00	