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agriculture,
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Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE INTERACTIONS WITH DEPARTMENT IN 2010

Date of meeting	Matters on which responses are needed	Progress
16 February 2010	Progress on retraining of extension officers and expanding the concept to the forestry and fisheries sectors	<p>Since the inception of Extension Recovery Plan, a total of 748 Extension Officers nationally have been registered in various institutions for qualification upgrading. Extension Officers were also trained on different short skills training courses. A total of 1 228 have been trained on soft skills, 1 585 on technical skills and 1 133 on ICT skills. With regard to the expansion of extension service to Forestry, the following are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work is underway to incorporate the forestry and fisheries information on respective commodities in the Extension Suite On-line for Decision Support.▪ The work on the profiling of extension officers in the Forestry sector will be concluded by March 2011.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular consultative meeting are held with Forestry to integrate extension service activities ▪ The 2011/12 ERP business plans for implementation will include Forestry extension service activities. <p>DAFF's external bursary scheme has increased its scope to fund the production of forestry and fisheries extension and advisory skills.</p>
23 February 2010	Progress on development/implementation of a fire management plan to raise awareness and assist with preparation for the fire season.	It is indeed true that financial resources are a challenge to fight veld and forest fires. The Department is working in association with the Working for Fire Programme to ensure that resources are available to fight both veld and mountain fires when such a need arises. The Department will also be focusing on training Fire Protection Associations to ensure that minor veld and forest fires do not lead to bigger veld and mountain fires which can have a bigger and serious impact on the ecosystem as a whole.
	Progress on forensic audit on effective use of regular television programming with sufficient viewer numbers.	The investigation on effective use of regular television programming with sufficient viewer numbers were completed and the final report submitted to the Minister for consideration.
	Progress on implementation of systems to monitor provincial performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAFF together with its PDAs has standardised the provincial programme performance indicators and the programme structure for planning and reporting purposes. • There are discussions currently with the National Treasury to review the provincial programme performance indicators and the programme structure to align with the outcomes.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A submission has been sent to ITCA secretariat to request for ITCA to approve the elevation of the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Forum to be a sub-committee of ITCA. <p>The Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Forum together with NATCCIM have in principle recommended an electronic monitoring and reporting system for usage by the provinces. Further discussions with the service provider are taking place.</p>
3 March 2010	Update on DAFF proposal that it should play a part in the determination of the Agricultural Tariff Policy, which was currently under the portfolio of the Department of Trade and Industry.	DAFF prepared a Policy framework document spelling out how the tariff policy should be applied to the agricultural sector. This policy framework document was discussed with sector stakeholders and the Department of Trade and Industry, including its agency, the International Trade and Administration Commission (ITAC), a statutory body established to implement trade remedies within the South African Customs Union. The policy was formally submitted to the Minister of Trade and Industry in February 2010 and some of the principles contained in the policy framework were incorporated into the dti's National Industrial Policy Framework (NIPF). In addition, Mr. Morokolo, A Director responsible for agricultural Marketing within DAFF was appointed as a part-time Commissioner at the International Trade and Administration Commission (ITAC) in 2008 to ensure that the policy principles proposed by DAFF are upheld by the Commission when adjudicating tariff applications for Agricultural products. There is also an agreement between dti and DAFF that any tariff application on agricultural products must be

		shared with DAFF before a decision is made as a measure to ensure that the sector is adequately shielded from subsidized imports
	Report is needed on NAMC's promise to share with the Committee all the Section 7 Committee reviews and strategy plans which had been developed, as well as the status of each of those plans so that the Committee could familiarize itself with measures which had been identified, recommended and implemented to address problems in agriculture.	The Department and the NAMC will make available the Section 7 Committee reviews and strategy plans once these have been approved by the Minister. The NAMC has been requested to collate these approved reports for submission to the Portfolio Committee by the end of the year.
19 May 2010	DAFF had started an action programme in liaison with the Department of Higher Education designed to deal with problems in agriculture, and a draft plan would be completed by September.	<p>Ever since the launch of our National Agricultural Education and Training Strategy in 2005 we have been having a business relationship with the Department of Education, now the Department of Higher Education and Training. Our relationship with them is defined by two things, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in the implementation of our national Agricultural Education and Training Strategy (the implementation of the AET strategy addresses acute problems of skills in the agricultural sector. The strategy is currently being reviewed to incorporate Forestry and Fisheries skills requirements) • Cooperation in the transformation of the 12 Colleges of Agriculture into national Agricultural Training Institutes. This activity is as we speak at a very advanced stage. We are at a point where we are developing a National Bill for

		<p>Agricultural Training Institutes. The first draft has already been finalized. This year alone we have already had high level meetings with the Department of Higher Education and Training. The Bill is going to legally transform these 12 colleges from "college" to "Institute". These sector specific "institutes" will play an unprecedented role in developing the skills of smallholder farmers through the provision of appropriate short skills training programmes. They will also offer targeted formal training programmes targeting young people who opt for various agricultural enterprises including farming as careers of choice. Further more these sector specific "institutes" will offer degree programmes in a franchise relationship with established universities.</p>
26 May 2010	<p>The AIDA had not been delegated to the provincial level and was administered by the National Department. The department planned to implement the Act at the provincial level by appointing provincial officers in the coming years.</p>	<p>Provisions in the AIDA [Animal Identification Act, 2002] do not provide for delegating the implementation of the Act to Provincial Departments of Agriculture.</p> <p>However, DAFF, by the Registrar of AIDA had Animal Health Technicians {AHT}, from the provinces, trained in the essential matters of AIDA. The successful candidates were authorized by the Registrar to perform duties on his behalf in their respective provinces. A total number of 26 AHT is authorized to assist with the implementation of AIDA country wide.</p>


1 June 2010	<p>The Department was seeking to make the fisheries sector a sustainable option for small-scale fisherman; one possibility in this regard was marine aquaculture. A goal was for each of the provinces to have aquaculture development zones with proper value chain development and support goals, not stopping at the fishing but moving on to canning and the manufacture of related by-products. Was any work done on this?</p>	<p>The study was conducted to identify State land suitable for the establishment of the Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZs). Based on the findings of the study the custodians of the land were identified and now DAFF is negotiating with the custodians to make the land available for aquaculture development. The land-based areas identified in Kwazulu-Natal are in Kraal Hill and Amatikulu, in the Eastern Cape in Xolora, Hamburg and Oyster bay (Port Elizabeth), and in the Western Cape in Silwerstroom, Strand and Saldanha. The sea-based areas are in Algoa bay in Port Elizabeth and St. Francis Bay (Eastern Cape), Richards bay (Kwazulu-Natal), and St. Helena Bay and Struisbaai (Western Cape). Xolora in the Eastern Cape is the only one where there is an agreement with the community in terms of land and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has started and a scoping report has already been submitted to the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs to seek an environmental authorization.</p>
	<p>The Department together with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform should identify all failed farms</p>	<p>Services providers to conduct EIAs in other areas have already been identified and as soon as agreements are reached on land use in identified areas, EIA work will start.</p> <p>In collaboration with Land Bank and DRDLR, DAFF has identified all affected farms assessments done per each farm, proposed a Curatorship Model to deal primarily with the distressed emerging farmers who are clients of the Land Bank. The Model give the affected farmers the choice to either enter into new agreements with the Bank allowing the Bank to</p>

		<p>transfer the rights of control of the land to DRDLR, while allowing the farmer access and use of the land for farming purposes. The DRDLR has provided a cash backed guarantee of R208 million to the Bank equivalent to all the distressed mortgage loans of the Bank as at 30 June 2009 that are eligible for transfer to DRDLR under the scheme. The curatorship model also proposes to transfer the Bank's non performing production loans amounting to R24 million to DAFF in exchange for an equivalent cash injection from DAFF.</p> <p>For these farmers to continue producing they will need new financial support for production and equipment which will be provided through a Value Chain Financing Model that will include grants (DAFF) and the loans (Land Bank). Cabinet Memorandum has been submitted to Cabinet Committee to approve the piloting of Curatorship and Value Chain Financing Model</p>
	<p>Department should pool the quota rights of individuals into a collective and assist them with capital infrastructure and investment to prevent them from selling those rights to big corporations. Any progress on this?</p>	<p>The long-term rights were allocated on an individual basis in terms of policies approved by Cabinet during 2005. However, the dept is currently in the process of finalizing the Performance Review process, which will provide clarity on decision regarding individual right holders and whether they have benefited from those rights.</p> <p>In terms of the Small Scale Policy currently being developed, the intention is to allocate rights to communities instead of individuals with the necessary support from the government to assist them.</p>

27 July 2010	Update on work being done in conjunction with SAPS to combat stock theft given its impact on the livelihoods of small farmers	DAFF is directly involved in the Forensic Interdepartmental Stock Theft {FIST} committee. Comprising SAPS Stock Theft Unit, ARC Irene -- genetic laboratory, SAPS forensic laboratories and three directorates from DAFF.
	Revisiting of issue of specialised courts for stock theft	Meetings of the FIST committee are held, once a quarter, for resolving operational challenges in combating stock theft and also in supporting the courts with evidence for successful prosecution.
	The DAFF to ensure that all stakeholders were represented on the Stock Theft Forum and that the support of all stakeholders is obtained in order for the problem to be effectively dealt with.	Registrar of AIDA on behalf of DAFF has ensured that all stakeholders are represented on the National Stock Theft Forum. He also attended the inaugural meeting of the last provincial stock theft forum to formed in Gauteng, that was established in the 2010/11 annual report time.
03 August 2010	Update on support mechanism for Registrar (advisory body and research support) which was identified as a challenge in the Plant Breeders' Rights Policy	<p><i>Update on support mechanism for Registrar (advisory body and research support) which was identified as a challenge in the Plant Breeders' Rights Policy.</i></p> <p>The PBR policy identified the absence of a formal support body as a constraint in terms of the function of the Registrar. This was addressed in the policy by the proposal of a formal advisory body. It is also important to keep in mind that the policy will inform the Plant Breeder's Rights Amendment Bill. The Bill will provide for the establishment of the advisory body. This advisory body will then be a statutory body under the Amendment Act. Until the Amendment Act is implemented, such a body will not exist.</p>

	Update on amendments to Plant Breeders' Rights Policy and Act	<p>Update on amendments to Plant Breeders' Rights Policy and Act</p> <p>The Plant Breeders' Rights Policy was published for comments on 15 October 2010 with a deadline for submission of comments within 30 days. This will expire on 14 Nov 2010. The final policy will inform the Plant Breeders' Rights Amendment Bill.</p> <p>Cost of establishing a new entrant fruit farmer</p> <p>During the visit of the Portfolio Committee to the Variety Evaluation Centre in Stellenbosch on 17 August 2010, the department was requested to indicate the cost for establishing a new entrant fruit farmer in SA. The Directorate Economic Services is still compiling the information.</p>
	Update on rejection of SA food in Thailand and role committee ought to play regarding standard setting bodies	<p>A comprehensive briefing document was provided in this regard: please see the attached document (Annex A)</p> <p>Regarding the "role committee ought to play regarding standard setting bodies", it is uncertain what this implies. However, in respect of South Africa's participation in the relevant multilateral forum, namely the Committee of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement), there should be no hesitation for this department (DAFF) - in collaboration with the dti - in tabling matters such as this as trade concerns if all other bilateral technical and political engagements prove ineffective.</p>
07 September	With regard to the BEE status of major role players, it is	The department is currently in the process of finalizing the Performance

2010	important for the Department to obtain a comprehensive picture of the current status quo whereafter it would brief the Committee on the Department's findings around BEE. The review of the quotas would also be done. The Department wished to challenge the fishing quotas, and that firm legal advice would be sought. The Department needed to find out who owned what, and then would brief the Committee on whether the Department believed it had a strong enough case for challenging the status quo. What progress, if any has been made in respect of the above?	Review process to assess the BEE status of all major role players within the Fishing industry. Subsequent to the process, a decision will be taken around tackling transformation within the fishing industry including the development of a BEE Charter for the Fishing sector.
17 September 2010	The AgriBEE Council had established three Working Groups which would be responsible amongst other for drawing up a budget for the activities of the Council and investigating and developing a cost-effective monitoring and reporting system on AgriBEE implementation.	<p>Regarding a commitment to complete a Draft Sector Code, the Working Group 1 concluded the alignment of the Charter with the Generic Codes and finalized the AgriBEE Charter Scorecard for Section 9 codes. The AgriBEE Charter Council held a special meeting on the 11th of October 2010, during which the Draft AgriBEE Sector Codes was accepted and then agreed that the process of gazetting the Sector Codes should continue.</p> <p>The AgriBEE Charter Council's Working Group 2 held its meeting on the 29th September 2010 and finalized its recommendations on the possible budget and funding model for the AgriBEE Charter Council activities post the gazetting of the Section 9 AgriBEE Sector Codes.</p> <p>The Working Group 3 finalized its investigation on the reporting system and developed a reporting template, which was accepted by Charter</p>

		<p>Council during the special meeting of 11th October 2010. Currently, the procurement processes for the official appointment of a Service Provider for the development of AgriBEE IT Portal are unfolding and the submission in this regard is on route for approval.</p>
	<p>The AgriBEE Council also agreed to commission a study to review thresholds for Exempt Micro Enterprises and Qualifying Small Enterprises and made a commitment to complete a Draft Sector Codes by the next Council Meeting.</p>	<p>Regarding the commissioning of the economic study to review the thresholds, the AgriBEE Charter Council members agreed to appoint the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) to undertake the study. The NAMC made a presentation during the Council's special meeting of the 11th October 2010 about the approach or methodology that would be utilized to undertake the study, which was accepted by all the Council Members. Currently, the procurement processes for the official appointment of the NAMC are unfolding and the submission in this regard is on route for approval.</p> <p>During the same meeting, the Department of Trade and Industry advised the Charter Council that the proposed Draft Sector Codes should be communicated to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries since the Minister is the one to make an application to the Department of Trade and Industry. A letter was then written with the purpose of requesting an urgent meeting with Minister, which was delivered to the Office of the Minister on the 18th of October 2010 by the Acting Interim Chairperson of AgriBEE Charter Council, Dr. John Purchase. At this point in time, the matter is with the Office of the Minister and the Charter Council is waiting</p>

		for Minister's response and way forward regarding the submission of the Draft Sector Codes to the Department of Trade and Industry for gazette.
12 October 2010	Update on whether any regulations are planned to address the issues of game farmers who are effectively depriving agricultural farmers of land.	

Wildlife ranching is often the best production option in marginal areas in particular where vegetation and access to water make it impossible to farm with livestock without harming the environment.

With this in mind, DAFF has developed a wildlife ranching policy through and interactive stakeholder process that has taken several years to finalise and this policy highlights the importance of farming with the right species and combination of species for sustainable/ ecologically sound

		<p>ranching policy.</p> <p>It is clear that there is still a lack of clarity about wildlife ranching, what it includes and what advantages it has over conventional animal agriculture in many areas of the country.</p> <p>We therefore believe that we should make a presentation to the Portfolio committee as soon as possible to set the record straight and to show how stock owners and keepers in developing areas could be enabled to enter this sector at all levels.</p> <p>This would include mentorship programs – particularly in cases where communities sharing common resources decide on a wildlife ranching option rather than conventional animal agriculture.</p> <p>In such cases, far more community members could benefit via jobs created through eco tourism, hunting and micro processing. With livestock, the flow of benefits is often restricted to the owners and keepers of animals.</p> <p>What South Africa really needs to do is develop a revised map of all the production biomes and the species, breeds and combination of these best suited for sustainable animal agriculture. Such guidelines could, in fact, be used to ensure that land users farmed with the right breeds and species. This could become legislation</p>
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	Reasons why previous Director-General has left the Department	<p>The former Director-General (DG), Ms N. Nduli, was appointed on 16 July 2008 as the DG for the Department of Agriculture (DoA). With the reconfiguration of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) in terms of the announcement of the President on 10 March 2009, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) was affected by the transfer of the forestry and fisheries function to the DoA. It was then necessary for the contract of the DG of DoA to be re-determined.</p> <p>Because it was a new Department, the former DG agreed to re-determination of her contract. She thereafter, opted for an exit package. She exited the DAFF on 15 October 2010</p>
	Report needed on the specifics as to whom and how the moneys allocated to distressed fishermen were spent.	NB: Details of the report attached. (Annex B)
	Report needed on what the Department plans to do to assist seasonal farmers.	The department is reviewing its funding model to ensure broad access to finance by farmers. The plan includes ensuring market access for farmers, providing technical support through extension officers as well as capacity building for farmers and farm beneficiaries.
	A variety of funding models to make funding accessible to farmers were being considered and would be brought to the Committee.	The Department has started the process of developing an integrated funding model, a one stop development fund to address the varying funding needs of farmers and among others address the fragmented support given to farmers. The model has been conceptualized and drafted. The draft model was shared with MinMec, provincial Heads of Departments of Agriculture and their representatives and a number of

		<p>institutions involved in agricultural finance to solicit inputs. The Department is currently engaging Treasury and will continue to consult various other relevant stakeholders for inputs on the model. A development finance round table discussion is planned to take place in February 2011. The proposed fund is targeted to be functional by April 2011. Currently CASP and Ilima Letsema grants as well as the MAFISA loans are the only financial support available for farmers.</p>
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