

Citizen's Report

2009/10



DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE

Provincial Government of the Western Cape



who is in charge?

The Minister is: Mr Gerrit van Rensburg

He is an elected politician. He is responsible for directing the Department's activities in line with the national and provincial Government policies.

The Head of Department is: Ms Joyene Isaacs

She is a public servant, appointed to ensure that the Department implements the Minister's and Government policies efficiently and effectively.

what we do

Our main services are:

Provision of **Veterinary Services**

Veterinary laboratory services; Veterinary public health; Export control and food safety; Animal health services.

Execution of **Agricultural Technology, Research and Development**

Research; Information Services; Infrastructure Support Services.

Promotion of **Sustainable Resource Management**

Agricultural engineering services; Land Care.

Provision of an **Agricultural Economic Service**

Macro economics and Statistics; Agri-Business Development and Support.

Promotion of **Farmer Support and Development (FSD)**

Farmer settlement; Extension and Advisory services; Food security; Casidra (Pty) Ltd., Farm worker development.

Provision of **Structured Agricultural Training**

Tertiary Education (HET): Higher Certificate; Diploma; B.Agric. Further Education and Training (FET): Skills-based short courses; Learnership training.

organisation and staffing

On 31 March 2010, we employed 952 staff members of which 833 are permanent employees and 119 contract employees.

Representation with regards to race, gender and disability:

157 (16.5%) of our staff are **black**

516 (54.2%) are **coloured**

5 (0.5%) are **Indian**

274 (28.8%) are **white**

399 (41.9%) are **women**

19 (2%) are persons with **disabilities**

English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa are the three official languages for the Province.

The home language of most of the staff is Afrikaans. The majority of the personnel can, however, speak and write in both English and Afrikaans. Only a small percentage of staff members can express themselves in and understand all three languages.

English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa are the three official languages for the Province.

A drive is underway within the Department to train staff in isiXhosa.

The Department of Agriculture: Western Cape is responsible for the promotion of agriculture in all its rich diversity in the Western Cape

how did we do?

Water conservation projects undertaken

- 105 water and irrigation related projects and initiatives undertaken.
- 143 support actions rendered to FSD (CASP/LARP) related to water and irrigation (investigations, designs and completion certificates)

Farm worker development

- 62 unemployed farm workers received re-skilling training.
- 27,139 farm workers trained in different technical and life skills.
- 18,543 farm workers reached during awareness sessions concerning substance abuse.
- 11 regions in the Western Cape took part in the Provincial Farm Worker of the Year Competition.

Casidra (Pty) Ltd Implementation of prioritised projects

- 360 prioritised projects supported.

Prevention of fragmentation of Agricultural land

- 908 applications were processed.



Community projects/gardens

- 67 Starter packs distributed
- 132 projects / gardens successfully established
- 101 Integrated Sustainable Rural Development projects successfully established.
- 2 241 beneficiaries were reached

Animal housing and handling and animal waste management facilities

- 22 farm structures, animal housing and waste management projects and initiatives undertaken.
- 27 support actions rendered and 53 clients provided with engineering information and training.

Protection of natural resources

- 51 projects completed to remove alien vegetation. 2,253 hectares of invader species eradicated. This created an improvement in the flow of streams and rivers and also contributed to the re-establishment of indigenous species.
- 43 projects and initiatives implemented to protect rivers from eroding their banks and destroying prime agricultural land.

Conservation projects (Act 43 of 1983)

- 326 farm plans updated for purposes of sustainable farming
- 9558 youths were exposed to Land Care principles aiming to create a culture of conservation and caring for our natural resources.

Mechanisation planning service

- 110 farmers assisted in reducing input costs.
- 80 farmers assisted to improve profitability of farming enterprises.

Food Security projects

- 32 community gardens successfully established in the Presidential Nodes.
- 87 food security projects maintained in poor communities.
- 453 household food production packages (suitcases) were delivered across the province.
- 79 hectares of deciduous fruit planted.

Agricultural Economics

Information Dissemination

- 130 information requests responded to.
- 5 scientific papers/articles published locally and internationally.
- 24 popular reports for internal use and publication in magazines.

Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety service



- 94,196 vaccinations administered to prevent spread of animal diseases.
- 191,904 diagnostic tests performed on samples received.
- 63,449 sampling and testing done for animal disease surveillance.
- 7,779 compliance regarding visits to farms as part of disease control and surveillance of risks on export of ostrich, dairy, game and sheep.
- 523 abattoirs visited for monitoring, inspection, audit and Hygiene Assessment System evaluations.
- 1,173 farms monitored for export compliance.
- 100% (1,433) of all export applications certified.
- 3,456 sampling and testing done of imported animal products.
- 66,352 animals vaccinated against Rabies.
- 3,396 pamphlets and posters distributed on safe meat.
- 94,728 samples collected for Contagious Abortion (Brucellosis) testing.



Human Capital Development

- 117 students graduated in Agricultural Training (Degrees, Diplomas and Higher Certificates).
- 29 accredited and non-accredited short courses were offered on Higher Education level and 424 students successfully completed these courses.
- 112 Learnership students graduated on NQF Level 1 to 4.
- 3 aspirant Sommeliers from the industry received training in wine and food serving in Burgundy, France.
- 5 cellar workers received training in barrel management and maintenance in Burgundy, France
- Hosted 8 French students for training in viticulture and wine making.
- 4 Cheese-makers received training in Dijon, France.
- 8 Extension Officers received training in Burgundy, France.
- 2,542 Farm-aids/emerging farmers and small scale commercial farmers (inclusive of 776 CASP and LRAD beneficiaries) trained at CIAT.
- 22 schools visited to reach high school students and participated in 12 expo's to market agriculture as a potential career and study field.
- 104 interns taken into employ to gain experience and to improve chances to get jobs.
- 1,613 staff members received training in various skills and other developmental courses.



Technology, transfer and information

- Advice given on request to 364 commercial farmers and 1 189 emerging farmers.
- Technology and economic information transfer activities undertaken at 123 commercial farmers and 435 emerging farmers.
- 118 approved business plans implemented.

Agri-Business Development and Support

- 25 projects and / or group of famers were linked up with domestic markets.
- 10 emerging farmers were supported to gain export contract access.
- 9 Viability studies conducted.
- 16 new enterprises budgets developed.
- 13 projects supported in the establishment of co-operatives.
- 22 new entrepreneurs supported with access to financial support, capacity building and advice.



Provision of research results, outcome of scientific analysis, advice and relevant technology information dissemination

- 30 scientific publications.
- 86 semi-scientific and popular publications.
- 57 conference papers, delivered.
- 153 lectures at farmer's and information days.
- 27 different information packs, 7 different pamphlets, 9 information days / events organized and 2 demonstration trails executed.
- 58 climate change reports distributed.

Research on animals, plants, vegetables, alternative crops and resource utilisation

- 4 projects executed on vegetables and 1 on alternative crops.
- 5 climate change projects executed
- 6 technologies developed.
- Implemented 175 projects to address specific commodity's production constraints.

Disaster relief, poverty alleviation and social responsibility campaigns

- Continued financial and humanitarian support was given for the implementation of disaster works resulting from previous year's flood disasters in West Coast and Eden, hail disasters in Haarlem and Piketberg, drought disaster in the Central Karoo.
- Clearing of alien invasive vegetation created 32,445 person days of jobs which assisted with poverty alleviation in the specific rural areas.
- Proceeds from collections and auction at the Casual Day celebrations (R5,117.00) was donated to the Paarl School for Neurally Handicapped Children and Disabled People South Africa (DPSA)
- World Food Day celebrations were held in Rietpoort (West Coast District) on 8 October 2009. The Sub-programme: Food Security sponsored starter packs in the form of indigenous fowls and pullets per household and staff donated tinned food, books and clothing that were distributed to the 75 poverty stricken families.
- The delivery of Household Food Security Packages (suitcase) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and municipalities across the Province, were also intensified.



our budget

Our budget for 2009/2010 was R493.468 million. The Department succeeded in spending 99.3% of the budget allocation. The Department reported a materially under-spending or saving of R3.351 million (0.7%) for the 2009/2010 financial year.

BREAKDOWN OF THE BUDGET ALLOCATION:

(i)	COMPENSATION OF STAFF	=	R180.397 m
	Percentage of total budget = 36.6 %		
(ii)	PROGRAMMES	=	R313.071m
	Percentage of total budget = 63.4 %		
	TOTAL = 100%	=	R493.468 m

BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION PER PROGRAMME (EXCLUDING COMPENSATION)

1. Administration	R 34.618 million
2. Sustainable Resource Management	R117.691 million
3. Farmer Support and Development	R 95.457 million
4. Veterinary Services	R 14.485 million
5. Technology, Research & Development Services	R 27.886 million
6. Agricultural Economics	R 5.286 million
7. Structured Agricultural Training	R 17.648 million

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