



Dear all

Kindly receive the severe weather alert below and disseminate widely as stipulated in the NAC and EWC terms of reference.

In light of this severe weather alert as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS) and other centers, the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences and farming systems. Depending on the particular region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk. The province should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible use local radio stations and farmers' days in disseminating the information.

Impact-based warning issued by SAWS valid: 20 May 2021

A Yellow Warning(Level 2) for heavy rain resulting in localised flooding is expected over Saldanha Bay and Swartland Municipalities (West Coast), the Cape Metropole, Cape Winelands and the western parts of the Overberg Districts.

Heavy rainfall raises the water level. When the water level is higher than the river banks or the dams, water flows out from the river and flooding occurs.

Preventive measures:

- Construction of proper drainage systems – Drains must be cleaned constantly as they ensure proper water irrigation.
- Mechanical land treatment of slopes such as contour ploughing or terracing to reduce the runoff coefficient.
- Construction of small water and sediment holding areas.
- Construction of floodways (man-made channels to divert floodwater).
- [Terracing](#) hillsides to slow flow downhill.

What to do when flooding is forecasted:

Avoid-

- Cutting grass in the rainy season (nutrient depletion).
- Applying fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
- Applying N fertilizer (burning of plants) (Nitrogen loss is higher during heavy rain), immediately follows a surface application of fertilizer, especially on sloped areas.
- Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burned and die).

- Irrigation (waterlogging can occur, nutrient depletion).
 - Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
 - Provide shelter for animals (young ones die easily).
 - Leave cultivated areas coarse.
 - Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.

Following are a number of concerns and recommendations:

- Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and the high temperatures may trigger these.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.
- Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is especially necessary if it is already raining, but remembers that there could be a storm further upstream and floodwaters could be on the way

A comprehensive list of strategies can be found in the monthly NAC Advisory. It can be accessed from the following websites: www.dalrrd.gov.za. For more information contact:-

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