



SMART Agri

A roadmap to low-carbon and climate change resilient agriculture

What is climate change and what is causing it?

- Climate change means our planet is heating up, with some areas getting wetter and others getting drier
- This is also making our weather more unpredictable and more extreme
- It is caused by humans burning coal, oil and gas for energy, which releases gases into the thin layer of air surrounding the Earth and traps the heat
- Bad farming practices are also contributing to climate change
- People, plants and animals have to adapt to the new conditions



How does climate change affect farming in the Western Cape?

- It is getting warmer, with more very hot days
- Rainfall is becoming more unpredictable, with more dry periods and drought, but also more very heavy rainfall
- People, crops and animals need more water
- More diseases and insect pests, and new types of pests
- Very cold winter nights and frost are getting less
- More intense wildfires on farms and in the environment



Why is climate change important for agri-workers?

- It will change the crops and livestock that can be farmed, so workers will need different knowledge and skills
- The quality of life and well-being can be reduced
- Sometimes it will cause a danger to life and health
- It can affect the future of working in agriculture for your children and their children
- Having access to enough water will become very important
- But agri-workers can prepare themselves for the future



Can climate change be good for farming and agri-workers?

- It is increasing awareness of the risks of working outdoors
- It is increasing awareness of the importance of a healthy environment such as soil, water and biodiversity
- Very cold conditions in winter will happen less often and this will be good for workers in some areas
- There are opportunities to learn about new crops, new skills, and new jobs needed as farming adapts to the new conditions



1

Beat the heat

- Protect yourself on very hot days and always wear a hat
- Stay in the shade whenever possible during hot times
- Create shade by planting local trees around your house
- Drink lots of water



2

Protect yourself & your family

- Educate your family about the dangers of extreme heat, heavy rainstorms, flooding and fires
- Protect your house and yard from flooding
- Do not start fires outdoors when it is hot and windy
- Do not cross rivers or drive on roads that are flooding
- Watch out for children and the elderly during heavy weather - both cold and hot



3

Be water-wise

- Don't waste precious water
- Store drinking water in clean and safe containers
- Turn off water taps if they are not being used and fix any leaks
- Catch rainwater for household and vegetable garden use
- Don't throw waste in rivers, dams, canals and wetlands



4

Be energy-wise

- Don't waste energy, turn off lights and electronic devices that are not in use
- Use energy-saving light bulbs and appliances at home
- This will also save you money since electricity is becoming very expensive



5

Inform yourself

- Talk to people on your farm and in your community about climate change
- Be more aware of how weather is changing and how it is affecting your work
- Gather information from reliable sources such as officials of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture
- Find out what new skills you can learn that will be needed in future



JOIN US IN BECOMING A SMARTWORKER!

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