



Western Cape
Government

Agriculture

FOR YOU



Agricultural Producer Support and Development
Sub-programme:
Extension and Advisory Services

ABOUT EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Extension and Advisory Services is one of the core functions of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture under the programme Agricultural Producer Support and Development (APSD).

The extension practitioners are the interface between the department and the producers; and they are a conduit through which the department delivers the services to go that last mile.

As it is in the name, the aim of the sub-programme is to provide Extension and Advisory Services and to facilitate training across the agricultural spectrum, i.e. subsistence, smallholder and commercial producers in the province.



The specific objectives are to:

- Improve the efficiency, relevance and cost effectiveness of public funded agricultural extension and advisory services.
- Promote a participatory approach to agricultural extension and advisory services; and to recognise the entire spectrum of participants in the provision of agricultural services.
- Promote and implement the value chain approach to ensure holistic support services.
- Ensure sound interaction with commodity groups for the implementation of a successful mentorship programme that interlinks with the departments' extension.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS?

To achieve these objectives, the extension and advisory services undertakes the following specific functions:

- Facilitate access to extension and advisory services.
- Provide and facilitate access to agricultural information for improved planning and decision making.
- Facilitate access to technology and, where possible, provide such technologies.
- Provide and facilitate access to advice on sustainable (including conservation of natural resources) agricultural production.
- Provide and facilitate skills development in agriculture.
- Strengthen institutional arrangements (partnerships, restructuring, establish new entity/ties) for the effective delivery of services.



WHAT TANGIBLE SERVICES DOES THE SUB-PROGRAMME PROVIDE?

This sub-programme works with producers by providing the following services:

- Facilitate farmer access to grant funding and other forms of financing
- Conducting farm assessments and whole farm planning
- On farm infrastructure development
- Monitor project implementation and management
- Training and capacity development of producers
- Linking producers to markets
- Linking producers with partners and mentors
- Organising farmers' days where knowledge and new innovations can be shared
- Advice on production systems and identifying problem areas (planning, implementation, diseases, cropping, fertilisation, irrigation, harvesting etc.)
- Institutional development and assistance (formation of farmers' associations, study and commodity groups, training etc.)
- Business development promotion and planning (market analysis, advice etc.)



WHO ARE THE EXTENSION PRACTITIONERS?

The Extension Practitioners, also known as Agricultural Advisors, are a team of professionals with collective expertise in plant production, animal production (beef, sheep, poultry and piggery), aquaculture and ostriches as well as agricultural economics and communication. They are dispersed throughout the province to ensure close proximity to the communities. There are 8 main offices throughout the province (each with sub-offices).



HOW DO THE EXTENSION PRACTITIONERS KEEP UP TO DATE AND MOTIVATED?

The department has various programmes to support the Extension Practitioners to keep abreast with the latest developments and to keep motivated. These include:

- Support with bursaries to upgrade qualifications
- Block sessions for Extension Practitioners
- Annual Extension Symposium and Excellence Awards to recognise the best performers
- Exchange programmes
- Agricultural conferences and symposia
- Farmers' information days and expos
- Participating in commodity partners' information days



CONTACT US

For further information, please contact your nearest Extension Officer in your district area:

- Cape Metropole (Goodwood): 021 483 7779 / 021 808 7067
- Cape Winelands (Stellenbosch): 021 808 7051
- Central Karoo (Beaufort-West): 023 415 3134
- Garden Route (George): 044 803 3757
- Little Karoo (Oudtshoorn): 044 272 6077
- North West Coast (Vredendal): 027 201 3501
- Overberg (Bredasdorp): 028 425 4807
- Swartland (Moorreesburg): 022 433 8901

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