



**Western Cape
Government**

Agriculture

BETTER TOGETHER.

MINISTERIAL PRIORITY: CLIMATE CHANGE

Stakeholder meeting

Percheron Hall, Elsenburg 10 November 2020

Ministerial Priority 5: Climate Change

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Climate Change predictions indicate that the Western Cape will become **drier** with high rainfall variability and **warmer** with an increase in the mean annual surface temperature. It is also predicted that there will be an **increase** in frequency and intensity of **extreme weather events**, e.g. droughts, floods, fire, heatwaves. In addressing the impacts of climate change, **adaptation measures** to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural sector are planned. The aim is to promote a climate-resilient low-carbon production system that is productive, competitive, equitable and ecologically sustainable across the value chain.

GOAL

To lead agricultural sector to become a low carbon, climate change resilient sector by advocating climate smart production practises



Key activities planned for 2020/21 and 2021/22

- Complete Management Improvement Plan (MIP) for SmartAgri evaluation
- Completion of MSc study on communication aspects of SmartAgri plan and communication on climate change in general in the sector
- Appointment of climate change and risk scientist to manage the SmartAgri plan implementation internally (departmental) and externally (sector)
- Give effect to MIP actions to take SmartAgri plan deeper into department and sector
- Publish 4 quarterly SmartAgri e-newsletters annually
- Implement the ecological infrastructure projects (alien clearing, fencing, firebreaks)
- Construct river protection works (groynes, weirs) in rivers prioritised
- Rehabilitation of agricultural land
- Creation of green jobs
- Continue and accelerate the LORWUA canal preventative maintenance programme
- Initiate area wide planning projects
- Conduct conservation agriculture interventions

Challenges and risks

● Challenges:

- Lack of resources and funding to expand implementation of climate smart agricultural actions within department and sector.
- Lack of willingness of stakeholders to participate.
- Lack of available budget and technical skills in terms of SRM.
- Willingness of stakeholders to participate in CC activities of SRM.

● Risks:

- Slow pace of “transformation/movement” towards climate smart agricultural practises.
- Department and sector not becoming climate change resilient at a pace to guarantee survival.
- Natural resources, especially water, not judiciously used with the resulting pressure from external sources.
- Spread of phyto-sanitary pests and diseases.
- Prevailing drought conditions.

Key activities during first semester 2020/2021

Activity

SmartAgri evaluation completed and 7 key recommendations made.

Die Kwik Styg radioprogramme concluded after two series of 104 programmes – two awards received (Ecologic 2020 Gold in Climate Change category)

A series of climate change e- booklets nearing completion. Two SmartAgri newsletters (Barometer) published. Four virtual information days held on conservation agriculture research.

Climate change scientist post to be filled in December 2020.

1223 ha of alien plants removed.

226 green jobs created – alien clearing, fencing, biomass removal, firebreaks, etc.

Four area wide planning projects initiated.

708 users registered on Fruitlook till 31 July 2020. Growth in annual take up of Fruitlook by irrigation farmers.

Key activities planned for second semester 2020/2021

Activity

Management Improvement Plan (MIP) for SmartAgri evaluation to be completed.

Climate change booklets to be completed and launched. Publish another two SmartAgri newsletters.

Start with deep implementation of SmartAgri plan in department and sector after evaluation outcomes.

Removal of 5777 ha of alien plants.

Create 474 green jobs - alien clearing, fencing, biomass removal, firebreaks, etc.

Enlarging impact of Fruitlook. 15 irrigation farms will be selected as case studies.

Six additional area wide planning projects will be planned.

Five conservation agriculture interventions are planned.

Launch of Worcester field nursery project – jointly between SRM and RTD.



Thank you
Dankie
Enkosi

Contact Us



Western Cape
Government

Agriculture

BETTER TOGETHER.

Dr. Ilse Trautmann

Research and Technology Development

Tel: 021-8085012

Fax: 021-8085335

ilset@elsenburg.com

www.elsenburg.com