

# THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE



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# Sustainable Resource Use and Management

The purpose of this programme is to provide sustainable resource management solutions and methodologies through the provision of agricultural engineering and advisory services, proactive communication, facilitation and implementation of projects as well as technology transfer to clients and partners.

The programme is also responsible for the implementation and management of disaster aid schemes and to provide comments on applications for sub-division and/or rezoning of agricultural land.

The programme is structured into four sub-programmes:

- Agricultural Engineering Services
- LandCare
- Land Use Management
- Disaster Risk Reduction

## AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

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### Irrigation

The irrigation section is responsible for improving the effective utilisation of irrigation water. The Fruitlook technology utilises satellite imagery to determine the actual crop water use, any water deficit, biomass produced and six other growth parameters. This information is provided to farmers on a weekly basis to increase their water use efficiency and increase crop production. The service provided also includes the evaluation of irrigation systems, both the designs and in-field evaluation, and technology transfer regarding scheduling and system operation. The services provided for small-scale farmers include the evaluation of water resources and the design of irrigation systems.

### Mechanisation

The mechanisation section renders a full service regarding mechanisation planning and the utilisation of farming implements and equipment. Technical advice and support are provided to farmers who want to change from conventional to conservation farming practices.

### Farm Structures

A comprehensive planning and design service is available for animal housing and handling facilities, as well as the handling of waste from these facilities and labour accommodation. Plans for water reservoirs and farm worker accommodation are also available. Affordable animal housing structures are also designed for small-scale farmers.

### Soil Conservation

The service rendered by this section includes the planning and design of intricate soil conservation and erosion protection structures.

## LANDCARE

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The conservation of the natural resources of the Western Cape is vital for the agriculture industry and all inhabitants of the Western Cape who rely directly and indirectly on these resources.



Here, the department concentrates on the following fields to obtain its mission of striving to rebuild, maintain and improve the natural resources by promoting efficient conservation practices to all land users:

- Resource conservation projects by means of farm planning, specifying the location and design of protection, drainage and veld utilisation works.
- Pro-active resource conservation projects, which involve pro-active ways of preventing the extensive degradation of natural resources, for example through area-wide planning, ecological infrastructure investment, fencing, stock-water systems, erosion structures, river protection works and EMPRs.

## LAND USE MANAGEMENT

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Protection of our limited highly productive agricultural resources is a priority of the department and this sub-programme comments on all applications for sub-dividing and/or rezoning of agricultural land.

Sub-division and rezoning of agricultural land evaluations are based on principles of sustainable agriculture, viz.: socially acceptable, economically viable, ecologically feasible, reasonable production and long term sustainability. A sound balance between these principles is necessary when evaluating a proposal. This task of this sub-programme is becoming increasingly challenging with urban sprawl and illegal land invasions.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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This sub-programme provides support services to clients with regard to agricultural disaster risk management. The services provided include proactive risk reduction and mitigation interventions (i.e., risk reduction workshops, bi-annual provincial risk assessments, river protections works and structures etc.) as well as post disaster support and recovery services after natural disasters such as floods, fires, droughts and hail storms. Furthermore, this sub-programme facilitates the drafting and amendment of contingency plans and disaster response SOPs for various disasters that negatively impact the agricultural sector.



# Agricultural Producer Support and Development

The programme Agricultural Producer Support and Development (APSD) encompasses the broad development agenda of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. The design and implementation of the programme is geared towards supporting predominantly black farmers in the Western Cape Province, but not exclusively. It supports the transformation of the agricultural sector for increased productivity and actively contributes to the economic growth, inclusion, equality and creation of decent work.

With its commodity approach, the programme creates an enabling environment to leverage on investment (both human and financial resources) from private sector and commodity groupings; creates linkages within the three spheres of government as well as partnerships with other government departments and forges strategic partnerships to achieve greater impact.

## **PRODUCER SUPPORT SERVICES**

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This sub-programme provides producer support for sustainable agriculture development in line with the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support (CASP). The support includes production input, infrastructure development, farm assessments and other critical interventions along the value chain.

## **EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES**

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Knowledge transfer and skills development are promoted as the foundation for equitable, productive, competitive, profitable and sustainable agricultural value chain enterprises. This sub-programme also facilitates mentorships to support farmers, with special emphasis on the development of smallholder farmers and providing post settlementsupport for land reform beneficiaries.

## **FOOD SECURITY**

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This sub-programme coordinates the implementation of activities in line with the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security. It supports smallholder and subsistence producers (including community projects), households and school gardens towards achieving local level food and nutrition security.

## **CASIDRA**

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Through Casidra, the programme also supports the department with overall project implementation and oversees the management of the state farms.

The programme also contributes to the department's own popular publication "Agriprobe" - a quarterly publication packed with interesting research articles and other topics. The well-known "Elsenburg Joernaal" forms part of this publication.

# Agricultural Economic Services

The economic security of the Western Cape agricultural sector is something that cannot be taken for granted, but which must be nurtured and cultivated. In the extremely competitive global environment characterised by fast-changing consumer preferences and the market environment, the services of this programme provide a buttress for this security. The services are provided through units i.e. Marketing and Agribusiness, Production Economics, Statistics, Macro and Resource Economics and Agri-processing Support.

## MARKETING AND AGRIBUSINESS

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Access to markets and information, fair participation as well as retaining and repositioning into sustainable markets are some of the critical concerns that this division aims to address. The focus is skewed towards the identification of market opportunities and risks through research, packaging and dissemination of such information through appropriate channels. While the research conducted focuses on traditional markets, research is also conducted on niche and differentiated products and industries that need to be developed and exploited.

Facilitation of market access e.g. establishing links with buyers and providing compliance support and training related to market and market access to ensure uptake of identified opportunities at both local and international markets are also among the services provided. This component also aims to improve the bargaining power of farmers, sharing of expertise and collective pulling of resources through facilitation of co-operative development. The division also promotes agribusiness support through provision of advisory services to unlock opportunities provided by the AgriBEE Charter, facilitation of partnerships and acquisition of funding for increased investment in the sector.

## PRODUCTION ECONOMICS

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With the change of the nature of competitiveness from land, labour and capital to information and knowledge, the root of global agricultural competitiveness is embodied in farming systems and farm management practices. This division researches and analyses the relative competitiveness of local farming systems and management practices in relation to international best practice. The results of these actions are wrapped in advice packages and disseminated to the whole spectrum of clients. Due emphasis is placed on financial record keeping with a goal to assist small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) to effectively keep financial records. The service has seen growth in effecting financial management and understanding of business, especially statutory requirements by SMMEs within the sector. The unit also acknowledges that access to finance is the lifeblood of any business. Therefore, one of the interventions has been to facilitate access to finance for SMMEs. The aim is to help agribusinesses to effectively choose the correct financing mechanisms. Added to this, is the business analysis service to help in identifying business needs, lending and determining solutions to business problems and focuses on analysing business stability, solvency, liquidity and profitability using ratios. Other services include budgeting, business plan development and evaluation.

## STATISTICS

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In order to monitor trends and to make good decisions at all levels of responsibility (both within and outside the department) good and reliable data or statistics is critical. It follows that it is necessary to source data and develop a comprehensive database in order to monitor certain actual trends in the agricultural sector. The

Statistics Division maintains several databases ranging from enterprise prices to land price movements, game species prices, pluri-activity data and information and others. Aggregated data is generally available to clients. The client data needs play an important role in developing new databases on demand and these are identified through recorded requests (enquiry database) that the division also maintains. The data is also analysed and packaged for dissemination through various platforms.

## MACRO AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

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Trends and data are not enough to ensure sound decisions, but are needed to distil the truly crucial variables and to evaluate the impact of these on the agricultural economy of the Western Cape. Mathematical and/or computerised models are a representation of reality, which can be “changed” under controlled conditions in order to evaluate the impact of a specific variable. However, models are only a representation and simplification of reality. Consequently various angles on the same problem need to be developed. The purpose of this division is to develop and use the necessary sector and multisector level models to evaluate the impact of various local and international environmental and policy measures on the agricultural and agribusiness sector, including the economy of the province. Due emphasis is also placed on resource economics research to promote sustainable use of natural resources in the context of climate change (valuation and management of the natural resources, renewable resources as alternatives, water resource allocation and management as well as agriculture and the environment etc.)

## AGRO-PROCESSING SUPPORT

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Farming products are very seldom consumed in its pure form. For instance, wheat need to be turned into flour and then bread, barley into beer, grapes into wine and livestock into meat. Even fruit need to be sorted and packed before it finds its way into a consumer's shopping basket. It follows that a healthy agricultural sector cannot be created by focussing on primary production alone. The capacity of the whole value chain, from inputs, production and, finally, to consumption, needs to be enhanced. Services are provided to support various activities which include, but are not limited to, activities such as milling, meat processing, juicing and pulping, packaging, slicing and dicing, pasteurisation, and handling of agricultural produce to make it usable as food, feed, fibre, fuel or industrial raw material. The services rendered include the following:

- Compliance including regulatory support (advisory, testing, product improvement, labelling)
- Research and development of new products, processes
- Infrastructure development, product designs and flows etc.
- Enterprise development (direct financial support to individual enterprises, analysis of the economics of various processes, the competitiveness of value chains and the enhancement thereof.
- Training of existing and potential agri-processors.



# Veterinary Services

The programme Veterinary Services is responsible for managing animal diseases, risks and the safety of foods from animal origin in accordance with national and international standards and conventions. The legal mandate for executing these functions is vested in the Animal Disease Act, 1984 and the Meat Safety Act, 2000. The primary focus is on active and passive disease surveillance, disease control and prevention interventions, export facilitation of animal products and the delivery of a diagnostic laboratory service.

## ANIMAL HEALTH

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The overall challenge for the Animal Health component of Veterinary Services is to address, in full, the needs of its expanded clientele and to effectively manage the risks posed through globalisation for the introduction and spread of animal and food-borne diseases.

Disease surveillance and monitoring activities are being adapted, moving away from manual and physical inspections to a more targeted and scientific approach supported by the effective utilisation of rapid and scientifically verifiable technologies and diagnostic procedures.

This component has the responsibility to apply the Animal Diseases Act within the Western Cape. Official veterinarians and animal health technicians (stationed within eight State Veterinary areas distributed within the province) execute the functions demanded by this Act.

The Performing Animals Protection Act, 1935 (Act No. 24 of 1935) ("PAPA"), as amended, regulates the welfare of performing animals and matters related thereto. The State Veterinarians are provincial licencing officers who issues PAPA licences for facilities to keep and train performing animals in line with the Act.

In addition to the above regulatory responsibilities, officials are intimately involved in servicing the small scale farmer sector. This is achieved by regular visits to holdings to inspect livestock, providing assistance with the treatment and vaccination of animals, collection of diagnostic samples and the dissemination of information on preventive and corrective animal health.

## FOOD SAFETY AND EXPORT

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The Food Safety and Export sections are responsible for the application of the Meat Safety Act. State veterinarians and meat inspectors monitor and audit the application of hygienic procedures at abattoirs to ensure compliance with the Meat Safety Act. Hygiene management practices at abattoirs, meat and dairy export establishments, the humane handling of animals presented for slaughter, the setting of standards for new abattoirs and the grading of existing facilities are important functions carried out by these officials.

## VETERINARY LABORATORY

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The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (PVL) in Stellenbosch renders a diagnostic service to the programme, the private veterinary sector, other departments, such as National Health and Nature Conservation, and commerce associated with the agricultural sector. A diagnostic service is also rendered to the dairy, beef, sheep, pork and racehorse industries, as well as the poultry, ostrich and aquaculture sectors. A veterinary laboratory has also been established at the state veterinary office in Beaufort West.



# Research and Technology Development Services

In order to keep abreast of technological developments in agriculture and to ensure that all the agricultural role-players of the Western Cape are provided with the most advanced scientific and technical advice, the department provides timely and relevant research and technology development services in the six districts of the Western Cape. Of utmost importance is converting the research rand into an information rand – this means that scientific information should reach the commercial and smallholder farmer at farm level, making our farmers more resilient and competitive in local, national and international markets.

Industrial development and urban spread place tremendous pressure on our natural resources. Therefore, the department's resource scientists and geographical information centre play a prominent role in ensuring the optimum utilisation of our degraded, scarce and diminishing resources - soil, water and natural vegetation. The research agenda and the agricultural practices promoted are focussed on optimal resource-use efficiency and the advancement of climate smart agriculture. The identification and prioritisation of research needs are guided by engagement with industry and commodity organisations and other partners such as agricultural faculties at various tertiary institutions.

The programme is structured into three sub-programmes: Research, Technology Transfer Services and Infrastructure Support Services that operate as the directorates of Animal Sciences, Plant Sciences and Research Support Services. The latter directorate includes the sub-directorates: GIS Services, Analytical Services and Farm Services.

The research portfolio of the department is executed mainly within the directorates of Animal Sciences and Plant Sciences, with a smaller research portfolio in the directorate Research Support Services. The programme also has seven research farms serving as open-air laboratories and centres of excellence to support research efforts in the districts of the Western Cape. The directorates collaborate through partnerships with several tertiary institutions in the Western Cape and other provinces, the ARC and various industry organisations.

## ANIMAL SCIENCES

The directorate Animal Sciences provides animal science services to stakeholders and includes the disciplines of breeding, reproduction, feeding and management. Major expertise lies in small stock, dairy and ostrich research. Extensive research facilities also include a feed laboratory, whilst the directorate is the owner of eleven herds and flocks of national importance, which are crucial in the research effort. The Oudtshoorn research farm is dedicated to ostrich research – the only one of its kind in the world.



## PLANT SCIENCES

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The directorate Plant Sciences focuses on the areas of sustainable agronomic, vegetable, rangeland and pasture production systems, alternative crops, crop protection in the areas of weed science, plant pathology and entomology as well as soil-plant interactions.

Conservation agricultural practices in grain, potato and pasture systems for dairy are some of the most important approaches advocated in response to climate change. The directorate has the only dairy - pasture research group in South Africa that links biological soil management, pasture management and milk quantity and quality to gross margins for producers.

## RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

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The directorate Research Support Services renders a support service to the department's research team and external stakeholders. An analytical laboratory for soil, water and plant analyses provides a pivotal service to scientists and producers in the Western Cape, whilst a diagnostic service for plant diseases addresses enquiries in this regard.

The directorate also provides soil science, climatological (risk and potential) management, crop estimates and spatial analysis services (GIS) to an array of clients. Online decision making tools and novel technology transfer techniques are developed. The unit was expanded to include a climate change focus that serves to integrate the various disciplines within research but also links with the other programmes in the department to create broad awareness of the challenge and how to address it.

The directorate also includes infrastructure support services (farm services) with the research farms situated at Nortier (near Lamberts Bay), Langgewens (near Moorreesburg), Elsenburg, Worcester (Veld reserve), Tygerhoek (near Riviersonderend), Outeniqua (near George) and Oudtshoorn, and operate as open-air laboratories and centres of excellence where research projects of particular importance for that region, are executed. Projects and trials are frequently visited by producers and other role-players from these regions. The farms also serve as research hubs for tertiary institutions, locally and abroad, the institutes of the ARC and other role players in the agricultural value chain.

## INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

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Information emanating from research is disseminated to producers in effective, problem-focused and user-friendly packages. This includes on-farm visits and consultations, online via the department's website, lectures, scientific and popular papers, radio talks, press releases and various other forms of technology transfer. Several farmers' information days, as well as walk and talks, are also held to bring the latest technology to district and farmer level.

The department also boasts its own popular publication "Agriprobe" – a quarterly publication packed with interesting research articles and other topics. The semi-scientific "Elsenburg Journal" forms part of this publication.



# Agricultural Education and Training

The Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute (also referred to as Elsenburg College) was established in 1898 and was the first centre for agricultural training in Africa. The college has secured an eminent track record in agriculture and especially in the field of agricultural training in South Africa.

At present, training programmes are offered at Higher Education and Training (HET) and Further Education and Training (FET) levels.

## HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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The following qualifications can be obtained:

- Bachelor of Agriculture (B.Agric) degree (3 years)
- Diploma in Agriculture (3 years)
- Equine Studies

The above-mentioned training is based on farming enterprises and demands, with the main focus on the agro-ecological regions of the Western Cape.

The courses are practice-oriented and emphasises the application of the principles of science and management to agricultural production operations. The objective is to maintain a healthy balance between theory and practice and practising the philosophy of “training by doing” is an important feature during practical sessions. Close collaboration with researchers from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and commercial farmers is a special supporting feature, enhancing the standard of tuition.

The B.Agric degree is a three-year qualification on NQF level 7 offered in association with Stellenbosch University. The study fields within the B.Agric degree are: Plant Production, Animal Production, Plant and Animal Production, Cellar Technology, Cellar Management, Extension and Plant Production or Extension and Animal Production.

The Diploma in Agriculture programme is a three-year qualification on NQF level 6 where students follow a formal, fulltime academic programme in the first two years and the third year is for Work Integrated Learning. The study fields within the Diploma in Agriculture programme are: Plant Production, Animal Production, Plant and Animal Production or Cellar Technology.

The Equine Studies programme follows the Equine Qualifications Authority of South Africa (EQASA) syllabus. Modules 1 to 3 cover all aspects of horse care and stable yard management. The modules are progressively studied and assessed. A successful learner at Module 3 will be qualified to run a stable yard.

## AGRICULTURAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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A Learnership is a programme, which empowers the student with an occupational qualification. The Learnership approach includes classroom-based theoretical learning, practical- and workplace experience. The Learnership is accredited by AgriSeta and offered on NQF level 4.

Admission requirements:

- Learners in possession of practical experience in farming operations, with numeracy literacy and communication competencies (equivalent to Grade 11);
- School leavers from agricultural schools (Grade12) and
- Youth, women and unemployed individuals from previously disadvantaged communities and those involved in agricultural projects as well as agri workers.

COMPULSORY: Access to land or host farms for practical and work integrated learning purposes.

## SHORT COURSES

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The Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute provides short skills courses to farm workers, small scale, commercial and resource-poor farmers, beneficiaries of the national land reform programme as well as anybody who desires to study agriculture and related fields.

Various short skills courses are presented on farms, in rural communities, at the main campus of Elsenburg College and at the Agricultural Skills Development (ASD) decentralised training campuses in George, Oudtshoorn, Bredasdorp and Clanwilliam.

These short skills courses cover a wide range of study fields, including Irrigation, Tractor Maintenance, AVCASA (for those responsible for the handling of agricultural chemicals), Marketing, Financial Management, Animal Production, Vegetable Production etc.

The focus of these short courses is on the practical applications, supported by relevant theoretical principles. Once completed, students will have the required skills to cope with the demands of the workplace.





# External Human Capital Development Initiatives

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture has a number of external human capital development initiatives from which its clients can benefit.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

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The department is committed to skills development by providing opportunities for unemployed matriculants, undergraduates (students) and graduates through an Internship Programme. Interns may be placed within the department or with external host employers.

### Graduate Internship

This refers to the individuals who have already obtained a qualification in a SAQA accredited Further Education and Training or Higher Education Institution. The internship provides graduates with work experience and exposure from one to two years.

### Student Internship

This refers to the students who are studying towards a SAQA accredited qualification, but are required to undergo practical experience towards obtaining their qualification. The institution will indicate the timeframe required for the interns to complete their work integrated learning.

### First Work Experience for Grade 12's

The project provides learners who finished grade 12, are between the ages of 18 -24 and who have not worked or participated in any other internship previously, with the opportunity of a one-year internship.

Applications open during January of each year and the project is advertised on the Western Cape Government website: [www.westerncape.gov.za](http://www.westerncape.gov.za)

## BURSARY/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

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The department awards bursaries to students studying full-time at a Higher Education Institution, towards obtaining a SAQA registered qualification in an agricultural related field. Bursaries are awarded for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Scholarships are also available to high school learners studying mathematics and sciences who have been identified as potential candidates for further studies in the agricultural fields.

## THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PERSONS (YPP) PROGRAMME

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This programme is an affirmative action programme to specifically empower previously disadvantaged individuals from the following designated groups: Black, Coloured, Indian, women (White women included) and people with disabilities, who have been accepted by a recognised Higher Education Institution for Honours and Masters degrees, through the gaining of experience and mentorship in obtaining their qualification in the scarce and critical skills of the agricultural sector.

## AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (APFYD)

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This project specifically focuses on rural youth and children of agri workers. It offers bursaries/scholarships, internships and learnerships. Academic support is provided for students studying at Elsenburg College.

### Internship Programme

The interns appointed on this project will be placed with external host employers who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. The duration of this internship is 12 months.

### Bursary/Scholarship Programme

The bursary/scholarship programme for the APFYD Project is the same as for the External Development Initiatives mentioned above and carries the same requirements for consideration. Preference is given to rural children and learners at agricultural schools.



# Rural Development

In a dynamic world where migration to urban living is the norm and sustainable rural livelihoods are under significant pressure, this programme aims to coordinate development programmes amongst stakeholders in rural areas.

The programme's purpose is fourfold and is facilitated by four sub-programmes:

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

Focusing on initiating, planning and monitoring development efforts amongst the three spheres of government in specific rural areas to ensure that identified needs are responded to through an integrated approach.

## SOCIAL FACILITATION

Dedicated to engaging communities on rural priorities and provides institutionalisation and organisational support to ensure their participation in development initiatives towards deeper social cohesion.

## FARM WORKER DEVELOPMENT

Geared towards enhancing the image and socio-economic conditions of agri workers and their family members through training and development initiatives.

## RURAL SAFETY

Fostering and strengthening partnerships with safety structures in the districts to assist with an overall improved, protected and safe agricultural environment.



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## THE VALUES:



### **Caring**

To care for those we serve and work with.



### **Competence**

The ability and capacity to do the job we were employed to do.



### **Accountability**

We take responsibility.



### **Integrity**

To be honest and do the right thing.



### **Innovation**

To be open to new ideas and develop creative solutions to problems in a



### **Responsiveness**

To serve the needs of our citizens and employees.

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## THE VISION/MISSION:



### **Vision**

A united, responsive and prosperous agricultural sector in balance



### **Mission**

Unlocking the full potential of agriculture to enhance the economic, ecological and social wealth of all the people of the Western Cape.

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**Western Cape  
Government**  
**FOR YOU**

Let's make use of provided opportunities and  
make the Western Cape **FOR YOU.**