

NATIONAL POLICY ON EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
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Part A:

General Information



ACRONYMS

ADC	Agricultural Development Centre
AgriBEE	Agricultural Black Economic Empowerment
AgRISETA	Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority
AGIS	Agricultural Geographic Information System
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
BBBEE	Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment
CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DED	Department of Economic Development
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land reform
DSD	Department of Social Development
ERP	Extension Recovery Plan
ESP	Extension Service Providers
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GADI	Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute
IFSNP	Integrated Food Security Nutrition Programme
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IGDP	Integrated Growth and Development Plan
IGR	Inter-Governmental Relations
ISRDS	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy
LEO	Local Extension Office
LMADC	Local Municipal Agricultural Development Centre
LRAD	Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGP	National Growth Path
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
OBO	On Behalf Of
PDAs	Provincial Department of Agriculture
SACNASP	South African Council for Natural and Scientific Profession
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authority

Foreword by the Minister



Mr Senzeni Zokwana (MP)
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries

The dawn of the 21st century heralded further inevitability and prominence of information technology and the critical role it plays to stimulate economic growth. The attainment of South Africa's developmental state agenda will be incomplete without the full participation of the previously marginalised groups who want to become producers. The successful participation of the household and smallholder producers in the mainstream of the economy is contingent upon adequate provision of appropriate Extension and Advisory Services.

Vision 2030, through the National Development Plan (NDP), expects the agricultural sector to create a million jobs, a mammoth target that requires concerted efforts across the sector. The inclusion of Revitalisation of the Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) in the government's Nine Point Plan demonstrates the vigour and speed with which the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), through its myriad of programmes, should accelerate its effort to meaningfully contribute towards socio-economic transformation.

The Extension and Advisory Services serve as a crucial catalyst that will aid producers in the sector to realise their optimum potential which will not only resultantly culminate into increased creation of jobs and eradication of poverty, but will also fundamentally ensure sustainable food security in the country.

It is my wish that the intervention measures of the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services will enhance the standards of the South African Agricultural Extension Systems and for the services to be prioritised given their importance on productivity. Thus more support should be geared towards galvanising resources towards invigorating the Extension and Advisory Services of the department. I have no doubt that this National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services, which is long overdue, will help deepen and demonstrate our commitment towards producers without whom our food sovereignty would be compromised. This will also help to position the Extension and Advisory Services in the country as a centre of excellence to be emulated by other countries.



Mr Senzeni Zokwana(MP)

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Statement by the Deputy Minister



Mr Sfiso Buthelezi
Deputy Minister of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries

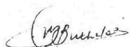
The provision of effective and efficient Extension and Advisory Services is undoubtedly sacrosanct in the course to advance agrarian reform. The importance of the afore-mentioned services cannot be over-emphasised since the future of the sector is anchored upon it. The sector is epitomized by an abundance of opportunities that should be enhanced in the endeavour to create a new generation of producers that will ensure that there is access to adequate, affordable and safe food for all.

Although the World Bank reported that poverty rate dropped from 46.2% to 39% in 2014 due to grants, free basic services and taxes favouring the poor, South Africa continues to experience worrisome levels of poverty, which is the principal cause of hunger. According to StatsSA Poverty Report, in 2016 about 13.7 million South Africans have severely inadequate access to food and were extremely vulnerable to hunger.

The status quo cannot persist to exist, consequently there is a fundamental requisite to amplify the strategic role of the Extension and Advisory Services particularly in advancing the course for economic transformation in the sector which will aid, inter alia, to eradicate the alarming poverty, unemployment and inequality levels in the country.

Unequivocally, there is a need for a broader and effective policy framework that provides a coordinated approach and acknowledges the significance of the Extension and Advisory Services in respect of technology transfer, information sharing and skills development, particularly of smallholder producers across the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector.

This policy framework serves as a primary cornerstone through which household and small holder producers can graduate to Medium Scale Commercial producers.



Mr Sifiso Buthelezi

Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Overview by Director General



Mr Mike Mlangana
Director-General: Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries

Since 1994 the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has invested its energy on improving the standard of Extension and Advisory Services in the country. The Norms and Standards for Extension and Advisory Services were developed in 2005. The main objective was to improve the efficiency, relevance and cost effectiveness of publicly funded Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services. The Extension Indaba which was held in 2008 resulted in to the development of the Extension Recovery Plan (ERP), with the aim of revitalisation the state of Extension and Advisory Services in South Africa. Although there are a number of regulatory initiatives and strategies aimed at ensuring improved Extension and Advisory Services, the lack of a national policy framework means that the implementation of these strategies has been limited to provincial and individual stakeholder decisions. Extension and Advisory Services in South Africa remains unregulated and fragmented. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) identified an urgent need to embark on the development of the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services.

The policy advocates for a pluralistic approach. A variety of Extension Service Providers (ranging from public, private and Non Profit Organisations) are already involved in rural development initiatives. DAFF acknowledges that a major part of reforming extension will include a greater coordination and collaborative efforts between the different institutions that provide Extension and Advisory Services. This kind of collaboration and co-ordinated approach must equally apply

to research, technology development and innovation processes such that a pluralistic 'complex' of researchers and extension practitioners from public, private and NPO's exist. This enables Provincial Departments of Agriculture to provide a holistic, well co-ordinated and collaborative approach for different actors to play a key role in the delivery of Extension and Advisory Services.

This policy is aimed at setting a regulatory framework to guide the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in the provision of Extension and Advisory Services. The goal of the policy is to ensure that all actors in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries value chains (from producers to processors) enjoy equitable and optimum access to knowledge and skills, and have the capacity to explore opportunities for the advancement of their enterprises and livelihoods.

This policy endorses the commodity value chain development approach that brings industry leaders from different nodes of the value chain together. This approach is aligned with the Nine Point Plan key presidential priorities, more specifically the Revitalisation of the Agricultural and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC). RAAVC include key role players such as input suppliers, researchers, producers, processors, retailers, exporters, government and others to build a shared understanding of their competitive position and create consensus on how to improve it and put plans into actions. Successful establishment of institutional implementation mechanisms of this policy will lead to effective and efficient delivery of Extension and Advisory Services in the country.



OBO
Mr Mike Mlangana

Director-General: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Definitions

Accountability: Obligation to demonstrate that work has been conducted in compliance with agreed rules and standards or to report fairly and accurately on performance results vis à vis mandated roles and/or plans.

Advisory Services: The term 'Advisory Services' is used interchangeably with extension and is very much part of extension. It refers to services provided by subject matter specialists, private organisations or firms to support producers. It is commonly practised where agriculture, forestry and fisheries enterprises are highly commercialised.

Efficiency: A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted, i.e. are the objectives being achieved economically by the development intervention? How big is the efficiency or utilisation ratio of the resources used?

Effectiveness: An aggregate measure of (or judgment about) the merit or worth of an activity, i.e. the extent to which an intervention has attained, or is expected to attain, its major relevant objectives efficiently in a sustainable fashion and with a positive institutional development impact.

Evaluation: The systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project or programme, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

Equity: Refers to fairness and equal outcomes in terms of gender, race and class.

Facilitation: Refers to attempts to move away from traditional one-way technology transfer assumptions, to instead view extension as a collection of mechanisms by which to support producers in their own ongoing efforts to access new technologies, markets, and services (this creates conditions for a broader flow of information).

Food Security: Food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Goal: The higher order objective to which a development intervention is intended to contribute.

Government: This refers to the national Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Provincial Departments of Agriculture and local government and state-owned enterprises.

Impact: Final intended outcomes with respect to benefits accruing to the target population and/or broader economy, i.e. does the development intervention contribute to reaching higher level development objectives?

Indicator: Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor.

Inputs: Financial, human and material resources used to perform activities.

Monitoring: A systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an ongoing development intervention with indications of the extent of progress and achievement of objectives and progress in the use of allocated funds.

Outcome: The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs.

Outputs: Immediate results derived from the activities of the project: Products, capital goods and services which result from a development intervention; may also include changes resulting from the intervention which are relevant to the achievement of outcomes.

Privatisation: Transfer of power to private hands (e.g. private sector).

Stakeholders: The private sector, development partners and interested and/or affected parties in as far as it applies to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Sustainability: The continuation of benefits from an intervention: The probability of continued long-term benefits. The resilience to risk of the net benefit flows over time (i.e. are the positive effects or impacts sustainable).

Surveys: Data collection techniques designed to collect standard information from a large number of subjects. Surveys may include polls, mailed questionnaires, telephone interviews, or face-to-face interviews.

