

## Rural Development Branch Strategic objectives:

The Rural Development programme has six main priorities which respond to the intended outcome of the mandate, which seeks to achieve “vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all”. The following table links each of the national MTSF rural development objectives to the associate PGDP objectives (noted in italics). These priorities will be the focus of the coming MTSF period:

National Rural Development Priorities	Branch responsibility
<p>1. Improved land administration and spatial planning for integrated development with a bias towards rural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 Actively promote spatial concentration &amp; co-ordination of development</li> <li>7.2 facilitate integrated land management &amp; spatial planning</li> <li>3.4 Develop Sustainable Human Settlements</li> <li>5.1 Increase productive use of land</li> </ul>	<p>Monitor, co-ordinate and support relevant sector departments and spheres of government to achieve this.</p>
<p>2. Sustainable land reform (agrarian transformation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Unleash agricultural potential</li> <li>3.4 Develop Sustainable Human Settlements</li> <li>5.1 Increase productive use of land</li> <li>7.2 facilitate integrated land management &amp; spatial planning</li> </ul>	<p>Catalyse/ promote improved agricultural and natural resource utilisation on land reform farms and secure settlement arrangements</p>
<p>3. Improved food and nutrition security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Poverty eradication and social welfare</li> <li>3.3 Enhance sustainable household food security</li> <li>1.1 unleash agricultural potential</li> </ul>	<p>Support the integration of food security interventions with provincial poverty eradication programmes</p>
<p>4. Smallholder farmer development and support (technical, financial, infrastructure) for agrarian transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Unleash agriculture potential</li> <li>1.4 Develop SMME &amp; entrepreneurial development</li> <li>4.5 improved water resource management and supply</li> </ul>	<p>Smallholder farmer development and support (technical, financial, infrastructure) for agrarian transformation</p>
<p>5. Increased access to quality basic infrastructure and services, particularly in education, healthcare and public transport in rural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 improve ECD, primary and secondary education</li> <li>3.2 Enhance health of communities &amp; citizens</li> <li>4.4 Develop ICT infrastructure</li> <li>4.5 improved water resource management and supply</li> <li>4.6 improve energy production and supply</li> <li>5.2 Advance alternative energy generation</li> <li>4.3 Develop roads and networks</li> </ul>	<p>Monitor, co-ordinate and support relevant sector departments and spheres of government to achieve this.</p>
<p>6. Growth of sustainable rural enterprises and industries characterised by strong rural-urban linkages, increased investment in agro-processing, trade development and access to markets and financial services– resulting in rural job creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.2 Enhance sectoral development through trade &amp; investment</li> <li>1.4 Develop SMME &amp; entrepreneurial development</li> <li>1.5 Develop knowledge base to enhance knowledge economy</li> <li>2.2 Support skills alignment to eco growth</li> <li>2.3 enhance youth skills development &amp; lifelong learning</li> </ul>	<p>Identify and support strategies and plans that Grow sustainable rural enterprises and industries characterised by strong rural-urban linkages, increased investment in agro-processing, trade development and access to markets and financial services– resulting in rural job creation</p>

A key strategic partner is the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) who extended the mandate for Comprehensive Rural Development to provinces, through the Office of the Premier.

The Department seeks to make significant strides towards achieving the long-term objective of government, where rural areas will be spatially, socially and economically integrated across the three spheres of government. The objective further aims for a state where rural communities will be economically active, have access to basic services, health care, quality education, food security and jobs as a result of agrarian transformation and infrastructure development programs

**Stakeholders: A full stakeholder analysis will be undertaken and form part of this information in the near future.**

- Primary Stakeholder (Client) – direct beneficiary or direct concerned person ( end-user)
- Secondary stakeholder – intermediaries in the process of delivering support to primary stakeholder
- Tertiary stakeholder – indirect secondary – has an influence on your service delivery

**Specific Strategies/Policies/Models being formulated:**

**Methodologies are required for:**

- Stakeholder Analysis - Approach to partnership development across the Branch – interaction with external stakeholders and clients and internal DARD clients
- Methodology for the Alignment of Strategies – process and criteria for project funding within the agricultural space (AgriPark and non-Agripark related)
- Institutional Framework for AgriPark co-ordination and implementation
- Approach to drafting a Rural Development Plans for each of the 4 DARD Agrarian Transformation Strategy Pillars :
  - River Valley Catalytic
  - Agrivillages
  - Communal estates
  - Land reform
- AgriPark Expo's
- Review the draft funding model for the Unemployed Graduates Programme with the aim to formulate an effective methodology for the 50/50 funding/farm leasing approach
- Draft methodology for DARD Rural Enterprise and Industry Development Strategy
- Partnership Framework
- Investment Protocol

**The Service Commitment of the Branch is in line with the Values of the Department:**

Batho Pele Principles and service orientation-

Branch officials will conduct themselves in a manner befitting a government that is caring, dedicated and pro-poor, influenced by the spirit of ubuntu.

Co-Operative Governance and Strategic Partnerships-

The Branch commits itself to the principles of cordial inter-governmental relations and strategic partnerships across all spheres of society, with particular focus on business and civil society organizations as delivery partners

Self-sufficiency and independence –

The Branch commits itself to the promotion of self-sufficiency in all its interventions and focuses on the empowerment of people to be more independent and entrepreneurial.

Transformation-

The Branch is an agent of state transformation agenda to change the historical uneven development of the South African and KwaZulu-Natal society and its policies must reflect this character at all times.

Financial Prudence and Resource Limitations –

The Branch is the custodian of public funds and its policies must promote economical use of such limited funds to achieve efficient and effective delivery of public services. Government will always be faced with a challenge of growing public demands and limited resources to fulfil every obligation.

Accountability and Transparency-

The Branch is obligated to promote good governance by accounting and being transparent to the public, legislature and oversight institutions for its performance and use of public resources.

## Development and recognition –

The Branch's employees are recognized as its most valuable asset and therefore it aspires to ensure the on-going development and recognition of an effective, professional team.

The Rural Development Branch will interact with its stakeholders through the effective application of the Batho Pele principles:

Consultation – Strategy roll-out and project development take place within a consultative environment

Access – The formulation of a finance credit model will create more access. Staff are at all times accessible to clients and stakeholders

Courtesy – Staff deal with clients and stakeholders and colleagues in a professional manner

Openness and Transparency – Negotiations, meetings and discussions occur in an open and transparent manner

Information – Relevant information will at all times be made available through Departmental processes

Redress – Stakeholders, clients and officials will always have a channel of communication to ensure their queries and problems are dealt with effectively. List of contacts for services is attached.

Value for Money – developing a set, generic criteria for government funded agricultural and rural development projects

Service Delivery Impact will at all times be important and measured. It is important to ascertain baselines for all rural development interventions

## Annual strategic objectives:

### Branch strategic objectives

Monitor co-ordinate and support relevant sector departments and spheres of government to achieve this.

Catalyse/ promote improved agricultural and natural resource utilisation on land reform farms and secure settlement arrangements

Support the integration of food security interventions with provincial poverty eradication programmes

Smallholder farmer development and support (technical, financial, infrastructure) for agrarian transformation

Monitor, co-ordinate and support relevant sector departments and spheres of government to achieve this.

Growth of sustainable rural enterprises and industries characterised by strong rural-urban linkages, increased investment in agro-processing, trade development and access to markets and financial services– resulting in rural job creation

### Annual objective/ outcomes

Develop RD plans for each of the 4 pillars – river catalytic, agri-villages, communal estates& land reform

Agripark reports

Agricultural economic advice towards accessing markets and sustainable participation

Economic reports

Business entity advice

Youth in agribusiness empowerment model

Rural enterprise development skills

Mentored projects

Unemployed graduates

Partnerships brokered

Women owned enterprises

Sustainable enterprise and industries: Develop a provincial Rural Enterprise and Industrial

Development Strategy for increased participation in the value chain of prioritised commodities.

Number of functional agro processing businesses supported

Develop credit and finance model

Agripark smallholder expos