Objective:

Growth of sustainable rural enterprises and industries – resulting in rural job creation

Outputs:

- Sustainable enterprises and industries promoted in areas with economic potential
- Create incentives to attract investment in rural areas for the development of rural enterprises and industries throughout commodity value chains

The Rural Development programme has six main priorities which respond directly to the intended outcome of the mandate, which seeks to achieve “vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all”. These priorities will be the focus of the coming MTSF period:

1. Improved land administration and spatial planning for integrated development in rural areas
2. Sustainable land reform (agrarian transformation)
3. Improved food security
4. Small-holder farmer development and support (technical, financial, infrastructure) for agrarian transformation
5. Increased access to quality basic infrastructure and services, particularly in education, healthcare and public transport in rural areas
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

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.

**Services offered:**

- Business (enterprise and industry) and Agricultural Economic advice and development
- Macro-economic and Statistical information:
  - Crop Budgets (Field Crops, Horticultural Crops) and COMBUD Pasture Budgets and Livestock Budgets
  - The Annual Guide to Machinery Costs
  - Four quarterly market bulletins containing farm-gate produce prices for the major agricultural commodities produced in the province
  - Fresh produce market statistics are also collated and published for the Durban and Pietermaritzburg markets
  - Census of Commercial Agriculture report
- Business entity establishment and management advice, support and training
- Partnership structuring and transacting advice, promotion and support
- Investment and funding information and opportunities advice and support

**Key Current Programmes:**

1. Agriparks: Co-ordination, facilitation and planning of Rural Economic transformation through Agriparks strategy roll out in all Districts
2. Agrivillages and Land Reform: Co-ordination of planning and implementation for rural settlements in commercial farming areas to support social and economic development of farm dwellers and Land Reform residents
3. River Valley and Communal Estates: Development and implementation of integrated and comprehensive rural development models linked to agriculture revitalisation programmes

**Location:**

Currently, all staff are based at the Departments Head Office at Cedara. Contact can be made by phone, e-mail or via local and district offices who will facilitate access to the relevant staff at Head Office.

**Contact details:**

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