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The Annual Report on the Implementation of the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Compiled by: Chief Directorate National Extension Support Services



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ACRONYMS

AAP:	Agricultural Assistant Practitioners
AAMP:	Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan
AEAS:	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services
AFAAS:	African Forum for Agricultural Advisor Services
ARC:	Agricultural Research Council
CAADP:	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CASP:	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
CBEA:	Commodity-Based Extension Approach
CHE:	Council on Higher Education
CPD:	Continuous Professional Development
DAFF:	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DALRRD:	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DARDLEA:	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs
DDG:	Deputy Director-General
DECF:	District Extension Coordinating Forum
DHET:	Department of Higher Education and Training
DORA:	Division of Revenue Act
EAS:	Extension and Advisory Services
EC:	Eastern Cape
EP:	Extension Practitioner
ERP:	Extension Recovery Plan
EXCO:	Executive Committee
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS:	Farmer Field School
FS:	Free State
FVC:	Food Value Chain
GCIS:	Government Communication Information Services
GDARD:	Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GFRAS:	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
GP:	Gauteng Province
GrainSA:	Grain South Africa
GSS:	Generic Soft Skill
ICT:	Information Communication Technology



JICA:	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KZN:	KwaZulu-Natal
LDARD:	Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Land Reform
LP:	Limpopo Province
MoU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MTSF	Medium Term Strategy Framework
MP:	Mpumalanga Province
NAMC:	National Agricultural Marketing Council
NC:	Northern Cape
NDP:	National Development Plan
NER:	National Extension Reform
NPO:	Non-Profit Organisation
NQF:	National Qualification Framework
NW:	North West
NWU:	North West University
PDAs:	Provincial Departments of Agriculture
PECF:	Provincial Extension Coordinating Forum
PSCBC:	Public Service Coordination Bargaining Council
PSFEAS:	Public Sector Forum for Extension and Advisory Services
PSSC:	Provincial Shared Services Centres
QC:	Quality Council
SACNASP:	South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions
SADC:	Southern African Development Countries
SAFAEAS:	South African Forum for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services
SARFAAS:	Southern African Regional Forum for Agricultural and Advisory Services
SASAE:	South African Society for Agricultural Extension
SHEP:	Smallholder Empowerment and Promotion
SLA:	Service Level Agreement
TICAD:	The International Conference on African Development
ToR:	Terms of Reference
ToT:	Training of Trainers
TS:	Technical skill
WC:	Western Cape

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The implementation of the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services has become a priority for all the key stakeholders in the agricultural sector. The immense contribution from fellow National Extension Support Services (NESS) colleagues in the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDAs) officials is highly appreciated.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

Extension and Advisory Services (EAS): It is the different activities that provide the information and services needed and demanded by producers and other actors in rural settings to assist them in developing their own technical, organisational, and management skills and practices so as to improve their livelihoods and well-being (DAFF, 2016).

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 and private organisations or firms to support producers (DAFF, 2016).

Food Security: It 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 (DAFF, 2016).

Continuous Professional Development: It is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties throughout a registered person’s professional natural scientific career (SACNASP, 2017)

Stakeholder(s): It is either an individual, group or organisation that has an interest and can either affect or be affected by the outcome of a project or a business venture. It refers to the private sector, development partners and interested and/or affected parties in as far as it applies to Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DAFF, 2016).

Deployment of EPs: This is seen as a formal placement of staff in a specific area of a district, local municipality and ward where the EP will do her/his work with the community/ producers involved in a specific commodity. The EP collaborates with a specific commodity organisation that will assist with specialist extension through the whole value chain of the commodity, these include workshops and study groups (DALRRD, 2022).

Smallholder Empowerment Promotion (SHEP): It is a “Market-Oriented Agriculture and Promotion in Africa” extension approach that encourages producers to move away from “*growing and selling*” their produce to “*grow to sell*”. The SHEP approach is geared towards assisting smallholder producers to increase their income by means of capacitating them to better manage group dynamics and improve production through various techniques, such as knowing the market requirement and securing the market before they start producing (DALRRD, 2022).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) monitors and provides oversight on the implementation of the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services (NPEAS) to ensure that it is implemented as designed. The monitoring of NPEAS improves performance in measuring the extent to which extension policy intervention measures are addressed. It also highlights progress on the implementation of Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) programmes.

One of the main concerns for having effective EAS in South Africa is having an optimum extension-to-producer ratio of 1:250. The total number of Extension Practitioners (EPs) decreased from 2,408 in the 2021/22 financial year to 1,989 in the 2022/23 financial year. Consequently, the extension-to-producer ratio increased from 1:1,109 in the 2021/22 financial year to 1:1,552 in the 2022/23 financial year. The increase in the extension-to-producer ratio might be due to the significant increase in estimated producers from 2,4 million in the 2021/22 financial year to over 3 million in the 2022/2023 financial year. The decline in the number of EPs also contributed to the high ratio in the 2022/23 financial year.

The status of the Extension Recovery Plan (ERP) implementation

The ERP budget decreased by approximately 2%, from R310,3 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R304,1 million in the 2022/23 financial year. The total expenditure on the ERP pillars was R280,6 million. This was followed by Pillar 5, Provision of Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure (R41,4 million), where Limpopo Province (LP) and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) had R11,7 million and R10,5 million, respectively. Pillar 4, Re-skilling and Re-orientation had the least share of R37,8 million, while the Eastern Cape (EC) had an allocation of R22,1 million. Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 were funded by provincial budgets.

Smallholder Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) implementation status

There was a successful 10-day SHEP online training workshop on market-oriented agriculture in January and February 2023. Since the inception of the SHEP approach, there have been over 570 officials trained on the SHEP approach in South Africa. The number of producers who benefited from SHEP increased by 759, from the 2021/22 financial year to 2 532 producers in the 2022/23 financial year. It is noteworthy that SHEP has benefited over 4 000 producers from the implementing provinces.

Farmer Field School (FFS) implementation status

There were 39 officials who received training on the FFS approach in the 2022/23 financial year compared to 34 officials in the 2021/22 financial year. There are 473 producers who have benefited from the FFS approach since its inception. LP has 331 producers who benefited, followed by Mpumalanga (MP) (86) and the Northern Cape (NC) (56).

Commodity-Based Extension Approach (CBEA)

There is continuous deployment of EPs by commodity organisations on an annual basis, depending on the training needs required at a given time. There were 20 EPs deployed in the 2022/23 financial year. EC (18) and NC (2) were the only provinces that deployed EPs in the 2022/23 financial year.

Provincial performance reporting on priority commodities

The performance for the indicator “Number of producers supported in the red meat commodity” was the main leading priority commodity. The FS (609%) and LP (176%) provinces were the leading provinces in performance for red meat commodity. While MP (50%) and NC (54%) performed the least in the red meat commodity.

Establishment of institutional structures

The NPEAS recognises the importance of establishing and strengthening stakeholder coordination mechanisms from the regional to the district level. There were several engagements at the regional level that involved the networking of key stakeholders to contribute positively to EAS. The board of the South African Forum for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (SAFAEAS) was elected to ensure that SAFAEAS is active in the country. It was noted that the Public Sector Forum for Extension and Advisory Services (PSFEAS) plays an important role for key stakeholders in an effective EAS.

Review and Develop a Multidisciplinary Training Curriculum for EPs

A draft version of unit standards was disseminated to higher education institutions and other interested parties for narrow consultation in the 2022/23 financial year. The drafting of this standards statement is the work of a group of academic experts in the field of study.

Status of registered EPs with South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)

There were 1,297 EPs registered with the SACNASP during the period under review. It was noted that there were several challenges in the registration of EPs with SACNASP, such as the backlog of applications (pending) and the lack of enforcement of the compulsory SACNASP registration by PDAs.



1. INTRODUCTION

The DALRRD developed the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services (NPEAS). The policy was developed through an extensive consultation process involving public, private, and civil society actors across nine provinces in South Africa. The NPEAS aims to deliver and maintain a pluralistic, harmonised, and co-ordinated EAS that operates on a common set of principles and values. The NPEAS is intended to recognise the overall livelihood context within which EAS operates and to support producers in a wider livelihood system and sustainable development initiatives. The policy and its implementation plan were approved by Cabinet on 19 October 2016.

To enhance the effectiveness of agricultural extension policy intervention measures and to track progress on the implementation of extension programmes such as the ERP and SHEP, among others, it is crucial to monitor and evaluate each stage of the policy implementation. The Norms and Standards for Extension and Advisory Services will also continue to guide and be utilised as the state's intervention tool for EAS. The monitoring of intervention measures in the extension policy enables assessment to ascertain whether they are reaching the primary objectives of the NPEAS. The data used in monitoring ERP and other approaches was collected through the Public Sector Forum for Extension and Advisory Services (PSFEAS) quarterly reports, the ERP annual report, the National Treasury, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), and internal DALRRD reports regarding the Smallholder Empowerment Programme (SHEP), Farmer Field School (FFS), the Commodity-based Extension Approach (CBEA), and the professionalisation of Extension Practitioners.

This document reports achievements in the implementation of the NPEAS for the 2022/23 financial year. The intervention measures to be reported on are as follows:

- Effective and efficient linkage mechanism between research, extension, and producers;
- Improved access to quality EAS that are professional, reliable, relevant, and accountable;
- Facilitate a pluralistic and integrated approach to provide EAS; and
- Advance the extension education system and broaden service focus; and promote a commodity value chain development approach.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT AND STATUS QUO

EAS has the potential to improve agricultural productivity, net farm income, food security, and the livelihood of many households, among others. However, the extension-to-producer ratio is one of the concerns for improving the effectiveness of EAS in South Africa. This section provides a detailed analysis of the status of implementing the agricultural extension policy intervention measures. It analyses the number of extension personnel employed that are responsible for implementing the EAS, and the status of the ratio per province.

Table 1 shows the number of Extension Personnel employed and the status of the ratio per province in the 2022/23 financial year. The total number of EPs decreased from 2 408 in the 2021/22 financial year to 1,989 in the 2022/23 financial year. KZN had the highest number of EPs (515) employed in the 2022/23 financial year. This was followed by EC and LP, with 496 and 331 EPs employed, respectively. NC and WC had the least number of EPs, with 43 and 63, respectively.

The extension-to-producer-ratio increased from 1:1,019 in the 2021/22 financial year to 1:1,552 in the 2022/23 financial year. The increase in the extension-to-producer ratio might be due to the significant increase in estimated producers from over 2,4 million in the 2021/22 financial year to over 3 million in the 2022/2023 financial year. Table 1 below presents the breakdown of employed EPs based on the PDAs as well as the extension-to-producer-ratios. MP had the

highest ratio at 1:3,547, followed by GP and LP at 1:2,896 and 1:1,928, respectively. All nine PDAs show an unacceptably high ratio, which does not meet the recommended ratios in terms of the norms and standards for extension and advisory services in agriculture.

Table 1: Provincial distribution of Extension Practitioner-to-producer ratios by province for 2022/23 financial year

Province	Number of Extension officials		Total number of extension officials	Number of households per province	% of households involved in agriculture	Estimated # farmers [GHS 2021, StatsSA]	Extension to producer ratio
	Managers	Extension practitioners					
EC	31	496	527	1,725,000	33%	576,150	1,162
FS	11	115	126	952,000	20%	192,304	1,672
GP	8	119	127	5,384,000	6%	344,576	2,896
KZN	60	515	575	3,111,000	20%	634,644	1,232
LP	11	331	342	1,684,000	38%	638,236	1,928
MP	41	127	168	1,399,000	32%	450,478	3,547
NC	8	43	51	363,000	13%	47,190	1,097
NW	31	181	212	1,308,000	11%	146,496	809
WC	8	62	70	2,021,000	3%	58,609	945
TOTAL	209	1,989	2,198	17,947,000	17%	3,086,884	1,552

Source: DALRRD (2023) and StatsSA (GHS, 2021).

2.1 Budget for EAS programmes

The main focus of DALRRD is to harness and maximise the economic potential of South Africa's agricultural sector and ensure food security for all its citizens. Agriculture has been identified as one of the key drivers of economic development and is set to create one million jobs by 2030 (NPC, 2012). DALRRD is responsible for ensuring that the sector is involved in all interventions directed towards radical transformation, modernising and reindustrialising the country.

Table 2 below, illustrates the allocation of the budget per province, and is spread across several programmes in agriculture and rural development for the 2022/23 financial year. The allocation of the budget focused on the following sub-programmes: Farmer Support and Development, Veterinary Services, Research and Technology Development, Agricultural Economic Services, and Engineering Services. The total budget allocated for the above-mentioned sub-programmes was R8,2 billion, where about 61% of the total budget was allocated for Agricultural Producer Support and Development (R5,0 billion). The Agricultural Economics sub-programme had only R241 million. KZN and EC had the largest shares of the budget at R1,6 billion and R1,3 billion, respectively. This was followed by LP and NC with R1,1 billion and R881 million, respectively. GP and FS had the lowest shares of R468 million and R566 million, respectively.

Table 2: Budget allocation for key farmer support related programmes per province

Province	Total Budget R'000	BUDGET ALLOCATED PER PROVINCE				
		Agric Producer Support (R'000)	Veterinary Services (R'000)	Research (R'000)	Agric Economics (R'000)	Agric Engineering (R'000)
EC	1 398 594	855 629	312 872	132 028	35 555	62 510
FS	566 095	365 152	72 215	87 329	14 545	26 854
GP	468 709	238 811	108 389	79 493	42 016	*
KZN	1 611 620	1 112 526	230 464	184 453	13 847	70 330
LP	1 137 589	902 603	115 963	54 511	48 533	15 979
MP	843 673	573 787	152 798	60 285	15 692	41 111
NC	881 959	239 263	491 159	613 27	12 325	77 885
NW	734 038	449 746	154 180	720 36	182 65	39 811
WC	609 219	296 735	97 347	139 654	41 045	34 438
TOTAL	8 251 496	5 034 252	1 735 387	871 116	241 823	368 918

Source: National Treasury (2023). *The figures for engineers in GP were not included in the National Treasury report of 2023.

3. IMPROVED ACCESS TO QUALITY EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

One of the intervention measures is focused on improving access to quality extension and advisory services that are professional, reliable, relevant, and accountable. Since 1994, the democratic government of South Africa has prioritised smallholder and subsistence producers as a way of increasing their participation in the agricultural sector in line with the principle of equality. This called for the transformation of public extension services to meet the various needs of large numbers of producers. Hence the development of the ERP in 2008/09 as an overall strategy to revitalise extension services in the country to effectively address prevailing socio-economic conditions owing to the inequalities of the past. The five pillars of the programme are: (i) ensuring visibility and accountability of extension; (ii) promoting professionalism and improving image; (iii) recruitment of extension personnel; (iv) re-skilling and reorientation of extension; and (v) provision of ICT and other resources (DOA, 2011).

3.1 The status of ERP implementation

3.1.1 ERP budget allocation

Figure 1 below illustrates the amount of budget allocation per pillar in each province for the 2022/23 financial year. It was noted that although Pillars 1 and 2 were not funded in the 2022/23 financial year, some provinces used their own funding (equitable share) to conduct activities under these pillars. The total allocation of the ERP pillars was R304,1 million, where Pillar 3 had the highest allocation of expenditure of R218,1 million. This was followed by Pillar 5, Provision of ICT Infrastructure (R41,4 million), where LP and KZN had R11,7 million and R10,5 million, respectively. Pillar 4, Re-skilling and Re-orientation had the least share of R37,8 million, while EC had an allocation of R22,1 million.

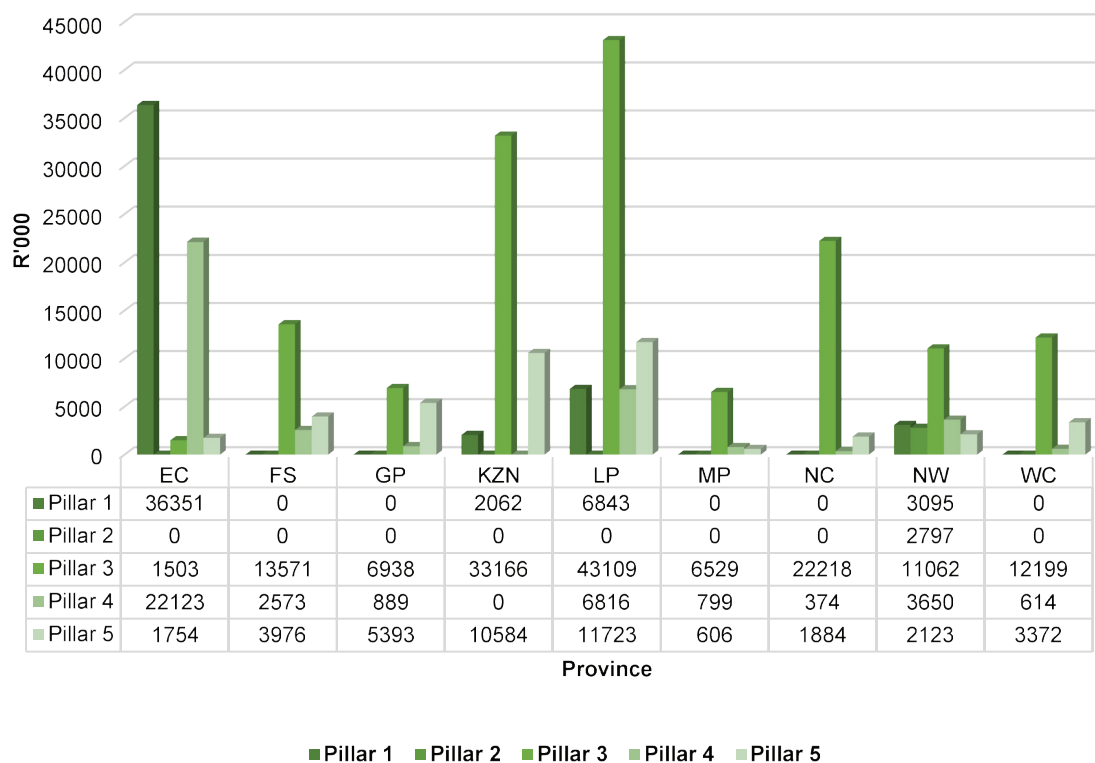


Figure 1: ERP allocation per province

Source: DALRRD (2023b)

3.1.2 ERP expenditure per province

Figure 2 below illustrates the total gazetted ERP budget and expenditure per province between 2021/22 and the 2022/23 financial year. The ERP budget decreased by approximately 2%, from R310,3 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R304,1 million in the 2022/23 financial year. The decrease can be attributed to the reduction in budget allocation for conditional grants. EC had a large share of the ERP budget of R6,3 million in the 2022/23 financial year, which decreased by R1,3 million from the 2021/2022 financial year. This was followed by LP, whose budget decreased by 19,4% from the 2021/22 financial year and reached R62,4 million in the 2022/23 financial year. WC had the smallest share of the budget, R16,1 million, which decreased by 2% from the 2021/2022 financial year.

KZN and WC spent 100% of the ERP budget during the 2022/23 financial year. MP used 37% of its ERP budget, and it remained at R13,7 million. The reason for this underspend might be owing to the fact that there were delays in appointing officials.



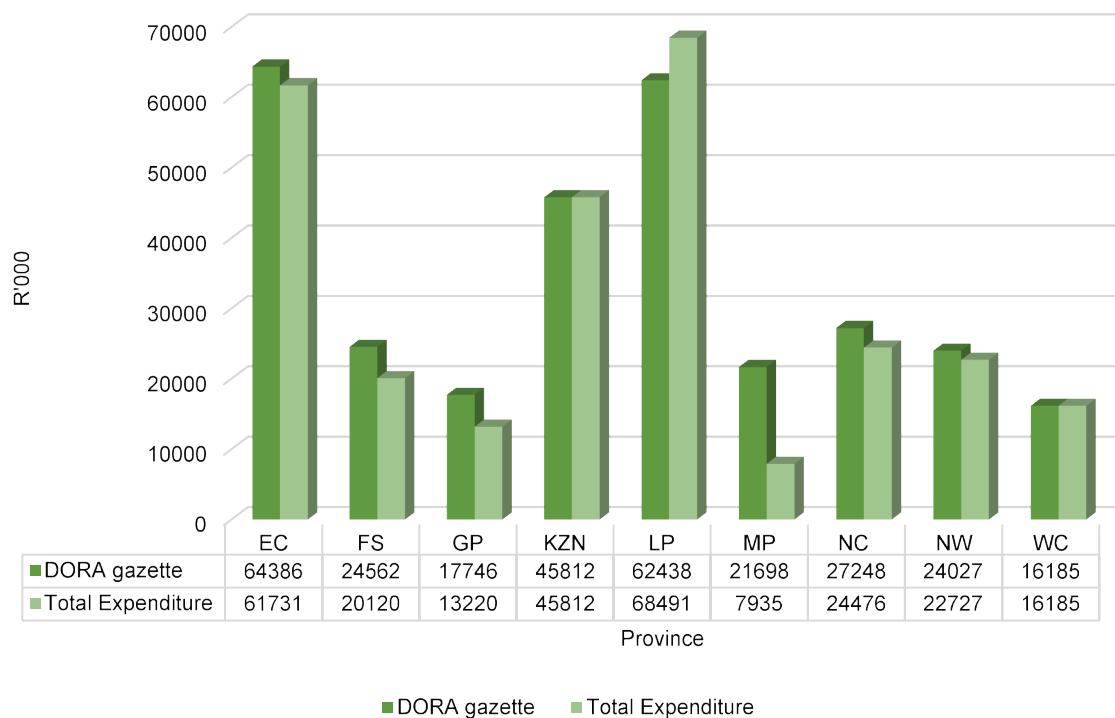


Figure 2: ERP budget and expenditure per province

Source: ERP consolidated report (2023b)

3.2 ERP achievements

This section provides ERP achievements and highlights for the 2022/23 financial year in all provinces.

3.2.1 Pillar 1: Visibility and accountability

All provinces reported activities under Pillar 1 (visibility and accountability), with the exception of FS), because they were not budgeted for. EC, KZN, LP, and NW utilised the funds through deviations that were approved, while GP utilised part of their roll-over funds. In summary, the provinces performed as follows:

- EC had 2,753 information days for various commodities that are viable within the province during this financial year under review;
- EC conducted 8,461 demonstrations to transfer knowledge and skills to the provincial farming fraternity;
- WC also conducted 4,352 site visits to assist producers with EAS. LP and GP procured 13 and 10 vehicles, respectively; and
- NC maintained 30 lease vehicles, while NW maintained 18 pool vehicles. NW, KZN, and EC also ensured that subsistence and travel allowances were paid for EPs.

3.2.2 Pillar 2: Improving image and promoting professionalism

The role of EAS in the agricultural sector has silently always been the main determinant of improved livelihoods for farming communities (subsistence to smallholder farmers). Pillar 2 focuses on the affiliation of EPs with professional bodies and the participation of EPs in those bodies as active members. Pillar 2 also encourages the hosting of extension conferences by provinces and other relevant events.

- EC, LP, KZN, NW, and MP attended the 2022 South African Society of Agricultural Extension (SASAE) annual conference that was held in Bela-Bela (LP);
- Six (6) districts of EC hosted their quarterly Extension Seminars;
- WC officials attended the Extension and Advisory Services Symposium;
- NW provided uniforms for 178 EPs; and
- KZN hosted a Provincial Extension Summit.

3.2.3 Pillar 3: Recruitment

The drive behind the recruitment of extension personnel is to attain an ideal extension-producer-ratio of 1:250, as recommended by the Norms and Standards for Extension and Advisory Services. The recruitment is aligned with the growth and development strategies of PDAs. This pillar also funds the costs associated with the maintenance of EPs recruited in previous years. Figure 3 below outlines the number of EPs targeted to be recruited and the number of EPs that were actually recruited in the 2022/23 financial year.

Provinces targeted recruiting 213 EPs for the 2022/23 financial year, which increased from a target of 148 in the 2021/22 financial year. The total number of EPs that were recruited in the 2022/23 financial year is 162. Some provinces did not meet their targeted plan. The variance from the targeted recruitments and actual was 51. EC was the leading province, which recruited 101 EPs (Senior Agricultural Advisor and Agricultural Advisor). It was reported that EC also recruited 16 Assistant Directors with its equitable share during the same period. This was followed by MP (26) and NW (25). WC, LP, and KZN did not plan or target to recruit any officials during the 2022/23 financial year. Although LP did not target recruiting EPs, it was reported that about seven EPs were recruited during the 2022/23 financial year.

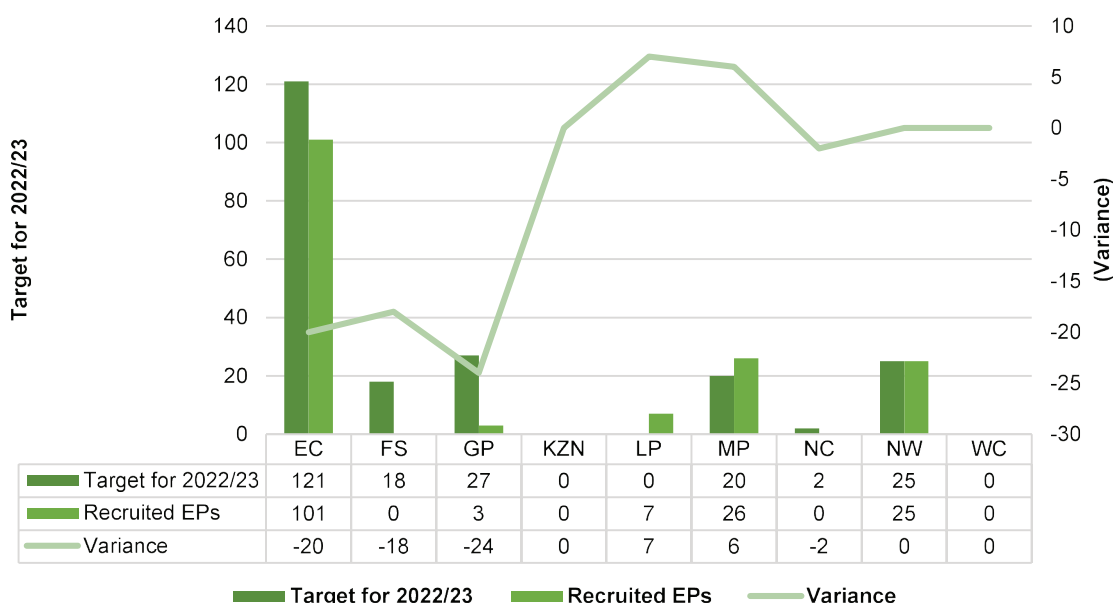


Figure 3: Consolidated number of EPs recruited in 2022/23

Source: DALRRD (2023b)

3.2.4 Recruitment of Assistant Agricultural Practitioners (AAPs)

The National Extension Support Services (NESS) developed a strategy outlining how the employment of the 10 000 EPs would be achieved over the Medium-Term Strategy Framework (MTSF) period. The processes towards developing the strategy included compiling the status of EPs in the country, calculating the Extension to Producer ratio based on the number of producers/ households practicing agriculture, determining the number of required EPs per province, and developing the cost strategy and the implementation plan.

There were 8 466 applications received from AAPs during the 2022/23 financial year. The majority of the applications received were from LP (1 839), followed by KZN (1 690), and EC (1 232). NW (207) and WC (296) received the lowest number of applications when compared with other provinces. Applicants were required to register with the professional council/body such as SACNASP or any other relevant statutory professional body. Furthermore, those who did not have proof were given 45 days to provide proof of registration. The total number of recommended candidates was 5,036. However, there were 4 370 AAPs who reported for duty and were captured on PERSAL. LP and KZN were the main provinces with approved applications of 1,027 and 923, respectively. While NC (98) and WC (171) were recorded to be the least provinces with AAPs reported for duty and were on the PERSAL roll.

Table 3: Number of recruited, selected and appointed AAPs

Province	Targets	Applications received	Candidates interviewed	Recommended for appointment	Appointed as at 1 Jan 2023
EC	920	1 232	959	753	750
FS	302	541	453	395	308
GP	471	1 097	837	737	657
KZN	840	1 690	923	923	791
LP	942	1 839	1 028	1 027	921
MP	804	955	825	660	515
NC	213	609	99	98	77
NW	292	207	99	272	202
WC	216	296	181	171	149
TOTAL	5 000	8 466	5 404	5 036	4 370

Source: DALRRD (2023b)

3.2.5 Pillar 4: Re-skilling and re-orientation

This pillar provides the number of skills programmes provided to EPs to upskill their profession. Table 3 below shows the total number of skills programmes provided to EPs during the 2022/23 financial year. There were 2 102 officials that were trained in technical skills; 209 officials were trained in generic skills; and 1 025 were trained in ICT skills. LP and EC were the leading provinces that provided training for their EPs. LP and EC upskilled 1,086 and 1 694 EPs for GSS, TS, and ICT skills. However, FS (38) and WC (62) were the least likely provinces to provide training to their EPs.

Table 4: Types of training provided for EPs in the 2022/23 financial year

Province	Targets	Generic soft skills (GSS)	Technical skills (TS)	ICT skills	Total
EC	1 102	0	617	469	1 086
FS	225	38	0	0	38
GP	240	93	0	0	93
KZN	0	0	55	0	55
LP	1 128	0	1 200	494	1 694
MP	165	0	60	37	97
NC	51	43	47	0	90
NW	111	35	61	25	121
WC	63	0	62	0	62
TOTAL	3 085	209	2 102	1 025	3 336

Source: DALRRD (2023b)

3.2.6 Provision of ICT infrastructure

The second core policy action is about designing user-friendly ICT knowledge sharing platforms, such as social networks, to effect mass communication amongst actors, which also ensures free accessibility to research outcomes. In the extension sector, personnel need to be equipped or supported with the working tools that will assist them in meeting the demands of their clients. To create an enabling environment, provinces are required to provide the required ICT tools to the EPs.

Extension services, like any other profession, require a workforce with relevant working tools. For EPs, among the required working tools is ICT equipment. The ICT package for EPs comprises cell phones, laptops, internet connectivity gadgets, and GPS. Table 4 below indicates the number of ICT equipment targeted for procurement to support EPs, which is 1,272. All provinces except the EC did plan to procure ICT tools. In total, 1,400 items were procured as per the distribution in Table 5. Table 5 shows that the provinces procured more gadgets than planned, while some provinces such as GP, NW, and LP did not reach their targets. All provinces maintained mobile communication services, internet/data lines, photocopier machines, and ICT systems.

Table 5: Number of targeted and procured ICT equipment

Province	Target of equipment to be procured	ICT Gadget						Total
		Cell phone	Laptops	Desktop	Hard drives	Rugged devices	Tablets	
EC	0	0	105	9	0	0	0	114
FS	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GP	170	0	40	0	0	100	0	140
KZN	730	0	223	0	519	0	108	732
LP	114	44	0	0	0	0	0	44
MP	185	35	200	0	0	0	0	235
NC	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
NW	27	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
WC	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1 272	79	573	9	519	100	108	1 400

Source: DALRRD (2023b)

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED EXTENSION APPROACHES

There are several approaches that can be used exclusively for effective EAS in South Africa. These approaches assist in effective EAS for producers with agricultural-related knowledge and skills that will make them improve their productivity and be more competitive to ensure sustainability. This section provides an understanding of the approaches and their different roles in providing EAS.

4.1 Smallholder Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP)

The 2003 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) III, held in Tokyo, Japan, pledged to promote the SHEP approach in 10 African countries. South Africa was included as one of the countries to pilot the SHEP approach during the 2013 TICAD V. The government of Japan identified South Africa as one of the African countries to benefit from the SHEP approach, which is sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Therefore, the DALRRD entered into an agreement on technical cooperation with JICA in 2013.

It is well documented that smallholder producers in South Africa are facing several daunting challenges, including a lack of access to markets.

The DALRRD has, for the past few years, been working on building its own capacity to drive the SHEP approach in South Africa. The SHEP approach is “Market-Oriented Agriculture and Promotion in Africa” that encourages producers to move away from “growing and selling” their produce to “growing to sell”. The SHEP approach is geared towards assisting smallholder producers to increase their income by capacitating them to better manage group dynamics and improving production through various techniques, such as knowing the market requirements and securing the market before they start to produce. The SHEP approach embodies the concept of farming as a business, which is what South African smallholder producers need.

The SHEP approach has the following goals:

- To change producers’ mindsets to run their farming as a business from “growing and selling” their products to “growing to sell”;
- To teach producers about markets and marketing;
- To empower smallholder producers in their endeavour to pursue market-oriented agriculture;
- To build producers’ capacity to undertake farming as a business in a sustainable manner; and
- To support producers in becoming autonomous.

4.1.1 SHEP training in the 2022/23 financial year

There was an agreement between Japan and South Africa (DALRRD) to train 60 EPs in Japan over a period of three years, 2021 to 2023. It was noted that a group of 20 EPs will be trained per year. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on travel, the JICA introduced online training, resulting in an increase in the number of EPs to be trained, from 60 to 80. To achieve the SHEP approach objectives, there is a need to conduct training for officials so that they can train producers.

The JICA, in collaboration with DALRRD, successfully conducted a 10-day SHEP online training workshop on Market Oriented Agriculture in January and February 2023. The third batch of 20 extension personnel from PDAs, including two DALRRD officials, were trained in an effort to implement the SHEP approach in the 2022/23 financial year. Since the inception of the SHEP approach, there have been over 570 officials trained on the SHEP approach in South Africa.

Table 6: EPs trained on SHEP online training

Prov.	Title, name, and surname	Gender	District
EC	Mr Lwazi Zukisa Poswa	Male	Amathole
	Mr Mzwethu Dastile	Male	Chris Hani
FS	Mr Motsoari Noe	Male	Thabo Mofutsanyane
	Ms Noluthando Faith Nhlapo	Female	Mangaung Metro
GP	Mr Kenneth Mudau	Male	West Rand
	Ms Daphney Seome	Female	Tshwane
KZN	Ms Pearl Musenge	Female	uMgungundlovu
	Mr Thembinkosi Madela	Male	Amajuba
LP	Mr Mavhungu Michael Mudau	Male	Vhembe
	Mrs Katekani Dolly Mabunda	Female	Mopani
MP	Ms Phumudzo Gloria Netshivhera	Female	Nkangala
	Ms Mmakomane Constance Mamabolo	Female	Nkangala
NC	Ms Tidimalo Tlhaloganyo	Female	Frances Baard
	Ms Geraldine Maepa	Female	Pixley ka Seme
NW	Ms Chumani Kolanisi	Female	Bojanala Platinum
	Ms Khethiwe Seape	Female	Bojanala Platinum
WC	Ms Onezwa Bedeni	Female	Swartland
	Mr Ronwyn Julies	Male	Garden Route
DALRRD	Ms Mmaphuti Setati	Female	National
	Ms Edith Ramocaedi	Female	National

Source: DALRRD (2023a)

Table 6 above indicates that female EPs were the majority at 65%, while only 35% of male EPs attended the training. This resulted in 89 officials from South Africa attending the market-oriented training in Japan or Kenya, and/or Malawi since its inception in 2014. In addition, two officials from DALRRD were trained on the planning and management of the SHEP approach.

4.1.2 SHEP approach achievements

Figure 4 illustrates the number of producers who benefited from SHEP in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. The number of producers who benefited from SHEP increased by 759, from 1,773 in the 2021/22 financial year to 2,532 in the 2022/23 financial year. The EC and FS provinces had the highest number of producers who benefited from the SHEP approach, at 659 and 436, respectively. It is notable that SHEP has benefited over 4,000 producers from the implementing provinces. It was noted that these producers understand market requirements and are able to find markets for themselves. Producers can now sell their products in both the formal and informal markets.

There were numerous engagements conducted by several key stakeholders at local and international events on the SHEP approach. The engagements were mainly focused on improving the productivity of South African producers.

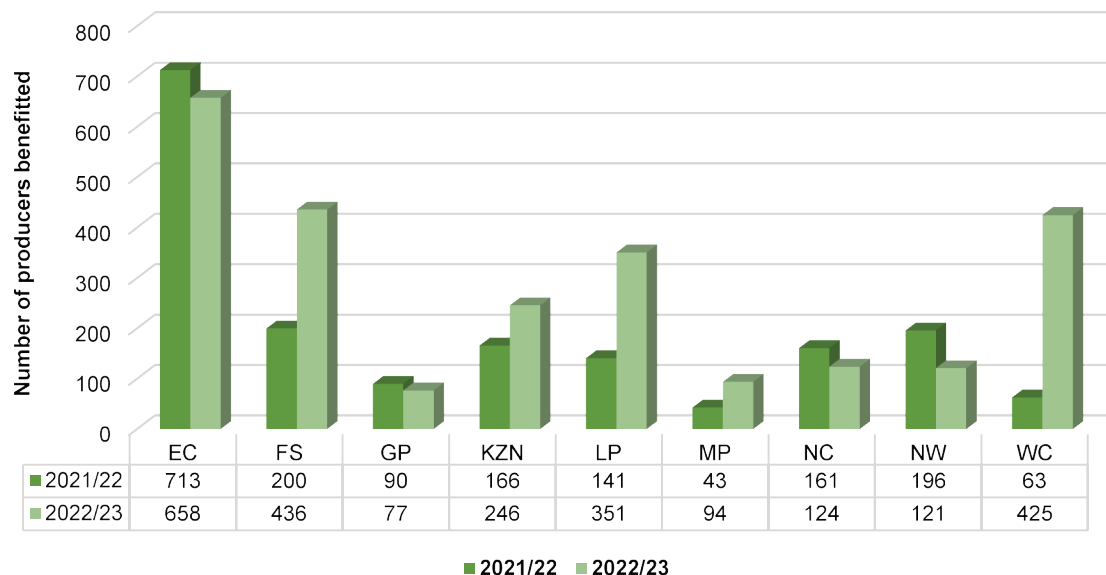


Figure 4: Number of producers benefited from SHEP approach

Source: DALRRD (2023a)

4.1.3 Challenges relating to the implementation of SHEP

The following are the challenges that were faced by both producers and EPs:

- The attitude of dependency syndrome among producers being supported by the government is still a concern, which has led to slow adoption of the SHEP approach; and
- Potential buyers are reluctant to enter into contracts with SHEP producers due to a lack of reliability of supply.

4.1.4 Recommendations

The following recommendations were noted to improve the implementation of the SHEP approach:

- It is critical to establish and strengthen the linkage of the SHEP approach with existing government farmer support and programmes;
- Farmers should be motivated to take the lead and conduct the market survey themselves with the assistance of the EPs. Although this approach is mainly for smallholder producers, both subsistence; and
- Vulnerable producers are encouraged to use it since it has a lot of aspects dealing with motivation and gender mainstreaming.

4.2 The status of FFS implementation

The DALRRD has since been in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which funded the piloting of the FFS in LP, MP, and NC. The FFS aims at building producers' capacity to analyse their production systems, identify problems, test possible solutions, and adapt practices most suitable to their farming system. The knowledge acquired during the learning process enables producers to be more productive, profitable, and responsive to changing conditions. The FFS methodology enhances household production for food security purposes, as well as to support market-oriented smallholder production and promote climate change adaptation.

The following are objectives of the FFS:

- Improve training skills and learn how to set up FFS to facilitate improved decision-making by producers;

- Provide information and raise awareness on the environmental problems; and
- Assist trainers in improving their skills to select and adapt the most feasible alternatives to local conditions.

4.2.1 FFS Training

The DALRRD, in collaboration with FAO, hosted two ToT workshops in August 2022, September 2022, and February 2023 to introduce and provide background on the FFS approach. These workshops were attended by provincial extension coordinators, EPs, FAO, and DALRRD officials from LP, MP, and NC. Figure 5 below illustrates the number of officials trained in the ToT workshop. There were 39 officials who received training on the FFS approach in the 2022/23 financial year, compared to 34 officials in the 2021/22 financial year.

Figure 5 further illustrates the number of producers who benefited in piloted provinces. There have been 473 producers who have benefited from the FFS approach since its inception. LP had 331 producers who benefited, and this was followed by MP (86) and NC (56).

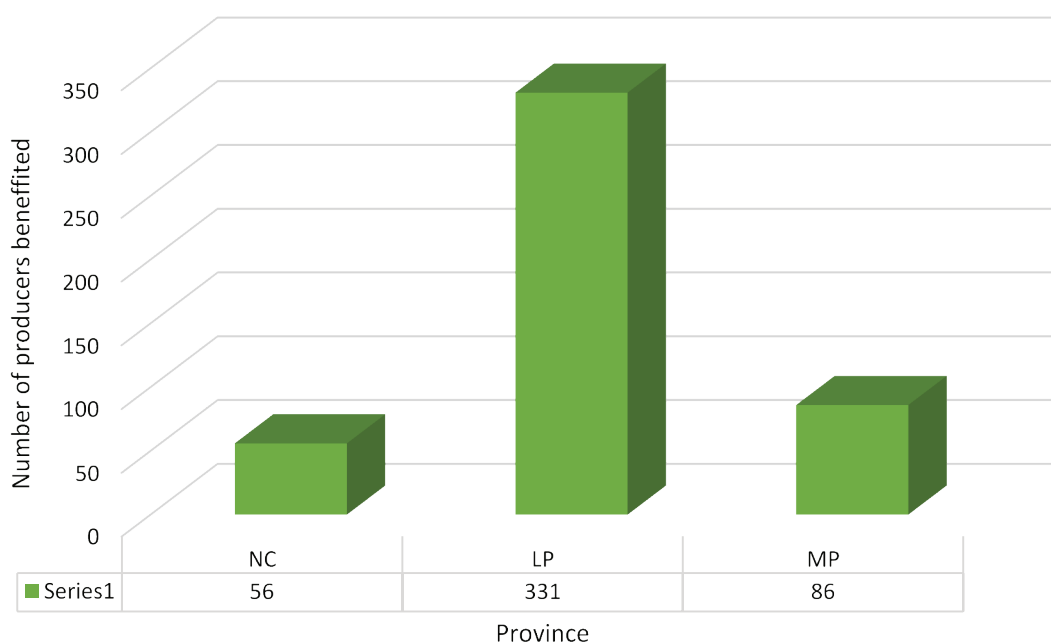


Figure 5: Number of training of trainers for FFS

Source: DALRRD (2023a)

4.2.3 FFS activities and achievements

The following were activities and achievements that occurred in 2022/23 financial year:

- Producers successfully attended a short course on FFS and completed four months of training in new methods of farming using the FFS approach. The short course was conducted for LP, NC, and MP for horticulture and grain commodities. The total number of producers trained increased by 50 in the 2022/23 financial year, compared to 17 producers who graduated in the 2021/22 financial year. There were three FFS projects established in NC: John Taolo Gaetsewe (30), Pixley Ka Seme (22), and Namakwa (20) districts, with a total of 72 members from nine schools or groups and supported by 16 officials;
- There were five FFS projects established in MP, Ehlanzeni District (86) members supported by 5 officials; in the 2022/23 financial year,
- The FAO donated production inputs to LP and MP, which included JoJo tanks and seeds; and
- The FAO also appointed two FFS community-based coordinators placed in LP and MP to assist in facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the approach. More producers are interested in implementing the FFS approach.



Project members received production inputs and training in Nkomazi District. Picture courtesy of the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA).

There were five projects that benefited from FFS in the Nkomazi District, MP. They were equipped with the required skills on how best to grow from subsistence farming to be viable. The names of the projects that benefited were the Magojela Vegetable Project in Mbuzini, the Vukubone Project in Ka Hhoyi, the Magogeni Fortune 40 Kazibokwane irrigation scheme, and the Sihamba Sonke Project in Phiva. They received production inputs such as water harvesting implements and garden tools. FAO deployed a community-based coordinator to assist in identifying projects and monitoring the progress of those projects.

4.2.4 Challenges in the implementation of FFS

The following are the challenges that were highlighted in the FFS approach implementation:

- Although LP and MP received production inputs from FAO for the FFS project, MP did not start implementation with production;
- There is a slow rate of adoption of FFS implementation in pilot and upscaled provinces;
- Lack of training opportunities for facilitators. There were not sufficient educational tools/training materials for implementing the FFS approach;
- Lack of governmental funding for the FFS approach and budget allocation for catering during graduation ceremonies. It was also noted that there is a lack of support by management from district offices to implement FFS;
- Difficulty in selecting or identifying an appropriate place for implementing the FFS approach;
- Lack of transportation;
- Youth abscond the farming activities after being trained for FFS and move to urban areas seeking for jobs from piloted provinces;
- Inconsistent attendance; and
- There are group dynamics affecting the school activities of FFS in some areas, such as Groblershoop.

4.2.5 Recommendations in the implementation of FFS

- There is a need for budget allocation for FFS approach implementation so that it assists producers in executing their activities efficiently, such as purchasing production inputs in bulk;
- Provinces should hand over certificates for trained or graduated producers as proof of attendance or acquired skill;
- Monitoring of FFS projects should at least be done on a quarterly basis, and there should be technical backstopping from specialists within the DALRRD;
- It is encouraged that producers should not wait for the government to subsidise them with inputs; they should use their own budgets to purchase resources; and
- Producers are encouraged to adopt the recommended methods of planting/production, access marketing information, and purchase in bulk.

4.3 Promote Commodity Value Chain Development Approach

The NPEAS advocates for a pluralistic approach, which includes the Commodity-Based Extension Approach (CBEA). The policy commits the agriculture, land reform and rural development sector to deliver and maintain a pluralistic, harmonised and coordinated extension service for the agricultural sector that operates on a common set of principles and values and responds to the needs, aspirations, opportunities, and other circumstances of the many actors in their respective value chains.

The DALRRD coordinates the implementation of CBEA, which ensures that a holistic, demand-driven, and market-driven service is provided to producers. The CBEA is one of the participatory extension approaches that can be used and has the potential to address some of the salient issues in agricultural development. The approach requires that the EPs be trained on identified skills shortages in extension services to provide better service to producers on the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) prioritised commodities throughout the value chain. It also requires that EPs be able to respond to the needs of producers and contribute to their integration into the Food Value Chain (FVC).

The need to deliver an efficient and effective EAS is emphasised in several strategic documents, i.e., the National Development Plan (NDP) and the AAMP. The DALRRD took the decision to



deploy/collaborate/place the EPs with the commodity organisations through the PDAs. In this regard, and in line with the AAMP principles, the DALRRD continues to deploy EPs to commodity organisations.

Capacitating EPs through deployment/collaboration includes skills transfer, training on different courses, and/or technical and business skills. The PDAs are required to plan and prepare a list of EPs to be deployed to commodity organisations each year. There is also continuous training of EPs by commodity organisations on an annual basis, depending on the training needs required at a given time. Figure 6 illustrates the number of EPs deployed or collaborating with commodity organisations since the inception of the CBEA. There were 20 EPs deployed in the 2022/23 financial year. EC (18) and NC (2) were the only provinces that deployed EPs in the 2022/23 financial year. EC deployed their EPs to Grain SA, the National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation (NERPO), the National Wool Growers Association (NWGA), the South African Nursery Association (SANA), the South African Poultry Association (SAPA), the South African Pork Producers' Organisation (SAPPO), and the Public Servants Association (PSA). NC deployed its EPs to NWA and Raisins SA. The total number of EPs deployed since its inception was 292, with EC (74) and KZN (63) having the largest number of EPs deployed.

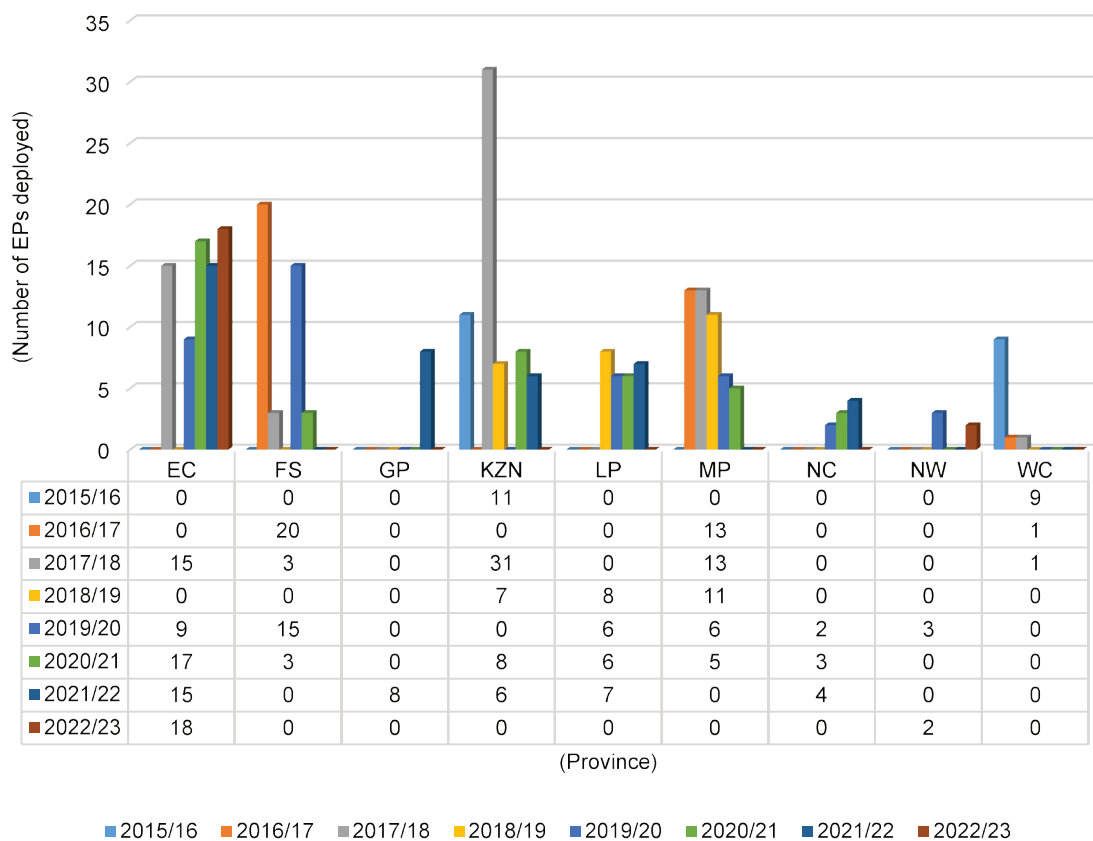


Figure 6: Number of EPs deployed to commodity organisations

Source: DALRRD (2023a)

4.3.1 Provincial performance reporting on priority commodities

Table 6 shows the performance of the indicator on the number of producers supported by numerous commodities in the 2022/23 financial year. The performance for the indicator “Number of producers supported in red meat commodity” was reported as consolidated at 109%. FS (609) and LP (176) were the two leading provinces in performance for red meat commodity. While MP (50) and NC (54) were the least performing provinces in the red meat commodity.

MP and WC were the most performing provinces, with 117% and 100%, respectively, in grain commodity. Only two provinces (GP and NW) did not perform well for that commodity. LP (191%) and KZN (150%) were the only provinces that performed well in cotton commodity. They were followed by MP (38%). It was also reported that NW, GP, NC, and FS did not perform at all in the citrus commodity; four provinces reported zero performance. All provinces reported that smallholder (117%) and subsistence (111%) producers were supported. NW and LP achieved their performances of 673% and 305%, respectively.

Table 7: Annual targets and achievements for all provinces for the 2022/23 financial year.

Performance per province										
Number producers supported in the red meat commodity										
Province	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	National
Annual target	3420	23	10	304	1412	16	150	600	13	5648
Annual Achievement	2 601	140	6	422	2 479	30	156	325	12	6 171
Performance %)	76	609	60	139	176	50	104	54	92	109
Number producers supported in the grain commodity										
Province	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	National
Annual target	1 627	11	50	5 448	4 059	279	535	100	2	12 111
Annual Achievement	619	10	6	4 915	3 514	327	202	56	2	9 651
Performance %)	38	91	12	90	87	117	38	56	100	80
Number producers supported in the cotton commodity										
Province	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	National
Annual target	0	0	0	4	110	52	0	0	0	166
Annual Achievement	0	0	0	6	210	20	0	0	0	236
Performance %)	0	0	0	150	191	38	0	0	0	142
Number producers supported in the citrus commodity										
Province	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	National
Annual target	38	0	0	4	7	3	0	0	1	53
Annual Achievement	31	0	2	1	28	3	0	0	1	66
Performance %)	82	0	-	35	400	100	0	0	100	125
Number smallholder producers supported										
Province	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	National
Annual target	8 547	40	180	978	576	1 175	400	600	30	12 526
Annual Achievement	4 325	45	230	2 673	1 754	1 228	2 692	1 640	31	14 618
Performance %)	51	113	128	273	305	105	673	273	103	117
Number subsistence producers supported										
Province	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	National
Annual target	22 620	500	6000	13 455	3 165	2 420	3 040	1 100	65	52 365
Annual Achievement	12 141	1 051	6 694	19 808	11 251	2 575	3 271	1 129	201	58 121
Performance (%)	54	210	112	147	355	106	108	103	309	111

Source: DALRRD 2023

5. EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LINKAGE MECHANISMS

The intervention measures that are related to one another include facilitating a pluralistic and integrated approach as well as effective and efficient linkages between researchers, extension, and producers. These two intervention measures are meant to address the information exchange between researchers, extension specialists, and producers. These two intervention measures focused on ensuring efficient technology transfer and innovation flow between researchers, extension, and producers, which can only be accomplished through the creation of efficient links between researchers, extension, and producers. This linkage will assist in enhancing collaboration and teamwork among various entities that offer advisory and extension services. Core policy actions for these intervention measures are indicated in the following subsections:

5.1 Establishment of institutional structures

The establishment of institutional structures to bring together researchers, extension workers, and producers, as well as pursuing strategic partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organisations (NPOs), is a necessary activity to be spearheaded by the government of South Africa. Among other interventions, the policy also advocates for the establishment of extension forums at different spheres of government. The established forums enhance the participation of stakeholders at the national, provincial, and district levels. At the national level, South Africa established the South African Forum for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (SAFAEAS) as well as PSFEAS. At the provincial level, the PECF was established and is composed of government departments, SOEs, commodity organisations, institutions of higher learning, etc.

5.1.1 Southern African Regional Forum for Agricultural and Advisory Services (SARFAAS)

The SARFAAS is a regional forum that operates under the umbrella of the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). SARFAAS is still struggling to secure full establishment and find a host institution. The Chairperson of SARFAAS attended the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) annual general meeting that was held between 25 and 27 October 2022 in Santiago, Chile. However, one of the challenges is acquiring funding to get the planned activities off the ground.

Furthermore, the African Regional Policy Dialogue and Launch of the Africa-Wide Agricultural Extension Week, hosted by the AFAAS in Nigeria from 31 October to 5 November, 2022, The Training Manager at the ARC, Ms Thembi Ngotho, and DALRRD's Acting Director of National Extension Reform, Mr Jeffrey Ngaka, were invited to represent South Africa at the event. Several topics were discussed, such as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), strategic foresight, regional food trade, and the extension-to-farmer ratio.

The South African delegation participated in a side event for the Forum for Directors of Extension in Africa. However, the forum was not active for some time. Therefore, it was imperative to reinstate and revitalise the forum for better coordination of AEAS in Africa and enhance synergies among other AEAS stakeholders. An interim structure was elected by members, and Mr Jeffrey Ngaka (South Africa) was elected interim chairperson of the forum. The draft Terms of Reference for the Forum of Directors of Extension in Africa were drafted.

5.1.2 South African Forum for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (SAFAEAS)

SAFAEAS is an affiliate of SARFAAS and AFAAS. The AFAAS is a continental platform for mutual learning and innovation among agricultural extension and advisory service providers across Africa. This in turn allows South Africa to fully participate in the global agenda for extension and advisory services through organisations such as the GFRAS. The GFRAS provides advocacy and leadership on pluralistic, demand-driven rural and agricultural advisory services within the global development agenda.



Attendees of the SAFAEAS Annual General Meeting held in Arcadia (Pretoria) on 7 September 2022



Newly elected board members of SAFAEAS (from left to right: Prof. Simon Lestoalo (Chairperson), Dr Sandile Ngcaphalala (Vice Chairperson), Ms Thembi Ngotho (Secretary, and Dr Nkele Malahlela (Treasurer))

The SAFAEAS held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in GP in the 2022/23 financial year. The purpose of the AGM was to elect the board of SAFAEAS to ensure that SAFAEAS is operating in the country. However, there were not many activities conducted since the election of the new board in the 2022/23 financial year.

5.2 Public Sector Forum for Extension and Advisory Services (PSFEAS)

The NPEAS recognised that agricultural extension is a national and provincial competency. The PSFEAS was established to bring together the national and provincial governments and state-owned Entities (SoEs) as an institutional mechanism for the implementation of the policy.

The objectives of the PSFEAS are to:

- facilitate the development, review, and effective implementation of a standard multi-disciplinary training curriculum for extension;
- provide oversight on the implementation of the NPEAS through monitoring and evaluation to ensure compliance with policy prescripts;
- provide strategic direction by giving advice and making contributions to policy, strategies, and programmes for EAS in the country;
- serve as a platform for the monitoring of, and reporting on, ERP business plan implementation and other programmes or approaches;
- identify and resolve bottlenecks, that impact the implementation of and hamper effective delivery of EAS in the sector; and
- facilitate the implementation of innovative solutions within the EAS.

5.2.1 Highlights of the PSFEAS 2022/23 financial year

The PSFEAS holds meetings on a quarterly basis, and all four meetings for the period under review were held. The meetings for PSFEAS were held from 18–19 August 2022 in LP, 16–17 November 2022 in EC, 8–9 February 2023 in MP, and 9–11 May 2023 in FS. The forum serves as a platform for monitoring and reporting on ERP, SHEP, SACNASP, deployment of EPs to commodity organisations, and other programmes or approaches. Among other key presentations, the PSFEAS provided a detailed analysis of the recruitment of the 5 000 AAPs. It emphasised the importance of collaboration efforts from the DALRRD, PDAs, and Provincial Shared Service Centres (PSSCs). It was requested that PSFEAS be for three days to allow the whole first day to be used for field visits.

Highlight/feedback, opinion, observation of the project visits are as follows:

a) Limpopo PSFEAS

- PSF members visited three projects in Bela Bela (Boshveld Chicken, Mankabidi Project, and Moromo Poultry). The members, after the visit, were provided an opportunity to reflect on projects by providing feedback.
- The LDARD was advised to provide support in terms of advisory services for producers to be aware of the issue of the lease agreement or rental of the farm for commitment. The Boshveld chicken project indicated that they were supported with fertilizers, chemicals, etc.
- **Mankabidi project:** The farmer came to Waterberg District in 2019 when COVID-19 started, and there was no support provided, and all activities of CASP were put on hold. The project is not yet supported but has applied for assistance. The challenge for the project is that the farmer does not have water rights, and the department is assisting her with water rights applications (irrigation systems for crops).

- It was highlighted that the SA GAP discussion needs to be taken further with frontliners (EPs) to provide proper advice and avoid imposing difficult measures on farmers.
- **Moromo Poultry:** It was indicated that the project is farming with three enterprises in one project (mixed farming). There is an indication they are farming with piggery, poultry, large stock, etc. It was further highlighted that, as government, it will be proper to look at the main enterprise on the farm and support it, and then the same enterprise will support the others.
- It was also indicated that some of the markets do not accept their chickens as there is no proper house for them.



PSFEAS members that attended the meeting in Limpopo at Zebula led by Head of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD), Chief Director: National Extension Support Services (CDNESS), and Chief Directorate: Food Security (CDFS).

b) Eastern Cape PSFEAS

The SACNASP was requested to send an updated status to PDAs and share the list of series of webinars with PDAs. PDAs were asked to clean up the Excel spreadsheet and send the updated list of EPs to SACNASP. It was further noted that PDAs should share hosted conferences, symposia, and short courses with SACNASP to be validated for CPD points. PSFEAS members were asked to submit clarity-seeking questions regarding the SHEP impact survey to Prof. Kyosuke Kurita. Extension approaches were discussed, and it was highlighted that PDAs should submit the list of officials to attend the SHEP online training and application forms for January and February 2023. It was noted that PDAs should submit the November 2022 PSFEAS BTOR to HDs and copy the PSFEAS secretariat.

The PSFEAS members visited two projects in Sara Baartman District (namely, Gamtoos vegetable and Usta Rangers projects).

Highlight/feedback, opinion, observation of the project visits are as follows:

- PSFEAS members observed that the drainage system for Usta project is not according to the standard, and therefore it was suggested that when this type of structures is built, engineers must be brought on board;
- It was suggested that farmers be provided with basic training so that they understand the terminology used for the commodity they are producing;
- Farmers should be educated in a form of study groups for information sharing for farmers; and
- How will the province handle/share the R35 million application for Gamtoos project between the owner and shareholders? Mr Msomi responded that they would expect agreement to be presented from shareholdings.

c) Mpumalanga PSFEAS

In MP, members of the PSFEAS visited the Mvuleni Poultry Project. Members found that the project did not have a business plan or a formal market. There were several observations noted during the farm visit. There was no business plan in place for the project. After the sight visit, agricultural economists were given a profile for the project to visit and develop a viable business plan. Mvuleni Poultry Project employees were trained on how to do offtake agreement and record keeping. The producer and official were found not to be aware of SHEP and they were sensitised about SHEP. A training on SHEP is arranged for poultry producing farmers around the area (Bushbuckridge) in June. The district is in the process of linking the project with local poultry abattoir. Public Health Veterinary was invited to the project to train them on compliance issues. Furthermore, the department will support the project with 5 000 day-old chicks, feed and medication. The project was advised to apply for CASP funding. Environmental officials were also invited to assess the project to do a feasibility study and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

d) FS PSFEAS

Feedback, opinions, and observations of the visited projects by PSFEAS members are :

Vreugde Project:

- The project owner was applauded for taking over the farm after the passing of her husband;
- The meeting suggested that the owner should be supported with farming skills and management plan, especially in livestock;
- The PSF members felt that there is no need for the owner to have two bulls with 25 cows and suggested that she sells the second bull and use the money to sustain the goats and sheep and/or fix the implements;
- It was suggested that the farmer be advised to have a formalised plan with commercial farmers with regards to the use of harvesting machine; and
- The province was advised to consider ARC expertise on the broken machines and animal improvement skills.

Rabieshoek farm (Sekgutong Trust-LRAD):

- The members indicated that there is a lot of entitlement from the project beneficiaries with no initiatives from them to increase their revenues;
- It was suggested that project members be advised to start with small gardens to sustain themselves while awaiting assistance/funding from the government;
- A concern was raised that beneficiaries do not understand management of the project as they were previously told how to do things and their reluctant to hire a skilled manager is worrying;

- It was suggested that project members should consider addressing water challenges before venturing into layers project and there is a need for farmers to be skilled on layer production;
- Beneficiaries should be advised to increase their revenues on tourism as a side business; and
- It was suggested that farmers who have livestock individually may consider investing in the project to keep the business running while waiting for government assistance.

Fouriesburg Commonage Fodder project

The extension practitioner was applauded for managing to help the project receive departmental support. The agricultural advisor was also appreciated for the good work he has done with the project as the members seem to understand what they are doing. The PSFEAS members were impressed with the project and some provinces showed interest to adopt some of the best practices.

- A concern was raised as to whether project members have mechanisation plan in place and if they will be able to maintain the machines without government support. A worrying factor is that they are already giving discounts when they do not know if they will be able to maintain the machines without support.

Mashaeng SHEP participants:

SHEP project has enthusiasm, and it is very important to register the cooperative and comply with market standards.

5.3 Provincial Extension Coordinating Forum (PECF)

The NPEAS calls for the establishment of PECF at provincial level as an institutional mechanism for its implementation. The PECF is established in consultation with relevant stakeholders (private, social, public and researchers), to bring together all extension and advisory service providers in a coherent geographic grouping. The PECF's roles and responsibilities include, but not limited to: (i) articulate priorities; (ii) outline the co-ordination of planning and action regarding the provision of extension and advisory services in the designated geographic area, and (iii) help local interest groups secure advice and support from higher levels.

The monitoring and evaluation of the fora meetings is done by DALRRD. This is done through the attendance of the fora meetings to assess the meeting proceedings for compliance. The DALRRD facilitates and ensures that the fora in all provinces are aligned with the Terms of Reference (ToRs). Table 8 provides an indicative existence of PECFs in different provinces as at 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Table 8 shows that EC, KZN, and MP held meetings in all four quarters, while GP, LP, and NC held meetings only in three quarters. FS and WC held only one meeting during the financial year. It was further noted that NW did not host any PECF meetings in the 2022/23 financial year.

Table 8: PECF meetings for the 2022/2023 financial year

Provinces	Q1 (April –June 2022)	Q2 (July-Sept 2022)	Q3 (Oct-Dec 2022)	Q4 (Jan 2022-Mar 2023)
EC	21 April 2022	8 August 2022	9 November 2022	6 March 2023.
FS	-	22 September 2022	-	-
GP	28 June 2022	23 September 2022	28 December 2022	-
KZN	30 June 2022	2 September 2022	2 December 2022	3 March 23
LP	17 May 2022	16 September 2022	22 November 2022	-
MP	9 May 2022	20 September 2022	24 November 2022	23 March 2023
Provinces	Q1 (April –June 2022)	Q2 (July-Sept 2022)	Q3 (Oct-Dec 2022)	Q4 (Jan 2022-Mar 2023)
NC	7 July 2022	21 September 2022	7 December 2022	-
NW	-	-	-	-
WC	26 May 2022	-	-	-

Source: (DALRRD 2023c)

5.3.1 Key findings/outcomes of the PECF

• MP outcomes

The progress on the farmer register was one of the key initiatives for the province. The majority of officials received training in all districts of the province. In addition, PES was implemented by the province. However, applicants complained about the abnormal prices that service providers were charging them for the goods they procured. After producers complained to the minister about it, producers were given approval to procure the goods directly from the suppliers (AFGRI). Although they now buy from suppliers, they faced another challenge of being unable to choose the quantity of items to be purchased or get the change for the balance. Several stakeholders were involved in the meetings, such as NERPO. It was noted that only one District Extension Coordination Forum (DECF) ToR have been developed, presented and approved at the district. The forum has been launched with identified stakeholders.

• EC PECF meeting outcomes

Advisors were encouraged to be actively involved during district seminars and provide the necessary support. EC officials from PECF also pledged to establish DECF locally and this should move with speed. The DECF ToR was developed and officials presented and approved it in the district. The forum has been launched with identified stakeholders. Due to other competing activities, the first meeting has been rescheduled for another date.

• NC PECF meeting outcomes

The importance of stakeholders in the PECF meeting was prioritised. The progress report on the deployment of EPs is an ongoing issue, and the province ensured that the relationship was strengthened. The NC PECF meetings did not involve project visit, and this was discussed to be included in the agenda.

• GP PECF meeting outcomes

The AAP programme was one of the province's main priorities to make sure they received the necessary support. The ARC was invited to ensure that the GP is working closely with them and that they should be used for effective EAS. There was a concern in some PECF meetings about the non-attendance of some of the key stakeholders.

- **FS PECF**

There is still a need for clarification on PECF in the province. PDA should provide details for all members regarding the background and the objectives of the PECF.

5.3.2 Challenge of implementing the PECF

There were provinces, such as NW, that did not host any PECF meetings in the 2022/23 financial year and some, such as FS and WC provinces, only had one PECF meeting in the 2022/23 financial year. The lack of conducting PECF meetings will negatively affect the progress of the communication mechanisms with stakeholders.

5.3.3 Recommendations for programme and policy implementation

- The DALRRD intervention is crucial in ensuring that provinces are able to conduct PECF meetings in all four quarters; and
- Provinces should send their PECF schedules at the beginning of the financial year to block those dates on their diaries.



6. ADVANCE THE EXTENSION EDUCATION SYSTEM AND BROADEN SERVICES FOCUS

During the developmental stages of the NPEAS, a new challenge was discovered regarding the education and training curriculum of extension, which is inadequate to address the new competencies required for a comprehensive producer development. This equally calls for developing the capacity of the EPs to extend effective and efficient support to producers. In response to this challenge, DALRRD developed a *“Report on Multidisciplinary Training Curricula Review”* on extension. The main aim of the report was to review, evaluate, and recommend core competencies and training curricula for extension. The report was approved in August 2017 by the Executive Committee of DALRRD (EXCO) which recommended that it be shared and handed over to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) for consideration.

6.1 Review and Develop a Multidisciplinary Training Curriculum for EPs

In terms of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008), the CHE is the Quality Council (QC) for Higher Education. The CHE is responsible for the quality assurance of higher education qualifications. Part of the implementation of the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) is the development of qualification standards. A qualification standard is a statement that indicates the purpose of the qualification and the level on the NQF at which it is awarded, the learning domains, assessment context, and the graduate attributes that are typical for the awarding of the qualification.

The development of qualification standards is guided by the principles, protocols, and methodology outlined in the framework, approved by the Council in March 2013. To date, the following aspects of standard development as mandated by the framework have been achieved:

- Purpose of the Bachelor of Agriculture in Extension;
- NQF level and credits;
- Attributes of the desired graduates;
- Preamble;
- Core Knowledge;
- Application of Knowledge;
- Contexts and conditions for assessment; and
- Progression.

The Agricultural Extension Reference Group met on several occasions during the period 2022–2023, and the standard statement has been through several iterations and revisions. A draft version was disseminated to the higher education institutions and other interested parties for narrow consultation in the 2022/23 financial year. The drafting of this standards statement is the work of a group of academic experts in the field of study, convened by the CHE. Members of the Standards Development Working Group participate in their individual capacities, not as representatives of any institutions or organisations.

There are two types of bachelor's degrees; general and professionally-oriented bachelor's degrees. Both types of degrees may be structured as a 360-credit qualification with an exit at level 7 or as a 480-credit qualification with an exit at level 8 on the NQF. The 480-credit bachelor's degree at NQF level 8 has both a higher volume of learning and greater cognitive demand than the 360-credit degree at level 7 and should prepare students to be able to undertake master's level

study by providing them with research capacity in the methodology and research techniques of the discipline.

The primary purpose of both the general and professional bachelor's degree is to provide a well-rounded, broad education that equips graduates with the knowledge base, theory, and methodology of disciplines and fields of study, and to enable them to demonstrate initiative and responsibility in an academic or professional context. Both the 360- and 480- credit bachelor's degrees may require students to undertake research in a manner that is appropriate to the discipline or field of study in order to prepare them for postgraduate study.

The general bachelor's degree emphasises general principles and theories as preparation for entry into general employment or for a postgraduate programme. The professional bachelor's degree prepares students for professional training, post-graduate studies, or professional practice in a wide range of careers. Therefore, it emphasises general principles and theory in conjunction with procedural knowledge in order to provide students with a thorough grounding in the knowledge, theory, principles, and skills of the profession or career concerned and the ability to apply these to professional or career contexts. The degree programme may contain a component of work-integrated learning.

6.2 Registration of EP with SACNASP

DALRRD developed a National Framework on Extension as a Profession and Field of Practice (2014) to formally recognise extension as a profession and establish clear categories for the registration of EPs with a professional body. SACNASP was identified as the relevant professional body for the registration of EPs. Negotiations with SACNASP to review and amend the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act No. 27 of 2003) for the inclusion of extension science as a field of practice were concluded in 2014 after the then Minister of Science and Technology gazetted the new fields of practice. Since the 2014/15 financial year, PDAs are required to appoint only EPs that are fully registered with SACNASP or any other recognised professional body. This is a primary requirement for them to be considered for employment in the public sector.

Figure 7 below illustrates the number of EPs registered with SACNASP during the 2021/22 and the 2022/23 financial years. The total number of EPs registered increased from 1,169 in the 2021/22 financial year to 1,297 in the 2022/23 financial year. The increase can be attributed to increased awareness of how important it is to be registered with SACNASP. EC, LP, NW, WC, and NC showed an increase in the number of EPs registered between 2021/22 and 2022/2023 financial years. However, KZN, GP, and FS decreased the number of EPs registered for SACNASP. The number of EPs registered in MP remained the same (101) during the period under the review.

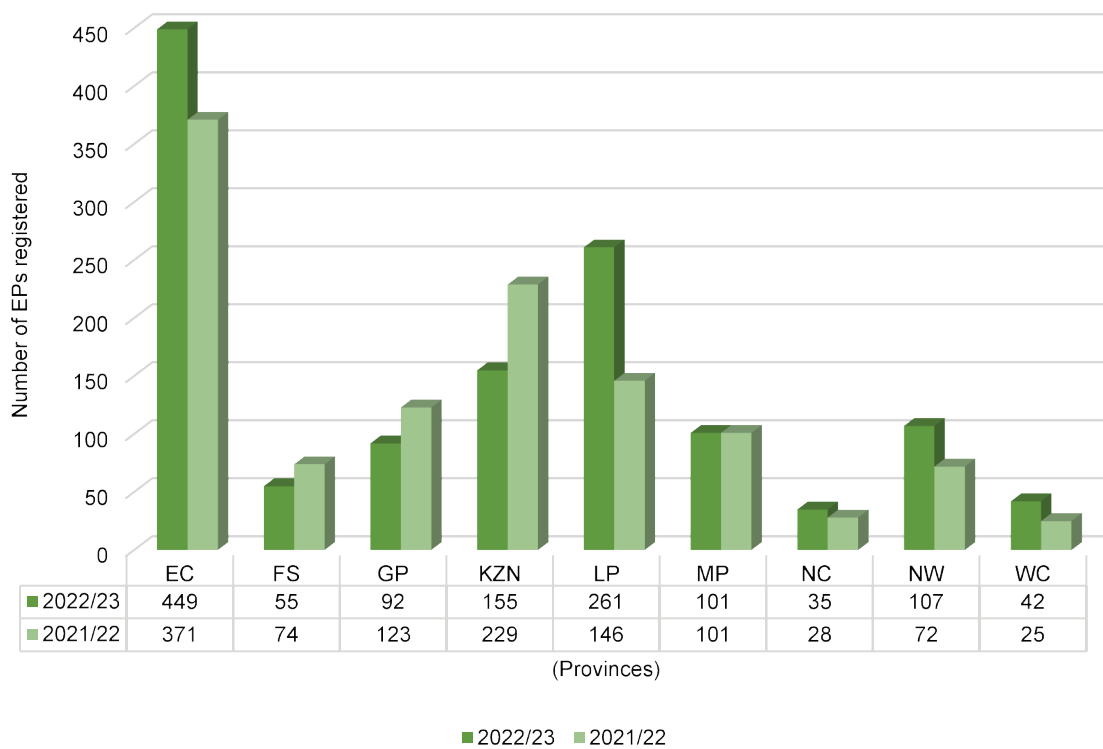


Figure 7: Number of EPs registered for SACNASP in all provinces, 2021/22-2022/23

Source: SACNASP (2023c)

Figure 8 below shows that at the end of the 2022/23 financial year, 1,297 EPs were registered with SACNASP. There were about 275 EPs that were pending during the registration process due to outstanding documents. EC (85%) had the highest number of EPs registered, followed by LP (76,9%) and GP (77,2%). The EC had the highest number of EPs registered due to the department's innovative enforcement of compliance, such as denying them to attend SASAE and other capacity development initiatives, among others. KZN and FS had the lowest share of registered EPs, with 27% and 44%, respectively. This is an indication of a lack of awareness and compliance enforcement in those provinces.

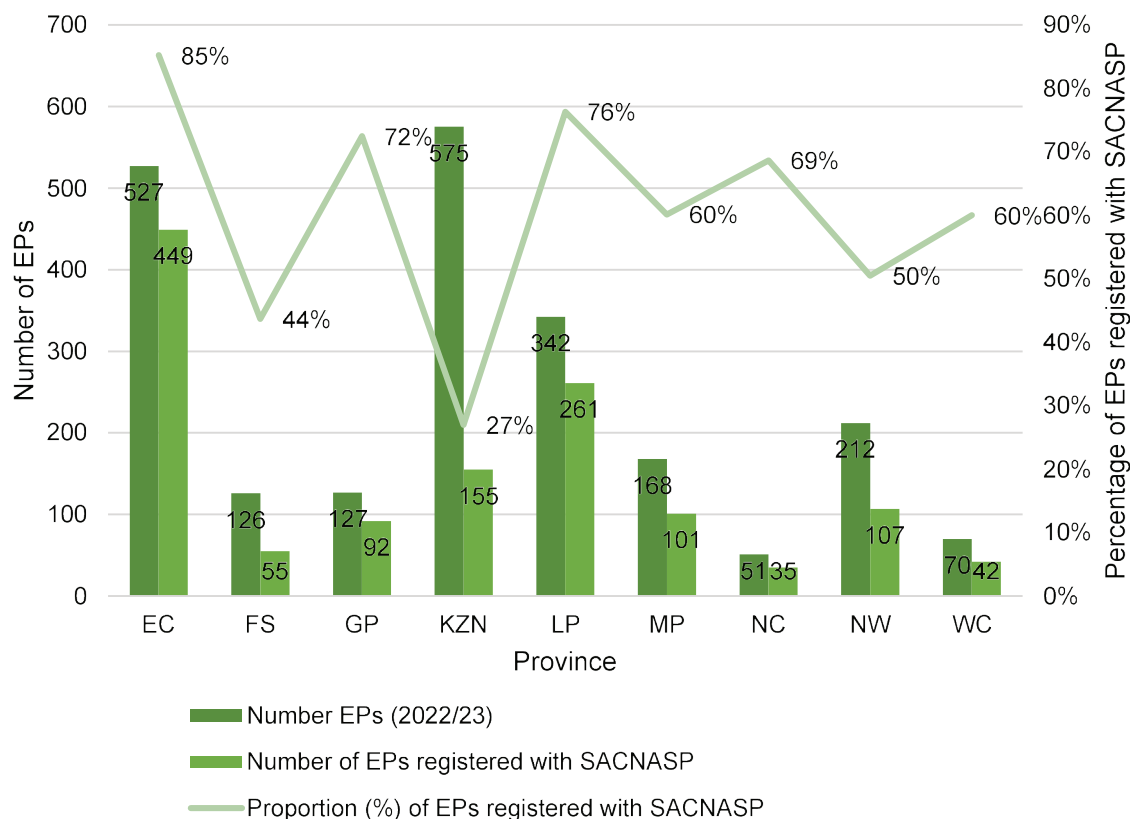


Figure 8: Proportion of EPs registered with SACNASP at the 2022/23 financial year

Figure 9 shows that there were 254 EPs whose memberships were cancelled. The cancellation could be due to some EPs not renewing their membership. Furthermore, there were 275 applications that were pending due to numerous reasons, such as outstanding documents.

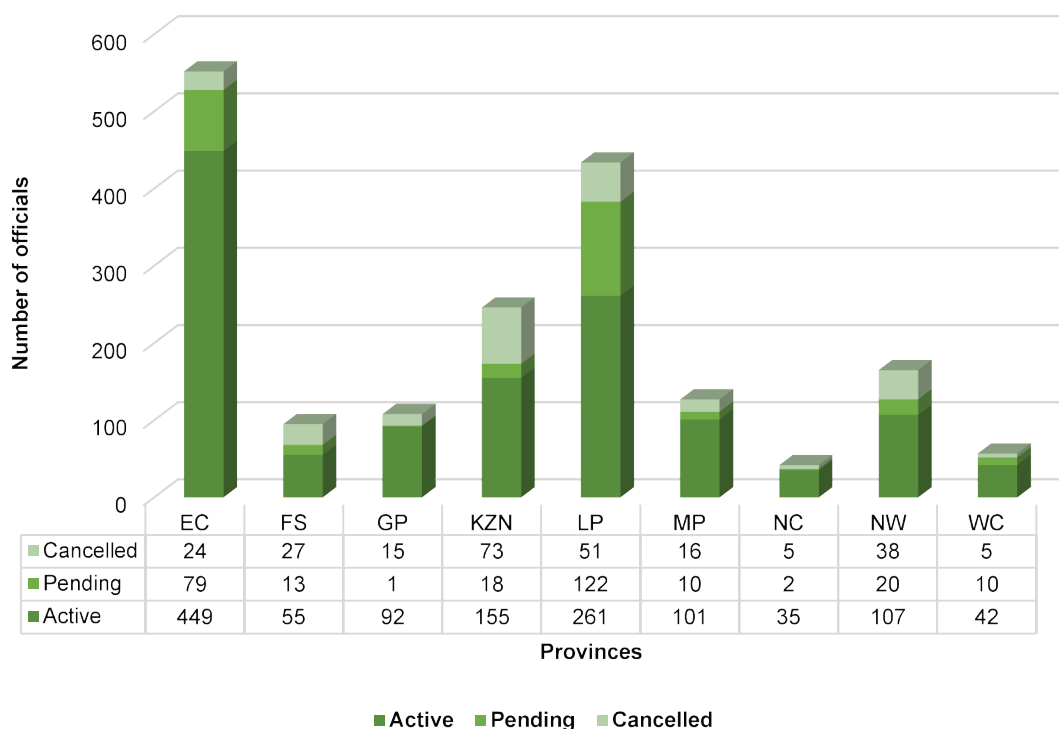


Figure 9: Status quo of the SACNASP registration in all provinces as at the 2022/23 financial year

Source: DALRRD (2023c).

6.2.1 Challenges

The following are challenges that have been noted regarding SACNASP registration status:

- There is a backlog of applications (pending) for registration of EPs;
- Cancellations of registrations due to failure to pay annual (renewal) fees; and
- Lack of enforcement of the compulsory SACNASP registration by PDAs.

6.2.2 Recommendations

The following are recommendations to improve the status of SACNASP professional registration by EPs:

- PDAs need to enforce registration of EPs at SACNASP and/or other relevant statutory bodies in line with job advertisements that stipulate professional registration as a prerequisite;
- There is a need to conduct awareness campaigns regarding the importance of SACNASP to the EPs and other relevant stakeholders; and
- The relevant provincial components are encouraged to emphasise the importance of being registered with SACNASP; and enforce this requirement particularly for EPs who were appointed post the 2014/15 financial year.

6.3 Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Training in agricultural extension should enable the graduate to qualify for registration with statutory professional bodies such as the SACNASP. The Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act No. 27 of 2003), as amended, requires that all natural scientists (part of which is extension science) register as practitioners and undertake CPD activities that accrue credit points.

One of the core policy actions is ensuring CPD through systematic maintenance, improvement, and broadening of knowledge and skills, as well as the development of personnel. SACNASP has developed a CPD system where EPs and training providers are able to upload their profiles. EPs are required to complete CPD activities over a five-year cycle to stay compliant and maintain their professional registration. DALRRD is monitoring PDAs to ensure that EPs do register on the system.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of the NPEAS involves pluralistic approaches such as increased capacity, partnership, collaboration with commodity organisations, and fund mobilisation through shared responsibility among all relevant stakeholders. It is vital to create an enabling environment, i.e., to improve productivity, develop viable markets for producers, establish and strengthen communication and information dissemination, and other infrastructural facilities. Hence, it is crucial to provide effective EAS to boost the social and economic development of South Africa. The provision of EAS remains an important component in the agricultural sector, especially for the growth of smallholder producers. PDAs demonstrated good control, management, and implementation of SHEP and FFS programmes. The SHEP and FFS approaches are some of the approaches that assist producers with knowledge and skills for proper decision making in their farming business.

The implementation of ERP pillars contributes significantly to service delivery for effective EAS. The ERP budget of R304 million was set aside for the implementation of the ERP for the 2022/23 financial year. The funds were allocated to all PDAs according to the predetermined criteria

by DALRRD, which states that provinces found to have acute human resource capacity gaps received substantial funding. Provinces procured 23 vehicles, appointed 162 EPs, and maintained 227 in the system. A total of 1 400 ICT gadgets were procured, and contractual obligations for ICT systems and mobile communications were maintained. A total of 3,336 training opportunities were offered to EPs.

7.1 Recommendations

The following are recommendations drawn from this report:

- Even though all provinces are implementing CBEA, some provinces are still lagging in terms of the deployment of EPs to commodity organisations. In some provinces, the challenge identified is the signing of MoUs or MOUs with commodity organisations. The success of the deployment and collaboration of EPs with commodity organisations is solely dependent on the complementarity of efforts by DALRRD, PDAs, and commodity organisations as key role players. Therefore, agreements should be in place to clarify the roles of various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the CBEA for effective communication and to improve management systems.
- Although the PECF is functional in many provinces, some provinces are still struggling. Hence, it is recommended that DECF be established in other districts.
- The professional registration of EPs through SACNASP should be implemented as a matter of urgency, with relevant components within the PDAs enforcing such a requirement.

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9. APPROVAL

The annual report on the implementation of the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services is approved by the Deputy Director-General: Food Security and Agrarian Reform of the **Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.**



MR BONGA MSOMI

ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: FOOD SECURITY AND AGRARIAN REFORM

DATE: 22 October 2023





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