Min Zokwana intends to promote food security beyond Mandela Day

About 2.2 million households in South Africa have missed a meal in the past 12 months. This is according to the Community Survey 2016 released by Statistics South Africa on 30 June 2016. The survey further indicated that KwaZulu-Natal was among the provinces with the largest proportion of households that missed a meal.

Communities of the Uthungulu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal listened as the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana highlighted the findings of the survey. The department, in partnership with the district and Umthonjaneni Local Municipality visited Melmoth to celebrate International Nelson Mandela Day. The Minister said that households in the area were living under impoverished conditions and food insecurity as a result of the drought and that the people were unable to produce food on dry land.

Zokwana assured the community that the department was committed to eradicating poverty. As a sign of that commitment the department would provide seedlings and offer training.

Minister Senzeni Zokwana, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries addresses community members of Uthungulu District Municipality during Nelson Mandela Day celebrations.

By Jamela Nkanyane
Minister intends to promote food security

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to the community on water harvesting and how to plant certain crops in different seasons.

During an interview on Zululand FM, Zokwana said his department was looking into ways to continue producing food even under the dry weather conditions. One of those ways was the introduction of the drought tolerant maize cultivar which was introduced by, the Agricultural Research Council in 2014. The department has also sent students to China complete Masters and Doctorate qualifications in agriculture. Upon return, those students would be placed under the mentorship of experienced farmers to ensure that they transferred their skills as most farmers were already at their retirement age.

The MEC for Agriculture in the province Themba Mthembu strongly advised the community about water harvesting, saying that saving water should not be done now only because the country was experiencing a drought but should rather be done continuously in order to reserve more water droughts which may arise at a later stage.

He further acknowledged that the people were living in poverty but assured them that government was trying to find ways to address the challenges of food insecurity and job creation by attracting young people into the agriculture industry.

Zokwana lamented the fact that people waited for hand-outs from government instead of working together with the government to improve their livelihoods. “If people are given gardening tools and seedlings, let them start their own food production gardens. Household gardens are a good start to enable families to feed from and retain dignity,” he said.

The Minister said he would like to return to the area to explore other means of ensuring food security and job creation through forestry and fisheries initiatives.

Minister Senzeni Zokwana, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at Uthungulu District Municipality during Nelson Mandela Day celebrations with blankets and food parcels that were handed out to the poorest of the poor.
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana attended the G20 Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting in Xi’an, China. Held on 3 June 2016, the meeting was attended by all G20 Agriculture Ministers, guest countries as well as international organisations to share policy experiences and discuss innovative ways of advancing agricultural development and food production in a changing global environment.

“South Africa would like to see smallholder farms and family farms’ issues enjoying the right status on the G20 platform. Our line of thought is a focus on ensuring that the needs of these farmers, particularly women and youth, are taken into account, giving priority to increasing investment in agricultural technologies within agriculture value chains as well as research and innovation from the seed production up to the plate. We need to offer innovative financial products such as tailor-made insurance scheme and soft loans in support of this target group,” said Zokwana.

One of the goals outlined by the G20 Summit of 2016 was to improve food security and nutrition. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, world’s food production needs to be increased by 60 million from 2005 to 2050 in order to meet the global food demand.

“We also believe that farmer incubation; mentorship and exchange programmes can enhance farmer production and productivity. South Africa would also like to see sustainable partnerships established within Africa and in other developing worlds, with other international programmes advancing agriculture and food security. We need to pace ourselves well in this regard and where possible, accelerate our efforts to achieve the ideal of finding synergies with each other,” Zokwana added.

The G20 goals are in line with what South African government strives to achieve. International involvement and investments are needed to improve developing countries, especially the least developed ones to build their capacity and enhance their developmental environment.

In conclusion, Minister Senzeni Zokwana said that he believed that the meeting would influence public dialogue and continue to raise the profile of agriculture and food security.

**Sharing technologies will benefit farmers**

Agricultural ministers from the world’s 20 leading economies plan to use information technology and the internet to improve integrity and efficiency in the global agricultural sector and benefit farmers.

China’s Agriculture minister Han Changfu said one major achievement of the conference is that the G20 countries are planning to establish platforms on agricultural technology innovation and agricultural information technology to enable sharing of innovation programs and technologies.

Han said China is willing to share its experience on how the internet has helped the development of agriculture. Jonathan Cordone, deputy under-secretary of farm and foreign agricultural services of the United States, called for open access to data about agriculture and nutrition among G20 countries. “It will help improve economic opportunities for farmers and protect the health of consumers,” he said.

Fan Shenggen, director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute, said sharing technologies will help improve grain yield. Internet use will benefit farmers by enabling individual innovation and providing market information, Fan said.

Meanwhile, climate change is also likely to severely damage the global food supply, with grain production in some areas expected to decrease by 50 percent, he said.
On 16 June this year, South Africa commemorated 40 years since the youth of 1976 chanted in the streets of Soweto fighting against Afrikaans as medium of instruction in schools. As we marked the end of Youth Month on 30 June 2016, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries gathered some beneficiaries of its youth programmes to showcase and share their success stories.

The agriculture industry has not always been seen as a career of choice, especially to the younger generation. For this reason, the department introduced a variety of programmes to try to attract the youth to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. It might sound as though we are blowing our own horn but that effort is paying off very well.

Today, South Africa boasts with skilled young employees across professions, farmers, doctoral student candidates in agricultural studies and researchers. They all come from one or another youth programme of the department. Programmes range from the External Bursary Scheme, Colleges of Agriculture and; Experiential Training, Internship and the Professional Development Programme, Career Awareness Programme and the International Training Programme.

Career Awareness
Viticulturists, entomologists, bioresource engineers, food technologists, researchers and the list goes on; these were produced by the DAFF External Bursary Scheme awarded to many deserving young people across the country. These were the same young people gathered to celebrate Youth Month with DAFF in Pretoria. They shared what they do in their careers and studies in the sectors. One almost overlooked the fact that I had no idea what entomology is, until hearing that our department’s bursary scheme has managed to push back the frontiers of the field. I realised that there is a lot of good and positive that comes out of our department. The bursary programme was introduced in 2004 to address the acute skills deficit and scarcity of professionals and technical staff within the sectors.

Bursary Beneficiaries
One beneficiary of the bursary scheme is Maseroke Molepo from Nobody Village in the Limpopo province. She is a proud owner of Maseroke Consulting Engineers. She matriculated in 2001 and received the DAFF bursary in 2005 to study BSc Bioresource Engineering at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and completed in 2012. She admits that building a business is not easy, especially when there is no start-up capital.

The scheme has also stood the test of time by empowering a young graduate into the scarce skill of forensics in the country. Pfarelo Tshiyhandekano from Tshidimbini Village in the Limpopo province is currently one of the only two forensic analysts in the country employed by the South African Police Services. She obtained the DAFF bursary in 2012 to study for MSc in Entomology at the University of Pretoria.

A day in her job entails the use of insects to determine the location and approximate time of a victim’s death. The 32-year-old feels that she has not fully achieved what she had hoped for but considers herself lucky...
to have been able to get funding to pursue her studies.

**Encouraging youth**
More than one thousand students have benefited from the bursary scheme in the past 12 years. Most of them have completed their studies and are employed.

To encourage and celebrate our youth in the sector, the department recognised the work of young farmers across the country. At the #Agristars Recognition awards 2016 held in Pretoria, six young farmers were recognised for excellence and achievement in the sectors and awarded certificates and prize money through sponsorship. Deputy Minister General Bheki Cele noted a weakness which he believes the youth have the ability to turn around. “It is dis-comforting, ironic and utterly humiliating that a continent as rich in minerals, land, vegetation, forestry, rivers, mountains and human resources as ours has nothing to show but poverty and starvation,” he said.

**Graduates**
Graduates also benefit from the Experiential Training, Internship and Professional Development Programme which was introduced in 2003. This initiative helps in the development of qualified unemployed graduates with practical hands-on experience to increase and enhance their chances of employability. More than 600 beneficiaries have managed to secure permanent employment in both the public and private sector. Some of them are employed by the department as a mechanism to consistently introduce skilled personnel.

Lwando Paraffin participated in the internship programme in 2013 and is currently working in the department as a Senior Forestry Development Officer. He applauds this initiative, “I would like to commend the department for this programme as I am the living example of the success story of the programme. I urge the department to ensure that this programme continues and receives all the necessary support. As a young graduate, if you combine the theoretic knowledge from school and the work experience through the programme, you stand a good chance of being employed in your respective industry.”

**Youth Programme**
The department’s youth programmes also consider the need to promote the sectors as careers and livelihoods of choice to school-going youth, specifically within the scarce skills. This is done through the Career Awareness Programme where learners are given information on careers in the sectors. Upon completion of Grade 12, nominated learners are awarded the DAFF High School Bursaries on condition that they enrol to further their studies in one of the identified scarce and critical skills. The programme started at a pilot phase in three provinces in 2004 and expanded nationally in 2010. It has since incorporated a category which targets children of farm workers. More than 300 learners have benefited and some are in the farm school category.

These are stories of home grown heroes, #Agristars. Agriculture may after all, have made it to finalist in the contest of looking cool to young people.
1. BACKGROUND

The Agter Groenberg Alien Clearing LandCare project is situated in the Wellington District Municipality of the Western Cape Province. The project has been funded since the financial years of 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries through the LandCare conditional grant in partnership with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). In the 2005/06 financial year, the LandCare conditional grant was R120 000; in 2006/07 the conditional grant was R100 000; in 2007/08 the conditional grant was R100 000 and 2007/08 conditional grant was R100 000. The total budget for the project cycle was R420 000. The objective of the project was to clear invasive alien vegetation and creating new food reserves for wild animals.

2. PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

The project targeted 2 500 hectares but only managed to eradicate 1 750 hectares of alien species. Through the DAFF conditional grant, the project created 100 job opportunities and 65 jobs opportunities through EPWP during the 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 financial years and 100 jobs were for youths. One hundred and fifty women have been employed since the project started. Sixty five beneficiaries were trained on operating chain saws, herbicide mixing and application and health and safety regulations. The training was accredited but the health and safety course was not accredited. Twenty awareness campaigns were conducted, focusing on the importance of clearing alien plants and veld burning.

3. SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Since the inception of the project, the lives of more than 50 community members have improved in terms of buying the basic needs for their households, school uniform and paying school fees for their children. Social upliftment programmes such as skill development, first aid and HIV/AIDS and substance abuse awareness were rendered for the benefit of the community. The project complies with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA).
4. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The project beneficiaries were advised to register the project as a non-profit making enterprise so that the project can source out some funding. The committee is at this time seeking some advice to begin with the project’s registration. A marketing plan is already in place. Alien species are being processed into firewood and sold to the surrounding community. The project generates an income of R650 per month.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT.

The project control alien species to minimise the species’ negative impact on the natural environment. The project improves the grazing capacity of the area by dividing camps and preventing soil erosion. The project will increase water flow in the river and boost local fynbos and biodiversity. The beneficiaries share knowledge of sustainable natural management with a wide range of stakeholders.

6. PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT:

The project has partnered with the following organisations:

- Western Cape Nature Conservation Board
- Drakenstein Municipality

7. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The project has a LandCare committee consisting of a chairperson, secretary, treasury and five additional members with the constitution. The committee has buy-in and monitors the project on a weekly basis to ensure alien species in the project do not regrow. The committee encourages the community members to voluntarily remove regrown alien plants in their respective areas.

After clearing of invasive species

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Round table discussion with stakeholders and civil organisations

By Kwanele Mhlanga

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana, in his efforts to find a solution and ensure the safety of farmers and other South Africans living in rural areas, has decided to embark on a round table discussion with stakeholders and civil society organisations. The discussion was held in Centurion, Saint George hotel on 14 June 2016.

The round table discussion was between the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Labour, agriculture and civil rights organisations, the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA), Agri SA, TAU SA, the Afrikaanse Handels Instituut (AHI), COSATU and the Land Bank. The purpose of the gathering was to afford an opportunity for the minister and stakeholders to sit around the table and come up with workable interventions and discuss firm possible steps that could be taken to address the safety of farmers and other South Africans living in rural areas.

The Minister said farm attacks has caused serious damage in the agricultural sector, it has caused job losses and has affected the country’s economy. “We need to stop pointing fingers but we must come with solutions to protect the agricultural sector to ensure that it continues providing job opportunities and food security. The Department of Agriculture alone cannot win this battle, we need the police.” South Africa can fail as a country if there is no decisive action taken against violence and murders of famers and farm workers; we need to consult the police before buying cheap stock, continued Zokwana.

The Minister urged the public to assist police in fighting crime so that agriculture is protected and the department will work with all agencies to do research to win the battle. He also urged the public not to take the law into their hands.

CASP and Ilima quarterly review meeting

By Samuel Kgatla

As part of continuous monitoring of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Ilima/Letsema funded projects, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and all Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development officials met in Nelspruit from 10 to 12 August to check the progress being made in provinces.

The main intention of meeting was to assess the state of readiness for the planting season and the ability to spend allocated funds, conduct site visits to three projects with the purpose of verifying the work which had already been done, sharing lessons learnt and providing constructive criticism that would improve the manner in which the province approached farmer support.

The CASP team visited Spoon 7A Smallscale Sugarcane Project, Ikhwezi Vegetables and Poultry Cooperative and Nkomazi Red Meat Abattoir and Feedlot. Representatives from the provinces also shared their experiences and achievements of the CASP and Ilima projects and they were given a chance to present their financial and non-financial performance reports, progress on agricultural training institutes, successes, challenges and mitigation plans.

Regarding the visit to the projects, Elder Mtshiza, CASP National Coordinator encouraged officials to work with projects until such time that they could run on their own. Mtshiza was impressed with the progress at Ikhwezi Cooperative, however he mentioned that there was a long way to go.

“I like the passion from the chairperson of Ikhwezi, but I am not happy with what is happening at the Nkomazi Abattoir. I am confident that we will get things right.

Provinces must avoid chasing to spend money. Just do proper planning and analysis and if satisfied with all the paper work then start implementing,” she said.

Moreover, she thanked the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs for hosting them and also encouraged colleagues never to drop standards and put more effort into their work.
Each year as the winter approaches during the month of May, veldfires destroy a significant number of hectares globally, with the majority of them being in Africa; this is according to the Southern Africa Development Community Protocol on Fire Management.

As a result, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) launched the National Veld and Forest Fire Working group in May 2016 to assess the state of readiness in dealing with unexpected veldfires and to prevent another looming disaster after the recent drought spell. Speaking at the launch, Minister Senzeni Zokwana emphasised that the current state of drought in the country could trigger an above normal fire season and had a potential risk to cause another disaster which could have dire consequences for farmers and landowners in general.

South Africa has two fire seasons, during the winter from May to September and during summer from November to February.

The winter fire season mainly affects the provinces on the northern parts of the Western Cape whereas the summer fire season affects only the Western Cape Province.

The Minister urged all landowners to prepare for the fire season by creating firebreaks, updating contact details of key people within fire management units and making agreements with firefighting agencies such as Working on Fire.

The fire working group comprises of representatives from relevant government departments including DAFF, fire and insurance agencies, stakeholders in local government, research institutions, fire protection associations and relevant State Owned Entities. Members of the group will meet quarterly to advice on matters relating to veldfire disaster management, propose research initiatives on veldfire management in the country and other important matters and make recommendations on the formulation and amendment of policies and legislation.

Reporting at the forum held during the launch, provincial Fire Protection Associations indicated that they were ready, firebreaks had been created, membership to the association was increasing and some were working well with fire agencies. However, others outlined challenges relating to funding.

The 2016 World Food Day (WFD) Poster Contest is now open; the theme for WFD 2016 is: “Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too.”

The contest invites young entrants to explain what they think about the threat of climate change to food security either by designing a poster (5 to 19 years) or producing a video no longer than 1 minute (13-19 years). The deadline is 30 September 2016.

More information is available on the website of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): http://fao.org/world-food-day/2016/home

Various support materials can be found on the dedicated web pages, including the World Food Day Activity Book for children and youth. The Activity Book is an educational tool for teachers, students and anyone who wishes to learn more about the World Food Day 2016 theme. It can also be used to inspire young people who wish to participate in the World Food Day poster and video contest.

Illustrations in the activity book have been left unfinished to get students to use their imaginations and colour a positive future for our planet.

A series of tips for children, outlining simple ways in which everyone can make a difference, is included at the end of the book http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c9c90a681-39d4-404e-b4d1-9b2753e-b4d1-9b2753e145bb/

FAO has also published a set of tips or actions for the general public on how to fight climate change and hunger http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2016/climate-actions.
Amid concerns over health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use, it is imperative for developing countries to adopt more sustainable approaches to pest management practices. These practices ensure the safety of the people and the environment with reduced reliance on pesticides. An example is the use of pesticides registers to identify potential Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and develop action plans for risk reduction.

Participants from 15 SADC countries converged in Johannesburg, South Africa for a five-day workshop to discuss management of HHPs. The Johannesburg meeting also focused on the implementation activities under the Rotterdam Convention, identifying gaps and challenges in meeting particular obligations.

The focus of the workshop was to provide training to participating countries on the protocol for identification and risk management of HHPs. This was aimed at getting all the participants to work on their national registers of pesticides to identify potential HHPs and understand the protocols for the field surveys to assess use conditions of HHPs while using the FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit to facilitate some aspects of the HHP identification and management process.

In his welcome remarks, the SAPReF Chairperson, Mr Loitseng Sebetwane noted that HHPs were a threat to human health and the environment with significant impact in countries that have a developing economy or those whose economies are in transition, therefore, the need to develop strategies at a national level that could enable the reduction risks related to HHPs.

FAO Country Representative for South Africa, Tobias Takavarasha said the meeting was critical as there was increasing use of pesticides in developing countries and yet the national regulatory systems were not robust. “At the same time, developing countries are facing growing domestic and international concerns about pesticide use and associated risks. Such a situation requires effective national pesticide management capacities.

An efficiently regulated and managed pesticide registration scheme is a prerequisite for ensuring that pesticides used in the country are effective in controlling pests and will not cause adverse effects to humans and the environment.”

Francesca Mancini, FAO Coordinator of the MEAs 2 project said that the regional efforts to strengthen pesticide management are being supported by...
Strengthening national pesticide management is vital

from p 10

the European Commission.

The workshop was an opportunity to look into how the participating countries could develop an HHP risk reduction strategy. Development of the HHP risk reduction strategy would start at the national level with a possibility of a regional approach.

There were also discussions on how to promote safer alternatives to toxic chemical pesticides, including the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Vector Management (IVM), strengthening of implementation of various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam Conventions.

“I am happy to see that some of you have already started to implement the standards in trying to reduce risks of HHPs. It is critical not only for African countries but also globally. The EU is also using the same criteria in addressing the adverse effects posed by HHPs,” said Lilian Tornqvist from the Swedish Chemical Agency (KemI) said.

“The University of Cape Town is very committed to capacity building and is proud to highlight the success of a Postgraduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management (DPRM) symbolic for collaboration with FAO and the KemI, in line with addressing HHPs”, Prof. Hanna Andrea Rother of the University of Cape Town said.

The Southern African Pesticide Regulators’ Forum (SAPReF) was formed in 2011 and current membership includes pesticide regulators, Designated National Authorities (DNA) of the Rotterdam Convention, pesticide risk managers from diverse backgrounds and disciplines from all the SADC countries. Some of the members also include key supporting institutions namely the FAO, University of Cape Town, Swedish Chemical Agency and the SADC Secretariat.

Since its inception, SAPReF has grown and is strengthening efforts to foster regional collaboration for sound pesticide management. Regional collaboration within the SADC bloc through the forum enables countries to work together more closely, share resources lower the costs of pesticide registration, and coordinate implementation of some international conventions related to pesticides.

Among the recommendations made at the meeting was the need for SAPReF to establish a working group to review the SADC regional guidelines for the regulation of plant protection products and to further develop a regional strategy for HHP risk reduction, along the lines agreed by the Meeting.

SADC member countries were encouraged to finalize their national action plans to reduce the risks posed by highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), based on the outline elaborated by the Meeting.

It was also agreed that the SADC Secretariat continues to engage with SADC member countries with the aim to create high-level national support for the reduction of health and environmental risks posed by HHPs and for the development of national action plans.

An efficiently regulated and managed pesticide registration scheme is a prerequisite for ensuring that pesticides used in the country are effective in controlling pests and will not cause adverse effects to humans and the environment.
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Sector

South Africa’s bread and maize meal market

South Africa produces on average 168 million loaves of bread a month, with 50% being white bread, 48% brown bread and 2% whole wheat bread.

Some analysts have argued that recent increases in maize meal prices could possibly drive consumers to substitute products such as bread and potatoes. However, recent bread production trends show a mixed picture. Brown bread production has seen an increase, while there has not been any significant shifts in white bread production over the past 11 months.

More specifically, brown bread production increased by only 5% from July 2015 to May 2016, from 79.7 million units to 84.1 million units. Subsequently, white bread production increase by a mere 1%, from 83.4 million units to 84.5 million units.

National bread prices have been increasing, largely driven by rising production and input costs such as wheat prices and electricity costs, amongst others. Brown bread prices increased by 10% from R10.64 a unit in June 2015 to R11.66 a unit in June 2016. At the same time, white bread price increased by 8% from R11.89 to R12.85.

During this period the price of a 2.5kg super maize meal increased by 32% from R20.50 per kg to R27.10 per kg. That said, maize meal consumption remains firm, with monthly white maize consumption averaging at 252 779 tons. In the past few months, consumption trend showed a slight upturn, despite higher maize prices.

Against this background, it is less likely that consumers will suddenly switch to bread because of higher maize meal prices. Maize meal and bread are staple foods that are largely inelastic.

Fertiliser prices favourable compared to past season

The current ratio of crop to fertiliser prices is favourable compared to the past season and should support fertilizer demand in the 2016/17 planting season, said Adriaan de Lange, chairman of Fertasa (Fertilizer Association of Southern Africa) in his annual report presented at the 56th annual congress 2016, of Fertasa held in Johannesburg. De Lange is the MD of Omnia Fertilizers.

The report was presented by Adam Mostert, CEO of Fertasa, in the absence of De Lange who could not attend the congress.

According to the report, the market for fertiliser products in 2016 will depend heavily on adequate rainfall. This will encourage farmers to be optimistic about farming and bodes well for the fertilizer industry. As a result of the El Nino impact in 2015, the hectares of summer crops planted reduced from 4.1 million ha in 2014 to 3.2 million ha in 2015, down 22%. Maize ha reduced by 27%. However, sunflower ha increased by 20%, from 560 000 ha to 718 000 ha.

This, together with regional food production shortage, has driven rand prices of maize to record highs. International fertiliser prices, according to De Lange, are weak due to over capacity. Urea and potash prices dropped by 39% since January 2015. The weakening of the rand buffered the local market against the significant reduction in international prices. The international nitrogen price during 2016 will depend heavily on Chinese producers, where significant inventory levels are accumulating, as well as the price of gas in the Ukraine.

The principles on which the Fertilizer Bill will be based have been submitted to the Registrar. One of the main deviations from the original proposals was the need to continue with the registration of final fertiliser products. Only registered raw materials will be allowed in the formulation of final products. All imported products, including raw materials, intermediate and final products, must be subjected to inspection.