



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DRAFT NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA CONCEPT NOTE

**NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA: 15 – 16 September 2016**

**VENUE: St George Hotel, Centurion, PRETORIA**

**GAUTENG PROVINCE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. BACKGROUND	4
3. CURRENT CONTEXT AND STATUS	5
3.1 The Department Response towards Drought Conditions	5
3.1.1 Drought Relief Scheme	6
3.1.2 Disaster Risk Management Programmes and Projects	6
3.1.3 Climate Change Projects	6
3.1.4 Early Warning Disaster Risk Projects	6
3.1.5 Drought Management Policies and Plans	7
3.1.6 Plant Production	7
3.1.7 Statistics and Economic Analysis	8
3.1.8 Food Security	9
3.1.9 Animal Production	10
4. GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS	13
4.1 Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	13
5. PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS	13
5.1 Land Bank	13
6. PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA	15
7. THEME OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA	15
8. FORM OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA	16
9. LIST OF POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS	16
10. PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA	17
11. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	17
12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	17

## 1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa has long been recognized as a country subjected to recurring droughts of varying spatial and temporal dimensions. The 1923 final report of the Drought Investigating Commission remains a definitive publication on the subject, while the great droughts of the 1930s, which coincided with the Great Depression, have been the local drought benchmark for decades. Droughts are a regular feature of the weather pattern of South Africa, with a notable part of the country being declared a disaster drought area over a 30-year period, whereas some of the eastern parts have never been declared drought disaster areas.

The droughts of the 1980s and 1990s, which in many areas were the worst since 1921, brought the local drought policy under scrutiny and revealed significant weaknesses in the government's ability to respond timeously and effectively. The government's 1991/92-drought assistance also revealed serious administrative and logistical deficiencies in the central and regional authorities regarding the provision of water and food. The period between 2001 and 2005 saw drought episodes that had an impact in most parts of the country and consequently some following years. Hence it highlighted the need for pro-activeness and for capacity, as well as expertise to respond timeously and effectively to drought across many affected parts of the country.

The most common drought types are: (1) Meteorological - drought on the basis of the degree of dryness in comparison to 'normal' or average amounts of rainfall for a particular area or place, and the duration of the dry period, (2) Agricultural - drought occurring when there is not enough soil moisture to meet the needs of a particular crop or grazing at a particular time, (3) Hydrological - drought refers to shortages in surface and subsurface water supplies. This occurs when natural stream flow or ground water levels are sufficiently reduced to impact adversely on water resources. Therefore, hydrological drought tends to be measured by relating a shortfall of water supply to water demand, and (4) Socio-economic - drought (sometimes called famine drought) occurring when the

demand for economic goods exceeds supply as a result of a weather-related shortfall in water supply.

The impacts of drought disasters are varying in degrees. Most of them are particularly evident in the agricultural sector and for vulnerable communities in the country. Food insecurity, for example, is one of the biggest associated impacts of drought as the level of food is usually reduced during drought disasters thereby increasing the vulnerability of people.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

South Africa received below-normal rainfall coupled with high temperatures during the late part of the 2014/15 summer season. The continued low rainfall resulted in dry conditions with drought being reported in all nine (9) provinces. Six (6) provinces that have declared a state of provincial drought disaster as per the Disaster Management Act (57 of 2002) are Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Northern Cape; while the Western Cape Province has declared local state of disaster affecting three municipalities (i.e. Central Karoo, Eden and West Coast).

Agricultural production has been severely affected by the drought, with veld condition deteriorating at an alarming rate. To date a total of 246 425 farmers are reported to be affected by the drought. A total of 252 884 livestock loss was recorded while 9 340 508 livestock are reported to be still vulnerable to drought. Crop farmers both small scale, emerging and commercial could not plant their household and market crops during the planting season due to inadequate rainfall. Commercial farmers both on rain fed and irrigation experienced late planting while others had to defer their planting dates. This high temperature especially in December 2015 and January 2016 affected pollination in a number of areas that resulted in lower yields. According to the analysis of the South African Vulnerability Assessment Committee (SAVAC) which DAFF is the chair and secretariat, it is reported that the number of people affected by the drought is 6 291 900 in Open Access across South Africa. A total of 2 516 800 of the poor individuals are very

poor and are the people that have experienced the worst drought affected agricultural livelihoods in the Open Access areas in the country.

Therefore, there is a need for a better understanding of the scientific basis of droughts that is their definition, monitoring, impacts, prediction and to bring this knowledge to sectoral experts involved in various aspects of drought management. Understanding the historical frequency, duration and spatial extent of drought assists planners in determining the likelihood and potential severity of future droughts. The characteristics of past droughts provided under introduction above provide benchmarks for projecting similar conditions into the future. At the same time, successful experiences in adopting a comprehensive and active approach across various sectors in dealing with droughts should be widely shared and the capacity to apply such approaches built and developed where needed. Therefore the National Drought Indaba is framed and centred within the theme: **“Towards improving the sector’s resilience to drought disasters**

### **3. CURRENT CONTEXT AND STATUS**

In enhancing drought relief interventions the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) reprioritised R263 million following the reprioritisation of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASAP) and Ilima/Letsema. Provinces made available R188 million through Provincial Equitable Share. Funding from programs such as the Prevention and Mitigation of Disaster Risk (PMDR) were also expended with interventions on borehole drilling and construction of fire breaks.

#### **3.1. The Department Response towards Drought Conditions**

##### **3.1.1 Drought Relief Scheme**

The Department has thus far facilitated drilling and equipment of boreholes in all affected provinces. A total of 78 863 farmers were assisted with livestock Feed and Stock Water where the following specific interventions were made:

### **Livestock Feed**

- 512 629 bags of mixed concentrates,
- 97 501 bales of hay (grass, Lucerne and turf),
- 6 232.89 tons of mixed concentrates
- 22 372 molasses bags
- 36 352 lick bags
- 6 925 cattle block

### **Stock Watering**

- 165 boreholes completed
- 180 stock watering troughs completed
- 1699 water tanks delivered
- 12 dams completed
- 3 331 500 Litres of water tinkered

### **3.1.2 Disaster Risk Management Programmes and Projects**

From the policy perspective, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) continue to facilitate risk reduction measures in line with the Sectoral Disaster Risk Management Sector Plan and Agricultural Drought Management Plan aligned to the Disaster Management Act 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), National Disaster Management Framework, the amended Disaster Act (16 of 2015) and other supporting legislative prescripts. Risk reduction measures include:

### **3.1.3 Climate Change Projects**

- Support of the Agricultural Research Council to continue research thereby releasing the drought tolerant maize seed and multiplication of these varieties.
- The Continuous research on crop suitability in adapting to the changing climate is also underway

### **3.1.4 Early Warning Disaster Risk Projects**

DAFF through its early warning system disseminates information to the farming community on a monthly basis to alert farmers on the seasonal climate forecast as well as suggested measures/strategies to prevent and mitigate the impact of disaster risks. The strategies include those for coping with drought, water harvesting techniques, promotion of the use of grey water especially in food gardens, irrigating in the early hours and later in the day to minimise water wastage and using drip irrigation instead of sprinklers as it saves water. Other on-going projects within the program include, awareness campaigns, capacity building on disaster risk management including roving seminars on weather and climate. DAFF through the Prevention and Mitigation of Disaster Risk allocation has equipped boreholes in several provinces. Measures have been put in place for the drilling and equipping work to be rolled out in other provinces that have water needs.

### **3.1.5 Drought Management Policies and Plans**

The sector developed Drought Management Plan, Sectoral Drought Action Plan to address drought risks and management. The document on drought coping strategies has been developed in line with the Drought Management Plan and published in all official languages.

### **3.1.6 Plant production**

Seed multiplication schemes:

Plant production focused on seed security matters to improve farmer access to good quality seed of appropriate varieties through community seed multiplication schemes. This allows farmers to resume crop production after the drought period. Plant production role in seeds:

- Strengthen farmers' capacities in seed multiplication in order to improve quality of seed produced in the informal sector particularly in transition from emergency to development activities and where there is no private sector
- Promote value-adding activities at local level as a means of diversifying farmers' revenues and stimulating seed demand.
- Strengthening community seed systems programmes to improve farmers' knowledge and skills related to varieties and seeds.

Plant production systems:

Against the backdrop of drought, the plant production component embarked on the promotion and implementation of sustainable farming by focusing on the technical aspects of crop production within the context of evolving climate change and variations. In this regard particular attention was in providing technical support to the Provincial Department of agriculture through Conservation agriculture task force with regard to the implementation of conservation agriculture (CA) which is an integrated system built on: minimum soil disturbance, establishment and maintenance of an organic soil cover in the form of mulch, and the implementation of crop diversification and rotation, as opposed to mono-cropping.

### **3.1.7 Statistics and Economic Analysis**

In response to the drought situation DAFF and Provincial departments allocated funding from their equitable share to assist on the relief of small scale farmers with animal feed; medicines and water reticulation or livestock consumption. Therefore directorate Statistics and Economic Analysis was requested to conduct an economic wide impact of the drought in the sector given the provision of the short-term relief to the drought affected provinces over a period of the eight months. The implementation of the drought relief responses was targeted at the vulnerable individuals, farmers, farm workers, vulnerable areas and also communities adversely affected by drought.



The conducted study employed the UPGEM model to estimate the impact of drought on the South African economy. The UPGEM model is a CGE-based model that is made up of a linearized system of equations describing the theory underlying the behaviour of participants in the economy. Its CGE-based structure enables the capturing of the various inter-linkages in the real economy in great detail, which in turn makes this model well-suited to analyse policy questions such as the economy wide impact of drought on agriculture.

Four scenarios were analysed namely: (1) impact on field crops only; (2) impact on livestock only; (3) impact on aggregated agriculture output; and (4) impact on aggregated agriculture output plus impact of drought relief fund. It was found that all scenarios reflected a negative impact on aggregate GDP, employment and exports. In Scenario 4, drought relief was found to have saved some jobs, albeit not significantly. The overall conclusion from this study is that the 2015/16 drought has resulted in a negative impact in South Africa's economy. The intervention by government mainly through the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' drought relief has assisted in saving some of the jobs that could have been lost due to drought. The amount injected as drought relief is clearly not enough, which speaks to fiscal constraints that South Africa as a country faces under the currently difficult economic climate. One of the lessons learnt from this drought is that more concerted effort by all stakeholders is required to prevent potential catastrophic implications of any future droughts.

### **3.1.8 Food Security Programs**

DAFF is the Chair and Secretariat of the South African Vulnerability Assessment Committee (SAVAC) aimed at:

- Setting the national livelihoods, food and nutrition security baseline and / or status quo;
- Forecasting the likely impact of hazards and shocks on people's livelihoods;
- Monitoring information for tracking changes over time and
- Providing guidance on different types of interventions needed in different contexts.

To this effect, baselines have been conducted in 14 Open Access Livelihood Zones (4 in Limpopo, 9 in KZN and 1 in Free State) to comprehensively understand the livelihood systems and geographically locate pockets of food insecurity. An Outcome Forecast Analysis was conducted in Limpopo to forecast the impact of hazards and shocks in the 4 Livelihood Zones. In response to the drought situation, a National Outcome Forecast Analysis (NOFA) was conducted in December 2015 to determine the severity and magnitude of the drought impact on livelihood systems across the country.

According to this analysis, the number of people with worst drought affected agricultural livelihoods is 6 291 9 in the Open Access areas across South Africa. Analysis also shows that about 2 516 8 poor and very poor people have the worst drought affected agricultural livelihoods in the Open Access areas in the country. The next level of analysis is currently being finalised to assess the impact of drought in the commercial and urban areas across the country. Direct and indirect impact of the drought on the non-agricultural livelihoods is also being analysed. These assessments (baselines and OFA) are meant to assist in guiding the planning and targeting of responses to the drought situation.

#### Food Insecurity Drought Interdepartmental Task Team (FIDITT)

DAFF chairs the Food Insecurity Drought Interdepartmental Task Team (FIDITT) which has developed the Food Insecurity Drought Response Plan which prioritised expansion of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (DAFF) Household Food Production Support (in the form of seedlings, indigenous chickens and goats) and the Department of Social Development (DSD) Social Relief Measures (e.g. food parcels).

- The FIDITT developed the Food Insecurity Drought Response Plan which has been presented to the NDMC for noting and to the National Treasury for funding.

- The FIDITT collaborates the contribution of government departments and key stakeholders responsible for Food Security in the country including an update on the coordination of Food Security activities. Critical interventions have been through in the form of stock watering wherein 154 boreholes have been drilled in support of drought and the design of 12 dams being have been completed by DAFF as stated in 3.1.1 above.

Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan:

Implementation of the Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan. DAFF actively participates in the development of the implementation plan in pursuit of the policy goal of ensuring availability, accessibility and affordability of safe and nutritious food at national and household levels. The National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security was approved by Cabinet in 2013 together with the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative, which DAFF still coordinates its implementation through provinces. The Fetsa Tlala Plan that will guide production has been completed and areas that did not experience drought will be targeted.

### **3.1.9 Animal Production**

Animal Improvement Schemes:

The ARC administers the national Animal Improvement Schemes across the country on behalf of DAFF (Directorate: Animal Production), in support of the Animal Improvement Act 1998 (Act 62 of 1998). Through the schemes, appropriate animal recording information to enhance decision-making and risk management within existing production systems is collected; such as:

- Recording for animal management (general husbandry), including production alternatives and marketing
- Animal Performance benchmark data
- Recording for genetic improvement
- Recording for research purposes

## Proposed Intervention: National Rangeland Monitoring and Improvement Programme (NRMIP)

The Livestock Development Strategy (DAFF, 2006) which was developed under the auspices of Directorate: Animal Production in consultation with relevant stakeholders, has long recognized the importance of establishing a National Rangeland Monitoring and Improvement Programme (NRMIP) as a key initiative for enhancing the ability of livestock farmers to make rangeland management decisions based on timely and accurate information regarding the condition and productivity of their rangelands, within the constraints imposed by weather and climate.

Knowledge about the condition of rangelands is one of the fundamental elements towards an improving the management of livestock during droughts and other limitations imposed weather and climate as rangeland condition influences the rate of recovery in forage production after drought.

Baseline information towards the establishment of NRMIP was gathered over a period of five years (2006 to 2011) through a service level agreement between DAFF and ARC. This baseline information generated a legacy of a geographically comprehensive database that will be used for the development of a NRMIP as a part of a long- term drought management strategy for the livestock sector. The objectives NRMIP will include the following:

- To develop monitoring protocols that conceptually integrates relationships among ecological, climatic, and anthropogenic drivers
- To benchmark the potential of small holder farms and communal lands for livestock production and validate the proposed production plans
- To develop a National Rangeland Monitoring Database to house rangeland condition data from across the country from surveys conducted decades ago to current monitoring initiatives.

#### 4. GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

##### 4.1 Department of Rural Development and Land Reform

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) has made enormous work in assisting farmers across provinces with assistance in the following interventions drilling and equipping of boreholes, irrigation schemes for plantation of feed, auction sales, sugar cane industry, livestock feeds, revitalization of feedlots and identification of land for relocation of livestock. The following interventions were made to date:

Province	Intervention
Free State	Livestock feed, fodder banks, water infrastructure
Kwazulu Natal	Feedlots, drilling and equipping of boreholes, livestock feed, assistance to Sugar Cane Industry
Limpopo	Livestock feed and water, drilling and equipping boreholes, firebreaks
Mpumalanga	Feedlots, Drilling and equipping of boreholes, auction sales, livestock feed
North West	Feedlots, livestock feed and water, Relocation of livestock, Drilling and equipping of boreholes
Northern Cape	Livestock feed and water infrastructure

#### 5. PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

##### 5.1 The Land and Agricultural Development Bank (Land Bank)

The Land Bank is currently assisting and supporting drought affected farmers through its portfolio and it has contributed in the region of R45 million to the broader sector. This amount has been contributed through financial restructuring of existing client portfolios and debt obligations. To date assistance from the financial institution were made in the following strategic interventions:

**The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Concessionary Drought Relief Loans  
– Approvals**

	AMOUNT	HUB WIP NUMBE R	AMOUNT	APPROVED NUMBER	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENT NUMBER	AMOUNT
35	R182 405 574	1	R845 579	6	R13 987 100	2	R4 000 000
Grand Total	R182 405 574	1	R845 579	6	R13 987 100	2	R4 000 000

Work in progress (WIP) is at 35 application

There are total 6 applications approved as at 30 April 2016 and 2 disbursements have been made so far amounting to R4million

Internal Loans Support

**Loan Applications Decisions**

<b>SUMMARY OF DROUGHT RELIEF APPLICATIONS as on 31/03/2016</b>				
<b>Decision</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Monetary Value of Loans processed</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Average Exposure</b>
<b>Total</b>	42	R 50 961 438	100.00%	1 213 368
<b>Approved</b>	32	R 34 924 446	76.19%	1 091 389
<b>Declined</b>	7	R 9 077 708	16.67%	1 296 815
<b>Refer Back</b>	3	R 6 959 284	7.14%	2 319 761

The figures have remained the same for the month under review.

No further applications were considered under initial drought relief scheme since the IDC loans came into effect. To date Forced Stock Sale Deposit has accumulated in the region of R100 million.

## 6. **PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA**

The aftermath of the previous as well as current drought assistance interventions continue to highlight the need for pro-activeness and for capacity, as well as expertise to respond timeously and effectively to drought across many affected parts of the country. Despite substantial government investment in drought relief intervention, many farmers continue to be vulnerable to the ecological and economic effects of drought. Therefore, there is a need for proactive and integrated drought management approach that combines promising technological, institutional and policy proposals in order to manage the risks and enhance farmer's resilience toward droughts.

### **Objective statement of the National Drought Indaba**

To provide a national stakeholders consultation platform to identify, evaluate and address socio-economic issues towards harmonizing and strengthening drought management efforts within the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector.

### **Sub-objectives**

- Review drought response for agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector
- Review institutional and communication issues
- Review resourcing of the sectoral disaster risk management system
- Address and review mitigation and adaptation measures available for livestock, crop and food security
- Develop a National Action Plan to enhance sectoral disaster risk management systems

## 7. **THEME OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA**

The working theme for the National Drought Indaba is:

**“Towards improving the sector’s resilience to drought disasters**

The proposed theme seeks to respond to the expressed need for the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors to offer good future drought adaptation capacities for small scale, emerging and commercial farmers.

## **8. FORM OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA**

The form of the Drought Indaba will be sharing of lessons learned and experiences by all relevant stakeholders. Four (4) commissions will be formed viz, Food Security, Animal Production, Plant Production and Statistics & Economic Analysis.

## **9. LIST OF POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS**

- National Department of Cooperative Governance(National Disaster Management Centre)
- South African Local Government Association(SALGA)
- Provincial Departments of Agriculture
- Organized Agriculture
- Organized Labour
- South African Weather Service
- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- South African Social Security Agency(SASSA)
- South African Police Service(SAPS)
- National Department of Home Affairs
- Institutions of High Learning National Agricultural Marketing Council(NAMC)
- Agricultural Research Council(ARC)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR)
- OBP
- Civil Society Organization



## 10. PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT INDABA

The Indaba will run over two days, viz 26 and 27 July 2016. Registration will commence on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The morning part of the first day 26 July 2016, will be devoted to keynote address, setting up the scene followed up by experts presentations on lessons learned and experiences. Later there will be commissions to be led by four (4) commission coordinators.

The last day of the Indaba will be given an opportunity for plenary and report back by the commissions with an objective of reaching a consensus.

## 11. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Plan of Action

Four (4) sub-committees will be formed to organize the indaba and will report progress every week. The project manager coordinating the Indaba meetings will be the Director: Climate Change and Disaster Management.

Four (4) sub-committees are as follows:-

- Substance
- Logistics(Stakeholder and Intergovernmental Relations to assist with design and invitations of stakeholders)
- Protocol(Security to assist)
- Finance

## 12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The indaba event will be organised and led by the Branch: FNRM of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Activities	Amount
1. Conferencing for 2 days (venue, tea, lunch, equipments, break away rooms,	R100 000 .00 (3 Quotations attached)

promotional materials, etc) 2. Expected number of people is 100	
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