

REFLECTIONS ON KEY OUTCOMES AND WAY FORWARD

BY: DR. KGAKATSI

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REFLECTIONS

- From all presentations and discussions over the two-day long National Drought Indaba, we all agree on one thing:
Drought still persist and we all have to work together and fight it.
 - The Deputy Minister and the Director General have noted the plea of our farming community, and agree that while government has put measures in place to assist farmers and mitigate the impacts of the current drought situation, it might not be enough, so a lot still need to be done.
 - The DM, in his keynote address highlighted the following issues:
 - Community education and training to be strengthened(strengthen resilience)
 - Bringing young people into farming through introducing programmes that will equip and empower them
 - Food and nutrition security must be a priority
 - Water shortage must be addressed through long term programmes
 - Education and training on water conservation methods
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REFLECTIONS

- Private Sector/Government collaboration to be strengthened
- Government open to proposals from the public and organisations
- The DM further invited Organised Agriculture and farming community in general, to engage him/ his office to discuss possible proposals and solutions to the drought and agricultural disasters in general.
- We have noted the current reality is that:
 - Food prices are increasing and becoming unbearable for no- or low income members of the society.
 - Water reservoirs are drying out/restrictions implemented
 - Livestock mortality rate is growing
 - Resources are limited
 - There is a need strengthen coordination
 - Response turn-around time is a serious concern



PARALLEL SESSIONS

- The first day of the Indaba was comprised of presentations and four parallel sessions/commissions during the later part of the day.
- The commissions were addressing the following thematic areas:
 - Managing Agricultural production in a changing Climate Environment/ Crop adaptation to Climate Change and Vulnerability.
 - Changing food consumption and production patterns towards ending hunger and improving integrated food and nutrition security.
 - Economic wide effects of drought.
 - Institutional coordination of drought risk reduction and response.
- Each commission had a role to analyse the topic and make recommendations for improving the management of the current and future drought disasters.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONS



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve corporative governance and policy development
- Awareness campaigns
- Farmer involvement - reinforce technology transfer
- Funding allocation for DRR
- Investment of money to rural industrialization (processing facilities.)
- Review of food safety net policies based on the fact that food price has increased. (for example a special brand for maize meal like Metro) CSI
- Develop Social safety net assistance
- Impact of drought on migrations patterns from the regions to food security, food inflation (from neighbouring countries).



- Improve the response time
- Develop readiness plans
- Audit the entire DRR coordination system
- Strengthen partnership and funding for research institutions
- Develop research strategy
- Establishment of an integrated team (national, provincial and local) to assess and verify the disaster occurrence to avoid delaying the process of declaration
- Need to consolidate and strengthen coordination at national level to minimise duplication of structures (too many coordinating structures).
- Need to conduct an audit of the entire coordination system across all spheres.
- Profitability of food production to the farmers- Price transmissions' and margins need to be assessed



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ORGANISED AGRICULTURE



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AGRI SA

- Indicated that farming in SA is the main contributor to the GDP
- SA is the most food secure country in the SADC region
- Requests an amount of R513 202 645
- Requests to be assisted with state guarantee
- Requests collaboration with government to fight drought together

NAFU

- DAFF to have three DGs
- More research need to be conducted, research institutions must work together and results thereof must be implemented on the ground. The emerging farming fraternity must be well researched, as there is a lot of potential and skills that are not being explored
- Banking associations must be consulted
- Full participation of SADC
- Government need to prioritise farming— lessons must be learnt from other countries
- Insurance must be subsidised by government
- Land Bank must be supported—has been providing support to farmers



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TAU SA

- Constructive and inclusive recommendations
- Learning from the past mistakes
- Inter-departmental and national liaison
- Action—timeous response.
- Low rates and tarriffs for land, water and energy
- Purchasing and distribution of fodder
- Restructure bond and loan
- Invest in all farmers including commercial producers

AFASA

- Uniform approach to relief provision
- Drought still extensively affecting the livestock industry therefore fodder distribution must continue.
- Improve turn-around time for response and relief



WAY FORWARD

- All the inputs, from the Indaba will be considered
- A task team (led by the DDG FNRM) will be established to develop an action plan based on the outcomes of the Indaba,
- Inputs will be considered at both National and Provincial level in the following :
 - Drought Management Plans
 - Drought Action Plans
 - Contingency Plans
- Inputs to be shared with NDMC and PDMCs
- Feedback on implementation will be provided through various structures/forums across all spheres
- Presentations are available if needed for further consideration

