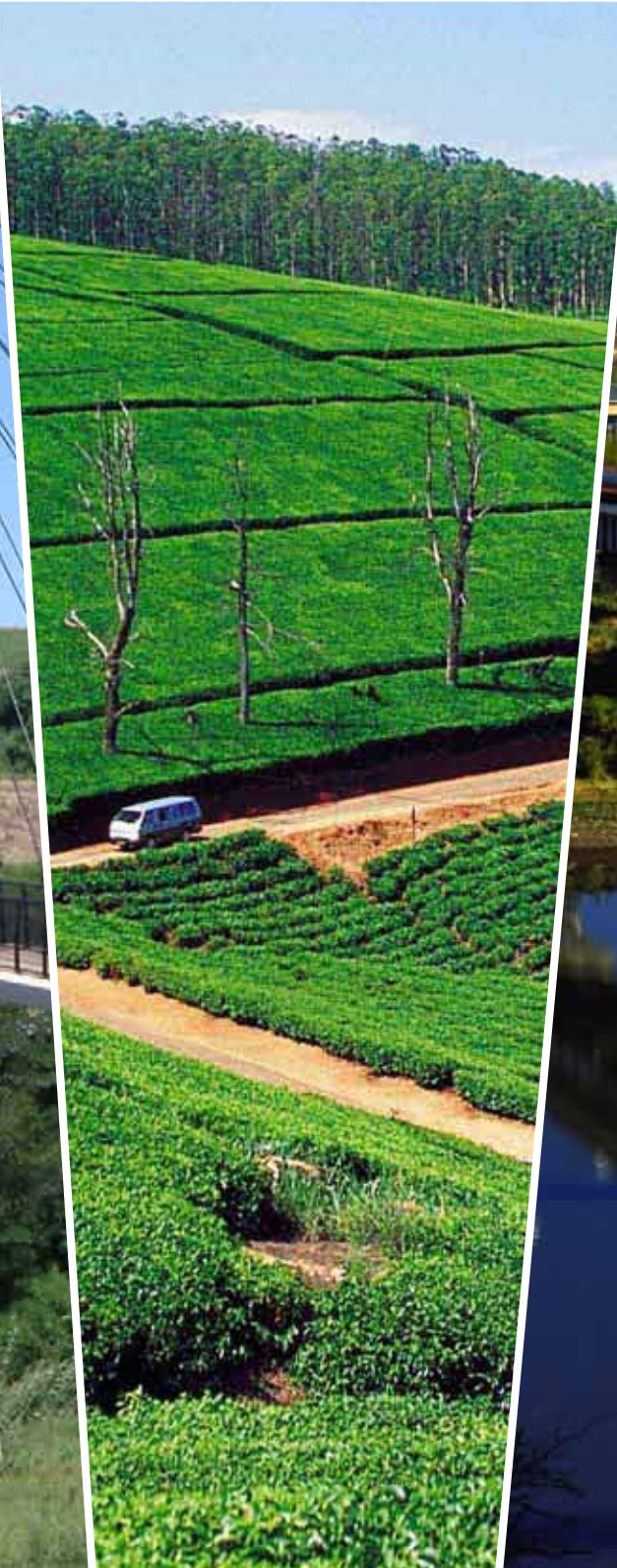


SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2012/13



Rural

Development & Land Reform

Rural

The creation of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in 2009 marked the first time ever that a government department was dedicated to the social and economic development of rural South Africa. The department is committed to ensuring that South Africans in rural areas enjoy the same benefits as their urban cousins regarding the human rights and basic dignity guaranteed by the Constitution.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform deals with land reform; access to land use; management and transformation of land relations; and all other matters related to the hopes and lifestyles of those who live on the land and who depend on the land for their livelihoods.

The department's key priorities are:

- rolling out the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) to all rural municipalities
- improving productivity in land reform projects through effective implementation of the Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RADP)
- expediting the finalisation of land claims
- improving corporate governance and ensuring enhanced service delivery
- implementing proper change management and innovation strategies
- enhancing the efficiency of information management systems.

The CRDP is aimed specifically at reducing poverty by creating vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities.

To achieve this vision, the department defined its role and mission as being that of facilitating integrated development and social cohesion through partnerships with all sectors of society.

One of the department's most important strategic objectives is agrarian transformation.

The agrarian transformation strategy is aimed at:

- social mobilisation to enable rural communities to take initiative
- sustainable settlements with access to basic services and economic opportunity; meeting of basic human needs; and infrastructure development

- establishment of cooperatives and enterprises for economic activities; wealth creation; and productive use of assets
- non-farm activities for strengthening of rural livelihoods
- leadership training, social facilitation and familiarity with CRDP objectives; and socio-economic independence
- skills development and employment creation for youth, women and people living with disabilities
- democratisation of rural development, and participation and ownership of all processes, projects and programmes by rural communities
- coordination, alignment and cooperative governance by local municipalities, traditional councils, provincial government and rural communities
- participation of non-governmental organisations including faith-based organisations, community-based organisations and other organs of civil society
- social cohesion and access to human and social capital.

Legislation and policies

Eleven pieces of legislation was submitted to Parliament by December 2012; and 10 policy instruments were developed, including a policy on communal land tenure and a review of the Land Management and Administrative System.

The department also started work on a restitution performance review. All this is aimed at sharpening service-delivery capacity.

The Communal Property Associations (CPAs) Act, 1996 (Act 28 of 1996) is meant to enable communities to form juristic persons, to be known as CPAs, to acquire, hold and manage property on a basis agreed to by members of a community in terms of a written constitution; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The *Green Paper on Agrarian Transformation, Rural Development and Land Reform* was gazetted by May 2011, followed by a White Paper to be submitted to Cabinet

The Green Paper focuses on seven key areas, namely:

- a vision for land reform
- principles underlying land reform
- current challenges and weaknesses: rationale for change
- an improved trajectory for land reform (including institutions to support land reform)
- the strategic thrust for land reform
- land reform experiences elsewhere
- challenges and constraints.

When the Green Paper was published in 2011, it comprised six work streams, which are aligned to the thematic areas, which are a three-tier land tenure system; Office of the Valuer-General; Land Rights Management Board; Land Management Commission; communal tenure; and legislative amendments.

The Green Paper is underpinned by the following three key principles: deracialisation of the rural economy for shared and sustained growth; democratic and equitable land allocation and use across gender, race and class; and strict production discipline for guaranteed national food security. The engagement on the *Green Paper on Land Reform* was completed by the end of March 2012.

The purpose of the restitution programme is to provide equitable redress to victims of racially motivated land dispossession, in line with the provisions of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act 22 of 1994).

The Legislative Amendments and Communal Tenure Working Group was constituted to consider legislative amendments linked to the Green Paper. The group was tasked with focusing on the amendments of the CPA Act 1996, Restitution of Lands Rights Act 1994, and Review of the Communal Land Rights Act, 2004 and related judgement.

The Legislative Working Group decided to combine with that on Communal Tenure because of legislative amendment of the CPA Act and legislative development to replace the Review of the Communal Land Rights Act, 2004. Specialist studies and analysis were further required on appropriate land holding entities and their relationship with traditional and local authorities.

Budget and funding

Government has put aside more than R28 million to restructure and fund 13 unproductive land reform farms in North West.

The department projected an estimated total expenditure of R8 877 566 000 for the 2012/13 financial year. It allocated R1 096 223 000 to administration, which included the National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec) Youth Programme budget; R562 367 000 to Geospatial and Cadastral Services; R934 824 000 to Rural Development; R3 billion to Restitution; and R3 234 152 000 to Land Reform.

Role players

National Reference Group

National reference groups is an inclusive structure that represents varied interest groups ranging from beneficiaries, organised agriculture and civil society to academics and experts on land and agrarian issues. National reference groups constituted five working groups in respect of policy proposals made by the department in the Green Paper, namely the Land Management Commission; Land Rights Management Board and committees; Office of the Land Valuer-General; Three-Tier Tenure System; and Legislative Amendments and communal tenure.

Geospatial and cadastral services

The component of National Geospatial Information is responsible for the national control survey network, the national mapping and aerial imagery programmes and the provision of geospatial information services.

In an effort to provide access to geospatial information (maps) to visually impaired people, the National Geospatial Information component will produce a Braille atlas for each province over the next three years. Limpopo will be prioritised.

This component will continue its map literacy and map awareness training for adults and support to educators and school learners to promote the use of geospatial information. Priority will be given to rural communities.

Aerial imagery is a significant source of geospatial information and a record of the land at that time. It is necessary to “refresh” the aerial imagery regularly to record the changes taking place.

National Geospatial Information acquires aerial imagery annually. The CRDP sites have been prioritised.

The branch will also assist in creating orderly and sustainable rural settlements by ensuring alignment and harmonisation of rural development plans to existing planning frameworks, including provincial growth and development strategies and integrated development plans.

The department has considered the adverse impact that disasters have on rural areas and the lives of rural people and included in its strategy a disaster management component, which, together with other sector departments, will coordinate responses to rural disasters.

Cadastral surveys management

The Cadastral Surveys Management branch aims to provide efficient cadastral survey management services and cadastral information services in support of land delivery and development.

The programme is responsible for:

- regulating the Surveyor-General's (SG) offices
- examining and approving all surveys for the registration of land and real rights

Government is facilitating opportunities for women in rural, peri-urban and informal settlements to participate in green-economy projects such as solar energy, water purification, agriculture, construction, waste management and tourism.

The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities also facilitate financial support and training for female farmers and female co-operatives, together with national and international partners, particularly the United Nations (UN) Development Programme, UN Women and the UN Populations Fund. In addition, the department is also empowering women in construction in collaboration with the departments of human settlements and public works by facilitating opportunities for women to enter the alternative construction technology field.

- maintaining cadastral survey records
- archiving all cadastral surveys
- compiling, maintaining and revising maps of property boundaries
- providing cadastral advisory and spatial information services.

SG offices have been decentralised to seven of the nine provinces. They are responsible for the examination and approval of all land surveyed in the country as depicted on diagrams, general plans and sectional plans prior to registration at the Deeds Registration Office.

The branch is also the sole custodian of cadastral information.

Cadastral information preserved and maintained at the offices of the SG assists the department in its analysis and planning of rural development initiatives. The officers also facilitate state land surveys and identify unsurveyed and unalienated state land.

Cadastral Surveys, together with Deeds Registration, deals with the land administration system by improving access of SG offices to the majority of the population in all the provinces, as well as improving the multimedia lodgement facility that was implemented in 2008.

Through its training unit, professional land surveyors, survey technicians and pupil survey officers will continue receiving training and development.

About 88% of the National Spatial Data Set was completed in 2010/11. The examined and approved diagrams, general plans and sectional plans which have been archived assisted in the updating of the National Spatial Data Set.

Deeds registration

There are 10 deeds registries in South Africa whose core responsibility it is to:

- register real rights in land
- maintain a public land register
- provide registration information
- maintain an archive of registration records.

The deeds registries are in Pretoria, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Nelspruit, Pietermaritzburg, Kimberley, Vryburg, Mthatha and King William's Town. These offices register

deeds and documents relating to real rights in more than eight million registered land parcels consisting of township erven, farms, agricultural holdings, sectional title units and sectional title exclusive-use areas in terms of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 (Act 47 of 1937), and the Sectional Titles Act, 1986 (Act 95 of 1986).

To take deeds-registry services to the people, the department aims to establish a deeds registry in every province. This project entails establishing a deeds registry in Polokwane, Limpopo.

The Deeds Registry is open to any member of the public to access information regarding the following:

- the registered owner of a property
- the conditions affecting such property
- interdicts and contracts in respect of the property
- the purchase price of the property
- rules of a sectional title scheme
- a copy of an antenuptial contract, deeds of servitude and mortgage bonds
- a copy of a sectional title plan
- township-establishment conditions
- information relating to a property or deed.

Deeds registration has progressively introduced e-Cadastre, which is aimed at improving cadastral surveys management and deeds registration as well as the consolidation of data stores.

By 31 March 2011, a total of 904 928 deeds and documents had been registered in the 10 deeds registries countrywide.

As far as the e-Cadastre Project is concerned, the enterprise architecture investigation, which is aimed at consolidating cadastral surveys and deeds registration data stores, has been concluded. Digital scanning of the microfilm records has commenced.

Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR)

The aim of this commission is to resolve restitution claims within the target period through negotiated settlements that restore land rights or award alternative forms of equitable redress to claimants.

In 2012, 480 restitution land claims were being litigated in court. In 2012/13, 260 claims were settled, 249 of which were for financial compensation, and one for the restoration of land comprising 18 855 hectares and benefiting 5 154 households. This performance exceeded the projected target of 133 claims.

The intentions of the CRLR are to:

- facilitate access to land by victims of racially motivated land disposessions that took place under the previous government
- alleviate poverty through sustainable development on restored land as well as improved livelihoods
- foster the rights of vulnerable groups in terms of ownership and participation in economic activities
- foster national reconciliation and stability.

People dispossessed of a land right after 19 June 1913, in terms of racially discriminatory laws and practices, are entitled to restitution of that right or equitable redress.

All claims are against the State, and no one may be deprived of property except in terms of law of general application.

The restitution process is implemented in line with the provisions of Section 25 of the Constitution, which places emphasis on equitable redress.

The commission has been rationalised to create better synergy with, and clearer lines of accountability to the department, in its day-to-day operations. The core of the commission, being the Chief Land Claims Commissioner (the CLCC), the Deputy Land Claims Commissioner and the Regional Land Claims Commissioner remain within the ambit of the founding legislation.

In the provinces, restitution support personnel have been placed under the Public Service Act. Responsibility for restitution support services has been formally delegated to them by the CLCC. Restitution Support Chief Directors have taken charge of these delegated responsibilities, and report directly to the CLCC.

This realignment is starting to produce benefits, such as:

- reduced timelines in the finalisation of land claims
- strengthened capacity of the legal division, and a reduction of court orders resulting in emergency settlement of claims which had a negative effect on the budget
- 95% completion of the process of introducing an electronic data system to capture and process land claims.

Since 2009, the commission has spent R4,8 billion to acquire 368 483 ha of land for restoration.

During 2011/12, the CRLR settled 30 claims and five claims for financial compensation were finalised to the value of R36 938 242. These were for the communities of Delportshoop, Warrenton, Vioolsdrift, Gathose (Lohattha), Griekwastad, Ga-Segonyane and Phokwane Mixed Location. There are two phased claims for land restitution to the value of R12,7 million for the Gong-Gong and Wedberg communities.

The Regional Land Claims Commission in the Northern Cape expected nine new claims to be settled during 2012/13, to finalise 20 backlog claims and also settle 10 phased claims. This should leave a total of 153 outstanding claims in the Northern Cape. Since 1994, 561 252,35 ha of land has been approved for land restitution, of which 471 827 ha had already been transferred to the claimants.

The total 2012/13 allocation for the Regional Land Claims Commission Northern Cape is R39 613 000 and R180 686 000 for the capital allocation.

Programmes and projects

Having learnt from the pilot projects, the department introduced two programmes in rural development:

- Animal and Veld Management Programme, focusing on fencing and animal handling facilities; stock water dams and boreholes; mechanisation; dip tanks; soil rehabilitation; crop storage facilities; and fire breaks. The aim of this programme is to increase production in communal areas and state land. This year, 60 rural communities throughout the country will benefit from this programme.

- The River Valley Catalytic Programme, which was started along the Tugela River in KwaZulu-Natal and the Mbashe River, as part of the Nelson Mandela Legacy Bridge in the Eastern Cape. The project is aimed at developing agricultural land along river banks, and is linked to agro-logistics infrastructure, including roads and processing plants. In partnership with the provincial Department of Agriculture, the programme will bring into production approximately 1 500 ha of land. It will also continue to support the work of the Masibambisane Rural Development Initiative, spearheaded by the President.

Initiatives to revitalise rural towns and villages, which started in 2010, will continue. In 2012, the department completed a sports stadium and recreation facilities in Jacobsdal in the Free State.

It also started work on the construction of a multi-purpose facility in the village of Masia in Limpopo, offering services such as a computer lab, amphitheatre, cultural village, sports facilities, an auditorium, a library and administration offices.

The department also focused on the provision of sanitation, early childhood development centres, improved health facilities and information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure in Amajuba and Abaqulusi district municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal. The Narysec Programme identified 800 young people for training from these municipalities.

Access to information and communication services is crucial to unlocking economic and educational opportunities in rural areas.

To this end, the department continues to roll out the I-school programme in partnership with Apple and the Department of Science and Technology; the roll-out of digital doorways, and ensuring the establishment of ICT centres in at least five wards throughout the country.

In terms of scaling up rural development in the 23 prioritised districts, a national multi-sectoral team worked with these district municipalities towards ensuring that at least one catalytic project per district is started during 2012/13.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

The CRDP is premised on three phases: Phase One, which has meeting basic human needs as its driver; Phase Two, which has large-scale infrastructure development as its driver; and Phase Three, with the emergence of rural industrial and credit financial sectors, which is driven by small, micro and medium enterprises and village markets.

The creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods lies at the heart of the CRDP. The programme commits itself to ensuring that at least one person in each rural household is employed for a minimum period of two years.

To ensure sustainability, communal ownership, and effective contribution towards the overall objectives of developing rural areas, the department entered into social compacts with communities, as well as contractual relationships with unemployed community members.

The strategic objective of the CRDP is to facilitate integrated development and social cohesion through participatory approaches in partnership with all sectors of society.

This is done by:

- contributing to the redistribution of 30% of the country's agricultural land
- improving food security of the rural poor
- creating business opportunities
- decongesting and rehabilitating overcrowded former homeland areas
- expanding opportunities for rural women, youth, people with disabilities and older people.

Under the CRDP, 2 447 household food gardens have been established in the CRDP sites during 2012.

By January 2013, CRDP 2 656 beneficiaries were skilled and capacitated in technical enterprise development trade; 52 councils of stakeholders have been established as representative community forums; CRDP has been rolled out to 157 rural wards; 143 698 poor households were profiled to assess their needs; 692 km of fencing was erected in the CRDP wards; and 96 km of roads were upgraded.

The community of Muyexe, an impoverished rural township in the Giyani District of Limpopo, reaped several benefits through the programme:

- 330 houses have been built
- boreholes have been equipped
- a water purification plant has been set up, underwritten by the Development Bank of South Africa
- internal water reticulation has been established
- 275 sanitation units have been provided
- a community centre with a post office, clinic, satellite police station, drop-in centre and sports stadium have been built
- the local school was renovated and more classrooms and ablution facilities were added
- a new early childhood development centre with solar lighting was also constructed.
- two village viewing areas enable the community to view major sporting events
- an I-school Africa Rural Development Programme at the secondary and primary school offers learners an opportunity to interact and forge skills in the use of new technology
- solar powered street lights are to be provided in Muyexe, Gonono and Dingamanzi.

Other communities also benefited under the programme:

- In Mkhondo in Mpumalanga, 100 households were assisted with solar units. The local school was also renovated and boarding facilities were built.
- In Riemvasmaak, in the Northern Cape, 100 household gardens were established.

In November 2012, Cabinet approved a policy to establish the office of the Valuer-General, which will be responsible for valuing land nationwide. The Office of the Valuer-General will be an independent institution to assist with the valuation of land, ensuring proper market value of land without relying solely on the private sector, and keeping records of the value of land.

It will be an independent statutory body, aimed at facilitating the effective collection of better land market information and more effective regulation of the property valuation industry.

- In Vredesvallei in the Northern Cape, a one-hectare community garden was established; 22 livestock farmers were provided with grazing camps; a 37-km water pipeline was completed and solar lighting was provided to 100 households; two clinics have been constructed and are operational; and cattle-handling facilities and fencing have been completed.

The CRDP was extended to other communities including Schmidtsdrift in the Siyanda District, Heuningvlei in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District and Renosterberg in the Pixley Ka Seme District.

In the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, in the North West, a community of 800 people benefited from a project in which they received 40 pregnant Bonsmara heifers to improve the quality of livestock for an enterprise development project and 12 Bonsmara bulls for breeding purposes. In addition, nine cooperatives in the district received 200 goats and seven rams.

In KwaZulu-Natal, 780 households in Msinga received electricity. Bulk water infrastructure is also benefitting 720 households under the Ndaya Water Scheme.

The Malenge Irrigation Scheme in KwaZulu-Natal, consisting of 199 beneficiaries, received assistance in resuscitating production. They are producing vegetables and grain crops on 280 ha of land.

A total of 50 ha of dry beans have been planted at Nhlahleni in KwaZulu-Natal, while 200 ha of maize and sunflower production was established for 120 beneficiaries.

In the Free State, crèches, a school and clinics were built in Diyatalawa and Makholokoeng. Three hydroponic tunnels were erected for intensive tomato production in Makholokoeng.

Another success of the CRDP was the 258 vegetable gardens constructed in Mhlonto in the Eastern Cape. At least 15 of these gardens are selling to local retail shops. In Idutywa and Alice, 600 ha of maize were planted and two agri-parks were established.

The department contributed to the increased number of households with access to sanita-

tion by 10%, 10,45% access to electricity, 4% accesses to clean water, distributed 39 331 rainwater harvesting tanks and constructed 37 km of water pipeline in North West. Bulk water and sanitation infrastructure have been constructed in KwaZulu-Natal, the Northern Cape and North West. Rain-water harvesting tanks have been distributed throughout CRDP sites.

Communal Property Association (CPA)

The CPA Act 28, 1996 is aimed at enabling communities “to form juristic persons, to be known as CPAs, to acquire, hold and manage property on a basis agreed to by members of a community in terms of a written constitution; and to provide for matters connected therewith”.

In November 2012, government held a two-day CPA workshop to discuss the Act and explore ways in which communal land located in rural areas could benefit those who live on it by unlocking the underlying mineral wealth.

The workshop formed part of the department’s ongoing consultation process with all its stakeholders to create a deeper understanding of one of government’s key priority areas – rural development.

The department used the platform to establish various national reference groups, with the first meeting held early in January 2013.

During 2011/12, the Mhlongamvula CPA in Mpumalanga planted 400 ha of summer crops (200 ha of soya beans and 200 ha of maize). The crops resulted in a total income of R3,04 million. The project also resulted in 18 people being employed and provided with tractors and other farming implements. Two vegetable enterprises were also established as a result of the Master Gardener Training Programme.

In the Dr RS Mompoti District, 40 pregnant Bonsmara heifers were procured to improve the quality of livestock for two enterprise development projects, for the benefit of a CPA consisting of 500 people and a trust consisting of 60 people.

National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec)

Narysec is a youth skills development and employment programme aimed at empowering rural youth from each of the 3 300 rural wards in the country. The objective of Narysec is to recruit and develop rural youth between the ages of 18 and 35 to provide community service in their communities. Participants are contracted for 24 months following their recruitment.

Narysec was launched in 2011 as part of the National Youth Service with an initial 7 900 participants, of which about 4 500 have either received or are in the process of completing training in various skills.

The Narysec Programme is aimed at complementing the department’s job-creation model, which targets and ensures that at least one person per household in the rural areas where the CRDP is piloted, gets a job, which is linked to skills development.

Skills development is mainly in the construction sector. However, an important component of the training is aimed at instilling values such as discipline and patriotism and to equip candidates with life skills and awareness of their rights. Successful applicants undergo an intensive training programme, based on needs identified and approved by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Candidates receive a monthly stipend for the duration of the programme.

After completion of the two-year training programme, they are redeployed in their communities.

The long-term strategic objectives of the programme are to:

- reduce youth unemployment in rural areas
- increase literacy and skills among rural youth
- increase disposable income of youth in rural areas through employment and entrepreneurial opportunities
- reduce dependence on transfers from family members working in urban areas.

Through the programme, the department has taken on board more than 11 000 young people from rural areas throughout the country and

has helped over 4 000 of them to get theoretical training at Further Education and Training colleges.

Working in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education and Training through the National Skills Development Fund, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform secured an additional R190 million for 2012/13 to increase enrolment to 15 000 participants.

Land Reform Programme

The principles which underpin the new approach to sustainable land reform are:

- deracialisation of the rural economy
- democratic and equitable land allocation and use across gender, race and class
- strict production discipline for guaranteed national food security.

During 2012/13, the Land Reform Programme provided access to over 320 000 ha of agricultural land at a cost of R2,7 billion.

Strategic support was provided to 416 new emerging farmers through recapitalisation in addition to the existing 595 farms that were supported at a cost of R1,2 billion. Work started to revitalise eight irrigation schemes, namely Ncora and Keiskamma Hoek in the Eastern Cape; Taung in North West; Vaalharts in the Northern Cape; Nkomazi in Mpumalanga; and Tugela Ferry, Nsuze and Bululwane in KwaZulu-Natal.

The department also revived the Butterworth abattoir and tannery to assist local communal livestock farmers to become part of the red meat value-chain.

A total of 823 300 ha were acquired and redistributed since 2009. Of this, 7 000 ha had been allocated to provide the core estate for the Cradock Bio-ethanol Project in the Eastern Cape. The project will be implemented in partnership with the departments of trade and industry, economic development, rural development and land reform, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, energy and the provincial departments of agriculture.

Smallholder support programmes are being reviewed and a smallholder plan is being developed. These plans are supported by

some agro-processing programmes, including soya bean processing, canning, biofuels, furniture, and food processing industries, as well as small-scale maize milling in rural areas.

Other developments include the launch of the Zero Hunger Programme and the Aquaculture Programme. Zero Hunger creates opportunities for the smallholder sector to grow by opening up institutional markets for their benefit, such as through the School Nutrition Programme, hospitals and clinics.

As part of the implementation of the National Climate Change Response Policy, long-term adaptation scenarios are developed to determine which sectors may be climate sensitive and to develop response strategies.

Recapitalisation and development

In February 2012, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform announced plans to launch the RADP Strategy.

The aim of this strategy is to recapitalise poor and previously disadvantaged and under-producing farms, which were secured for emerging farmers through the Land and Redistribution for Agricultural Development Strategy. The intention with the initiative is to increase agricultural production, guarantee food security and job creation and graduate small-scale farmers to commercial farmers.

The department has committed itself to recapitalise more than 1 000 deserted and unproductive farms nationally. The model is designed in such a way that a farm will be funded under close supervision of the department to ensure sustainability going forward.

Strategic partners have been selected within the commercial farming community to ensure the success of the programme.

Farms that had made progress under its RADP include sugar cane farms in KwaZulu-Natal; red meat farms in the Free State, North West and the Northern Cape; poultry enterprises in North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga; and citrus farms in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Of the 4 000 water-use licences granted in early 2012, 1 658 will help to contribute to rural

development, including afforestation and agricultural development.

Other departments assisted enterprises based in rural areas, such as the Department of Trade and Industry expanding its support to agro-processing for rural areas in sectors such as maize milling; the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries introducing a complementary agro-processing strategy; and the Department of Science and Technology's continued support to a range of aquaculture and agro-sector projects that make use of new technologies.

Assistance was also provided to small and micro enterprises in rural areas to offer a simplified environment impact analysis process, as part of the Industrial Policy Action Plan.

Conclusion

The fundamental focus of the department's initiatives is to continue improving the lives of people living in rural areas. This is done through the agrarian transformation of societies, thus laying a solid foundation for food security, food sovereignty and economic development in general.

While the implementation of the CRDP in all nine provinces has started to bear results in terms of meeting basic human needs and improving infrastructure and enterprise development, the pace of service delivery needs to be increased, particularly in the 22 poorest districts.

The department will therefore fast-track rural development programmes aimed at expanding agricultural production by small-scale farmers,

extending core infrastructure to rural areas, increasing jobs and skills, and revitalising rural towns.

Programmes will be implemented to increase access of previously disadvantaged people to land, to redress tenure insecurity, and to provide restitution for the dispossessed. To this end, the department is paying special attention to policy and legislation.

Extensive public consultations with various stakeholders have been held regarding the *Green Paper on Land Reform* and the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill, which seeks to transform land administration, with clear proposals to achieve equity, integration and sustainability in spatial planning.

The Green Paper, which has already been approved by Cabinet, intends to bring drastic changes to the implementation of land reform and overhaul South Africa's rural areas into vibrant, equitable and sustainable communities.

The need to instil national identity, shared citizenship and autonomy-fostering service delivery are the primary reasons why government must continue to invest in the transformation of land relations, systems and patterns of land control and ownership.

All programmes of the department will therefore be guided by the principles of equity, equality and allocation of resources in a gender-responsive way. To give effect to this, the department is paying particular attention to the land rights needs and interests of women, children and older people.

Acknowledgements

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Annual Report 2011/12
 Pretoria News
www.info.gov.za

Suggested reading

- Alden, C. 2009. *Land, Liberation and Compromise in Southern Africa*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bloom, J. 2009. *Rising Tide: How Freedom of Responsibility Uplifts Everyone*. South Africa: South African Institute of Race Relations.
- Changuion, L & Steenkamp, B. 2012. *Disputed Land: The Historical Development of the South African Land Issue, 1652 – 2011*. Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis.
- Gibson, JL. 2009. *Overcoming Historical Injustices: Land Reconciliation in South Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hall, R (ed). 2009. *Another Countryside? Policy Options for Land and Agrarian Reform in South Africa*. Bellville: PLAAS, School of Government, University of the Western Cape.
- Kepe, T & Ntsebeza, L. 2012. *Rural Resistance in South Africa: The Mpondo Revolts After Fifty Years*. Cape Town: UCT Press.
- Walker, C, Bohlin, A, Hall, R & Kepe, T. *Land, Memory, Reconstruction, and Justice: Perspectives on Land Claims in South Africa*. 2010. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press.
- Nelson, F (ed). 2010. *Community Rights, Conservation and Contested Land: The Politics of Natural Resource Governance in Africa*. London: Earthscan.
- Setumu, T. 2011. *His Story is History: Rural Village Future Through the Eyes of a Rural Village Boy*. Pretoria: Unisa Press.
- Walker, C. 2008. *Landmarked: Land Claims and Land Restitution in South Africa*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
- Yanou, MA. 2009. *Dispossession and Access to Land in South Africa: An African Perspective*. Mankon, Bamenda: Langaa Research & Publishing CIG.