





Agriculture and land affairs



The Department of Agriculture aims to lead and support sustainable agriculture and promote rural development by:

- ensuring access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food
- eliminating skewed participation and inequity in the sector
- maximising growth, employment and income in agriculture
- improving the sustainable management of natural agricultural resources and ecological systems
- ensuring effective and efficient governance
- ensuring knowledge and information management.

The department's budget increased from R871,1 million in 2001/02 to R1,4 billion in 2004/05.

For 2005/06, expenditure was expected to continue to increase rapidly, rising to R1 194 701 billion in 2007/08. These increases are allocated to the new Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), agricultural disaster-relief programmes, the LandCare Programme, and regulatory services to contain animal and plant-disease outbreaks.

Strategic Plan for South African Agriculture

The department, through its socio-economic development initiatives, is committed to reducing poverty in South Africa and on the continent, broadening access to agriculture and increasing productivity and profitability within the agriculture sector.

The Strategic Plan for South African Agriculture, adopted in 2001, consists of three core objectives:

- equitable access and participation
- global competitiveness and profitability
- sustainable resource management.

The plan is the result of collaboration between government, Agri SA and the National African Farmers' Union (NAFU).

Agricultural economy

South Africa has a dual agricultural economy, comprising a well-developed commercial sector and a predominantly subsistence-oriented sector in the rural areas. About 13% of South Africa's surface area can be used for crop production. High-potential arable land comprises only 22% of total arable land. Some 1,3 million hectares (ha) are under irrigation.

The most important factor limiting agricultural production is the availability of water. Rainfall is distributed unevenly across the country. Almost 50% of South Africa's water is used for agricultural purposes.

The country can be subdivided into a number of farming regions according to climate, natural vegetation, types of soil and the type of farming practised. Agricultural activities in these regions range from intensive crop production and mixed farming in winter-rainfall and high summer-rainfall areas, to cattle-ranching in the bushveld, and sheep-farming in the more arid regions. Owing to its geographical location, some parts of South Africa are prone to drought.

Primary commercial agriculture contributes about 3,3% to South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and about 7,2% to formal employment. However, there are strong backward and forward linkages into the economy, so that the agro-industrial sector is estimated to comprise 15% of GDP.

Today, South Africa is not only self-sufficient in virtually all major agricultural products, but in a normal year it is also a net food exporter. However, major import products include wheat, rice and vegetable oils.

Despite the farming industry's declining share of GDP, it remains vitally important to the economy, and the development and stability of the southern African region.

For the past five years, agricultural exports have contributed on average about 8% (7,6% in 2004) of total South African exports.

Normally, South Africa is a net exporter of agricultural products in rand value. The largest export groups are wine; citrus; sugar; grapes; maize; fruit juice; wool; and deciduous fruit such as apples, pears, peaches and apricots. Other important export products are non-alcoholic beverages, food preparations, meat, avocados, pineapples, ground-nuts, preserved fruit and nuts, hides and skins, and dairy products.

During 2004, the United Kingdom (UK), The Netherlands, Germany, the United States of America (USA) and Mozambique were the five largest trading partners of South Africa in terms of export destination.

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

South Africa does not have ideal conditions for crop production. Less than 12% of its land is arable, and serious climatic constraints, such as periodic droughts, hinder agricultural production.

Despite these circumstances, productivity must increase to meet the population's growing food requirements. Recent developments in biotechnology have brought hope to the challenge of increasing food production. Genetic modification provides a way of meeting the growing demand for food

Exports						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Average: five years
Total South African products ('000 000)	210 022	245 448	314 927	274 640	292 261	267 460
Total agricultural products ('000 000)	15 820	20 075	25 460	23 001	22 187	21 309
Agriculture as % of total exports	7,5	8,2	8,1	8,4	7,6	8,0

Source: Directorate: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

without placing even greater pressure on scarce resources.

The GMO Act, 1997 (Act 15 of 1997), that was implemented on 1 December 1999 provides for the regulation of GMOs in South Africa, particularly new biosafety assessments.

In terms of the Act, permits are issued for trials and the commercial release of any GMO crops in the country, to ensure contained cultivation and reduced environmental impact.

The objectives of the Act are to increase crop yield while protecting biodiversity. In 2001, the Department of Agriculture approved the planting of three commercial genetically modified (GM) crops: insect-resistant cotton, herbicide-resistant cotton and insect-resistant maize.

There are no GM crops planted for human consumption in South Africa. Neither are there fresh GM fruit and vegetables on sale in the country. Imported engineered soya is used in processed meat and other locally produced food.

In terms of the GMO Act, 1997, the advisory committee, comprising scientific experts, conducts risk assessments to determine if a particular GMO is safe for humans, animals and the environment. The Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972), oversees the safety of food in South Africa.

Sustainable resource management and use

South Africa, at most times, is able to meet its own food requirements with considerable food exportation. However, improved information about the potential and limitations of the natural resource base is essential for good management decisions.

An inventory of soils, terrain forms and climate (land types) was undertaken by the Agricultural Research Council's (ARC) Institute for Soil, Climate and Water. The National Land Type Survey, completed in 2001, assists land-use planning and decision-making. Data from this and other more detailed soil and climate surveys are integrated into the comprehensive Agricultural Geo-Referenced Information

System (GIS), which provides access to information, via the Internet, on agricultural potential and land suitability.

Although it is generally recognised that soil degradation is a problem, little reliable data has been collected systematically over time. Soil degradation is largely related to the decline in soil organic matter. Monoculture cereal production, intensive tillage, short-to-no fallow, and limited crop rotation have contributed to this in the commercial sector.

Excessive fuel-wood collection, inappropriate land-use, population density and overgrazing are the main causes of soil degradation in communal areas. In addition, it is estimated that about 60% of the cropland area is moderately to severely acidic, and probably at least 15% is affected by subsoil acidity.

Physical degradation

Physical degradation of South Africa's agricultural land results in soil erosion by both water and wind. It has been estimated that water erosion affects about 6,1 million ha of cultivated soil in South Africa, and wind erosion about 10,9 million ha. Another degradation problem is compaction within the soil profile, especially with fine sandy soils where, for example, maize yields can be adversely affected by some 30% to 40%.

Urban spread, industrialisation and mining (such as opencast coal-mining in Mpumalanga) also affect the sustainable use of agricultural land.

In accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983), the Department of Agriculture exercises control over the use of South Africa's natural agricultural resources. The Act provides for the conservation of these resources by maintaining the land's production potential, eliminating and preventing erosion and bush encroachment, protecting vegetation, and combating weeds and invader plants. The Act generally applies to agricultural land in South Africa, except for the sections dealing with weeds and invader plants, which also apply to urban areas.

To promote natural agricultural resource conservation, policies, norms, standards and guidelines have been developed, as has a national agricultural

resource audit division and a conservation GIS. National long-term grazing capacity norms were derived from national oceanic and atmospheric administration satellite data, as well as seasonal norms, taking into account the impact of climate on biomass production. At farmer level, conservation committees can be appointed to promote the conservation of natural agricultural resources in the area concerned.

Production

The prices of agricultural products increased by 2,3% from 2003 to 2004. During 2004, the estimated total volume of agricultural production was 0,1% higher than during 2003. Producer prices of agricultural products decreased, on average, by 6,8% from 2003 to 2004, compared with an increase of 6,9% during the previous year.

In 2004, producer prices of horticultural products decreased by 3,4% compared with 2003. During the same period, the prices of fresh vegetables decreased significantly by 14,1%, while the prices of fruit fell by 8,2%.

The producer prices of animal products were only 1,7% higher in 2004 than in 2003. Prices received for slaughtered stock increased by 8,8%. However, prices received for pastoral products decreased by 15,6%. The price farmers received for milk was 3,6% lower. Prices received by poultry farmers showed almost no change compared with 2003.

During 2004, the producer price of field crops was 18,1% higher than during 2003.



According to the results of the Census of Agriculture, there were 45 818 active commercial farming units in South Africa in 2002. The number of paid workers employed by the formal agricultural sector decreased by 152 445 (13,9%) from 1 093 265 in 1993 to 940 820 in 2002. Nearly half of the employees in 2002 were casual and seasonal workers.

According to the Labour Force Survey, released by Statistics South Africa in March 2005, 1 170 000 people were employed in agriculture.

The total gross value of agricultural production (total production during a production season valued at the average basic prices received by producers) for 2004 was estimated at R71 211 million (R70 855 million in 2003) – an increase of 0,5%.

Farm income

The gross income of producers (the value of sales and production for other uses plus the value of changes in inventories) for 2004 amounted to R68 805 million compared with R68 717 million in 2003 – an increase of only 0,1%.

In 2004, the gross income from field crops decreased by 8% to R17 284 million compared with R18 780 million in 2003. This was mainly because of lower wheat production, as well as the downward trend in the prices that farmers received for summer crops during 2004.

Gross income from horticultural products increased by 2,1%, from R20 023 in 2003, to R20 451 million in 2004.

Income from deciduous and other summer fruit increased by 17,6% to R5 498 million, while that of citrus fruit increased by only 1,1% to R3 671 million. The increase in deciduous fruit and other summer fruit can be attributed to both an increase in production and in domestic prices received.

The income from vegetables amounted to R6 235 million – a decrease of 6,6%. Income from potatoes, which maintained a contribution of about 38% to the gross income from vegetables, decreased by 10% from R2 627 million in 2003 to R2 364 million in 2004.

Gross income from animal products was 3,9% higher and amounted to R31 070 million. Producers earned R6 992 million from the slaughtering of cattle and calves – an increase of 20,4%.

The price of beef increased by 10,8%. Income from slaughtered sheep grew by 3,5% and amounted to R1 689 million. Income from poultry and egg production amounted to R13 390 million – an increase of 0,8%. Income from ostrich feathers and products, however, dropped by 7,7% to R275 million, mainly as a result of the decrease in the number of ostriches slaughtered.

Field crops and horticulture

The largest area of farmland is planted with maize, followed by wheat and, to a lesser extent, sugar cane and sunflowers.

The grain industry is one of the largest in South Africa and is also a very strategic one.

This industry produces between 25% and 33% of the total gross value of agricultural production. The gross value of grain production is usually around R12 billion, but in the 2001/02 season, it increased to R22 billion as a result of, among other things, higher prices.

Grain South Africa represents a total of 17 000 grain producers, of whom 11 000 are from disadvantaged communities. These farmers represent roughly 90% of all grain produced in South Africa.

Other major role-players include the silo, milling, baking and animal-feed industries.

Maize

Maize is the largest locally produced field crop, and the most important source of carbohydrates in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for animal and human consumption.

South Africa is the main maize producer in the SADC, with an average production of about 9,2 million tons (mt) a year over the past 10 years.

It is estimated that more than 8 000 commercial maize producers are responsible for the major part of the South African crop, while the rest is produced by thousands of small-scale producers.

Maize is produced mainly in North West; the north-western, northern and eastern Free State; the Mpumalanga Highveld; and the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Local commercial consumption of maize amounts to about 8 mt, and surplus maize is usually exported.

A total of 9,7 mt of maize was produced in 2003/04 on 3,2 million ha of land (developing agriculture included). An estimated 3 mt surplus of maize was carried over to 2004/05. This carry-over contributed to the slump in maize prices to four-year lows in the first quarter of 2005.

Maize prices plunged from more than R1 000 per ton in November 2004 to less than R600 during the first quarter of 2005. It is expected that the price of

maize will remain low. Better than expected rains also contributed to the maize price slide.

Wheat

Wheat is produced mainly in the winter-rainfall areas of the Western Cape and the eastern parts of the Free State. Production in the Free State is the highest, but there are considerable annual fluctuations. The price of wheat increased by 9,2% in 2003/04, compared with the previous marketing season.

Wheat is imported to meet local requirements.

Barley

Barley is produced mainly on the southern coastal plains of the Western Cape. The area where barley is planted totalled 82 650 ha in the 2004/05 production season. Production totalled 189 365 tons (t).

Ground-nuts

Ground-nuts are grown mainly in the Free State, North West and the Northern Cape. Ground-nut planting decreased by 40% from 71 500 ha in 2003/04 to 42 800 ha in 2004/05.

Sunflower seed

South Africa is the world's 11th-largest producer of sunflower seed. Sunflower seed is produced in the Free State, North West and on the Mpumalanga Highveld, as well as in Limpopo.

An area of 530 000 ha was planted in 2003/04, producing 648 000 t.

Lucerne seed

For many years, Oudtshoorn, De Rust and Douglas were the only areas in South Africa in which lucerne seed was produced in reasonable quantity. Today, the Oudtshoorn district is responsible for about 8,5% of the lucerne seed produced in South Africa.

Sorghum

Sorghum is cultivated mostly in the drier parts of the summer-rainfall areas such as Mpumalanga, the Free State, Limpopo, North West and Gauteng.

In 2003/04, production of sorghum totalled 373 000 t on 130 000 ha of land.

Sugar

South Africa is ranked as the world's 13th-largest sugar producer. The South African sugar industry is one of the world's leading cost-competitive producers of high-quality sugar.

Sugar cane is grown in 14 cane-producing areas extending from northern Pondoland in the Eastern Cape, through the coastal belt and Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal, to the Mpumalanga Lowveld.

There are more than 50 000 registered cane growers.

Gross value of agricultural production, 2004 (R'000)	
Field crops	
Maize	8 318 266
Wheat	2 000 529
Hay	2 257 501
Grain sorghum	404 228
Sugar cane	2 730 628
Ground-nuts	367 307
Tobacco	581 999
Sunflower seed	1 235 948
Cotton	215 102
Other	1 318 057
Total	19 428 565
Horticulture	
Viticulture	2 623 417
Citrus fruit	3 670 562
Subtropical fruit	1 336 969
Deciduous and other fruit	5 743 251
Vegetables	3 870 485
Potatoes	2 364 441
Other	1 171 116
Total	20 780 241
Animal products	
Wool	936 607
Poultry and poultry products	13 389 903
Cattle and cattle slaughtered	6 991 676
Sheep and goats slaughtered	1 760 828
Pigs slaughtered	1 276 595
Fresh milk	3 776 064
Milk for dairy products	1 171 814
Other	1 766 442
Total	31 069 939
Grand total	71 279 745
Preliminary source: Directorate: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture	

It is a diverse industry combining the agricultural activities of sugar-cane cultivation with the industrial factory production of raw and refined sugar, syrups, specialised sugars and a range of by-products.

An estimated average of 2,5 mt of sugar is produced per season. About 50% of this sugar is marketed in southern Africa. The remainder is exported to numerous markets in Africa, the Middle East, North America and Asia.

Employment within the sugar industry totals about 85 000 jobs, with direct and indirect employment estimated at 350 000 people. About one million people depend on the sugar industry. Based on actual sales and selling prices in 2004/05, it is estimated that the South African sugar industry contributed R2,38 billion to South Africa's foreign exchange earnings.

The South African sugar industry makes an important contribution to the national economy, given its agricultural and industrial investments, foreign exchange earnings, its high employment, and linkages with major suppliers, support industries and customers.

The established sugar industry aims to redistribute at least 78 000 ha of sugar-producing land to black farmers by 2015, as part of its contribution to the 30% national target of the redistribution of agricultural land. In 2004/05, government committed R6 million towards the first phase of the programme.

Deciduous fruit

Deciduous fruit is grown mainly in the Western Cape and in the Langkloof Valley in the Eastern Cape. Smaller production areas are found along the Orange River and in the Free State, Mpumalanga and Gauteng. This industry's export earnings represent 12% of the country's total earnings from agricultural exports. In 2003/04, apples made up the largest percentage of the crop (43%), while pears totalled 20% and grapes 19%. About 75% of the total crop was produced in the Western Cape, 14% in the Northern Cape, 8% in the Eastern Cape and 3% in Limpopo.

In 2002/03, the producer price of horticultural products increased by 19%. During 2003, South

Africa was the largest exporter in the southern hemisphere of table grapes to Europe. Horticulture represented 77% of the total value of agricultural exports, while deciduous fruit made up 60% of horticultural products.

In 2003/04, income from deciduous fruit increased by 18% from R4 478 million in 2002/03 to R5 266 million in 2003/04.

Wine

South Africa is the eighth-largest wine producer in the world.

About 110 200 ha of land are under cultivation with about 322 million vines. About 80% of wines are produced by co-operatives. Some 4 401 primary wine producers employ about 67 000 people. According to the South African Wine and Spirits Export Association, the export of white wine increased from 20 million litres (ML) in 1992 to 119 ML in 2004.

In 2004, South Africa harvested 312 184 t of grapes, which resulted in the production of 1 016 ML of wine, compared with 1 233 689 t and about 956 ML of wine in 2003. This represented an increase of 60 ML compared with the 2003 vintage.

In 2004, South Africa exported 266,5 ML of wine worldwide, which was a 12% volume increase from 2003, despite the robust Rand and aggressive competition prompted by a global oversupply. In addition to the USA, other high-growth destinations were the Netherlands, which grew by 18%, Germany (34%), Sweden (31%) and Canada (40%).

The Wine and Spirits Agreement between South Africa and the European Union (EU) was signed on 28 January 2002.

The agreement improves access for South African wine and spirits to the large European market. Applying an annual duty-free tariff quota of 42 ML ensures better access for South African wines. In addition, the EU makes available an amount of 15 million euro for restructuring the South African wine and spirits industry.

Part of the agreement involves phasing out names traditionally used in South Africa for specific types of wines. The names 'port' and 'sherry' were to be phased out over five years for exports to non-

SADC markets, starting from 1 January 2000. They must be phased out of all markets after 12 years. South Africa also has to phase out the names *grappa*, *ouzo*, *korn/kombrand*, *jägertee* and *pacharan* within five years of signing the agreement.

Citrus and subtropical fruit

Citrus production is largely limited to the irrigation areas of Limpopo, Mpumalanga, the Eastern and Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal.

A total of 2 mt of citrus was produced in 2003/04, an increase of 4% from 2002/03.

Pineapples are grown in the Eastern Cape and northern KwaZulu-Natal. Other subtropical crops such as avocados, mangoes, bananas, litchis, guavas, papayas, granadillas and macadamia and pecan nuts are produced mainly in Mpumalanga and Limpopo at Levubu and Letaba, and in the subtropical coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

In 2003/04, South Africa produced over 595 000 t of subtropical fruit.

Potatoes

About 40% of the country's potato crop is grown in the high-lying areas of the Free State and Mpumalanga. Limpopo, the Eastern, Western and Northern Cape, and the high-lying areas of



The estimated value of imports during 2004 amounted to about R15 847 million, compared with R13 921 million in 2003.

The estimated value of exports decreased from R23 453 million in 2003 to about R22 662 million in 2004. According to the 2004 export values, citrus fruit, wine, grapes, apples, pears and quinces, as well as sugar, were the most important export products.

Rice, wheat, oil cake, undenatured ethyl alcohol and palm oil were the most important import products. During 2004, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Mozambique and the United States of America (USA) were South Africa's five largest trading partners in terms of export destinations.

The five largest trading partners from whom South Africa imported agricultural products during 2004 were Argentina, Brazil, the USA, Thailand and Australia.

KwaZulu-Natal are also important production areas. About two-thirds of the country's total potato crop is produced under irrigation.

Of the total crop, 52% is delivered to fresh-produce markets and a further 20% is processed. The South African potato-processing industry has grown tremendously over the past few years. This growth took place primarily in the three main disciplines of the processing industry, namely crisps, chips and French fries. Frozen French fries comprise 45% of total processed potato products in South Africa.

In terms of gross income to the grower (apart from potatoes, which contribute 38%), tomatoes, onions, green mealies and sweetcorn are probably the most important vegetable crops.

These crops contribute 40% to the income derived from vegetables.

Income from potatoes decreased by 7%, from R2 933 million in 2002/03, to R2 540 million in 2003/04.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are produced countrywide, but mainly in Limpopo, the Mpumalanga Lowveld and Middleveld, the Pongola area of KwaZulu-Natal, the southern parts of the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape.

Onions

Onions are grown in Mpumalanga; in the districts of Caledon, Ceres and Worcester in the Western Cape;

and at Venterstad and adjoining areas in the southern Free State.

Cabbages

Cabbages are also grown countrywide, but are concentrated in Mpumalanga and the Camperdown and Greytown districts of KwaZulu-Natal.

Cotton

Cotton is cultivated in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and North West. It constitutes 74% of natural fibre and 42% of all fibre processed in South Africa. Cotton is grown under irrigation as well as in dry-land conditions.

Cotton under irrigation usually contributes almost as much to the national crop as that grown in dry-land conditions, although the number of hectares under dry-land conditions exceeds those under irrigation. About 75% of local production is harvested by hand. In 2002/03, the price of cotton increased by 10,5%.

Black farmers are being assisted to grow cotton on 9 000 ha of land in four provinces.

The Strategic Plan for the South African Cotton Sector has been developed to:

- grow farm output to a stable 370 000 lint bales by 2007
- broaden participation to enable emerging farmers to deliver an average of 100 000 lint bales annually by 2007
- raise productivity by training at least 60% of small growers by 2007
- improve research, extension services and technology transfer; expand exports by value, diversity, country of destination and client base; and accelerate the elimination of unfair competition by promoting regional and international co-operation, and through more effective lobbying in international trade fora.

Tobacco

Virginia tobacco is produced mainly in Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West. The production of Oriental tobacco ceased in 2001. There are 630 growers in South Africa who produce an annual average of 37 million kilograms (kg) on about 13 800 ha of land.

Production of important field crops and horticultural products, 2004 ('000 t)

Maize	9 737
Wheat	1 738
Sugar cane	19 095
Grain sorghum	449
Ground-nuts	128
Sunflower seed	677
Deciduous and other soft fruit	1 901
Citrus fruit	1 802
Subtropical fruit	619
Vegetables	2 015
Potatoes	1 656

Preliminary source: Directorate: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

The industry employs 23 580 workers. About 50% to 60% of leaf tobacco is exported annually. Excise duties and value-added tax on tobacco amount to R6 billion annually.

Tea

Honeybush tea grows mainly in the coastal and mountainous areas of the Western Cape, but also in certain areas of the Eastern Cape. Honeybush has grown into a commercial crop, with the production of more than 120 t of processed tea per year. The industry has seen an improvement in the quality of tea and the establishment of export standards, the construction of a large processing and packaging facility in Mossel Bay, increased consumer awareness, the appearance of several brand names on supermarket shelves, and a growing overseas market.

Rooibos tea is an indigenous herb produced mainly in the Cedarberg area of the Western Cape. In 2004, the demand for rooibos was estimated to be 9 800 t compared with 6 200 t exported in 2001. The active producers of rooibos tea are estimated at 320, ranging from small to large farming enterprises.

Ornamental plants

Ornamental plants are produced throughout the country, but production aimed particularly at the export market is concentrated in the central parts of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng. Ornamental-plant production includes nursery plants, cut flowers and pot plants. The country's most important plant export products are gladioli, proteas, bulbs, chrysanthemum cuttings and roses.

Amaryllis bulbs are a lucrative export product to the USA. The ARC is involved in several ongoing research activities in support of the protea and fynbos industry. Dried flowers form an important component of this industry. A large variety of proteas, cone bushes and other products are well-established in the marketplace.

Ornamental plants are produced throughout the country, with greenhouse and open-field production concentrated mainly in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng. The protea industry is mainly concentrated in the Western Cape.

Flowers

South Africa's indigenous flowers, such as, gladioli, nerine, freesia and gerbera, have undergone many years of extensive research in Europe, and have become major crops throughout the world.

South Africa is the leading exporter of protea cut flowers, which account for more than half of proteas sold on the world market. South African proteas and so-called Cape greens (fynbos) are mainly marketed in Europe.

Livestock

Livestock is farmed in most parts of South Africa. Numbers vary according to weather conditions. Stock-breeders concentrate mainly on the development of breeds that are well-adapted to diverse climatic and environmental conditions. The latest estimates for cattle and sheep are 13,8 million and 25,5 million, respectively. South Africa normally produces 85% of its meat requirements, while 15% is imported from Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

The livestock industry is the largest national agricultural sector. The local demand for products, which generally outstrips production, creates a dependence on imports, even though there are untapped production reserves in the communal farming sector.

Dairy-farming

Dairy-farming is practised throughout South Africa, with the highest concentration of dairy farms in the



A protracted R6-million rights- and licence-fee dispute over the right to use the term 'rooibos' ended in June 2005. Rooibos Limited, the Western Cape Government, the Department of Trade and Industry and the international trademark holder reached a final agreement that worldwide registration of the name would be cancelled.

The plant is believed to have been introduced to botanists for the first time by the Khoi people in 1772.

In terms of the settlement, worldwide registration of the word 'rooibos' will be cancelled and the name will be regarded as generic – without a brand name.

eastern and northern Free State, North West, the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, the Eastern and Western Cape, the Gauteng metropolitan area and the southern parts of Mpumalanga.

The ARC participates fully in the Multiple Across-Country Evaluation for all four major dairy breeds in South Africa, namely Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey and Ayrshire. A new rye grass cultivar developed by the ARC Range and Forage Institute can improve the milk production of a Jersey herd by 0,9 litres (l) per cow per day, and the production of a Holstein herd by 1,5 l per cow per day.

Milk SA co-ordinates industry matters, including the information and research functions, and is financed by means of voluntary contributions. Market forces determine prices. The dairy industry is an important employer as some 4 300 milk producers employ about 60 000 farm workers and indirectly provide jobs to some 40 000 people. Milk production for 2004 was estimated at 2 000 ML.

Stock-farming

Cattle ranches are found mainly in the Eastern Cape, parts of the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Northern Cape. The indigenous Afrikaner and Nguni, and the locally developed Bonsmara and Drakensberger, are popular beef breeds. British, European and American breeds, such as Charolais, Hereford, Angus, Simmentaler, Sussex, Brahman and Santa Gertrudis are maintained as pure breeds or used in cross-breeding.

The Taurus Livestock Improvement Co-operative (in Irene, Gauteng) is one of the companies providing the country's beef farmers with an annual average of some 110 000 units of semen, and the dairy industry with 580 000 units of semen, for use in artificial insemination.

Sheep-farming is concentrated mainly in the arid and extensive grazing areas of the country. As a result, most of the 25,5 million sheep in South Africa are found in the Eastern Cape (30%), followed by the Northern Cape (26%), Free State (20%), Western Cape (10%) and Mpumalanga (7%). Most sheep (18 million) are woolled or dual-purpose sheep.

The sheep breed with the highest wool production per head in South Africa is the pure-bred Merino, followed by other dual-purpose Merino strains, of which the Dohne Merino, the South African Mutton Merino, the Afrino and the Letelle are the most popular. Dual-purpose breeds are bred with the specific aim of maximising wool and mutton income, because these breeds have a better body conformation than the Merino, but produce slightly less wool per kilogram of body weight.

Average Merino fleece weights vary from 4 kg to 5 kg per year in the semi-arid regions, to up to 8 kg per year from sheep grazing on cultivated pastures. The total wool production for the 2003/04 season was 46,4 million kg per year and was sold for R1 004 million. Mutton sheep are mostly found in the semi-desert areas of the Northern and Western Cape.

The most popular mutton breed is the locally developed Dorper, which is a hardy and highly reproductive breed. Limited numbers of indigenous fat-tailed sheep and Karakul sheep are still found. The Merino and Dorper account for most of the 5,5 million sheep slaughtered annually in South Africa.

A large proportion of the 6,4 million goats in South Africa occur in communal grazing areas. The Eastern Cape has the most goats (40%), followed by Limpopo (16%).

Karakul sheep are farmed in the more arid areas. Only 5 876 Karakul pelts were produced during 2004. The gross value of pelts is estimated at R2,4 million.

The indigenous meat-producing Boer goat accounts for about 40% of all goats in South Africa. Almost all of South Africa's Angora goat (mohair) farmers are located in the Eastern Cape, where they farm with about one million head of Angora goats.

Livestock numbers, 2003 – 2004 (million)		
	2003	2004
Cattle	13,84	13,82
Sheep	25,84	25,51
Pigs	1,65	1,67
Goats	6,42	6,44

Source: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

The South African mohair clip of four million kg accounts for 60% of the world's mohair production.

About 63% of all goats in South Africa are the so-called indigenous goats. The gross income from animal products increased by 3,9%, from R29 915 million in 2003 to R31 070 million in 2004. Slaughtered cattle and calves earned producers R6 992 million in 2004, compared with R5 808 million in 2003 – an increase of 20,4%. The average price of beef increased by 10,8% during 2004.

Poultry and pig-farming

The poultry and pig industries are more intensive than the sheep and cattle industries and are located on farms near metropolitan areas such as Gauteng, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. The predominant pig breeds are the South African Landrace, the Large White, the Duroc and the Pietrain.

South Africa's annual poultry meat production is estimated at 895 000 t. Broiler production contributes about 80% to total poultry-meat production, with the rest made up of mature chicken slaughter (culls), small-scale and backyard poultry production, ducks, geese, turkeys and other specialised white-meat products.

Income from poultry and egg production amounted to R13 389 million in 2004. Commercial producers slaughtered an estimated 558 million broilers during 2004.

South Africa accounts for 68% of world sales of ostrich products, namely leather, meat and feathers. The income from ostrich products is derived as follows: leather (50% – 70%), meat (20% – 30%) and feathers (20% – 30%).

The gross value for ostrich products during 2004 was estimated at R299,6 million.

In 2003/04, some 292 000 ostriches were slaughtered compared with 307 000 in 2002/03.

Game-farming, aquaculture and bee-keeping

South Africa has more game and a wider variety of game species than most countries. Game-farming has grown over the years, and today it is a viable industry with great economic potential. The

main game areas are in Limpopo, North West, Mpumalanga, the Free State, the Eastern Cape, the Karoo, the Kalahari in the Northern Cape, and the thorn scrub of KwaZulu-Natal.

Despite periodic droughts in the past, game numbers have consistently increased.

The aquaculture industry in South Africa continues to make meaningful progress in cultivation technology, marketing strategy, marketing practice and scientific innovation. Mussels, trout, tilapia, catfish, oysters and waterblommetjies (Cape pondweed) are the major aquaculture species. Mussel-farming occurs mainly at Saldanha Bay.

The South African honey industry, which is still relatively small, is worth some R56 million annually.

Veterinary services

State Veterinary Services constantly guards against the introduction of animal diseases from outside South Africa. Existing animal diseases, which may be detrimental to South Africa's economy and to human and animal health, are also controlled and combated. Stock in the high-risk areas is inspected at short intervals.

The Directorate: Animal Health of the national Department of Agriculture sets norms and standards for the delivery of veterinary services in South Africa.

Legislation provides the necessary powers to control diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), swine fever, rabies and anthrax. South Africa,



In June 2005, reigning world champion sheep-shearer Elliot Ntombi retained his World Blade Shearing title at the World Shearers Championship held in Toowoomba, Australia.

The championship has showcased the best sheep-shearers in the world for more than two decades. South African shearers have dominated the event since 1996.

Bongani Joel of Alwynskop in Lesotho took second place, and Zokezele Doba and Zweliwile Hans, both from Sterkspruit in the Eastern Cape, took third and fifth place respectively.

excluding the Kruger National Park and surrounding game reserves, is recognised as an FMD-free zone by the *Office International des Épizooties* (OIE), the world animal health organisation.

Animal-disease control is an important factor in ensuring the productivity of the livestock sector and promoting international trade in agricultural products.

Surveillance systems are in place to ensure that all agricultural products entering and leaving the country are disease-free and thus safe for human consumption. All ports are thoroughly monitored, making sure that imported and exported goods are disease-free.

Particular emphasis is placed on the control of borders with neighbouring countries to prevent the introduction of FMD.

National and provincial governments spent more than R38 million in 2004/05 to successfully contain the outbreak of Avian flu in the Eastern Cape and FMD in Limpopo.

Animal health and disease

The Department of Agriculture delivers a number of critical regulatory and control services aimed at ensuring that the country's animals are disease-free.

In 2004, the department introduced *sedupe* – sniffer dogs – to detect illegal food items in airport luggage. By April 2005, the dogs had detected 307 illegal food consignments in the baggage carousel areas.



In January 2005, government allocated R100 million for drought relief in eight provinces to assist farmers in purchasing fodder, and for transportation to save livestock that were severely affected by drought. The money was also expected to be used for boreholes, the purchasing of fodder and transportation thereof.

Eastern Cape was allocated R8 million; Free State R17 million; KwaZulu-Natal R18 million; Limpopo R2 million; Mpumalanga R2 million; North West R18 million; Western Cape R9 million and Northern Cape R26 million.

Following the signing of the Ministerial Treaty between South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, continuous state veterinary input through the Joint Management Board ensures that no undue animal-disease risks emanate from the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP)

The OBP is a state-owned public company. It has the capacity and technology to produce veterinary vaccines and related biological products for local and international markets.

The OBP is the sole or main producer of at least 15 vaccines for African animal diseases, and eight vaccines for world tropical diseases. The OBP provides vaccines to fight major outbreaks of diseases such as CBPP (lung-sickness in cattle), lumpy-skin disease, Rift Valley fever, horse sickness and anthrax.

The OBP has also joined the Pan-African Vaccine Network to supply rinderpest and lung-sickness vaccines for Africa, and is involved in projects of the OIE, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the EU to supply vaccines to African countries.

In the cutting-edge area of biotechnology, the research and development work by the OBP has led to the successful creation of new and innovative vaccines, such as the Doublesure vaccine, which is a combination treatment of the anthrax and black-water diseases.

A key achievement has been the successful transformation of the organisation, with 50% of executive management being from previously disadvantaged groups, and 40% being women. Some 75% of the scientists are from previously disadvantaged groups, and 40% are women. The company is entirely self-financing and derives its revenue from the sale of vaccines and related biological products. Since its inception in 2000, the company has consistently shown a positive growth in sales. The contribution of export sales has increased from 25% to 50% of total sales, while the growth in profit has increased three-fold.

Pest control

Most countries have established maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides used in the control of agricultural pests and diseases, not only to safeguard consumer health, but also to minimise the presence of residue in the environment.

As a condition of market access, products exported must comply with these residue standards. To ensure compliance with legislation, monitoring samples are drawn for analysis during quality inspections.

Exporters and producers are obliged to:

- comply with the requirements of the correct, approved use and application of pesticide remedies
- keep records of the chemical remedies used in spray programmes and as a post-harvest treatment, and provide this information on request to the responsible authorities
- verify the MRLs with their importer or agent in the relevant country
- keep up with the registration and re-registration processes of pesticides within South Africa as well as in importing countries
- inform the Directorate: Plant Health and South African Agricultural Food and Quarantine Inspection Services (SAAFQIS) of any rejections by importing country authorities due to residues.

Migratory pest control

In terms of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act 36 of 1983), the Department of Agriculture is continuously involved in the control of migratory pests such as the quelea, locust and blackfly.

Quelea is controlled by aerial chemical spraying and explosives.

Locust outbreaks are controlled by knapsack sprayers, sprayers mounted on bakkies and by aerial chemical sprayers if the outbreak is very high.

Blackfly is controlled by aerial and boat chemical spraying, depending on the water level of the river.

Research conducted by the ARC contributes towards maximising South Africa's ability to provide timely and reliable forecasts of brown locust outbreaks, both for its own food-security needs and

those of neighbouring countries in the brown locust invasion area.

The South African Pest Control Association (SAPCA) is the official representative of the pest-, termite- and woodborer-control industries. All SAPCA-qualified inspectors have to register with the Department of Agriculture.

South Africa liaises with other countries and international organisations to ensure technology transfer on pest control.

In 2004, South Africa provided advice, logistical support and material resources against the outbreak of locusts in the Sahel region countries of Morocco, The Gambia, Niger, Senegal, Cape Verde, Chad, Burkina Faso and Tunisia.

Guided by the New Partnership for Africa's Development's (NEPAD) African Agricultural Development Programme (AADP), the Department of Agriculture, under the leadership of the Department of Foreign Affairs, provided spraying aircraft, pilots and chemicals to a total value of R10 million to cover 12 000 ha in Mali alone.

The four pillars of the AADP are land and water infrastructure, market access, food security, and research and development.

Marketing

South Africa's agricultural marketing has undergone transformation since 1994 through the introduction of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act 47 of 1996).

This Act has changed agricultural marketing policy and practice dramatically to ensure that it occurs in a free environment. The deregulation process was aimed at ensuring that farmers and agribusinesses position themselves as players in the globally competitive environment.

The deregulation process entailed the closing of agricultural marketing boards, phasing out import- and export-control measures, eliminating subsidies, and introducing tariffs to protect the domestic agricultural industry value chains against unfair international competition.

Since deregulation, the sector has begun to adjust to the high levels of competitiveness across

most value chains. Deregulation has further created many opportunities and has resulted in an increase in the number of new entrepreneurs participating in different nodes of agricultural marketing value chains. These include producers, processors, traders and providers of other supplementary services to ensure efficiency in the operation of the overall marketing value chains.

The phasing out of controls and the closure of marketing boards resulted in a shortage of essential services that were formerly provided by co-operatives and marketing boards, ranging from storage, grading, deliveries, and value adding, to information dissemination, research, etc.

Subsequent to the setting up of the National Marketing Council (NAMC) in 1997, a need arose for the establishment of the Directorate: Marketing in the Department of Agriculture. The directorate was established in 2002 to work closely with the NAMC on agricultural marketing matters. The purpose of the directorate is to develop, implement and promote policies, programmes and measures aimed at supporting equitable access to competitive and profitable agricultural markets on a sustainable basis. This broad mandate is achieved through the following:

- administering trade and market access measures in the form of trade (import and exports)
- facilitating the growth of fair, open, efficient and competitive domestic markets
- developing policies and strategies and implementing programmes and measures to facilitate equitable access to mainstream the domestic market
- liaising with other government departments and



Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd is a public company with the Department of Agriculture as the sole shareholder.

It is situated in the Eastern Cape on about 3 102 hectares of state-owned land and is dedicated to assisting small and emerging farmers through providing various services to the surrounding rural communities in the form of advice, extension services and training.

other relevant parties to enhance the efficiency of the agricultural marketing value chains.

The directorate comprises three subdirectorates, namely Marketing Administration, Commodity Marketing, and Marketing Development and Support.

The Subdirectorate: Marketing Administration administers the issuing of import and export permits to enhance trade and market access. At the same time, it facilitates the participation of new entrants in the trading environment.

The Subdirectorate: Commodity Marketing profiles key agricultural commodity marketing value chains and undertakes further analysis of market structures to determine market access qualifiers. It further investigates the behaviour of commodity and non-commodity markets to recommend policy options, thus ensuring equitable access to mainstream markets by all.

The Subdirectorate: Market Development and Support implements programmes and measures to enhance the development of a vibrant domestic market. The following initiatives are being undertaken:

- establishing a real-time agricultural marketing information system
- facilitating agricultural marketing capacity-building (training) for resource-poor farmers and extension officers
- facilitating the development of norms and standards for the establishment of agricultural marketing infrastructure.

National Agricultural Marketing Council

The NAMC was established in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996, as amended by Act 59 of 1997 and Act 34 of 2001.

The mandate of the NAMC is, when requested by the Minister of Agriculture or of its own accord, to investigate the establishment, continuation, amendment or revocation of statutory measures and other regulatory measures affecting the marketing of agricultural products.

The NAMC continues to do important work, monitoring the agricultural marketing environment

to promote the existence of a more diverse and competitive sector. Attendance at agricultural shows, farmers' days, conferences and workshops offers the NAMC the opportunity to disseminate information to farmers.

The NAMC provides marketing-assistance programmes for new entrants in the various commodity sectors in collaboration with the private sector and government as part of transformation and empowerment imperatives.

Funding to the NAMC in 2005/06 amounted to R13,1 million.

Land administration

The Department of Agriculture, through the Directorate: Farmer Settlement and Development, controls and administers 686 916 ha of state agricultural land.

State agricultural land is divided as follows:

- some 105 052 ha of land expropriated by the South African Development Trust
- some 91 388 ha of commercial land purchased from insolvent estates and properties transferred by the Department of Public Works in terms of Section 7 of the Disposal Act, 1961 (Act 48 of 1961).

The primary goal of the directorate is the internal administration of state agricultural land, with the aim of farmer settlement and ownership reform.

Food security

Cabinet approved the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme in July 2002 as one of the key programmes of the Social Cluster. The programme aims to achieve physical, social and economic access to safe and nutritious food for all South Africans.

Its goal is to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by 2015.

Between the start of the National Food Emergency Scheme in 2004 and June 2005, 245 000 households benefited. Agricultural starter packs to the value of R31 million were delivered to

18 575 households in all provinces as a measure of encouraging the development of sustainable food gardens.

By June 2005, business plans and a financial model for financing the Farmer Support Programme had been finalised and the Department of Agriculture was in the process of finalising a memorandum of agreement with key partner institutions in preparation for the implementation of the programme.

Agricultural state and state-supported community schemes have seen a significant increase in the number of viable projects.

The Department of Agriculture also joined forces with its neighbouring SADC countries and adopted an action plan for food security. This includes the establishment of domestic support measures for vulnerable small-holder farmers, to ensure access to key agricultural input, and to encourage research and the development of affordable farming equipment.

The directorates: plant health and SAAFQIS drafted the Draft Food Security Bill to ensure not only food safety, but also the quality of agricultural products, including fresh fruit and vegetables, exported within the current control system. By implementing the prevention-is-better-than-cure rule, control is transferred from end-product testing to the design and manufacture of such products.

In any international exchange of plants and plant products, there is a risk of pests and diseases being introduced into the territory of the importing country. In view of this, the South African Government is a signatory member of various multinational agreements.

The most important, in terms of safeguarding the country's agricultural resources and natural environment, are the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS).

The Human Rights Commission and United Nations (UN) Council for Human Rights officials have hailed the Draft Bill as the first of its kind to comprehensively address all pertinent food-related issues. The document will be used as a basis for

discussions in Africa and at the UN. Normal procedures on new legislation and policy guidelines will follow when discussions are finalised.

Regional issues

South Africa participates in the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Regional Food Security Training Programme (RFSTP).

The RFSTP has been developed over a five-year period as endorsed by the RAC. The activities of the RFSTP focus on three main areas: strengthening the supply of food-security training services, strengthening the effective demand for training and development, and sustaining regional markets for food-security-related training services.

The SADC has instituted the Subcommittee for Plant Protection, tasked with harmonising phytosanitary requirements in southern Africa. South Africa is also a member of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, which was established in 1954. Regional plant-protection organisations such as these are able to provide valuable co-ordination for the activities and objectives of the IPPC at local level.

International issues

As a signatory to the Rome Declaration, South Africa has committed itself to the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. For this purpose, South Africa reports annually to the World Committee for Food Security. South Africa is also collaborating with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) on the implementation of the Special Programme for Food Security, within the context of the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme (ISRDP).

South Africa is an active participant in other international standard-setting bodies vital to its global market share, such as the IPPC and Codex Alimentarius.

Risk management

Government is moving forward with the development of an agricultural risk-management programme that includes agricultural risk insurance as one of the major tools for managing agricultural production risk.

The Directorate: Agricultural Risk Management delivers early warning monthly climate advisories to farmers to enable them to anticipate possible natural disasters.

The Department of Agriculture is working on the Disaster Management Plan that aims to minimise the impact of natural disasters in South Africa. The document emanated from the mandate of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), which prescribes the formulation of such plans. The plan will be aligned to the disaster-management framework guidelines provided by the Department of Provincial and Local Government.

Early warning information can be accessed through the www.agis.agric.za website.

Drought management

The Drought Management Plan has been discussed internally and consultations with provincial departments and organised agriculture completed. The core principles emphasise proactive measures such as mitigation, preparedness, training and education as well as research. The document will be gazetted and workshops conducted for public input and comments.

Some R100 million was allocated in 2004/05 for drought-relief programmes in the nine provincial departments of agriculture. Some R15 million was budgeted for drilling and the maintenance of boreholes for livestock, while R85 million was allocated for the purchase and transportation of fodder. An additional allocation of R120 million will be used to augment the R100 million.

Long-term interventions by the department include improved research, a fully functional early warning system and agricultural sector strategies to address disaster-management issues.

Credit and assistance

The agricultural sector has, to date, been a net borrower, in that it borrows more than it saves. In fact, the total debt of South African farmers has increased by about 10% a year since 1995 – reaching R33 286 million by the end of 2004, compared with R9 495 million at the end of 1984.

The six major sources of credit for farmers are banks (50%), agricultural co-operatives and agribusinesses (12%), the Land Bank (21%), private creditors (8%), other creditors and financial institutions (9%), and the State (1%).

Business and Entrepreneurial Development (BED)

The Directorate: BED of the Department of Agriculture is responsible for promoting and providing strategic support in the development of viable and empowered businesses to stimulate growth and promote unity through partnerships and niches.

The ultimate aims are to:

- unlock the economic potential of idle to under-utilised resources of emergent groups through empowerment efforts
- facilitate restructuring and the expansion of existing farming/agribusinesses to enhance their competitiveness and contribution to the sector and the economy at large.

The directorate has three units. The Business Development Unit works closely with industries/commodity groups to develop inclusive, enhanced and harmonised commodity strategies and joint action plans.

Through the directorate, the department has contributed towards the development of the National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation's database, the Fruit Industry Plan and the implementation of the Cotton Industries Strategy.

The focus has been on working with NAFU and emerging farmer leaders to mobilise increased participation of emerging farmers into commodity groups. Together with the Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI), the directorate has initiated a programme of incorporating mentorship and linking emerging farmers/agribusinesses with established businesses in nodal areas.

The Entrepreneurial Development Unit encourages and supports entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.

A process adapting the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Excellence Model for agriculture has been completed. Eleven potential nodal projects have been identified jointly with the CDI. These

projects were selected based on their potential for being linked with local established businesses. The excellence models aim to improve management capability for enhanced competitiveness.

The Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) Policy Unit is concerned with harnessing and unlocking idle and underutilised economic potential for growth and wealth creation in the agricultural sector.

The unit has been working closely with organised agriculture and related business, facilitating the development of policy guidelines for empowerment in the sector. In July 2004, the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Ms Thoko Didiza, launched the AgriBEE Framework for public comment.

The framework is the department's response to improving equitable access to and participation in agricultural opportunities, deracialising land and enterprise ownership, and unlocking the full entrepreneurial potential in the sector. The framework was developed in collaboration with agriculture stakeholders, and the process was expected to culminate in an AgriBEE charter before the end of 2005.

LandCare Programme

The LandCare Programme is a community-based and government-supported approach to the sustainable management and use of agricultural natural resources.

The vision of the LandCare Programme is for communities and individuals to adopt an ecologically sustainable approach to the management of South Africa's environment and natural resources, while improving their quality of life. It implies that cultivation, livestock grazing and the harvesting of natural resources should be managed in such a manner that no further degradation (such as soil erosion, nutrient loss, loss of components of the vegetation, and increased run-off) occurs.

The overall goal of the LandCare Programme is to optimise productivity and sustainability of natural resources, resulting in greater productivity, food security, job creation and better quality of life for all.

The LandCare Programme has been expanded into additional rural nodes. The department's new

policy on the expanded LandCare Programme will enable provincial departments of agriculture and other stakeholders to facilitate the sound management of agricultural resources through awareness campaigns and capacity-building.

LandCare themes are grouped into two areas, namely, focused investment (WaterCare, VeldCare, SoilCare, Eco-Agriculture, Agri-Tourism and JuniorCare) and small community grants.

Projects are underway countrywide.

The LandCare Implementation Framework serves as a guideline to empower resource-poor communities to develop LandCare groups and activities through awareness, training and education. This includes communication strategies directed towards rural community groups and young people. The framework formulates policy and legislation to develop incentives for natural-resource management.

It also serves as a tool to establish and implement a monitoring system to evaluate progress, assess contemporary issues and provide a basis for planning and research.

The department also aims to promote its National Policy on Agricultural Land and Resource Management in all spheres of government and among other stakeholders.

In 2005/06, government set aside about R64 million for the LandCare Programme. Government envisages that 6 000 ha will be cultivated over the next year, benefiting about 3 000 households. The implementation of this project will be jointly conducted by the provincial departments of agriculture, district and local municipalities, as well as the Department of Provincial and Local Government.

In 2004/05, as a direct response to persistent drought conditions, the Department of Agriculture facilitated the drilling and rehabilitation of 427 boreholes in rural areas and built 267 structures to combat the effects of soil erosion. The departments of agriculture and of water affairs and forestry drafted a drilling policy, which was being further developed to include water quality, particularly where underground water is used for human consumption and livestock.

The ARC's water-harvesting research team has implemented a water-harvesting project in the Free State. It is also promoting the in-field rainwater-harvesting technique at two new projects in the Eastern Cape, focusing on five villages in the vicinity of Alice.

By May 2005, negotiations were underway for further support to ensure that LandCare training would be accredited and that every province would develop its long-term LandCare strategic plan.

Focused investment

The WaterCare theme targets Limpopo in particular, because of water shortages and the importance of water for irrigation. This theme establishes a framework for managing land and preventing the silt-up of dams for irrigation. WaterCare works in partnership with the community to develop action plans for managing and restoring irrigation schemes. The rehabilitation of irrigation schemes increases water supply and household food security. WaterCare promotes the development of techniques for water-resource management and encourages opportunities for training in this field.

Under the WaterCare project, 28 schemes had been revived and 60 schemes were in progress by April 2005. There are 138 smallholder schemes, predominantly in Limpopo. A business plan for the revitalisation of smallholder irrigation schemes has been developed. It aims to revive the remaining schemes over a six-year period from 2003 to 2009.

VeldCare promotes best-grazing systems and erosion-prevention practices to improve production. It develops and maintains agricultural activities in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Economic and social development opportunities are realised by improving grazing areas and maintaining viable grazing areas throughout rural communities.

SoilCare encourages rural farmers in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga to build innovative structures to combat soil erosion. This includes reducing the depletion of soil fertility and acidity. Through SoilCare, sustainable agricultural production systems such as diversification,

management of input and conservation tillage are introduced.

The Eco-Agriculture Extended LandCare Programme was introduced in 2004/05 to complement the Expanded Public Works Programme. The Department of Agriculture is contributing R42,9 million to job creation and training.

The objectives of JuniorCare are to empower previously disadvantaged youth by providing training in facilitation and leadership skills.

This includes the promotion of food security at home and at schools, awareness of sustainable agriculture, and stimulating the formation of youth clubs and projects that aim to promote other components of LandCare. JuniorCare addresses the needs of young people in an integrated way and involves interdisciplinary approaches.

Land and Agricultural Development Bank of South Africa (Land Bank)

The Land Bank operates as a development-finance institution within the agricultural and agribusiness sectors, and is regulated by the Land and Agricultural Development Bank Act, 2002 (Act 15 of 2002). It provides a range of finance options to a broad spectrum of clients in the agricultural sector, including rural entrepreneurs, women and youth, through its network of 27 branches and 37 satellite offices, supplemented by mobile branches, which are primarily located in rural areas.

The bank's mission is to:

- develop and provide appropriate products for commercial and development clients
- leverage private-sector investment in the agricultural sector
- develop techniques for financing high-risk agriculture and new business areas
- support programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Affairs by aligning the bank's products with these programmes
- contribute to rural development by linking up with government structures and activities.

These programmes and structures include Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD), the Agricultural Strategic Plan and the ISRD.

The Land Bank offers various strategies to support historically disadvantaged individuals (HDIs). These include easy access to loans, equity finance, loans for land-reform beneficiaries, a special loan for HDIs buying farms for the first time (Special Mortgage Bond), incentives (a lower interest rate for farmers who show commitment), and micro-loans for people starting an enterprise or a small farming business. The 'We Come to You' programme makes banking more accessible through its branches nationally, its rural satellite offices and partner organisations such as development, finance and government institutions.

Micro-Agricultural Financial Institutions Scheme of South Africa (MAFISA)

MAFISA, the first State-owned scheme to provide micro and retail agricultural financial services on a large, accessible, cost-effective and sustainable basis in rural areas, was approved in principle by Cabinet in January 2005, with an initial budget of R1 billion.

This followed the announcement by President Thabo Mbeki in his State of the Nation Address on 21 May 2004, that government would re-establish the agricultural credit scheme in the Department of Agriculture. On 30 May 2005, the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs launched MAFISA at the Ga-Mabintane Sports Grounds near Nebo in Limpopo.

MAFISA will see the poor and many of the emerging farmers who were previously turned down by financial institutions obtaining loans of up to R100 000 at an affordable rate.

The 10 million potential beneficiaries include farm and non-farm entrepreneurs such as farm workers, tenants, household producers, landless people, small landholders, food-garden producers, and rural and micro entrepreneurs.

MAFISA's four products and services for the rural working poor and enterprises are credit, savings, insurance and payment facilities. It provides basic short- and medium-term loans, with a number of permutations that would be available to the poor at the rural district councils of the poorest provinces in

terms of the Human Development Index, as determined by Statistics South Africa.

MAFISA will work with financial institutions to implement the provisions of the Financial Services Charter relevant to the development of small and medium farming enterprises.

Agri SA

Agri SA is a federation of agricultural organisations comprising nine provincial unions, 28 national commodity organisations and the Agricultural Business Chamber (ABC).

It is a member of Business Unity South Africa, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the Southern African Federation of Agricultural Unions and the Cairns Group Farm Leaders.

Agri SA participates in a presidential working group dealing with policy matters specifically in terms of the Strategic Plan for Agriculture.

The mission and vision of Agri SA is to promote the economic opportunities and social well-being of commercial and commercially oriented farmers, by positively influencing agricultural policy and rendering support services.

Agri SA's policy advocacy includes work on trade negotiations, industrial policy, labour laws, training, taxation, financing, land reform, farmer development, environmental affairs, water rights, farm safety, law and order, infrastructure, technology development and transfer, statistical information and local government matters.

It publishes a bimonthly magazine, a weekly electronic newsletter and runs a regular radio programme in collaboration with the SABC.

Agricultural Business Chamber

The ABC is a sectoral body representing an important component of South Africa's business sector. ABC's members represent total assets of almost R30 billion and an annual agricultural business turnover of about R50 billion.

ABC members operate more than 2 000 service centres countrywide with more than 100 000 employees. In many rural areas, members of the ABC are the business hub of the community and make a key contribution towards maintaining rural infrastructure.

The ABC is an integral part of the Agri SA Group, and is associated with Business South Africa and international bodies such as the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the International Chamber of Commerce and the International Agribusiness Management Association.

The chamber represents agricultural companies, agricultural co-operatives, companies which arose out of the conversion of agricultural co-operatives, and other agricultural business enterprises and organisations.

Agricultural businesses play a significant role in the economy of South Africa as handlers, processors and marketers of agricultural products, and as suppliers of production input and services.

Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU)

TAU SA was established in 1897 as the Transvaal Agricultural Union. In 2002, the union reorganised to become a national agricultural union serving commercial farmers. It also renders unique services to its members in terms of:

- property rights
- economic issues
- safety and security.

TAU SA conducts a variety of projects to enhance the concept of successful agriculture. The various farmers' markets and the marketing of effective micro-organisms contribute to alternative options available to members and the public.

Agribusiness as an economic sector

Agribusiness can be divided into two categories: non-co-operative business ventures and co-operatives or transformed co-operatives.

Non-co-operative business ventures, also known as profit companies, are involved in the production and distribution of agricultural equipment and production requisites, and the marketing of agricultural products.

Co-operatives dominate the distribution of intermediate requisites and the handling, processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Agricultural co-operatives or agribusinesses are regarded as the farmers' own independent business organisations. There are close to 1 000 primary agricultural co-operatives and agribusinesses throughout the country. They supply their members with production input such as seed, fertiliser, fuel and repair services. They also provide credit and extension services, and handle a large percentage of their members' produce.

There are more than 15 central co-operatives in the country, which aim to supply the primary co-operatives with specific services such as the processing and marketing of agricultural products, insurance services for crops, short-term cover and farming requisites.

The structure of agribusiness has changed substantially since the deregulation of the agricultural sector into a free-market economy in 1994. Many co-operatives transformed into private companies, consolidations and mergers occurred, international groups entered South Africa, and agribusinesses listed on the JSE Limited.

Agribusinesses are involved in the production and distribution of agricultural equipment and production requisites, and in the marketing and processing of agricultural products.

The co-operative movement in South African agriculture is expected to grow. The Co-operative Bill is under consideration and it is envisaged that this enabling legislation will make co-operatives accessible to all communities through outgrower projects, contracting and share-equity schemes. Its administration was transferred to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Co-operative Development Initiative is one of many efforts to facilitate such linkages, and support a 'growth-with-equity' development path for South African agriculture.

National African Farmers' Union

NAFU strives to promote the interests of the disadvantaged farming sector by lobbying for access to support services and empowering its members through effective communication and capacity-building programmes.

Institutional capacity-building

The Department of Agriculture has developed a databank for South Africa's agricultural human resource capacity.

In collaboration with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, the department has designed and developed training courses for rural restructuring and development. The Youth Entrepreneurship Programme was launched in 1999.

Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme

On 18 August 2004, the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs launched the CASP in Boston, KwaZulu-Natal.

The CASP focuses on on-and-off farm infrastructure, information and knowledge management, financial assistance, technical and advisory services, training and capacity-building, and marketing and business development.

The multiphase CASP specifically targets emerging farmers, including women, in rural areas.

The Department of Agriculture committed R210 million in 2004/05 for the initial roll-out of the CASP.

MAFISA is intended to complement the CASP and provide further assistance to emerging farmers and land-reform beneficiaries.

During 2005/06, government planned to spend R250 million on CASP to reach over 50 000 beneficiaries in the rural areas, particularly in the rural development nodes serviced by the department.

Training and research

South African agriculture has a strong research component. Many of the people involved are world leaders in their respective fields. The ARC, an autonomous statutory body set up in terms of the Agricultural Research Act, 1990 (Act 86 of 1990), is the largest agricultural research organisation in Africa.

The ARC provides research support to the Department of Agriculture and the nine provincial departments of agriculture. ARC scientific expertise supports most of the Department of Agriculture's

regulatory directorates, such as the Directorate: Public Veterinary Health, the Directorate: Animal Health, the Directorate: Plant Health and Quality, the Directorate: Agricultural Resource Conservation and the Directorate: Agricultural Production Input. The ARC also supports other agricultural institutions such as the Registrar of Livestock Improvement and Identification, the Registrar of Brands, the South African Veterinary Council and the Perishable Products Export Control Board.

South Africa has a number of specialised agricultural high schools and regular schools offering a comprehensive range of agricultural subjects. Prospective farmers are trained at 11 agricultural colleges: Cape Institute for Agricultural Training (Western Cape), Cedara and Owen Sithole (KwaZulu-Natal), Grootfontein Agricultural College at the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute (run by the Department of Agriculture), Glen (Free State), Potchefstroom (North West), Lowveld (Mpumalanga), Fort Cox and Tsolo (Eastern Cape), and Tompi Seleka and Madzi-vhandila (Limpopo). Diploma courses are also offered at various universities of technology. Degree courses are offered by the faculties of agriculture at various universities.

Veterinary surgeons are trained at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at Onderstepoort. The former Faculty of Veterinary

Sciences at the Medical University of South Africa (now University of Limpopo) has amalgamated with the University of Pretoria. State veterinarians are assisted countrywide by qualified animal health technicians.

Qualified meat inspectors in the provincial Directorate: Veterinary Services assist state veterinarians with meat inspections at abattoirs.

International relations

The Department of Agriculture's Directorate: International Relations facilitates and co-ordinates international activities on both multilateral and bilateral bases.

The department is a member of the FAO; the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Sector of the SADC; the International Seed-Testing Association; the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Seed Schemes; and the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

Contributing to the political, social and economic development of Africa is a key international priority for the department. Agriculture continues to be the mainstay of African economies and is an important driver for socio-economic growth.

South Africa's agricultural engagement in Africa is guided by a clear sense of the enormous potential for agricultural trade, training, research and technical co-operation opportunities that exist within the rest of Africa. South Africa has much to benefit through co-operation with Africa.

The Directorate: International Relations co-ordinates, facilitates and supports the promotion of South Africa's agricultural interests internationally through bilateral and multilateral relations.

The directorate developed the International Agricultural Strategy, which sets priorities for international engagement in the medium term. The strategy is guided by South Africa's foreign policy and economic development objectives. The priorities are:

- consolidation of the African agenda
- active participation in the African Union (AU)



Government keeps track of price trends and initiates further detailed investigation when necessary.

Overall, the increase in food prices slowed down quite dramatically, with many products decreasing in price for the period January to December 2004. The good performers were flour (-9,0%), cauliflower (-11,6%), cabbage (-18,7%), onions (-17,8%), tomatoes (-9,8%), canned pilchards (-15,6%), oranges (-9,4%), picnic ham (-9,7%) and cooking oil (-29,4%).

Prices increased for hubbard squash (+43,1%), beef products, which increased on average by 19,5%, lamb chops (+15,9%), pork chops (+12,7%), boerewors (+10,6%) and bread (+9,2%).

However, having taken 75 different products into account, food prices increased overall by 1% for the period January to December 2004.

- active participation in and efficient implementation of the programme of the SADC food, agriculture and natural resources and trade, finance and investment directorates
- sustainable development and poverty alleviation through NEPAD
- implementation of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

The ARC participates in various co-operative research agreements, international organisations and networks.

The ARC also supports various government departments in deliberations regarding international agreements and disputes, for example the Convention on Biodiversity, the Kyoto Protocol on Global Change, the Montreal Protocol, GMO policy and indigenous knowledge systems issues.

International trade relations

The Department of Agriculture's Directorate: International Trade analyses international trade and related policies, advises on multilateral and bilateral agricultural trade policy, and promotes trade initiatives. The directorate is responsible for dealing with matters concerning agricultural trade relations with other countries and organisations, such as the SACU, the SADC, the WTO and the International Grains Convention.

South Africa maintains bilateral trade agreements with countries in Africa, and is involved in negotiations as part of SACU with the USA, South American Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the European Free Trade Area. It is also involved in the WTO negotiations individually, and as a member of the G20 of the Cairns Group and the Africa Group.

Work relating to agricultural relations in the field of trade is done by the directorate, in co-operation with the departments of trade and industry and of foreign affairs.

The Directorate: International Trade is responsible for implementing South Africa's commitments in terms of the WTO Marrakech Agreement. These commitments include the reduction of tariffs, export

subsidies, and domestic support given to agriculture.

In addition, the department is creating market-access opportunities by implementing the minimum market-access commitments contained in the agreement.

South Africa's objectives in the agricultural negotiations, as part of the Doha Development Agenda, are to achieve a substantial reduction in domestic support and the elimination of export subsidies, mainly from developed countries. Other objectives are to achieve a substantial improvement of market access for South African agricultural exports; and to ensure that South Africa's commitment, in terms of domestic support, fully covers the development needs of the country.

South Africa is developing trade relations with other countries. This includes the implementation of the agricultural aspects of the SACU Agreement that came into effect in July 2004; the SADC Protocol on Trade; and the SA-EU Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA).

The SA-EU TDCA was implemented on 1 January 2000. The department has introduced a system whereby market opportunities under the agreement can be fully utilised. This includes providing information to potential exporters, as well as the administration of export quotas granted to South Africa under the agreement. Since 1 January 2000, the department has been issuing export permits for various products such as wine, canned fruit, fruit juice, cut flowers, proteas, cheese and frozen strawberries to be exported to the EU at reduced levels of duty.

The South African Government signed the Fixed Preferences Agreement with MERCOSUR (a treaty establishing a common market between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) in December 2004.

With the enlargement of the EU, the agreement was extended to include the new members. It provides for reciprocal preferential access for the agreed list of products (including agriculture).

The directorate participates in exploring possible new trade relations in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry.

The department is investigating and evaluating export opportunities for agricultural products on world markets. A subdirectorate was formed to deal

specifically with issues related to the strategic repositioning of the agricultural export sector. Strategic market research and the formulation of new industry strategies for exports are priorities. Export-led development projects are also being considered as a means to alleviate poverty.

The Directorate: International Trade Relations facilitates the training of role-players in the use of trade tools.

International agreements and conventions

South Africa is a signatory to a number of international agreements and conventions requiring that the matter of sustainable resource-use and management be addressed in a responsible way.

Agenda 21 is an action plan and blueprint for sustainable development, and was one of five documents adopted by more than 178 governments at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Specific to sustainable resource-use is Chapter 14, which addresses the promotion of agriculture and rural development.

International conventions that apply to aspects of sustainable resource-use include the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). The CCD requires that South Africa draws up a national action programme, which will be integrated into a regional programme for the SADC region. All these activities are receiving attention under the leadership of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, involving all stakeholders, including the national and provincial departments of agriculture.

Import and export control

The aim of the Import Export Policy Unit of the Department of Agriculture's Directorate: Animal Health is to formulate and support policies to reduce sanitary (health) risks in the import and export of animals and animal products.

Import requirements vary according to the product and the animal-health situation in individual countries.

South Africa is an active member of the OIE. Disease reports are received from the OIE and through direct contact with the veterinary administrations in exporting countries.

Trade in animals and animal products is based on a series of requirements considered appropriate by the importing country to prevent the entry of diseases.

The department is one of the key regulatory State departments with the authority to enforce laws enacted by Parliament to protect the South African consumer, the environment and other national interests. The department's regulatory activities, with regard to plants and plant products, are primarily enforced by the directorates: plant health, SAAFQIS and genetic resources. In addition, South Africa's Customs Service participates in this effort by detaining imported goods when requirements are not met.

The directorates: plant health and SAAFQIS promote and regulate the availability of healthy and productive plant material and the quality of agricultural products in South Africa. Import control is vital to prevent the introduction of potentially harmful foreign pests. Prospective importers of plants and plant products have to apply for an import permit for those controlled goods not published in the *Government Gazette R1013* of 1989.

A pest-risk analysis, based on scientific data, is conducted, and specific phytosanitary requirements are set out according to the phytosanitary risk(s) involved. These conditions are then stipulated in the permit issued to the importer. Importers are obliged to present the material to the executive officer of the Act or the official representative for inspection.

Should any potentially harmful pest be introduced into and become established in South Africa, the Directorate: Plant Health and Quality will conduct a survey to determine the distribution of the organism, draft an eradication programme, liaise with other relevant parties, and possibly co-ordinate and participate in the eradication programme.

Despite strict precautions in the past, several harmful alien organisms have become established

in specific production areas in South Africa, causing substantial losses to agriculture. Control measures are published to prevent or combat the spread of these organisms to other areas in the country. Quarantine services ensure imported plant material and biological control agents are appropriately handled to guarantee that harmful alien organisms do not enter and become established in the country.

In export control, South Africa has to comply with the import conditions of the specific country or group of countries it is exporting to, by issuing phytosanitary certificates. The directorate furthermore maintains a database of the import conditions and procedures of various countries, and the occurrence of harmful organisms within South Africa. It renders advisory and identification services, carries out field inspections, and conducts laboratory tests as requested by the importing country.

All consignments of plants and plant products intended for export are inspected, evaluated and certified by the directorate.

Food safety and quality assurance

Food safety has become an international public health issue, which is considered a top priority by the WHO.

The Department of Agriculture's Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance was created in 2002 to develop policy and set norms and standards for agricultural food products of plant and animal origin, as well as to regulate agricultural production input such as fertilisers, farm feeds, pesticides and stock remedies.

As a result of its diverse agroclimate, South Africa cannot remain competitive without the use of certain chemicals. To address this matter, the department, the agricultural industry and the EU have embarked on the South African Pesticide Initiative Programme (SAPIP).

The objective of SAPIP is to assist the local industry to adopt good agricultural practices, and find alternatives or do away with the affected agrochemicals. A financing agreement between the EU and South Africa was signed to facilitate the programme.

To ensure the safety of exported products, the directorate has also drafted food-safety regulations with regard to products of plant origin.

Before the registration of agricultural products, an appropriate risk and value assessment is conducted. The value assessment considers whether using the product has merit and whether the application rates will be effective.

Fertilisers, farm feeds, agricultural and stock remedies will be registered if the data requirements of efficacy, safety and quality have been adequately addressed, and the human and environmental risks associated with their proposed use are acceptable. The household remedies, swimming pool remedies and pest-control operators are also regulated in terms of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947).

The inspection service ensures compliance with regulations. It investigates complaints about a specific product registered in terms of the Act and can take administrative and/or legal action against offenders when necessary.

In terms of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000), no person may sell or provide meat for human or animal consumption unless the animal from which the meat is sourced has been slaughtered at a registered abattoir. The directorate is responsible for inspecting and auditing export abattoirs.

The Pathogen Reduction Programme is due for implementation in high capacity red-meat abattoirs.

It is envisaged that a national residue-monitoring programme will be introduced within the next three years to ensure that South African consumers enjoy the same level of protection as consumers in export markets.

Land Affairs

The Department of Land Affairs aims to provide an equitable and sustainable land dispensation that promotes social and economic development.

The department's key focus is to provide access to land and extend land rights, with particular emphasis on historically disadvantaged communities, within a well-planned environment.

The department is responsible for:

- deeds registration
- cadastral surveys
- surveys and mapping
- spatial planning and information (SPI)
- land reform, implementation management and co-ordination
- land-reform systems and support services.

Deeds registration

The aim of the Department of Land Affairs' Chief Directorate: Deeds Registration is to maintain a public register of land, as well as an efficient system of registration, aimed at affording security of title to land and rights to land.

During 2004/05, the chief directorate played an important role in supporting the department's land-reform initiatives. Land-registration information supplied from the Deeds Registration System database plays a vital role during the preliminary investigative stages of any land-delivery initiative, while the final step in the process, the registration of the relevant title deeds, is handled by the nine deeds registries.

These are situated in Pretoria, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, King William's Town, Vryburg and Umtata. Despite an increase in their workload over the past year, deeds registries have been able to



The Communal Land Rights Act (CLaRA), 2004 (Act 11 of 2004), provides for legal security of tenure by transferring communal land, including KwaZulu-Natal Ingomnyama land, to communities, or by awarding comparable redress.

It also provides for the:

- conduct of a land-rights inquiry to determine the transition from old order rights to new order rights
- democratic administration of communal land by communities
- co-operative performance of municipal functions on communal land
- creation of land rights boards.

The CLaRA was expected to be implemented in KwaZulu-Natal in 2005/06 as a pilot and rolled out countrywide from 2006/07.

maintain a turnaround time of their vital registration function of 10 working days from lodgement.

Deeds registries are responsible for the:

- registration of real rights in land
- maintenance of a public-land register
- provision of land-registration information
- maintenance of an archive of registration records.

Deeds and documents lodged with deeds registries are examined by deeds controllers for accuracy regarding the content, as well as for compliance with common, case and statutory law, and attachments against the property.

Holders of a title deed registered in the deeds registries are therefore assured of the security of their title to the property.

Deeds offices supply registration information in support of all units in the Department of Land Affairs conducting research for land-reform purposes.

Cadastral surveys

The Department's Chief Directorate: Cadastral Surveys aims to ensure accurate cadastral surveys and promote cadastral information services in support of land reform and orderly development.

The Directorate: Cadastral Spatial Information and Professional Support is responsible for, among other things, preparing and updating cadastral maps in both paper and digital form, and examining and approving diagrams and general plans prior to them being registered by the Deeds Registry.

The website of the Chief Surveyor-General contains information and links to a number of related sites.

Service delivery has improved and good turnaround times have been maintained in the offices of the Surveyor-General.

In 2004/05, the Directorate: Cadastral Spatial Information continued to update and develop the Cadastral Information System, which is an essential tool for spatial planning and orderly development.

Two client-service centres have been established at the Pretoria and Cape Town surveyor-general offices.

The centres serve 100 to 150 clients a day and supply a legal registration help-desk function to

attorneys, land surveyors and other professionals in the property industry.

Services provided to government include the preparation of documentation relating to the awarding of tenders to private land-survey firms for the survey of state land. Assistance is given to the Land and Tenure Reform Branch and land claims commissions (regional and provincial) in the form of surveys, the provision of cadastral information, the undertaking of field inspections and investigations to determine magisterial boundaries, and the upgrading of data on the former Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei. A tendering process is administered by the surveyor-general offices for the appointment of land surveyors on request from either unit.

The formal and informal cadastral spatial data has proved invaluable in providing assistance to components dealing with land reform and restitution.

To transform the survey profession, which is still largely white-male-dominated, the Surveying Profession Bill, aimed at addressing residual discrimination and employment-equity barriers, is being drafted.

Surveys and mapping

The Department of Land Affairs' Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping is responsible for the official, definitive, national topographic mapping and control network system of South Africa. It provides a range of maps, aerial photography, survey services and computer data products for government departments, commerce, planning, administrative, educational, management and leisure use.

National mapping

Mapping is a crucial resource for decision-making and development, and one of the most important deliverables of the chief directorate to support orderly development planning and sustainable land use.

All the maps of the national mapping series are continuously revised to reflect the change in landscape and other geospatial features. The 1:50 000 topographical map series is the largest scale map

series, providing full coverage of South Africa. Small-scale maps of 1:250 000 and 1:500 000 are produced from the 1:50 000 map series.

The popular large-scale 1:10 000 orthophoto map series provides coverage of predominantly built-up areas, areas of economic importance and areas experiencing rapid development.

The chief directorate is a full member of the National Air Space Committee and produces aeronautical charts for the southern African region that are vital to the interests of air safety. The chief directorate provides up-to-date charts that reflect changes to airspace with respect to the Future Airspace Management Efficiency Programme.

Topographical information system

The maintenance and continuous updating of the Digital Topographic Information System is a key activity of the chief directorate. This system contains major features such as roads, railways, built-up areas, contours and rivers of the entire 1:50 000 national map series in digital format. A digital elevation model is available in horizontal intervals of 400 m and 200 m in mountainous areas, and 50 m for the major metropolitan and development areas.

Individuals and organisations, both public and private, use these data sets for planning, engineering, social and scientific purposes. The database serves as a fundamental data set for the country and is used, among many others, by Statistics South Africa for census planning and by the Independent Electoral Commission for the delineation of voting areas.



The map awareness and map literacy campaign of the Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping adds to the general drive to promote map literacy. MapAware workshops, offered to both public and private organisations, strive to develop and enhance the map skills of people who use spatial information in the workplace.

National Control Survey System

The National Control Survey System will facilitate the advance towards a uniform geodetic network for the continent.

This network plays a leading role in the African Reference Framework project aimed at harmonising and linking spatial reference systems across Africa, in support of NEPAD. The National Control Survey System consists of a network of about 62 000 control points distributed throughout the country. The network is made up of about 28 000 trigonometric beacons, 24 000 town survey marks and 10 000 elevation benchmarks.

The co-ordinates of these marks are referenced to the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum, which, in turn, is referenced to the International Terrestrial Reference Frame. Cadastral, engineering and mapping surveys are referenced to this datum, which facilitates the exchange of data, uniform standards of accuracy and reduced costs of survey and spatial data to the public.

In 2001, the chief directorate embarked on a five-year plan to move away from passive networks (trigonometric beacons and town survey marks) and to adopt active global positioning system (GPS) networks.

This will entail the installation of 38 active GPS base stations, known as 'Trignet'. A total of 34 base stations has already been established and operationalised. The remaining four base stations are expected to be established during 2006.



The National Land Summit was held in July 2005 in Johannesburg to:

- inform the South African public about progress made in the land and agrarian reform process
- acknowledge challenges facing this process
- affirm commitment to this process
- invite South Africans to actively participate in land and agrarian reform.

National aerial photography and imagery

The national aerial photography and imagery archive is of national importance, providing coverage of the whole country (1,2 million km²).

This archive of aerial photography, dating back to 1934, is increased annually with the acquisition of new photography.

In 2004/05, new coverage of about 32% of the country was attained. Aerial-photography programmes and priorities are determined in co-operation with local, provincial and national government departments, and are focused on the nodal areas defined by the ISRDP and the Urban Renewal Programme (URP).

The archive is used for mapping, land-resource planning, infrastructure development, and legal and land restitution matters.

Spatial planning and information

The mandate of the Department of Land Affairs' Chief Directorate: SPI is to support land development and reform by ensuring an effective and efficient system of spatial planning, land-use management and the National Spatial Information Framework (NSIF) in the country.

Core functional areas of the chief directorate include:

- supporting the land reform process
- adopting an ISRDP and URP
- finalising policy, legislation and regulations with regard to spatial planning
- improving access to spatial information
- providing planning support for the formulation of local spatial plans
- supporting the formulation of spatial development frameworks (SDFs) at provincial level
- initiating the formulation of the National Spatial Development Framework
- improving stakeholder relations.

The SPI programme comprises the following sub-programmes:

- NSIF
- Land Development.

The NSIF is responsible for developing and maintaining a national data and policy framework to ensure accessibility and effective utilisation of spatially related information that supports municipalities in preparing their SDFs.

The Land Development Programme aims to facilitate and support integrated spatial and environmental planning, as well as land-use planning and management systems in all spheres of government.

Land-reform implementation management, and co-ordination

The Department of Land Affairs' Chief Directorate: Land-Reform Implementation Management, and Co-ordination is located in the Branch: Land and Tenure Reform.

The chief directorate's aim is the actual delivery of land and tenure reform. This is primarily done through nine provincial land reform offices (PLROs) and 36 operational regions.

The main objective of the LRAD Programme, in line with the department's mission, is to provide access to land, and to extend land rights to previously disadvantaged communities.

Launched in 2001, the LRAD provides financial support to emerging farmers through a match-funding arrangement in which the beneficiary has to make a contribution in the form of money, labour (sweat equity) or capital equipment.

Depending on the size of the contribution, the beneficiary qualifies for a grant of between R20 000 and R100 000. The LRAD's target is to redistribute 30% of all agricultural land to previously disadvantaged farmers by 2014.

To achieve this, about 2% has to be redistributed each year. By February 2005, about 13% had been distributed. Of the 23 520 LRAD beneficiaries, 19% were youths and 34,7% women.

Some 209 000 ha of agricultural land have been transferred to emergent farmers or communities since 1994. By April 2005, 30 400 ha of land had been leased out with an option to purchase.

Land-reform systems and support services

The Department of Land Affairs' Chief Directorate: Land-Reform Systems and Support Services forms part of the Branch: Land and Tenure Reform, and consists of three directorates, namely Public Land Support Services, Tenure Reform Implementation Systems and Redistribution Implementation Systems.

The chief directorate aims to develop and refine legislation, systems and procedures to enable PLROs to deliver at scale to land-reform participants. The chief directorate also lends a support service function in terms of capacity-building and information management and communication to the PLROs.

The Chief Directorate: Land-Reform Systems and Support Services has proactively engaged with the private sector to increase their involvement in land reform to improve the scale of delivery. Positive engagements were initiated with the South African Banking Council. An existing service level agreement with the Land Reform Empowerment Facility (LREF) has been maintained.

The LREF is a wholesale credit facility hosted and administered by Khula Enterprise Finance, which was created by the department to assist in the establishment of commercially viable land-reform projects.

Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR)

In 1995, the CRLR was established in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act 22 of 1994), which aims to:

- provide equitable redress to victims of racial land dispossession
- provide access to rights in land, including land ownership and sustainable development
- foster national reconciliation and stability
- improve household welfare, underpin economic growth and contribute to poverty alleviation.

The original budget allocated to the commission for the 2004/05 financial year was R933 million, but this had to be increased to R1,13 billion, in line with the increased number of claims settled.

Actual expenditure for the year was R1,18 billion including both capital and recurrent expenditure. An additional six million euro (about R49 million) was made available by the Belgian Government for the claimant verification process.

The total number of claims settled increased from 48 825 in March 2004 to 59 345 in March 2005. The increase was 13% lower than in 2004, but was still on an upward trend. This phenomenon is expected to continue because the commission is dealing largely with rural community claims. These represent a small number on its database although they account for a very large number of beneficiaries as well as hectares of land.

The number of beneficiaries increased from 662 307 in 2004 to 869 506 in 2005. The number of hectares delivered increased from 810 292 ha in 2004 to 887 093 ha in 2005.

About 80% of the total number of claims lodged were urban while 20% were rural. Most of the urban claimants opted for financial compensation for their lost land rights while most rural claimants have opted for land restoration.

The total number of rural claims settled by mid-2005 was 6 536, while that of urban claims was 52 809.

Some R2 454 billion was committed to financial compensation for all urban claims settled by mid-2005. A typical rural claim involves 300 to 4 000 households for 300 to 15 000 ha of land. Most of these rural communities did not have registered rights to the land, because of the inequitable practices of the past, but had beneficial occupation rights.

Their land was not surveyed at the time of dispossession as they had no title deeds. This demands that the department conducts detailed research, documents and authenticates oral evidence, maps out the land parcels claimed and links the rightful claimants to the claimed land, resolves boundary disputes and facilitates land acquisition for claimants. An amount of R1 729 billion was committed to land acquisition for all claims settled by mid-2005 for those who had opted for land restoration. Over R459 million was committed to grants for development support.

The target for 2005 was to settle all outstanding urban claims by December 2005 and about 2 800 rural claims by the end of the 2005/06 financial year. This will leave the commission with about 5 000 rural claims to settle over the next two financial years ending March 2008. The budgetary allocation for 2005/06 was R2,7 million.

Acknowledgements

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