



chapter 4

Agriculture

The aim of the Department of Agriculture is to lead and support agriculture and promote rural development through:

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

The agricultural sector operates in an ever-changing environment marked by, among others, the impact of climatic conditions on seasonal output, the rise in food prices and the continued decline in employment in the sector. The Department is therefore faced with the challenge to respond quickly and appropriately to these changing conditions, without sacrificing its long-term goals of transforming the sector.

In 1994, the Department inherited an agricultural sector that was not inclusive and did not reflect the demography of the South African society. It was also highly regulated with subsidies and financial concessions

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- ◀ Land redistribution is a major policy instrument used for alleviation of asset poverty. Since 1994, 1,8 million hectares (ha) have been transferred to about 137 478 households.

available to commercial farmers, often at a high cost to government.

The Department was faced with the enormous challenge of addressing poverty, landlessness and a general skewed participation of black people, youth and women in the sector.

Government's response has been to ensure that the right of access to sufficient food and water, healthcare and social security is fundamental in the programmes implemented in the new democracy.

Within the context of implementation it is clear that government's role in terms of, policy-making and appropriate allocation of resources, needs to be complemented by the beneficiaries of government policy to partnerships which can result in innovation and the creation of jobs and income-generating opportunities.

Strategic Plan for South African Agriculture

The vision for the agricultural sector implies sustained profitable participation in the South African agricultural economy by all stakeholders. It recognises the need to maintain and increase commercial production, to build international competitiveness and to address the historical legacies that resulted in skewed access and representation.

The Strategic Plan consists of three core strategies:

Exports						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Average: five years
Total South African products ('000 000)	147 547	165 143	210 022	245 448	308 054	215 243
Total agricultural products ('000 000)	13 699	14 774	15 820	20 075	25 460	17 966
Agriculture as % of total exports	9,3	8,9	7,5	8,2	8,3	8,3

Source: Directorate: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

- equitable access and participation: the objectives of this strategy are to ensure equitable access to and participation in agricultural opportunities, to deracialise land and enterprise ownership and to unlock the full entrepreneurial potential in the sector
- global competitiveness and profitability: the aim of this strategy is to enhance profitability through sustained global competitiveness in the agricultural sector's input supply, primary production, agriprocessing and agritourism industries
- sustainable resource management: this strategy aims to enhance farmers' capacity to use resources in a sustainable manner and to ensure the wise use and management of natural resources.

Role-players identified the following priority programmes and actions:

- implementing a broad-based safety and security strategy for good working and social stability, trust and confidence
- fostering a shared vision for agriculture, good governance and social partnerships
- fast-tracking a programme of land redistribution for agricultural development and processes of empowerment for targeted groups
- transforming agricultural research and transferring technology and education to be more responsive to markets
- redefining the mandate of agricultural marketing and international trade in the post-control board era against great global competition and demands for market access, infrastructure and information

- building credible agricultural, statistical, and economic analysis systems that will be accessible to all farmers and enterprises
- building an agricultural risk-management system to ensure that agricultural enterprises will recover, grow and develop after natural disasters
- developing an effective integrated risk-management system for plant and animal-health systems, price and income systems and natural disasters
- establishing the integrated rural financial-services systems
- targeting investments in rural-development nodes to provide livelihoods, infrastructure, irrigation, electricity, telecommunications, transportation, training and skills development
- establishing an agricultural co-operation programme for Africa to spearhead the role of agriculture in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
- lowering the overall cost of production.

The following outcomes are expected from the successful pursuit of these strategic objectives:

- increased wealth creation in agriculture and rural areas
- increased sustainable employment in agriculture
- increased income and foreign exchange earnings
- reduced poverty and inequalities in land and enterprise ownership
- improved farming efficiency
- improved national and household food security



- stable and safe rural communities, reduced levels of crime and violence, and sustained rural development
- improved investor confidence and greater domestic and foreign investment in agricultural activities and rural areas
- pride and dignity in agriculture as an occupation and sector.

The national Department of Agriculture, the National African Farmers' Union (NAFU) and AgriSA have established an institutional framework to oversee the process of implementing the Strategic Plan. Through this mechanism, they have been able to stimulate the emergence of mentorships intended to ensure that the beneficiaries of land reform and agricultural development make good use of their land.

A sum of R3,7 million was transferred to the provinces in 2002 as a training component of the comprehensive farmer-support package. In the 2003/04 financial year, the Department allocated R10 million for this purpose.

The Plan challenges the partners to work for public-private partnerships in the area of research and development.

The National Agricultural Research Forum, a consultative forum where government, public entities, and educational institutions, are involved in agricultural research and technology development and transfer, in collaboration with the private sector, was launched in May 2002.

The Forum enables the partners to share best practice and work for synergy in the optimisation of existing capacity. Prior to 1994, statistics on agriculture focused on the white commercial sector and were not reliable regarding the former homeland areas and black participation.

By April 2003, the Department was working with Statistics South Africa to conduct an agricultural census as a source of more reliable information on the sector.

Preliminary results were expected to be released by December 2003. The census, funded by the Department to the tune of R17 million, will be updated every five years.

A survey on rural households, targeting five communal areas was completed in 2003. The data, which for the first time provides some useful information on communal rural agriculture, will improve the quality of planning and effectiveness of government interventions.

Agricultural economy

South Africa has a dual agricultural economy, comprising a well-developed commercial sector and a predominantly subsistence-orientated 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 the 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.

Primary agriculture contributes about 3% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of South Africa and less than 9% of 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, with very low average rainfall and high variability within and between seasons, agriculture is vulnerable to the effects of drought. When there is a major drought, strong

downward pressure is placed on GDP. In good years, however, the contribution of agriculture can be vital to lifting the economy.



South Africa doesn't 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 food needs of the growing population. Recent developments in biotechnology have brought hope in tackling the challenges of increasing food production. Genetic modification provides a way of meeting the growing demand for food without placing even greater pressure on scarce resources.

The Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Act, 1997 [Act 15 of 1997], was implemented on 1 December 1999, making provision 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. By mid-2001, the Department of Agriculture had approved the planting of three commercial Genetically Modified (GM) crops, i.e. insect-resistant cotton, herbicide-resistant cotton and insect-resistant maize.

There are no GM crops planted for human consumption in South Africa. There are no 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.

During a meeting between the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, and his provincial counterparts, in June 2003, it was decided that there was a need to strengthen regulations governing GMOs.

The revision must ensure that the public is enabled to make better-informed decisions when purchasing goods made from GM products.

It was also resolved that serious consideration was needed around the labelling of GM products.

During 2002, the seasonally adjusted real value added by the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry increased by 3,9% compared with 2001. This was ascribed mainly to an increase in the production of maize and other field crops.

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 approximately 8% (9% in 2002) 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, cigars and cigarettes, food preparations, meat, avocados, pineapples, peanuts, preserved fruit and nuts, hides and skins, and dairy products.

Sustainable resource-use and management

South Africa, at most times, is able to meet its own food requirements with considerable food exportation. However, the inherent limitations of the natural resource base and variable climate require land users to be very circumspect in how they use and manage these resources, so as to retain their productive capacity. 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 Land Type (soil, climate and terrain) Survey for the whole of South Africa will assist land-use planning and management decision-making. Data from this and other more detailed soil and climate surveys are integrated into a comprehensive Geographic Information



System (GIS), which allows for assessment of agricultural potential and land suitability.

Although it is generally recognised that soil degradation is a problem, there has been little reliable data systematically collected 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 fuelwood collection, inappropriate land-use, population density and overgrazing are the main causes of soil degradation in the communal areas. In addition, it is estimated that about 60% of the cropland area is moderately to severely acid, and probably at least 15% is affected by subsoil acidity.

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 on fine sandy soils where, for example, maize yields can be adversely affected by some 30% to 40%.

Urban spread, industrialisation and mining also impact on the sustainable use of agricultural land. Opencast coal-mining in Mpumalanga is an example of this pressure.

The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983), allows the national Department of Agriculture to exercise control over the utilisation of South Africa's natural agricultural resources. The Act provides for the conservation of these resources by maintaining the land's production potential, combatting and preventing erosion, protecting vegetation and combatting weeds and invader plants. The Act generally applies to all agricultural land in South Africa, except for the sections dealing with weeds and invader plants, which also apply to urban areas.

Specific requirements and prohibitions applicable to land users are detailed in control

measures, published as regulations of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983. Certain activities, such as the cultivation of virgin land and burning of veld, are subject to prior approval, while others are prescribed as 'best practice' in the interest of sustainable land-use. The Act further provides for the implementation of schemes, of which two are still functioning. These are the Weed Control Scheme that is administered nationally and the Soil Conservation Scheme that is administered by the provinces.

In order 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. At farmer level, conservation committees can be appointed to promote the conservation of the natural agricultural resources in the area concerned, in order to achieve the objectives of the Act. The national Department of Agriculture's Inspection Service does compliance-monitoring at farm level in all provinces.

South Africa is a signatory to a number of international agreements and conventions that require the matter of sustainable resource-use and management to 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 United Nations (UN) Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Specific to sustainable resource-use is Chapter 14 on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development.

International conventions that apply to aspects of sustainable resource-use are the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). The CCD requires South Africa to draw up a National Action Programme, which will be integrated into a regional programme for the Southern African Development Community

(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 Department of Agriculture and the provinces.

One of the key programmes of the national Department of Agriculture that addresses sustainable use and management of natural resources is the National LandCare Programme (NLP). (See page 84.)

Gross value of agricultural production, 2002 ('000 t)	
Field crops	
Maize	13 906
Wheat	4 213
Hay	1 778
Grain sorghum	382
Sugar cane	3 284
Ground-nuts	322
Tobacco	529
Sunflower seed	2 160
Cotton	155
Other	1237
Total	27 966
Horticulture	
Viticulture	2 088
Citrus	2 915
Subtropical fruit	941
Deciduous and other fruit	4 396
Vegetables	3 522
Potatoes	2 438
Other	1 124
Total	17 424
Animal products	
Wool	1 269
Poultry and poultry products	10 767
Cattle and cattle slaughtered	5 289
Sheep and goats slaughtered	1 413
Pigs slaughtered	1 090
Fresh milk	2 794
Milk for dairy products	1 391
Other	1 558
Total	25 571
Grand total	70 961

Preliminary Source: Agricultural Statistics: Department of Agriculture

Research institutes of the ARC and some universities have been contracted to undertake various research projects on matters relating to the sustainable use of agricultural resources. The practices of minimum tillage and no-till crop-production are again being actively promoted in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, aimed not only at commercial farmers, but also at smaller and subsistence farmers.

An agreement has been signed with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN for a project on conservation agriculture.

In terms of the projects, which is financed by the Technical Co-operation Programme, a survey of the conservation agriculture practices in South Africa will be done, workshops conducted, and visits to other African and South American countries organised.

The aim of the project is to formulate a strategy for implementing conservation agriculture in South Africa.

The National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), places strong emphasis on equity in access to water, including water for agriculture. A feature of the development of water sources for agriculture has been the lack of co-ordination of initiatives and support interventions.

A proposal for the integrated management of water use in agriculture has been drafted.

The national Department undertook two projects to improve stockwater provision to small-scale farmers. In terms of the projects, existing boreholes are rehabilitated, pumps repaired, and new boreholes provided where water audits indicate that additional supplies are needed. Operations commenced in the Sekhukhune cross-border and Chris Hani districts, and were later expanded to QwaQwa and Kalahari-Kgalagadi districts. Eventually all the priority nodes will be included.

The Farmers' Charter, a commitment by farmers, government and other stakeholders for the sustainable use of natural resources, was launched in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development.



Production

In general, the prices of agricultural products increased by 26% from 2001 to 2002. Prices of field crops increased by 35%, horticultural products by 23%, and livestock products also by 23%. The net income of the farming sector increased from R10 591 million in 2001 to R20 277 million in 2002. The country is self-sufficient where primary foods are concerned, with the exception of wheat, oil-seeds, rice, tea and coffee.

Field crops and horticulture

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

The maize industry plays a very important role in the economy. Maize is the largest locally produced field crop, and the most important source of carbohydrates in the SADC for animal and human consumption. South Africa is the main maize producer in the SADC with an average production of approximately 9,1 metric tons (mt) per annum over the past 10 years.

It is estimated that more than 9 000 commercial producers of maize are responsible for the major part of the South African crop, while the rest is produced by many thousands of small-scale producers.

Production of important field crops and horticultural products, 2002 ('000 t)

Maize	10 073
Wheat	2 331
Sugar cane	23 013
Grain sorghum	255
Ground-nuts	133
Sunflower seed	965
Deciduous and other soft fruit	1 602
Citrus fruit	1 896
Subtropical fruit	616
Vegetables	2 050
Potatoes	1 540

Preliminary Source: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

Maize is produced mainly in the 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 approximately 7,5 mt and surplus maize is usually exported.

Wheat is produced in the winter-rainfall areas of the Western Cape and the eastern parts of the Free State. Production in the Western Cape is the highest, but there are considerable annual fluctuations.

Barley is produced mainly on the southern coastal plains of the Western Cape. The area where barley is planted was estimated at 72 400 ha for the 2002/03 production season, and production was estimated at 183 260 t.

Ground-nuts are grown mainly in the Free State, North West and Northern Cape. Ground-nut plantings decreased by 47%, from 94 160 ha in 2001/02 to 50 300 ha in 2002/03.

The ARC developed a sampling technique for estimating grain-crop areas, yield and production. It is the first time that a GIS, Global Positioning System, Remote Sensing Imagery and Internet-based data have been integrated into a system to provide information to the National Crop Estimation Committee. The Committee can now make a more reliable estimate of grain-crop production for South Africa, which has a major impact on markets, pricing and futures trading.

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.

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 90% of the lucerne seed produced in South Africa. A lucerne plant can produce 100 to 120 lucerne bales per hectare every three weeks, provided enough water is available.

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

South Africa is ranked as the world's 12th-largest sugar producer. Sugar cane is grown in 15 cane-producing areas extending from northern Pondoland in the Eastern Cape, through the coastal belt and Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal, to the Mpumalanga Lowveld. An estimated 2,5 mt of sugar is produced per season. About 50% of this is marketed in southern Africa. The remainder is exported to numerous markets in Africa, the Middle East, North America and Asia. Based on actual sales and selling prices in 2002/03, it is estimated that the South African sugar industry contributed R2,0 billion to South Africa's foreign exchange earnings.

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 11% of the country's total earnings from agricultural exports. In 2002, apples made up the largest percentage of the crop (38%), while pears totalled 21% and grapes 19%. Approximately 76% of the total crop was produced in the Western Cape, 11% in the Northern Cape, and 13% in the Eastern Cape.

The wine and spirits industry in South Africa is a very important part of the agricultural sector. South Africa is ranked as the eighth-largest wine producer in the world. It is also pioneering an integrated production system, including an environmentally friendly approach to wine-making. Preliminary guidelines, to proactively address the environmental impact of winery and distillery-effluent water were proposed for implementation by the wine industry at an international workshop. The workshop, organised for the first time in South Africa, also led to the identification of research gaps.

In 2002, South African wine-growers pro-

duced a grape harvest of 8,3 hectolitres, of which 66% was used in wine-making. About 106 330 ha of land are under cultivation with about 317 million vines. About 84% of wines are still produced by co-operatives. Some 4 390 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 218 ML in 2002.

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

It is anticipated that the Agreement will improve access into the large European market for South African wine and spirits. Applying an annual duty-free tariff quota of 42 ML will ensure better access for South African wines. In addition, the EU will make available an amount of 15 million Euro for restructuring the South African wine and spirits industry. The signing of these agreements is an essential step in formalising South Africa's co-operation with the EU in the wine and spirits trade.

Since 1 January 2000, the Directorate: Marketing of the Department of Agriculture has issued export permits for sparkling wines in terms of the Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA) between South Africa and the EU for 472 500 litres to be exported at reduced levels of duty to the European community.

Export permits for 42,02 ML white and red wine have been issued since March 2002, when the Wine and Spirits Agreement came into effect.

Part of the Agreement involves phasing out names traditionally used in South Africa for specific types of wines. The names 'port' and 'sherry' will 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 will also phase out the names *grappa*, *ouzo*, *korn/kornbrand*, *jägertee* and *pacharan* within five years of signing the agreement.



The EU is the largest destination for South African wines, accounting for 75% of total exports in this sector in 2002. At the same time, it is the largest supplier of imported wine and spirits to the South African market.

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

Pineapples are grown in the Eastern Cape and northern KwaZulu-Natal. Other subtropical crops such as avocados, mangoes, bananas, litchis, guavas, pawpaws, 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.

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 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, 50% is delivered to fresh-produce markets and a further 16% is processed. The South African potato-processing industry grew by more than 100% over the past five years. This growth took place primarily in the three main disciplines of the processing industry, namely crisps, chips and

French fries. Production of frozen French fries (41% of the total processed potato products in South Africa) has increased over the last couple of years.

In terms of gross income to the grower (apart from potatoes, which contribute 40%), tomatoes, onions, green mealies and sweetcorn are probably the most important vegetable crops.

These crops contribute 37% to the income derived from vegetables. 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 are grown in Mpumalanga; in the districts of Caledon, Ceres and Worcester in the Western Cape; and at Venterstad and the adjoining areas in the southern Free State.

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

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 are much more than those under irrigation. Seventy-five per cent of local production is harvested by hand.

Virginia tobacco is produced mainly in Mpumalanga and Limpopo, with smaller quantities of Oriental tobacco being produced in the Western and Eastern Cape. There are more than 1 000 growers in the country, who produce an annual average of 34 million kilograms on about 24 000 ha of land. The crop represents 173 different grades of Virginia, and five different grades of Oriental, tobacco.

Honeybush tea grows mainly in the coastal and mountainous areas of the Western Cape



The South African Government announced in January 2003 that it would be donating R170 million towards food aid in southern Africa.

South Africa's donation to the World Food Programme (WFP) is expected to finance 100 000 tons of mealies, which will be distributed to the famine-stricken areas of Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland.

It forms part of government's plan to spend R400 million per year for the next three years to fight famine in southern Africa.

The country's donation to the WFP was the biggest ever made by an African country.

but also in certain areas of the Eastern Cape. From a small beginning in 1993, the honeybush has grown to a commercial crop, with a production of more than 100 t of processed tea per annum. In the last eight years, 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, appearance of several brand names on supermarket shelves, and a growing overseas market.

The South African Honeybush Tea Association was established in 1999 to enable producers of this beverage to formalise their industry in response to the growing demand for their product.

The ARC is developing a method to create interspecies crosses between different honeybush tea species.

Rooibos tea is an indigenous herb produced mainly in the Cedarberg area of the Western Cape. In 2002, the demand for *rooibos* was

estimated to be 3 500 t compared with 3 200 t exported in 2000. The active producers of *rooibos* tea are estimated at 320, ranging from small to large farming enterprises.

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 United States of America (USA). In support of the protea and *fynbos* industry, the ARC is involved in several ongoing research activities. During 2002/03, about 1 613 accessions of the indigenous *fynbos* were maintained by the ARC at Elsenburg and 3 000 seedlings from 110 candidate cultivars of *fynbos* were produced. The ARC completed a project on *proteaceae* breeding and production, which was funded by the 5th Framework Programme of the EU.

The *fynbos* industry is being transformed from 'wild harvesting' to 'cultivation', with an array of cultivars planted. Further *fynbos* species have potential for development as crops, provided the necessary research funding can be secured. Dried flowers form an important component of the *fynbos* 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.

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.



On 6 June 2003, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms Lindiwe Hendricks, opened a R7-million pineapple-processing plant in East London, Eastern Cape.

Collondale Cannery is one of only two pineapple-processing factories in South Africa. The company has installed a plant with a new evaporator specifically imported for processing pineapple-juice concentrate.

South Africa accounts for 6% of the world's pineapple production. The world market is dominated by Thailand, Indonesia, the Phillipines and Kenya. South African pineapples are traditionally less sweet and more acidic than those of its competitors. A blend between South African pineapple concentrate and that of its competitors results in a sweeter product, but with the distinctive pineapple taste that is unique to the South African product.

The new plant illustrates the value of investment in production-capacity for export sales and job creation. The new Collondale plant incorporates the latest technology that will enable the company to increase its production of pineapple-juice concentrate by 50%. All of this will be exported, generating sales of R7 million per year.



Livestock numbers, 2001 – 2002 (million)

	2001	2002
Cattle	13,5	13,6
Sheep	28,8	29,0
Pigs	1,6	1,6
Goats	6,8	6,7

Source: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture

South Africa is the leading exporter of protea cut flowers, accounting 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 climatic 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 13,6 million and 29,0 million, respectively. South Africa normally produces 85% of its meat requirements, while 15% is imported from Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Australia, New Zealand and European countries.

The livestock industry is currently 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 within communal farming.



In June 2003, three men from southern Africa won the World Shearing Championships held in Scotland in the United Kingdom.

Eliot Ntsombo of Lesotho was crowned world champion for the eighth time, with Zwelile Hans of South Africa in second place. Hans has been champion for the past two years.

Samuel Nkomoyi, also of South Africa, took third position.

The best sheep-shearers from all over the world competed for the coveted title.

South Africa has been a member of the Golden Shears organisation, which organises the tournaments, since 1998.

The ARC aims to broaden access to this market opportunity, increase efficiency of the livestock-production chain, and improve product quality and safety through research and development support. This will be achieved through focused attention on animal nutrition and environment; breeding genetics and reproduction physiology; health products; food security and safety; and marketing and economics across the different animal species.

Dairy-farming is practised throughout South Africa, with the highest concentration of dairy farms in the 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 fully participates 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 bred by the ARC improves the milk production of a Jersey herd by 0,9 litres per cow per day, and the production of a Holstein herd by 1,5 litres per cow per day.

The South African Milk Federation co-ordinates industry matters, including the information and research functions financed by means of voluntary levies. 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 2002/03 was estimated at 1,94 ML.

Cattle ranches are found mainly in the Eastern Cape, parts of the Free State and Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Northern Cape. The indigenous Afrikaner and Nguni, and the locally developed Bonsmara and Drakensberger, are popular beef breeds, but British, European and American breeds, such as Brahman, Charolais, Hereford, Angus, Santa Gertrudis, Simmentaler and Sussex are maintained as pure breeds and 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 Northern and Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Free State, and Mpumalanga, with Ermelo in Mpumalanga being one of the largest wool-producing districts. Most sheep are fine-wooled Merinos (50%). Other breeds include the locally developed Afrino (a woolled mutton breed adapted to arid conditions), the South African Mutton Merino, the Dohne and the Merino Land Sheep. Non-wool breeds such as the Dorper, a highly productive, locally developed mutton breed for arid regions, and the woolled Merino account for most of South Africa's mutton production.

The indigenous meat-producing Boer goat accounts for about 30% of all commercial goats. The Angora goat is used for mohair production. South Africa has about 3 500 Angora farmers.

Compared with the mainly extensive cattle and sheep industries, the poultry and pig industries are more intensive 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 and the Large White.



The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) has established a BioStore database of biological material and DNA for game and indigenous farm animals. This facilitates the identification of animals at species and subspecies level. Biological samples are processed and stored in vials in individually marked boxes at -40° C. By June 2003, the BioStore contained 7 425 biological samples from 53 different species, representing blood, hide, hair, organs, meat and gut.

The Species Identification Service mainly utilises biological samples from the BioStore as control samples to be included for forensic analyses and the identification of meat and meat products.

South Africa's annual poultry meat production is estimated at 950 000 t. Broiler production contributes about 82% 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.

Commercial producers slaughtered an estimated 541 million broilers during 2002. The gross value of broilers and other fowls slaughtered during this period is estimated at R8 252 million, which makes it the most important contributor to the value of agricultural production in South Africa.

South Africa accounts for 72% of world sales of ostrich products, namely leather, meat and feathers. The Klein Karoo Co-operative is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of ostrich products. According to the Co-operative, there is a big increase in the demand for ostrich meat abroad.

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, Free State, 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 South African Game Ranchers' Organisation, as well as local organisations in each province, service the industry.

A descriptive game-production model has been developed for optimising intensive animal production on game farms. The model has the potential to increase the global produce of the game industry by between 8% and 15%.

The aquaculture industry in South Africa continues to make meaningful progress in



cultivation technology, marketing strategy, marketing practice and scientific innovation. Mussels, trout, tilapia, ratfish, oysters and *waterblommetjies* (Cape pondweed) are the major aquaculture species. Mussel-farming occurs mainly at Saldanha Bay. The Abalone Farmers' Association of South Africa has been instrumental in formulating product standards.

The South African honey industry is still small, worth some R27 million annually. The ARC presents bee-keeping courses and provides on-farm support for between 12 and 18 months.

Production input

Fertilisers, farm feeds and agricultural and stock remedies are known as agricultural production input. A Draft Bill makes provision for the registration of products such as animal feed, fertilisers and pesticides to enhance agricultural production, and the registration of persons involved with the application of such products. The Draft Bill will repeal the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947), and was expected to be published for comment in 2003.

The internationally proposed classification and labelling systems have been accepted for agricultural and stock remedies. These systems, locally referred to as the RSA Classification and Labelling System, have been in use since 1993. The System also makes provision for the use of CropLife International's pictograms on product labels.

Complaints about a specific agricultural production resource are investigated immediately, and administrative or legal action is taken against offenders when necessary.

Samples of all raw material and animal feed are taken regularly and tested for pathogenic contamination. This action, and the steps that follow when contamination is detected, assures the public of food safety.

Veterinary services

State Veterinary Services constantly guard against the introduction of animal diseases from outside South Africa, and existing animal diseases, which may be detrimental to the economy of South Africa and to human and animal health, are 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.

The Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984), soon to be replaced by the Animal Health Act, 2002 (Act 7 of 2002), provides the necessary powers to control diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), swine fever, rabies and anthrax. In May 2002, after three small outbreaks of FMD in 2000/01, South Africa, excluding the Kruger National Park and surrounding game reserves, gained recognition as an FMD-free zone.

Trade with various countries in animals and animal products has resumed.

The ARC has been contracted by government to provide an FMD vaccine for Zimbabwe. The vaccine will be delivered over a two-year period at a cost of R12 million. FMD has become a regional problem, with outbreaks in Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Surveillance systems are in place to ensure that all agricultural products entering and leaving the country are free of disease 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 to neighbouring countries to prevent the introduction of FMD.

Although national livestock-disease schemes have reduced the incidence of both tuberculosis and brucellosis since the 1960s and early 1970s, these diseases remain a concern.

Comprehensive attempts are made to control the increasing incidence of rabies throughout South Africa, especially in KwaZulu-Natal. To further strengthen South Africa's internal measures to combat animal diseases, the Department of Agriculture allocated R5 million for the development and rehabilitation of dipping infrastructure, which will ensure that there is adequate surveillance for tick-borne diseases, especially in the communal areas.

Highlights in the last decade include the introduction of the electronic Animal Disease Information System for South Africa and a laboratory management system, as well as the implementation of quality-control systems in official veterinary laboratories.

The increased co-operation with other African countries, especially within the SADC region, provides a considerable boost to animal-disease control as a result of the adoption of regional strategies for transboundary diseases. This approach will also prove valuable in the light of animal-disease challenges that may emerge due to transfrontier wildlife-conservation areas.

Another significant development is the export of horses with an estimated value in excess of R200 million in 2002.

The Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000), stipulates that meat inspections and hygiene control must be carried out by qualified meat-inspection personnel at abattoirs to prevent the transmission of diseases through meat to humans and animals.

The Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance prescribes and audits essential standards implemented at provincial level. Imported and exported meat is monitored, and a national residue-monitoring programme has been implemented.

The former Directorate: Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) is a State-owned public company. It has the capacity and the technology to produce veterinary vaccines for the whole of Africa. The OBP is the sole or main producer of at least 15 vaccines for

African animal diseases, and eight vaccines in the world for tropical diseases.

The institution is now positioned to produce even more vaccines for diseases relevant to the African continent. A vaccine bank is also being established to assist in the rapid response to disease outbreaks in the country and region. The facility will be upgraded at a cost of R37 million during the 2004/05 financial year. About R27 million has been generated internally for this purpose.

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 *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE), the World Health Organisation and the EU to supply vaccines to African countries.

OBP sales have increased in the last three years from 8% to around 37%.

The ARC is involved in the development of a new-generation vaccine against Newcastle disease, while major progress has been made towards a recombinant vaccine against heart-water. Heart-water is the most predominant tick-borne disease in the country affecting livestock.

South Africa's first veterinary recombinant subunit vaccine is in sight. The ARC has formulated a prototype African horse-sickness (AHS) virus vaccine. Technology has also been established to serotype any AHS virus within only two days, as opposed to current serological techniques which deliver results of AHS diagnosis after 14 days or longer.

The ARC is also involved in the development of an ethnoveterinary database.

Pest control

The Department of Agriculture is involved in the chemical and biological control of invader



plants. In total, an infestation of 48 000 ha of queen of the night has been controlled, partly in co-operation with the Working for Water Programme of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

The Department is active in another campaign to control the weed *Cereus jamacaru*, which has invaded an area of approximately 255 000 ha. It spans four provinces, stretching from Loskop Dam in the east to Zeerust in the west, and from Modimolle in the north to Hartbeespoort Dam in the south. The cactus seriously reduces groundwater supply and the agricultural potential of the land. In some parts, the weed is also being controlled in collaboration with the Working for Water Programme. (See Chapter 23: *Water Affairs and Forestry*).

The Department is actively spreading biological control agents on other weed species such as *Harissia martinii*, *Sesbania punicea* and some aggressive *Opuntia spp.*

The ARC is involved in:

- the successful biocontrol of red water fern and *Acaciapycnantha*
- producing a new field guide for alien plant invaders
- the registration of Garlon 4 to control *Prosopis spp.* and *Ulex europaeus*.

Host-specificity testing was completed for the leaf-mining fly *Calycomyza eupatorivora*, for the biological control of chromolaena in South Africa, and permission was obtained to release five new species of biological control agents against their target weeds. The Plant Pathogenic and Plant Protecting Bacterial Culture has been registered with the World Federation of Culture Collections.

During 2002, the ARC released the first guide to the identification of potentially dangerous invasive aquatic plants in South Africa. The book, entitled *Invasive Aquatic Plants*, can also be used in other SADC countries.

The ARC publication, *Alien Weeds and Invasive Plants*, describes 234 species of alien weeds and invasive plants in South Africa. Comprehensive information is provided about

all declared weeds and invaders, and the regulations concerning their control.

Most countries have established Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides used in the control of pests and diseases, not only to safeguard consumer health, but also to minimise the presence of these residues 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 Quality of any rejections by importing country authorities due to residues.

In June 2003, the Directorate was in the process of establishing a database for regulatory purposes, based on South African registered pesticides and the MRLs per crop, established by the country's major export trading partners.

Migratory pest control

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

Scientists of the ARC discovered a relationship between locust outbreaks, the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index, and rainfall, which will be used to forecast interseasonal locust outbreaks. The brown-locust-forecast-

ing model will directly enhance the operational efficiency of the Brown Locust Early Warning System which is currently under development to support the country's Disaster Management Programme.

This research 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 Information Core for Southern African Migrant Pests (ICOSAMP) network, which is managed by the ARC, has attained international recognition through the incorporation of its monthly bulletin (*ICOSAMP News*) into two global networks, *IPMnet News* and *Monthly Situation Reports of the Africa Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Assistance project*.

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 apply for registration with the Department of Agriculture.

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

Marketing

In order to achieve the Government's aim with regard to the upliftment of small, medium and micro enterprises and the commercialisation of the emerging farming sector, the Directorate: Domestic Marketing was created under the Department of Agriculture. One of the first tasks of this Directorate was to plan and organise a marketing course for extension officers. This was done in close collaboration with the FAO. The Directorate developed a training manual on the basics of agricultural marketing. The manual is in pictorial form specially designed for emerging farmers. In July 2003, the first series was ready for printing and distribution.

The Directorate is also involved in the administration and issuing of negotiated market-access import and export permits for a range of agricultural products. It has amended the permits-allocation policy to make provision for increased allocations to new importers and small and medium enterprises.

In terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act 47 of 1996), which replaced the 1968 Marketing Act, all of the old control boards (schemes) in terms of the 1968 Act had to be abolished by 5 January 1998.

Once these control boards had been disbanded, structures were put in place to serve the agricultural industry.

Commodities that were regulated by the time the Marketing of Agriculture Products Act, 1996 came into operation were canned and deciduous fruit, citrus, cotton, dairy, sorghum, lucerne seed, maize, meat, mohair, oilseeds, winter cereals, and wool.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) is a statutory body which primarily provides advice to the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs. One of the tasks of the NAMC is to provide the Minister with a report on the current status of a specific industry and make recommendations on how to enhance the viability of the relevant industry. The NAMC also proposes measures to increase the participation of previously disadvantaged individuals in all facets of the agricultural sector.

The NAMC continues to do important work in monitoring the agricultural marketing environment in order to promote the existence of a more diverse and competitive sector. The Outreach Programme – which empowers emerging farmers with information – had reached 1 400 such farmers by June 2003.

Attendance at agricultural shows, farmers' days, conferences and workshops offers the NAMC the opportunity to disseminate information to farmers.



The Directorate: Plant Health and Quality of the Department of Agriculture is responsible for setting the standards for certain agricultural and related products. This includes aspects such as composition, quality, packaging, marking and labelling, as well as physical, physiological, chemical and microbiological analyses.

These standards are published in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990), and the Liquor Products Act, 1989 (Act 60 of 1989), in the form of regulations for products sold on local markets, and as standards and requirements for products that are intended for export.

The Directorate developed the Production Unit Code Registration for deciduous as well as subtropical fruits. This is aimed at ensuring the traceability of the origin of the products.

Another international development to ensure safe food of good quality through good agricultural and manufacturing practices is the control of management systems. These ensure a more structured approach to the control of identified hazards than what can be achieved through traditional inspection and quality procedures.

Land administration

The Department of Agriculture, through the Directorate: Farmer Settlement and Development, controls and administers 673 253 ha of State agricultural land.

State agricultural land is divided as follows:

- some 581 864 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

A decision was taken at the Cabinet *lekgotla* of 2000 to design an integrated food-security strategy that would streamline, harmonise and integrate actions/programmes that address food security in the country. The Integrated Food Security Strategy was adopted at MinMec (forum of national and provincial Ministers), resulting in consultative workshops at national and provincial level.

A joint plan-of-action was agreed on with provincial Departments of Agriculture.

National departments provided a list of their existing food-security programmes and committees that could be linked to the Food Security Strategy.

The Cabinet approved the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme in July 2002 as one of the key programmes of the Social Cluster. The vision of the Programme is to ensure the universal physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food by all South Africans, at all times, to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Its goal is to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by 2015.

In March 2003, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya; the Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang; and the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Ms Thoko Didiza, met with their provincial counterparts to further strengthen government's Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme and accelerate its delivery to the poorest of the poor.

In July 2003, the Cabinet noted the progress being made in implementing the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme, and the challenges of linking the beneficiaries to the formal social safety net, including the provision of agricultural starter packs.

To ensure that beneficiary households do not relapse into vulnerability, Cabinet decided to extend the food parcel to the original Band

A beneficiaries covered during the 2002/03 allocation (244 000 households) for another three months, to provide for reasonable time frames in implementing the model. Band A households spend less than R200 per month on food.

The Directorate: Plant Health and Quality 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 that pests and diseases might be 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 Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS).

During working-committee discussions with officials from the Human Rights Commission and the UN Council for Human Rights, the Draft Bill was hailed 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 the UN. Normal procedures on new legislation and policy guidelines will follow when discussions are finalised.

During April 2003, the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs announced that the Department was investigating the feasibility of longer-term food security measures.

These include a comprehensive regional food-security strategy, strategic grain reserves and food stamps, and improved information management.

National Food Pricing Monitoring Committee (FPMC)

The FPMC was established in January 2003 in terms of Section 7 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996. The Committee is tasked with monitoring the prices of food, particularly basic foodstuffs, and investigating any sharp or unjustified food-price increases.

The Committee engages with industry and regulators like the Competition Commission in conducting its investigations. The first task of the FPMC was to investigate the competitiveness of production operations and price-formation mechanisms within the value chains of basic foodstuffs.

The investigation will provide recommendations on required productivity improvements in areas of market inefficiencies and distortions, incidents of predatory pricing and monopolistic tendencies, as well as collusive and discriminatory practices.

The Directorate also facilitated the implementation of the *Yiyo Lena* public-private partnership through which the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs invited the business community to voluntarily contribute towards alleviating the impact of high food prices experienced since the beginning of 2001.

As a short-term measure, Premier Foods, Metcash South Africa and Afgri volunteered to introduce a *Yiyo Lena* 12,5-kg maize meal brand at the subsidised price of R25,99 to households in identified national poverty hot spots.

Distribution of the subsidised maize meal commenced on 31 October 2002 and continued until January 2003. In the initial allocation of the monthly quota of about 80 000 bags, priority was given to those stores located in the poverty-stricken areas of the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Limpopo.

Regional issues

South Africa participated in various training programmes of the SADC Food Security Training Programme. The country also parti-



cipates in the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Programme.

A Regional Food Security Training Programme (RFSTP) has been developed over a five-year period as endorsed by the RAC. From January 2000, 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 developing 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 one of some 52 members 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 FAO on the implementation of the Special Programme for Food Security within the context of the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme.

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

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

A working group to devise agricultural disaster-management plans has been established.

These plans cover awareness, avoidance, mitigation and transfer of risk.

Drought management

The Draft Drought Management Strategy will be discussed with all stakeholders, such as provinces and municipalities. The Strategy will place the responsibility of coping with drought back on the normal production system. This will cause farmers to exercise greater prudence and make themselves less vulnerable to the effects of drought.

Agricultural risks insurance

The Department of Agriculture has drafted an Agricultural Risks Insurance Bill, a risk transfer which will assist farmers in managing production risk. This tool will assist farmers to recover from natural disasters. The insurance-based risk management programme allows the farmer, government and the private sector to share the risk involved in agricultural production.

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 grown by about 10% a year since 1995 – reaching R28 220 million by the end of 2002, compared with R9 495 million at the end of 1984.

The six major sources of credit for farmers are: banks (39%), agricultural co-operatives and agribusinesses (14%), the Land Bank (28%), private creditors (9%), other creditors and financial institutions (8%), and the State (2%).

Agribusiness Promotion and Industry Relations (APIR)

The Directorate: APIR is a newly established unit in the Department of Agriculture, charged with promoting participation and equity sharing towards an inclusive, equitable and prosperous agricultural sector.

The ultimate aims are:

- unlocking the economic potential of idle to underutilised resources of emergent groups by
 - instilling self-confidence and self-esteem through organisational skills, basic business management principles and technical skills
 - encouraging and supporting them to take charge of their lives by facilitating the opening of opportunities/markets and accessing productive resources
 - allowing/affording them the opportunity to contribute to the growth and wealth of their economy.
- facilitating restructuring and expansion of existing agribusinesses to enhance their competitiveness and contribution to the sector as well as the economy as a whole.

National LandCare Programme

The vision of the NLP 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. This means that people must use the soil, water and vegetation resources in a responsible manner to ensure that future generations will also be able to use them to their benefit. It also implies that cultivation, livestock grazing and 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 of water) occurs.

The NLP's objectives are to:

- promote partnerships between communities, the private sector, and government in the management of natural resources
- establish institutional arrangements to develop and implement policies, programmes and practices that will encourage the sustainable use of natural resources
- encourage opportunities for the development of business enterprises that focus on

sustainable resource management

- enhance the long-term productivity of natural resources.

LandCare themes are grouped into two areas, namely focused investment (Watercare, Veldcare, Soilcare and Juniorcare) and small community grants.

LandCare is developing and implementing integrated approaches to natural resource management in the country, which are efficient, sustainable, equitable and consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. LandCare partners have consequently designed key strategies for sustainable natural-resource management.

Serious concerns about land and water degradation, which impacts on sustainable resource use, are identified in each province, and specific projects address these issues.

In cases of serious catchment-wide degradation and erosion, the root causes are investigated. In some cases, physical control structures are needed to ensure that water run-off control takes place. The Department of Agriculture's Subdirectorates: Key Soil Conservation Works designs and constructs such structures in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983.

Projects are under way in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

The purpose of this strategy is 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 strategy formulates policy and legislation to develop incentives for natural-resource management.

The aim is 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 other stakeholders.

There are 346 LandCare projects throughout the country, funded to an amount of R240 million.

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development, funded a R15-million capacity-building programme for LandCare over a period of three years, from April 2001 to April 2004. An additional R6 million was added to the programme in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Focused investment

The Watercare theme targets Limpopo in particular, because of water shortages and the importance of water for irrigation in the province. 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. Furthermore, Watercare promotes the development of techniques for water-resource management and encourages opportunities for training in this field.

Under the Watercare project, 28 schemes have been revitalised. There are 138 small-holder schemes in Limpopo. A business plan for the revitalisation of small-holder irrigation schemes has been developed. It aims at revitalising the remaining 105 schemes in Limpopo over a six-year period from 2003 to 2009. The Limpopo Government has committed R252 million to this plan.

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 within North West. 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 are introduced, such as diversification, management of input and conservation tillage.

The objectives of Juniorcare are to empower previously disadvantaged youth through 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



The Northern Cape Government, in partnership with Haymake Investments and Gili Greenworld, launched a paprika factory in Springbok, Northern Cape, in March 2003.

The factory, worth R55 million, is one of South Africa's supreme irrigational emerging farmer empowerment projects, called the Goodhouse Paprika Project.

The factory's core business is the production of paprika spice and paprika oleo-resin (concentrated) to be exported to Europe, the United States of America, Mexico, the Far East and the Middle East.

It has created 78 permanent jobs and projected sales for the first six years are estimated at R276 million.

The raw material for the factory is supplied by the emerging Goodhouse Agricultural Corporation, comprising 55 small-scale black farmers who acquired Land Redistribution Agricultural Development Grants from the Department of Land Affairs and loans from the Land Bank.

Each beneficiary has been allocated 10 hectare (ha) for the cultivation of paprika. A total of 550 ha of irrigational land will be developed along the Orange River.

The Northern Cape Government has invested R17 million (25% shareholding) in the factory, on behalf of the emerging farmers of Goodhouse.

people in an integrated way and involves inter-disciplinary 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 regulated by the Land and Agricultural Development Bank Act, 2002 (Act 15 of 2002), that repealed the Land Bank Act, 1944 (Act 13 of 1944), on 10 June 2002.

The Bank has a mandate from government to support the development of the agricultural sector as a whole. The Bank's key strategic intent is to achieve financial sustainability focusing on social and development impact. Meeting client needs with cost-effective and competitive products and services; building an efficient, representative and committed workforce; and promoting good relations with stakeholders are critical elements of this strategy. The Bank provides a comprehensive range of retail and wholesale financial products and services designed to meet the needs of commercial and developing farmers and agriculture-related businesses.

The Bank offers loan products to the agricultural industry for the financing of fixed property, equipment, livestock, standing crops and orchards, and farming input costs. The needs of individual farmers are catered for through loan products distributed via the Bank's network of 27 retail branches situated in agricultural centres throughout South Africa, as well as 45 satellite branches. The financing needs of agricultural co-operatives and agribusiness are met through loan products distributed by the Bank's specialist Corporate Finance Units, situated in Pretoria and Cape Town.

The Bank extends loans to agribusiness and makes equity investments, opening the way to diversify and grow the portfolio. Diversification is important for long-term financial sustainability. The Bank receives no ongoing grants or subsidies from government. It raises its funds on local and international money markets.

The Bank's conservative financial approach and good results are reflected in a premium risk rating, enabling it to access funds at favourable rates.

Products and services

The Land Bank empowers various farming communities, especially the poorest of the poor. Through the Bank's creative funding programmes and initiatives, women in rural areas have been able to empower themselves and take charge of their lives.

By April 2003, the Bank had assisted a total of 14 000 black clients who are not beneficiaries of government-supported Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD).

The Bank is increasingly reaching out to a client base that was traditionally not served by the country's financial institutions. A total of 7 900 LRAD beneficiaries have also received financial assistance through the Bank.

Corporate and development finance

The number of loans advanced to development clients increased by 35% from 66 846 in 2000 to 90 155 in 2001. During this period, some 4 116 loan applications amounting to R192 million for the Silver and Bronze products, and 28 loans amounting to R328 million in respect of development products were approved. The total value of loans extended to development clients, compared with the previous year, increased by 8% from R413 million in 2000 to R446 million in 2001.

In 2001, government introduced a grant for LRAD, which has provided an opportunity for future financing of land-acquisition by historically disadvantaged persons. The Land Bank has been appointed by the Department of Agriculture to administer this grant and will provide additional loans for land-acquisition and input-costs to qualifying beneficiaries.

Black Economic Empowerment (BEE)

In agriculture, BEE is seen as the driving force



towards stimulating growth and wealth. The sector has proactively tried to address BEE issues in its joint strategic plan.

The main challenge facing the sector is to harmonise its strategic plan with the Government's BEE strategy, codes and norms. An initial brainstorming workshop was held with key stakeholders on 28 August 2002, to recommend a policy framework that can be used as a platform for policy debates, consultations and ultimate guidelines in agriculture.

The Department's top management has, in principle, approved the recommendations. A refined document has been submitted to the Minister for clearance before the Department embarks on targeted external consultations with industries and other departments.

Microfinance

To address the widespread need for micro-finance in rural areas, the Land Bank introduced the Step Up scheme in April 1998. This enables people with no security to borrow an initial amount of R250. If clients repay the loan on time they can 'step up' to a R500 loan, continuing to a maximum loan of R18 000.

At this stage, many Step Up clients have a track record that qualifies them for the Land Bank's high- to medium-risk categories.

Agri SA

Agri SA is an independent producer organisation consisting of provincial agricultural unions, commodity organisations and co-operatives and agricultural businesses owned by farmers. The main objective of Agri SA is to negotiate the best possible economic and social conditions for agricultural producers in South Africa. To attain this objective, it strives to organise the farming population and agricultural business into a united front.

The highest authority within the structure of the organisation lies with the Agri SA Annual Congress, where all three legs of organised agriculture are represented.

The General Council of Agri SA, which consists of representatives from the Provincial Chamber, Commodity Chamber and Agribusiness Chamber, gives continuous attention to matters of general interest concerning the farming community. An executive committee, consisting of Agri SA's president, deputy president and the chairpersons of the three Chambers, makes the day-to-day decisions within the accepted policy of the organisation.

Agri SA also has a number of functional committees specialising in matters which are relevant to the farming community, such as economic issues, safety, labour, land affairs, etc. In addition, they are major employers, developers and sources of added-value.

Agricultural Business Chamber (ABC)

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

Together, ABC members operate more than 2 000 service centres countrywide and have a total employee-complement of more than 100 000. In many rural areas, members of the ABC are the business hub of the community and make a key contribution to maintaining the rural infrastructure.

The ABC is an integral part of the Agri SA Group, and associates 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 ABC strives to support its member organisations by creating an environment within which they are able to operate as competitive and innovative business enterprises.

The Chamber represents agricultural companies, agricultural co-operatives, agricultural co-operatives in the developing agricultural

sector, 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.

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 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 Johannesburg Securities Exchange (JSE).

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

South African agribusiness is increasingly challenged to perform competitively and the ABC's Competitive Index indicates an upward trend, especially since 1998. This implies that value-adding processes in South African agriculture are becoming more competitive. The input sectors also indicate a positive trend in competitiveness. These positive trends are supported by growing agricultural exports and sustained increases in the Agribusiness Confidence Index.

The co-operative movement in South African agriculture is expected to grow. A new 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.

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.

Economic empowerment

The Department of Agriculture funds NAFU's capacity-building programme. Further funding is provided by the US Department of Agriculture.

Bergville Maize Milling Co-operative was also co-ordinated and funded by the national Department of Agriculture.

The Zijamele Farmers Co-operative training programme was co-ordinated by the Department and rendered by Africare as an implementing agent.



The Department also co-ordinates the Presidential Mechanisation Lead Projects.

Institutional capacity-building

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

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.

The Department co-ordinated and funded the development of the National Emerging Red Meat Producers' Organisation. This includes the formation of provincial structures and the provision of organisational leadership training.

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.

The ARC serves the whole continuum of farmers, from the small-scale subsistence sector, through the emergent commercial

sector, to fully fledged commercial farmers. Research can be scale-neutral or directed to the specific needs of small-scale or commercial farmers.

The ARC publishes various reports, field guides and other multimedia information products directed at all levels of agriculture in South Africa and the rest of Africa. Various specialised training courses and information days are presented and attended by farmers and delegates from South Africa and neighbouring countries. Participatory research, specialised exhibitions, training courses and open days (with practical demonstrations) are used to reach the small-scale farmer.

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: Elsenburg (Western Cape), Cedara and Owen Sitole (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 Madzihandilla (Limpopo). Diploma courses are also offered at various technikons. Degree courses are offered at the faculties of agriculture of 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 has amalgamated with the University of Pretoria. State veterinarians are assisted countrywide by animal health technicians who have a National Diploma in Animal Health. A National Diploma in Veterinary Technology is offered by Technikon Pretoria (soon to become Tshwane University of Technology) to enable student veterinary laboratory technicians of the Department of Agriculture and the private sector to become fully qualified.

Meat inspectors in the provincial Directorate: Veterinary Services assist State veterinarians with meat inspections at abattoirs in South Africa. They complete a three-year diploma course to become environmental health officers and are designated by the Directorate to become meat inspectors. Meat examiners must complete a National Certificate in meat-examining for red meat or poultry. A similar course is being developed for the ostrich industry.

The marked lack of interest in agricultural engineering as a career choice has been widely debated. Food processing, packaging, storage and transport, computers, and sales and service opportunities are all off-farm activities that fall within the ambit of the agricultural engineer. The Universities of Technology (technikons) at Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Cape Town offer civil engineering with agricultural courses. The Universities of Pretoria and Natal offer degree courses in agricultural engineering.

Trade relations

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed its foreign representation and all previous foreign representatives of the Department and the ARC have been recalled. Foreign offices have been reopened in Washington DC (USA), Beijing, (People's Republic of China), Brussels (Belgium) and Rome (Italy). The main functions of these foreign representatives are to provide South Africa with information on agricultural developments, particularly issues that impact on policy; and to liaise with all agricultural organisations in host and neighbouring countries on matters of mutual interest.

Liaison with foreign missions is promoted by arranging agricultural tours and briefing sessions for the diplomatic corps.

The Directorate: International Relations facilitates and co-ordinates international activities on both multilateral and bilateral bases.

The Directorate: International Trade analyses international trade and marketing policies and

advises on multilateral and bilateral agricultural trade policy. The Department is responsible for dealing with matters concerning agricultural relations with other countries and organisations, such as the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the trade and industry sectors of the SADC, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Grains Convention.

The Department maintains bilateral trade agreements with countries in Africa, including Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The Department is also involved in negotiations with the USA, Southern Common Market (Mercosur), and the European Free Trade Association, as well as within the WTO individually, and as a member of the Cairns group.

Work relating to agricultural relations in the field of trade is done in co-operation with the Departments of Trade and Industry and of Foreign Affairs. The Department of Agriculture 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; the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants; and the Cairns Group.

The Directorate: International Trade is responsible for the implementation of 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. Almost all of these commitments were met by the conversion of quantitative import restriction to tariffs, as well as the deregulation of the agricultural marketing system. In addition, the Department is creating market access opportunities by implementing the minimum market-access commitments contained in the agreement.

WTO agricultural negotiations entered their third phase in March 2002. This phase was scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2003, with the completion of modalities (quantifiable



reduction of commitments) and rule-related elements for further reform. This deadline could not be met due to many differences being negotiated.

In June 2003, the negotiations were continuing.

The Directorate: Marketing issues import permits for various agricultural products at reduced levels of duty.

South Africa's objectives in the agricultural negotiations arena are to achieve a substantial reduction in domestic support and 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.

The Department is developing trade relations with other countries. This includes the implementation of the agricultural aspects of the SACU Agreement, the SADC Protocol on Trade, and the SA-EU TDCA.

A substantive restructuring is aimed at graduating the SADC into a regional trading bloc. Key features of this restructuring include the grouping of the 21 sectors into clusters under four directorates at the SADC Secretariat, and the establishment of SADC national committees to co-ordinate their respective individual member-state interests relating to the SADC.

By July 2003, the organisation was also finalising the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme in order to provide a clear direction in line with SADC policies and programmes over the long term.

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 issued 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 has signed a framework agreement with Mercosur (a treaty establishing a common market between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). This agreement lays down the framework for negotiations of a free trade agreement (FTA). The third round of negotiations took place in Pretoria in December 2002. The Department is part of the Government's negotiating team representing agricultural interests. The Department is also preparing its position regarding possible FTAs with China, India, Nigeria and Kenya.

In addition to these agreements, the Department represents the Government at the International Grains Convention. It is responsible for implementing and administering the agricultural components of the bilateral agreements with Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique. Import permits for agricultural products are issued in terms of the trade agreements with Zimbabwe and Malawi.

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 formulating new industry strategies for exports are priorities. Export-led development projects are also being considered as a means to alleviate poverty.

The ARC participates in various co-operative research agreements, international organisations and networks. These include the Special Programme for African Agricultural Research and FAO. South Africa is a partner in research projects that are funded by the EU under its 4th Framework Programme. The Biotechnology Action Committee of the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation established its Biotechnology Education and Training Centre for Africa at the

ARC-Roodeplaat Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute. The ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute is the OIE Regional Collaborating Centre and the Reference Centre for FMD.

At national level, the ARC 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, Genetically Modified Organisms and Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Import and export control

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

Applications to import animals and animal products are evaluated in accordance with the Animal Diseases Act, 1984, the Meat Safety Act, 2000 and international standards (e.g. the OIE Code and Codex Standards). 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 by direct contact with the veterinary administration in the exporting countries.

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

South Africa is a signatory member of the WTO-SPS. As a signatory member of the IPPC, South Africa subscribes to the principles of equal market access and international co-operation in protecting human, animal and plant health. The WTO-SPS acknowledges the IPPC as the relevant organisation to draft and adopt standards for phytosanitary measures.

These international organisations promote free trade in plants and plant products, and at the same time acknowledge the rights of member countries to protect plant health.

The Directorate: Plant Health and Quality, of the Department of Agriculture, is the designated National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa and has an obligation to fulfil the requirements of the WTO-SPS and the IPPC.

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 Directorate: Plant Health and Quality and the Directorate: Genetic Resources. In addition, South Africa's Customs Service participates in this effort by detaining imported goods when requirements have not been met.

The Directorate: Plant Health and Quality promotes and regulates the availability of healthy and productive plant material and the quality of agricultural products in South Africa. It administers the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983, the Liquor Products Act, 1989 and the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990. 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 *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 the imported material comply with all conditions, permission will be granted for release to the importer. In cases of non-compliance, the risks will be evaluated and



managed by a decision on mitigation, destruction or return to the country of origin.

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, liaising 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 on 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.

This ensures a high standard of phytosanitary control, which contributes to international credibility and phytosanitary accountability, and promotes international trade in agricultural products. Close international liaison with regard to export programmes and their execution is very important to establish and maintain world markets for South African produce. Export control is further supported by the analysis of fresh produce for chemical

residues, to ensure it complies with international standards and norms and enhances international trade. These procedures include sampling commodities presented for export, and using highly specialised and sophisticated methods to determine the status of the products. These analytical results are used as input when deciding whether to release products for export.

Land Affairs

The Department of Land Affairs is responsible for the following functions:

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

Deeds registration

The registration of deeds is a national competency. The aim of the Deeds Registry 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.

There are nine Deeds Offices in South Africa, situated in Pretoria, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, King William's Town, Vryburg and Umtata.

To comply with Section 9 of the Constitution, 1996 (Act 106 of 1996), the Department plans for the establishment of a Deeds Registry in all nine provinces. The first of the new Deeds Registries will be established in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga. The State Information Technology Agency has been requested to put forward proposals for the establishment of a digital archive in Nelspruit. It is anticipated that

the establishment of the office will be completed by the second quarter of 2004.

Deeds Offices are responsible for the:

- registration of real rights to land
- maintenance of land registers
- provision of land-registration information
- preservation of registration records for archival purposes.

Deeds and documents lodged with the 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 Office are therefore assured of the security of their title to the property. The average turnaround time from lodgement to registration is 10 working days.

The Chief Directorate: Deeds Registration has developed a bar-code-based document-tracking system (DOTS) for implementation in Deeds Registries. DOTS was born out of the need to eliminate the disappearance of deeds and documents during the registration process. DOTS' ability to track deeds and documents through the various processes within the Deeds Registry has repeatedly proved its worth. In addition, the system provides Deeds Registries with valuable statistical information which is being used for managerial purposes.

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

The Document Copy System is a service supplied by the Chief Directorate: Deeds Registration whereby users can request that a copy of a deed or document (which is stored on microfilm) be transmitted to them by fax.

Cadastral surveys

The Chief Directorate: Cadastral Surveys' project for the upgrading of townships surveyed under the former Department of Development Aid has made it possible for thousands of people to register their properties as freehold

where previously they had only held lesser land rights. The upgrading process has been completed in the Western and Eastern Cape as well as in KwaZulu-Natal. Progress in the remaining provinces has been steady and the entire process was expected to be completed in 2003.

The process of development of the Cadastral Information System (CIS) continued in 2002/03. Major developments were carried out on key components of the System. Many modules have moved from a full maintenance to maintenance-free or periodical maintenance status.

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

Processing periods of less than 15 working days in the examination of cadastral documentation are being maintained.

The turnaround times were made possible by the continued improvement of procedures, the restructuring of offices, and the enhanced CIS, which is operational in the Office of the Surveyor-General. Ease of access to accurate spatial data has been provided through the enhanced usability and continual updating of the spatial database. Clients have ready access to such data, both in electronic and hard-copy format.

A decision to supply government, provincial and local authorities with free digital data (diagram and general plan images) has been accepted with great enthusiasm.

The website of the Chief Surveyor-General contains information and links to a number of other related sites. Information can be downloaded from the site and spatial data contained within the offices of the Surveyor-General can be viewed.

Two Client Service Centres have been designed and established at the Pretoria and Cape Town Surveyor-General Offices.

The highly technical, user-friendly Centres serve approximately 100 to 150 clients a day. They are also able to supply a legal registration



help-desk function to attorneys, land surveyors and other professionals in the property industry.

Services provided to other government departments include the preparation of documentation relating to awarding 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; the undertaking of investigations to determine magisterial boundaries; and the upgrading of data on the former Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei states. A tendering process is administered by the Surveyor-General Offices for the appointment of land surveyors on request from either unit.

The use of cadastral spatial data is increasing continuously and is also being applied as overlays in aerial photography.

The formal and informal cadastral spatial data have proved invaluable in providing assistance to components dealing with land reform and restitution. Enhancements to the spatial data will continue to be made with a view to providing services in support of land reform and orderly development.

Surveys and mapping

The aim of the Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping is to maintain an integrated national control survey system, a national mapping programme, a national aerial-photography programme, and associated geospatial products. The Chief Directorate's spatial data are a valuable resource, essential for orderly and sustainable development.

The Chief Directorate contributed to the process of spatial development and, in particular, to the land-reform programme by supplying accurate and up-to-date spatial data. To increase sustainable land-use, the Chief Directorate renders support in the form of assistance with land restitution/reform research.

It also provides spatial information to other departments and parastatal organisations that require spatial data for their own development programmes. The Chief Directorate provides assistance for land-reform projects by supplying maps, aerial photography and other essential geospatial information. Direct assistance is also provided for restitution research and land-reform projects.

The Chief Directorate aligns its aerial photography and map-production programmes to the requirements of local, provincial and national government departments through the National Advisory Survey Committee. The change to digital map-production methods continues. Almost all data-capturing and cartographic processes are now digital. The integrated national control survey system consists of a countrywide network of control points with accurately determined positions and/or heights. This network provides the spatial reference framework for the country.

The Chief Directorate is in the process of installing a network of 38 active GPS (global positioning system) base stations, known as TrigNet. By March 2003, 32 base stations had been established and operationalised. It is expected that the remaining stations will be established by 2004.

The data generated by the network provide users with the means to achieve high position-accuracy using stand-alone GPS receivers.

Capacity-building is given high priority by the Chief Directorate. The project strives to develop and enhance the map-skills of people using spatial information in the workplace and schools.

Between April 2002 and March 2003, the Chief Directorate had eight students on the in-house pupil-survey-officer programme, and 25 students received high-quality experiential training. Of these 25 students, 17 from the Special Bursary Scheme were accommodated in the 2003 academic year.

The Special Bursary Scheme was extended by almost 47% compared with the previous

year. An increase from 38 students in 2002 to 56 students in the 2003 academic year was achieved.

Mapping is a crucial resource for decision-making and development – and is one of the most important deliverables of the Chief Directorate to support orderly spatial planning and sustainable land-use. Of the national mapping-series, the 1:50 000 topographical map series is the largest-scale map-series providing full coverage of South Africa. Small-scale maps (1:250 000 and 1:500 000) are produced from the 1:50 000 map series.

The popular large-scale 1:10 000 ortho-photo map-series provides coverage of predominantly built-up areas, areas of economic importance, and areas experiencing rapid development. This series currently covers approximately 25% of the country. Aeronautical charts and other wall maps are also produced. These maps must be continuously revised to reflect the change in landscape and other geospatial features.

The Chief Directorate maintains a topographical information system that contains the major features (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, 200 m in mountainous areas and 50 m for the major metropolitan and development areas. These valuable national assets are continually improved upon and maintained, to satisfy the nation's need for digital spatial information.

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

The Chief Directorate is a full member of the National Airspace 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.

The Chief Directorate enhanced effective government empowerment by building capacity through active assistance to other national departments. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism was assisted with the mapping of Antarctica and Marion Island, and the Wetlands GIS project.

The Chief Directorate is a key stakeholder of, and co-funded, the National Land Cover 2000 Project.

This project is of great importance to sustainable development, utilising highly advanced satellite imagery which enables the classification of land cover to the detail of 1 ha. Detailed information can be analysed and classified to display a specific cultivation and provide users of spatial information with much-improved and more realistic information. The areas covered by the first phase of the project are KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng, Swaziland and Lesotho.

The Chief Directorate plays a leading role in the African Reference Framework Project, which aims at harmonising and linking spatial reference systems across Africa and which will connect Africa to the rest of the world. This will support access to regional spatial information in support of various development projects.

Surveys

The aim is to undertake field surveys in order to acquire control survey, mapping and specialised survey data, aerial photography and ancillary data; to process the survey and mapping data collected through the processing of network adjustments, aerial triangulation, photogrammetric compilation and map data processing; to maintain national control survey network monuments, and to collect and provide permanent GPS base-station network data.



The integrated national control survey system is the backbone of the survey and geospatial industry. The system consists of a network of approximately 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 coordinates 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.

The Chief Directorate's archive of aerial photography, dating back to 1934, is expanded annually with the acquisition of new photography covering approximately 20% of the country. Aerial-photography programmes and priorities are determined in co-operation with local, provincial and national government departments. The archive is used for mapping, land-resource planning, infrastructure development and legal and land restitution matters.

The Chief Directorate is a permanent member of the South African Geographic Names Council (SAGNC). New names collected during field work for mapping are submitted to the SAGNC for consideration. The Chief Directorate also completed a digital database of geographic names and prepared draft digital gazetteers of each province. Some 57 000 previously acquired geographical names were also submitted for approval.

Spatial planning and information

Part of the transformation of South Africa as a country and as a society requires the fundamental restructuring of settlement patterns to ensure greater equity and efficiency. It is common knowledge that the effluences of

colonialism, apartheid and the modernist society have adversely affected settlement patterns. Among the manifestations of this challenge are:

- racially segregated settlements
- urban sprawl
- disintegrated land-use patterns
- unsustainable service costs (transport subsidies alone account for R2 billion annually).

In addressing these challenges, the Department is focusing specifically on aspects within its statutory mandate, i.e. spatial planning, land-use management and spatial information. The *White Paper on Spatial Planning and Land-Use Management* was completed and approved by Cabinet on 27 June 2001. The White Paper is built on the concept of Integrated Development Plans. As a spin-off from this, the Land-Use Management Bill was drafted and consultation with relevant stakeholders has taken place.

The *White Paper on Spatial Planning and Land-Use Management* sets out the policy directives that will guide the legislation necessary to regulate spatial planning and land-use management. The core tenets of the White Paper and the Bill are that:

- Development plans from all spheres of government must be reflected in a spatial development framework. This will enhance interpretation, implementation and monitoring.
- Development plans must include an analysis of strategically located land and a recommendation of how best such land should be utilised, in an attempt to make settlement patterns more equitable and efficient.
- The principles of equity, efficiency, integration, environmental sustainability and good and fair governance should guide all development planning decisions.

During 2002, extensive consultation and bilateral discussions with interested parties were undertaken. These include the South African Council for Town and Regional Planners, the

South African Property Owners' Association, the South African Local Government Association, and Western Cape and Gauteng Provincial Administrations' representatives.

The Planning Professions Act, 2002 (Act 36 of 2002), repealed the Town and Regional Planner's Act of 1984. By March 2003, mechanisms to implement the Act were in an advanced stage.

With regard to capacity-building support was given to the Mpumalanga Development Tribunal, established in terms of the Development Facilitation Act, 1995 (Act 67 of 1995), to consider and decide on land-development applications. Training on the integration of land-reform projects, in particular restitution projects, into the integrated development-planning process at municipal level, was conducted for the Free State Land Reform Provincial Office as well as the Free State and Northern Cape Regional Land Claims Commissions.

The implementation of the Policy and Guidelines for the Integration of Environmental Planning into Land Reform has been significantly delayed as a result of funding problems experienced after the withdrawal of the Danish Government. The implementation of the Guidelines will ensure greater sustainability of projects resulting from the land reform and land restitution programme. It was anticipated that implementation of the Guidelines would begin during 2003.

The process of monitoring and evaluating Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) developed at municipal level in terms of the relevant legislation, will gain speed with the promulgation of the Land-Use Management Bill. During 2002, an investigation into capacity and information gaps at both provincial and local government level was conducted. Investigations into the status quo of the SDFs were also undertaken. The results of these investigations were expected in 2003.

The Land-Use Management Bill proposes a set of directive principles to guide land-use management practices in the country. It aims to establish standards and tools for effective decision-making in land development processes.

The Spatial Information Bill provides for greater access to spatial information, standards to enhance interoperability, and the institutional framework to govern and regulate the sector.

During 2002, additional consultative workshops were held. The Chief Directorate undertook a study to determine whether provincial and local government departments have adequate access to spatial information as well as the capacity to compile SDFs as required by the Land-Use Management Bill. The results of the study will enable the Chief Directorate to determine how best to assist provincial and local government departments to compile SDFs.

To improve and facilitate access to spatial information, the Spatial Data Discovery Facility (SDDF) has been maintained and expanded to link 22 nodes. It also contains information concerning approximately 3 259 spatial data sets, an increase of 1 980 records, through the web. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Environmentek and the Demarcation Board are in the process of creating nodes and will populate them with more records. The Spatial Information Bill, when enacted, will encourage more data custodians to capture metadata, thus creating the critical mass necessary for the SDDF to become the one-stop portal for geospatial metadata.



South Africa hosted the 21st International Cartographic Conference and 12th General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association in Durban in August 2003.

Various issues were discussed under the theme *Cartographic Renaissance*. These included:

- challenges and solutions of geographical data-capturing for developing countries
- spatial data-sharing for a developing world
- organisational and policy issues for sustainable development
- applied cartography and the Geographic Information System in development programmes and projects, showing development spatially.



The National Spatial Information Framework, in conjunction with the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), is developing four standards. These include the Minimum Data Content of the Framework Data and the Unique Feature Identification Standard. A test bed will be developed to establish guidelines for the implementation of the Unique Feature Identification Standard. The Land Cover Classification Standard has been completed and submitted to the SABS for comment.



The Deeds Registry of the Department of Land Affairs has a proud record that goes back to the preservation of land records on paper since 1666. With the rapid increase in the popularity of the Internet as a global information tool, the Deeds Office recognised an opportunity to expand its clients to include the Internet browser. The Chief Registrar of Deeds developed a less-expensive method of giving the public access to deeds registration information called *DeedsWeb*.

With *DeedsWeb*, any person with the necessary web-browser software can access the Deeds Office database and obtain up-to-date registration information upon payment of the prescribed fee. *DeedsWeb* has many advantages for service delivery and has the potential for generating additional revenue for the Deeds Registration Trading Account.

A characteristic of *DeedsWeb* is that it paved the way for an electronic network that will ultimately also be used by the Department's proposed electronic Deeds Registration System (e-DRS). The e-DRS will provide a revolutionary method for electronically lodging, processing and registering statutory land rights as well as full ownership of land (freehold).

This System will primarily benefit previously disadvantaged sectors of the community living in rural areas, informal settlements or low-cost housing schemes. Deeds Offices have maintained their service delivery record by keeping the turnaround time for deeds from lodgement to registration at an average of 10 days in spite of the annual increase in lodgements.

Since the launch of *DeedsWeb* in December 2001, some 14 227 requests were lodged through the service during March 2003 alone.

The functionalities on *DeedsWeb* have been expanded to include requests for transfers, bulk searches and billing information.

To prevent fraudulent subsidy claims being submitted by persons claiming to be first homeowners, the Department of Housing supplied this Chief Directorate with 2 182 454 names for verification against 6 153 222 registered properties on *DeedsWeb*.

Land-reform implementation, management and co-ordination

The 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 and 36 operational regions (district and/or satellite Land Reform Offices).

Important policy and systems developments that have enhanced delivery and will further broaden its scope are the following:

- The approval of version seven of the Grants and Services Document that regulates the use of grants. This version enables spending against LRAD structures.
- Financial and responsibility management delegations in terms of the Provision of Land and Assistance Act, 1993 (Act 126 of 1993), as well as the related structures for project assessment and approval at district and provincial level, which were finalised in 2001.
- The LRAD planning agreement with the Land Bank in August 2001.

In August 2001, the Department entered into an agency agreement with the Land Bank for the implementation of the LRAD, particularly for projects with a loan component.

The LRAD Programme was officially launched by the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs at Nkomazi in Mpumalanga in August 2001 and paved the way for implementation in other provinces.

The Nkomazi Project involved 241 LRAD grant beneficiaries. A sugar-cane-growing project at Nkomazi, where the participants had harvested their crop of sugar cane after a year of production, made gross earnings of about R100 000, far more than the R65 000 they had planned to earn. The main objective of the LRAD, in line with the Department's mission to

provide access to land and to extend land rights to the previously disadvantaged communities, is to redistribute white-owned agricultural land to black people.

By March 2003, progress was being made in resolving cases in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, where the majority of labour tenants are found. This is not only being achieved in terms of provision of land, but also by ensuring that the land is used productively to improve the quality of life of the labour tenants.

The Glenbella Project in Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal, benefits 59 households who have received 800 ha of land. This land is being utilised for small-scale farming and ecotourism, with the assistance of the farm-owner who serves as a mentor for the emerging farmers.

In Mpumalanga, a number of labour tenants are involved in serious agricultural production. The Inkululeko project in Langverwacht, Wakkerstroom, owned by four families who were previously labour tenants, involves intensive maize production and livestock farming. They are not only producing for subsistence purposes but have also been able to produce a surplus which they are selling to a number of secure markets.

In the Piet Retief area, also in Mpumalanga, another labour-tenant project called Khubedu

boasts about 58 families who are also producing a surplus of maize and beans.

From August 2001 until December 2002, the Department transferred a total of 295 024 ha to 140 227 beneficiaries.

During the first quarter of 2002/03, the Department transferred 214 farms through the LRAD programme, yielding 185 609 ha to 6 769 beneficiaries. In total, 8 139 ha were transferred to previously disadvantaged beneficiaries, including labour tenants.

Land-reform systems and support services

The objectives of the Land and Tenure Reform Programme are:

- increased sustainable land-use
- better access to land-administration services
- reaching land-redistribution targets
- decrease in State-owned land
- increased State-land vesting
- increased security of land tenure.

The Communal Land Rights Bill was expected to be finalised by the end of 2003. The Bill aims not only to ensure ownership of assets by families in rural areas, but also to encourage small-scale and co-operative agricultural production, thereby improving food security.

Total number of properties on the Deeds Registration System Database					
Deeds Office	Township erven	Scheme units	Agricultural holdings	Portions of farms	Total
Pretoria	1 787 556	172 272	47 486	200 418	2 207 732
Cape Town	1 576 029	143 405	Nil	136 202	1 855 636
Johannesburg	906 318	104 449	Nil	Nil	1 010 767
Pietermaritzburg	814 433	123 640	Nil	92 268	1 030 241
Bloemfontein	450 302	19 848	6 992	59 661	536 803
Kimberley	84 868	651	866	4 782	91 167
KIng William's Town	154 732	5 769	Nil	11 541	172 042
Vryburg	71 712	181	4 005	11 373	87 271
Umtata*	61 235	18	Nil	115	61 368
Total 2002/03	5 907 185	570 133	59 346	516 360	7 053 027
Total 2001/02	5 707 437	550 404	59 080	514 837	6 831 758

* Database not complete



Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights

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

- provide equitable redress and restoration to victims of dispossessions, particularly the landless and the poor
- contribute towards the equitable redistribution of land in South Africa
- promote reconciliation through the restitution process
- facilitate development initiatives by bringing together all relevant stakeholders, especially provincial governments and municipalities.

Initially, the Commission adopted a judicial approach to the processing of more than 68 000 claims, which meant that all claims would be referred to the specialised Land Claims Court for adjudication. It soon became clear that the court-driven process was antagonistic and painstakingly slow.

Amendments made to the Act in 1999 gave powers to the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs to make awards based on negotiated settlement agreements. This administrative approach has resulted in a phenomenal and exponential increase in the number of claims settled to date.

By 2002, approximately 68 000 claims had been lodged, of which 72% were urban and 28% rural. A total of 36 489 claims had been settled, involving about 85 000 households. Urban claims mostly involved financial compensation for victims of forced removals; the total compensation made by December 2002 was R1,2 billion. For rural claimants, the restitution mainly takes the form of restoration of land, and by December 2002, approximately 571 232 ha had been restored at a cost of approximately R442 million.

The protracted and contentious claim of Mangethe in KwaZulu-Natal, involving 199 households, was settled out of court.

The Khumalo land-claim in KwaZulu-Natal saw more than 7 292 ha restored to 250 households, who will use the land for producing their own food, grazing and housing. About 500 ha of this land will be used for game-farming where the claimants are key stakeholders.

In Gauteng and the North West, rural claims that have been settled include Koppieskraal, Byl, Concordia, Holgat, Khaukwe, Walmansdal, Mooiland, Zamenskomst, Kleinwain and Rama.

In the Eastern Cape, nine rural claims in Keiskammahoek, as well as Luswazi and Mankaku near Kokstad have been settled. The claimants decided to put the restitution award towards development projects, including agriculture, forestry, infrastructure and rural livelihood projects. The municipalities of Amatole and Amahlati are playing a central role in the implementation of these projects.

In the Northern Cape and Free State, the rural claims settled include Komani San, Palmietfontein, Herschel, Andriesfontein and Dakpoort. The settlement of the Komani San community land-claim was a highlight and breakthrough in 2003, after protracted negotiations between South African National Parks (SANParks), the San community and other State departments.

Some 30 000 ha of the Kalahari National Park was transferred to the community. SANParks has embraced the principle of the involvement of the new land-owners in the sustainable management of the Park.

In Mpumalanga, land-claims settled included Bakoni baPetla and Botshabelo, while in Limpopo it was Dzwzerani in Giyani.

Some of the challenges faced in processing the rural claims included difficulty in obtaining relevant documentation and information; unresolved disputes; unregistered and unurveyed land rights; and poor infrastructure, which often hampered accessibility.

The Commission is intent on meeting the President's directive that all claims should be resolved by 2005.

Acknowledgements

Agricultural Research Council
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National Agricultural Marketing Council
www.gov.za

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