



Tekulima Nentfutfuko

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VELD FIRES MANAGEMENT



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Department:
Agriculture, Rural Development
and Land Administration
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



MPUMALANGA
A Pioneering Spirit





A Fresh Produce Market on the cards for Mpumalanga

Andile Shabangu



DARDLA Officials and delegates from France at the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market

Travelling from Mpumalanga to Gauteng for emerging farmers to send their fresh produce to bigger markets will be a thing of the past, thanks to plans for the establishment of a Fresh Produce Market in Mpumalanga. In trying to bridge the gap that exists currently, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) held a Fresh Produce Market Focus group meeting at the Lowveld College Agriculture on 17th of April 2012, aimed at establishing the Fresh Produce Market.

DARDLA MEC, Mrs Candith Mashogo-Dlamini paved the way for all invited speakers by outlining the purpose of the workshop. She emphasized that the workshop was aimed at informing agriculture industry partners of the progress the province has made on the establishment of the fresh produce market, as well as to obtain their valuable inputs and suggestions of what the market should provide to the different stakeholders.

Various agricultural organisations were invited in a meeting that was facilitated by the Head of Department, Ms Nelisiwe Sithole. She mentioned that the Fresh Produce Market was no longer DARDLA's priority, but of the Provincial Government under the leadership of the Premier DD Mabuza.

Leading fresh produce markets Mecomadrid (Spain) & Rungis (France) have partnered with the province sharing their expertise and advice on the establishment of the Fresh Produce Market were also in attendance at the workshop.

"The Premier wants to see the Department delivering on the Fresh Produce Market. The government delivery outcome 7 requires that the number of small farmers accessing markets should increase and there should be a decrease in the agricultural marketing transaction costs, and this can be achieved through the development of agro-processing infrastructure in the province", the Head of Department said.

Mpumalanga is seen as a gateway for transportation of agricultural produce, as it borders the Kingdom of Swaziland and Mozambique. The existence of the Maputo corridor and Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport will also be an added advantage as fresh produce will not stay longer on the road for better packaging.

According to Dr John Tambi, a Transport Infrastructure Expert from NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the best coffee in the world is found in Gambai, but because of bad transport logistics in that country, Gambia is unable to meet the demand.

Amongst present in the meeting was MEC Norman Mokoena for Department of Economic Development and Tourism, France's Rungis Market CEO Mr Vincent Isnard, Business Development and Marketing Logistics Director, Mr Bigman Maloa, and other stakeholders. Currently, a feasibility study is underway for the establishment of the Fresh Produce Market in Mpumalanga.

In closing the meeting, MEC Norman Mokoena said, "there shall be a Fresh Produce in Mpumalanga".





FARMERS' EMPOWERED WITH KNOWLEDGE AT FARMERS' DAYS

Sibusiso Mgwanya

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) prides itself on being the yardstick by which agricultural success is measured in the province. In maintaining this all important stature, the department regularly conducts Farmers' Days whereby farmers from various municipalities and private companies come together to exchange information on best practices and latest developments to improve farming in the province, thus helping eradicate poverty and ensuring sustainable food security for all as per the objective of the Department's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP).

In less than a month after the Extension Summit was held, multiple award-winning DARDLA Gert Sibande District hosted two farmers' days. The events took place in March and in April 2012, at Nu-Farm in Grootkop, Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality and Isibonelo Vegetable Farm in Daggakraal, Dr. Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality respectively.

The Extension Officers from the District led by Ms. Nothando Maphanga ably assisted by the appointed district service provider Kanjani, are working hard to educate farmers about Masibuyele Emasimini programme as well as encouraging them to register their needs in order to reap the benefits thereof.

For the benefit of farmers who are yet to familiarize themselves with the Masibuyele Emasimini programme, Ms Thakasile Dlamini made a detailed presentation thereof. She alluded to the fact that there is an abundance of land in the province yet people are starving. "The ME programme is designed to help farmers help themselves to increase production to ensure food security for all" she said.

Farmers in the province do not embrace new farming technologies and this can be counter-productive. According to Mr. Riaan Ferreira, who is Managing Director of Milazone, farming terminology causes confusion, wrong use and misinterpretation. Mr. Ferreira encouraged the farmers to utilize the new machinery at their disposal, particularly in the cultivation process as this is the beginning of the planting process. Furthermore,

he explained the different types of tilling, ranging from conventional, conservation, No-till, reduced till and strip-till with the advantages and disadvantages of each. Mr. Ferreira encouraged the farmers to embrace change and choose a sustainable cultivation procedure.

According to Mr. Chris Grey from Maize and Mor, farmers cannot compete in the market because they don't know the market price. "It is important to know the right price before selling your product. When selling maize farmers need to know the price from SAFEX (South African Futures Exchange) before they determine their price," said Mr. Grey, who also encouraged the farmers to call him for assistance.

A field trip was conducted by Mr. Helgard "Clutch" Ferreira from Wenkem whereby farmers got first-hand experience of the different types of cultivation procedures.

In closing, the director of Masibuyele Emasimini, Mr. Venty Mahlangu, assured farmers that this programme belongs to them, it was created for their benefit, but they not only have the right to benefit from this programme, it is also their responsibility to ensure that it runs smoothly by cooperating with extension officers and service providers, but most importantly by helping curb corruption in the programme.



Mr. Ferreira encouraging farmers to utilize the new machinery at their disposal and choose a sustainable cultivation procedure



FARMERS RECEIVE FARMING SKILLS

Celani Ndude

Umjindi Municipality- In an effort to transfer skills to farmers, the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) jointly with Grain South Africa awarded certificates to 39 farmers that participated in the Farmer Development Programme.

The Farmer Development Programme is an initiative aimed to empower developing farmers to sustainable self supporting commercial production.

With an aim to learn, these emerging small scale fruit, vegetable, livestock farmers attended a five (5) days course that was arranged into two phases. Certificates awarded were for Maintenance Course of Tractors and Farm Implements and for Advanced Maize Production and Marketing.

A farmer, who was amongst the recipients of the certificates and benefited from the DARDLA programme, Mr. Andries Madonsela, expressed his appreciation to the department and Agri SA for the support and becoming one of the farmers that had participated from this initiative. His passion for farming started in 2009. His farm is located at Riverside Key Farm in Umjindi Local Municipality.

Mr. Madonsela said he has learned a lot from the programme as it was educational and I appreciate the certificate that he has received. Because of this training, now I understand how to run a successful business and find a market," he said. He further stated that the department should continue organising these trainings

because they were advantageous and enlightening.

Umjindi Municipality DARDLA Agric Advisor, Ms Prudy Mbokane, who was part of organising the training, said she was confident that the knowledge and skills that farmers obtained from the courses would be able to assist them in their daily farming activities. The farmers have benefited a lot from this training. They gained agricultural skills, knowledge to run their businesses and marketing skills.

"Amongst the challenges that farmers were experiencing on a daily basis is the issue of marketing or selling their products for their businesses. The certificates that they received would really enhance their businesses", she said. She added that the farmers who participated on the programme now were affiliated to Grain South Africa as a commodity.

She further explained why the training was so important to the farmers. "In Umjindi Municipality, there were no farmers that were involved in maize production intensively.

Thus, this training programme started after people approached Grain SA and affiliated to it so that they could be capacitated and eventually become the better farmers that could produce good quality maize and bean production in future.

The DARDLA and Grain SA assist farmers with accredited training, capacity building and trials during farmers' days.



Farmers listening attentively to presentations by the department and othe stakeholders





THEMBISILE HANI GROUNDNUT (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) FARMERS DAY

Sello Ngema

Groundnut is widely used as a food substance all over the world. This legume plays a significant role in the developing countries as a primary food sources as it is rich in proteins and essential oils. Through the programme of Masibuyele Emasimini, farmers are encouraged to grow groundnut as the production has decreased by 4515tons to 78695ton.

What is encouraging farmers to plant groundnut is that, DARDLA in partnership with Snack Factory have facilitated for the 12 farmers in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality with contracts farming on 500ha which guaranteed market for the groundnuts produce.

The farmer's day took place in Mr Masombuka's farm, Unit 345 Haartebeespruit at Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. The key stakeholders in attendance on the day included, ARC, Lowveld Research Unit, Twee Tesame/Snack Factory, Standard Bank, ZCF (Zitjamele Farmers Cooperative) and local farmers.

Mr B. Masombuka stated that he has inherited the farm from his father who was growing groundnut few years ago. He acknowledged the assistance they get from DARDLA but also raised a concern about small tractors which are unable to plough big farms delaying progress. He appealed to the Department to provide big tractors in future.

In his address the Director for Masibuyele Emasimini, Mr V. Mahlangu encouraged farmers to work hand in glove with Extension Officers who will from time to time visit their farms and give advice. He assured farmers that the Masibuyele Emasimini programme which started in 2006 will still continue to cover farmers in each corner of the province with the little resources the Department is having. He also added that famers, who are interested in the programme, must go and access application forms at the nearest District offices.

Mr. Mahlangu further clarified who are the beneficiaries of the Masibuyele Emasimini programme. He said the programme is classified into three categories, the first category is meant for subsistence farmers, where farmers are at least expected to have one hector or less and their benefit will be seed, fertilizers, chemicals, and Extension and Advisory services. The second category is for Small Holder farmers with more than one hector and their benefits are mechanisation, product inputs, Extension and Advisory Services. Lastly are for Commercial Farmers, Land and Agrarian Reform Farms and their benefits is Mechanisation, Strategic Partnership Agreement, Extension and Advisory services.



Farmers listening to a presentations taking palce on the day



Mr. B Masombuka the owner of Haartebeespruit farm



Kanjani tractor operator demonstrating how to harvest groundnut



FARMING SKILLS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Celani Ndude



Farmers and Extension Officers that participated in the Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB) programme

Ehlanzeni South - Farmers and Extension Officers that participated in the Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB) programme were pleased with the trainings offered through the programme as they received their certificates.

A hard working farmer from Mara in the Mbombela Municipality Mr. Douglas Khoza participated and benefited in all the trainings offered by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) through the PPECB. The project, a 23 ha farm, called Zakheleni Vegetable Farm in Mara, a cooperative is made up of 17 members' with seven men, ten women, two youth and two disable persons. The project started in 2010.

Their project is farming with vegetables such as spinach, cabbages, green pepper, yellow pepper, red pepper, tomatoes, butternut and beetroot. The project has also benefited in one of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's recapitalization programme. Mr. Khoza was optimistic that the knowledge and farming skills he gained from the programme would benefit their project. He further stated that their project was making a great progress and expanding because of the support they were offered by the DARDLA.

In an effort to enhance skills transfer the DARDLA responded positively to the National Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries' mandate to transfer skills to farmers and officials through the Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB) programme in the province.

The PPECB is a national public entity constituted and mandated in terms of the PPEC Act, no.9 of 1983 to perform cold chain services. This is an initiative aimed to render inspection and food safety services as mandated by the National Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, and this programme has started in 2011.

Agribusiness and Marketing section's Assistant Director from DARDLA Mr. Wandile Banda was part of the department's team that organised the trainings, he said that the department has facilitated accredited trainings for fifty (50) farmers and officials participated through the PPECB programme.

These trainings started from May 2011 until 22 March 2012. They were trained in various aspects of PPECB programme which comprised of farming skills such as Food Safety, Legislation, Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and Use of Agric Chemicals (Crop life). They also attended demonstration activities in Delmas in the Nkangala District where various companies in the Agricultural Sector presented on marketing, transport, seeds and fertilisers to boost the farmers knowledge.

Mr. Banda added that the farmers benefited a lot from the programme because some of them had years of experience but were lacking Good Agricultural Practice skills, Marketing skills and Exporting skills. Now, the PPECB programme has equipped them with that knowledge.

Farmers were also encouraged to form cooperatives and participate in all departmental programmes in order to access markets. The department is also involved in School





Nutrition Feed and Masibuyele Esibayeni programmes. The Provincial Chairperson for PPECB programme Ms Nelly Sibande from Luphisi applauded the Department for its effort for organising the trainings. She said the trainings

were making a difference in their farmers and projects. She encouraged farmers to work hard, and go back to the fields; hence the department was assisting with markets.

DARDLA REACH-OUT TO DONKEY OWNERS TO CREATE AWARENESS

Patrick Nyathi

Dr Maritjie Malan Lydenburg Veterinary Officer, with one of the Donkey project beneficiaries Mr Piet Mahlangu from Tonderdoors whose Donkeys were provided a new Donkey carts that is less heavier



In many societies donkeys are regarded as low status animals and can be bought at a very economically rate, and because of this, they are usually mistreated.

More often they are forced to do more work than their small bodies can handle adding on they are poorly taken care of. The animals in a number of areas are used as working animals because a new donkey is often cheaper than veterinary care, sick or injured donkeys are often tied to posts without food or water and left to die. It is also a very common for stray donkeys to get severely abused just for fun.

It was for this reason that the Department of Agricultural, Rural Development and Land Administration at Ehlanzeni North (Tonteldoors) decided to commemorate the Donkey day that is on the 08th of May each year, to create awareness on the donkeys on an area. The Tondeldsdoors community uses donkies as a source of transport, fetch fire-words and for other social reasons, like going to school, visiting families and friend. The purpose of the event was to create awareness on how to take care of those donkeys since they serve special needs for the community. Donkey owners were tough amongst other things how to de-warm the new donkey and correct fitting of harnesses, how to treat wounds on their donkeys and also to develop a less heavy donkey

carts.

The event attracted interest of local business people in and around the area who had pleaded their support by donating about thirteen donkey carts. On the date event about nine donkey carts were completed and handed over to the donkey owners. The Department is also looking at improving the breeding of the donkey where it has arranged with the Ermelo community to provide a big stallion donkey to assist with the breeding of Tonteldoors community, since there is a small generation.

About thirteen community members benefited from the donated donkey carts and their donkies will be inspected on a period of two weeks to check if the harnesses and braiders are still fitted correctly. According to Dr Marricky Malan from the veterinary section at Lydenburg, the next step will be to put reflectors belt around the donkies neck for visibility at night, because many are killed on the road simply because they are not visible at night. Mr Piet Mahlangu one of the beneficiaries of the project could not contain his excitement and thank the Department for the support offered to him and other donkey owner. "I am happy for the assistance that we received from the Department and the carts will help us for our needs" concludes Mr. Mahlangu.



YOUNG GIRLS EXPOSED TO EXCITING CAREERS

Righteous Mongwe

Taking a girl child to work is a national event aimed to persuade children especially girls to enrol for scarce skills to challenge the income disparities and gendered inequality in the workplace. On 31st May 2012 the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Development hosted the event at Sgweje Secondary School situated in Nkomazi Municipality at Mdladla village.

Female entrepreneurs are statistically more prone to failure in business. This effect suggests that gender provides significant disadvantages towards the top of job hierarchies which become worse as a person's career goes on, hence taking a girl child to work is one of the interventions geared towards decreasing the wage gap or income disparity in the country. Five different schools participated during the day and they were presented to with numerous careers offered by the Department as well as bursaries.

Veterinary services is one of the scarce skills in the country and students are mostly persuaded to enrol in this field which packages different disciplines such as Vet Clinical Services, and other disciplines including Vet Public Health, Vet Laboratory Service and Animal health.

The students were exposed to practical demonstrations of sterilization and all the necessary procedures

required to complete the process were explained. The first step is induction and site disinfection followed by an anaesthetic injection that sends the animal into a trance whereupon the medication is monitored to check its efficiency.

The next process is the operation where the veterinarians incise the animal on the stomach exposing internal organs to access the uterus and ovaries which are the focal areas of sterilizations. Based on the noticeable excitement on the part of the learners, it could be surmised that the demonstrations had a lasting impact which should positively influence them to pursue careers in veterinary services.

Expressing her vote of thanks, Ms Phindiwe Ngobeni from the Transformation and Gender section in the Department commended everyone who played a role in making the event a reality, a day which exposed learners to some of the scarcest fields which are crucial for the country to compete in the global arena.

"I would like to applaud all the teachers from Lugebhuta High School, Sidlamafa High, Mahhushe High and Tikhuni High School for supporting the event and not to forget all departmental officials and the Department of Education for this wonderful day we had with the students," said Ms Ngobeni.



Girl children getting first hand experience, what it means to be a veterinary





POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH 2012/13 SUMMARY

Agriculture remains a key driver of the rural economy and the Department must make concerted efforts that its fruits are widely spread. With unemployment in the province hovering at a high of 27.7%, the Department has the responsibility to ensure that the rural dwellers engage in agriculture, not only as a source of extra food but to produce a surplus which can generate the much needed household income and expand the job market. Agriculture, as a backbone of the province's economy employs 8.1% of the total workforce within Mpumalanga, compared to the national average of 4.7%. A total of 83 000 individuals, 12 000 more than last year, is engaged in formal agriculture while a further 158 000 is engaged in subsistence farming within the province. This reality clearly illustrates the ability of agriculture in fighting rural poverty since it has the muscle to create employment while addressing food security.

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) has realised that in order to transform the agricultural sector into a united and prosperous one, it needs to focus on seven key strategic areas which are of cardinal importance to ensure sustainable growth and job creation within the agricultural sector which would benefit emerging and commercial farmers.

The strategic focus areas are:

- The Massification of Crop Production through the Masibuyele Emasimini Programme;
- Accelerating and strengthening of Animal Production and Improvement through Masibuyele Esibayeni;
- Accelerating the Land and Agrarian Reform transformation agenda;
- Accelerating Agribusiness Development and Marketing;
- Strengthening the Skills Development, Community Mobilization and Empowerment;
- Investing in Research and Development;
- and the Improvement of Spatial Planning and Tenure Security.

The 2012/13 budget of R 980, 476 million will enable us to drive the programmes that would ensure the implementation of these strategic focus areas that would constitute the work of the Department.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Department have developed a policy on communication with guidelines on public participation. This will ensure





that the Department remains a true agent of change. This move will also give meaning to being subject to public scrutiny. Our actions as we roll out services should be able to withstand public scrutiny and that will be indicative of whether or not we are doing what is expected of us by the people. This has also enhanced the departments reporting to citizens for transparency and public participation as per the recommendations from the Public Service Commission.

Programme 1: Administration, an amount of R 140, 479 million

PROGRAMME 2: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Department has significantly improved its capacity related to engineering to support the roll-out of various infrastructure projects, fencing and boreholes for the establishment of food gardens and household water. Through this capacity the department has responded swiftly to the recent disaster by repairing and replacing damaged infrastructure in less than two months following the floods.

As we continue to strive for innovative ways to markedly reduce the woeful use our natural resources, the programme is ensuring that agriculture water consumption is reduced by implementing new technologies in irrigation and water conservation measures. In relation to this, the programme is also responsible for the proper use of agricultural land by assisting communities and land reform beneficiaries with proper farm planning.

Equally importantly, the Land Care Programme is continuing in its support of farmers and rural communities where soil conservation measures to prevent erosion were installed. Other services included the building of contours, gabions, water ways and other soil conservation systems which are done in labour intensive manner, thereby creating green jobs and improving awareness regarding the importance of soil and water conservation to improve the productivity of their lands.

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management an amount of R 54, 866 million

PROGRAMME 3: DISTRICT SERVICES

District Services, who are at the coalface of development, continue to champion the hopes and aspirations of our farming communities.

Infrastructure Development

The Department has continued to place infrastructure development projects at the forefront of its priorities. In this regard the revitalization of Sugar Cane projects such as Spoons 8, Magudu and Sibange where the river pumps have been upgraded and drip systems installed to improve irrigation efficiencies to improve productivity while saving water can be shown as examples. The upgrading of the Mfumfane water mainline which was done in partnership with the Department of Water Affairs has also been completed. The Ngogolo, Nhlangu West and East, and Mbhunu B will be completed by the first quarter of the 2012/13 financial year. This will improve the effectiveness of the utilization of irrigation water on more than 3 160 hectares to the benefit 485 sugarcane growers.

The Coromandel land reform project is beginning to take the shape. With the revitalization of 120 hectares during the previous years, the Trust has managed to engage Mr Steyn as a farm manager and mentor to put 800 hectares into production. A further 400 hectares has been leased to neighbouring commercial farmers who are not only creating jobs and value but also transferring the skills to the beneficiaries. These interventions have seen the restoration of at least 50 direct permanent jobs and 60 seasonal jobs.





Through intensive community engagement, the department together with the Giba community has managed to partner with Mr. Lourens and Standard Bank to redevelop Giba Banana Farms. On the onset, more than 100 people who were jobless are already benefiting as they replant 400 hectares of the land. This is demonstrating how the turning around of the failed land reform projects will restore the much needed jobs.

The Department is continuously building on these achievements as it presses ahead with the revitalisation of irrigation infrastructure at Hoxane, Champagne and Saringwa irrigation projects.

Livestock Development Programme

During the previous financial year, the Department kick started the implementation of the Livestock Development Programme which was rolled out in some parts of Province. The Department has partnered with Independent Development Corporation (IDC) and the University of Limpopo on the implementation of the Nguni Project which is aimed at improving and enhancing Nguni indigenous genetic material and animal performance. Through the Nguni Project the Department managed to deliver 16 bulls and 420 breeding cows to about 80 emerging farmers. The Department further implemented the Bull and Heifer project whereby farmers were assisted with commercial bulls and heifers to improve the genetic pool and introduce the exotic high performance breeds for commercialization of livestock production. Through the Bull and Heifer project we managed to deliver 78 performance-tested bulls and 100 pregnant Heifers to land reform farmers, cooperatives and other farmers who are being commercialized.

We have also supported these aspiring farmers through the construction of livestock handling facilities, fences for livestock grazing camps and the provision of water networks through the drilling and equipping of boreholes. The Department will forge ahead with the Masibuyele Esibayeni Programme, which has provided a lifeline for many farmers, especially the previously disadvantaged. The programme will now also emphasize the roll out of other livestock such as sheep, goats, and pigs.

Masibuyele Emasimini

The Department will continue supporting the communities with the initiatives of food production in three categories of farmers-subsistence, smallholder and land & agrarian reform farmers. Farmers producing food will be provided with mechanization support (i.e. tractors and implements), production inputs (i.e. seeds, fertilizers and agro chemicals), extension and advisory support. The Department plans to provide mechanisation support to 108 000 hectares for subsistence and land & agrarian reform farmers. The Department will enhance and facilitate strategic partnership agreements with commercial farmers and investors to assist the land reform beneficiaries. The Department will further put more focus on increasing the land value by investing in on-and-off farm agricultural infrastructure.

Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development Services an amount of R 489, 054 million

PROGRAMME 4: VETERINARY SERVICE

In the year 2011/12, we continued our efforts to promote human and animal health through the delivery of comprehensive veterinary services. This includes, amongst others, the vaccination of animals against diseases; the issuing of permits in order to regulate the movement of animals locally, nationally as well as for export purposes.

The Veterinary Services programme will continue with the promotion of human and animal health through activities such as animal disease surveillance, diagnosis and control as well as veterinary public health activities.

Programme 4: Veterinary Services an amount of R 103, 420 million





PROGRAMME 5: TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department have realised that the integration of research with College teaching and extension is key in ensuring maximum benefit to our farmers and communities. Such integration has ensured that our students have access to the intellectual capital of our researchers. Moving forward, we will ensure that students in our Colleges are given priorities when research and laboratory assistants are employed.

Ms Elizabeth Smith of Victor Khanye Municipality in Nkangala District, was the overall winner of the Female Entrepreneur Awards in the province, and went on to win the Small Scale Category at national level. She has a small scale operation focusing on tilapia fish species. The Department are learning from her and we want to build on her success and ensure a thriving fisheries sector in the Province. We will partner with her to introduce and strengthen research on the aquaculture and roll it for the benefit of more farmers more particular women and the youth.

Programme 5: Technology, Research and Development an amount of R 42, 521 million

PROGRAMME 6: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The Agricultural Economics programme continued with the provision of support to farmers with regards to Agricultural Marketing, and statistical information. During the previous financial year the programme managed to conduct an agricultural baseline study in conjunction with Stats-SA for a better understanding of our clients.

The programme is also expected to deliver on the planned Fresh Produce Market, which presents one of the strategic infrastructure projects which have also been registered in the national infrastructure plan.

All these initiatives will ensure that the sector creates more jobs in line with the Mpumalanga Provincial Growth Path and ensuring that we meet the international markets standards for our farmers to increase their export market. The province will tap on the relationships that have been secured with Oman (Middle East markets), BRICS and also our neighbouring countries – Swaziland and Mozambique.

Programme 6: Agriculture Economics an amount of R 36, 943 million

PROGRAMME 7: STRUCTURED AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

The Department is renovating the Marapyane Campus in phases. Phase 1 of the renovation process was aimed at ensuring that the College is ready and able to take up the first intake in line with our plans. The second phase of this project is aimed at ensuring the renovation of additional hostels and laboratories and constructing new facilities required for a modern agriculture training institution. The Department would further resuscitate Funda Mlimi Training Centre to be used as an experimental farm for the Marapyane Campus.

With specific regards to academic programmes we anticipate to expand the offering to include Animal Husbandry and Forestry, as well as a B. Agric at NQF level 7. This expansion will necessitate the establishment of additional infrastructure such as well equipped training centres, laboratories, accommodation facilities, administration blocks as well as employment of qualified staff.

Programme 7: Structured Agriculture Training an amount of R74, 659 million

PROGRAMME 8: COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Since 2009 when the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme was introduced, the programme has





expanded to seven identified local municipalities which are Mkhondo, Nkomazi, Dr JS Moroka, Chief Albert Luthuli, Bushbuckridge, Thembisile Hani and Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme. With the engagement of stakeholders, the department has facilitated the development of a draft CRDP strategy that is intended to give direction on how we should expand to cover most of these poverty sites.

To lay a solid foundation so that rural children do not lag behind when they start school, again this year through CRDP, 20 early childhood centres catering for a total of 1 000 kids will be supported. The CRDP programme has planned three Community Health Centres in Bushbuckridge, Mkhondo and Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme, two clinics in Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka as well as a hospital in Dr. JS Moroka.

A total of 5 300 PHP houses are going to be constructed in the seven CRDP municipalities to ensure the provision of basic infrastructure. There will be construction of new schools and renovation of existing infrastructures in all CRDP sites. The "CRDP Project Model" which has been approved by cabinet will serve as a vehicle in creating jobs for local people as they have been capacitated with building related skills and already participated in these infrastructure projects. It is encouraging that the construction work at the Marapyane College has seen the training of at least 300 young people by our department who are now grouped into contractor cooperatives with 15 members each and are now engaged in other projects like the housing projects and Funda Mlimi renovations.

Engagement of private sector is going to be intensified and we anticipate more participation of investors in the programme. We will continue building on the foundation that has been laid by our President Mr Jacob Zuma when he launched the Masibambisane Rural Development Initiative in Mkhondo in November 2011 when he challenged the business community to join hands with government.

LAND AND AGRARIAN REFORM

The department is still on course in pursuing aspirations to revitalise all Land Reform farms and bring them back into production. The Department targeted 292 identified land reform farms to bring them back to their production capacities. Out of these, focus will be on 125 for infrastructural development. The rest will be receiving community mobilization facilitation to ensure that conflicts are resolved and an enabling environment is created for development.

Department will continue to assist farmers who are keen to get into partnerships with prominent commercial farmers. Farmers will be assisted to develop production infrastructure in order to increase their equity. The Department has taken a decision to take agricultural graduates to go for internship programme under successful land reform farms.

Programme 8: Rural Development an amount of R 14, 981 million

PROGRAMME 9: LAND ADMINISTRATION

The Department is continuing to support the development of Provincial Planning Legislation to enhance the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill, which is currently being developed by the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Implementation of uniform legislation will improve spatial planning and will ensure that land development in the province is managed effectively, and high potential agricultural land is protected from uncontrolled development.

In support of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme one agri-village will be planned and surveyed in Mkhondo Municipality and another in Albert Luthuli Municipality. As part of our tenure upgrading programme, 3 000 title deeds will be delivered at Matsulu-C and Kwaggafontein-A.

Programme 9: Land Administration an amount of R 23, 553 million





4th International Symposium on Lychee, Longan and Other Sapindaceae Fruits



The Fourth International Symposium on Lychee, Longan and other Sapindaceae fruits, will be held from 2-6 December, 2012, at the Winkler (Protea) Hotel, White River, South Africa. The symposium follows the third International Symposium on these fruits held in Fuzhou, China, in 2008. The DARDLA sponsored 4th symposium is organized by the South African Litchi Growers' Association (SALGA) and the Agricultural Research Council - Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops (ARC-ITSC), under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). The aim of this international symposium is to expose various role players within the industry, including scientists, growers, students, professionals and extensionists to the most recent innovations within the industry whether they be of an economic or scientific nature.

We believe that this symposium will be a platform for discussion of mutual interest, allowing for the opportunity to share ideas and enhance collaboration between role-players within the industry.

The symposium will cover a variety of themes including:-

- World production and marketing
- Germplasm, genetics, breeding and biotechnology
- Cultural practices and pre-harvest physiology
- Post-harvest handling and physiology
- Pests, diseases and their control
- Processing
- Extension

For further details: Visit www.lychee2012.com





REPORTING OF A DISASTER INCIDENCE (Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002)

Produced by: Agricultural Disaster and Risk Management Sub- programme

What is a disaster?

A disaster means a progressive or sudden, widespread or localized natural or human-caused occurrence which-

- (a) causes or threatens to cause-
 - (i) or disease;
 - (ii) damage to property, infrastructure or the environment; or
 - (iii) disruption of the life of a community; and cope with its effects using only their own resources;
- (b) is of a magnitude that exceeds the ability of those affected by the disaster to cope with its effects using only their own resources;

What is disaster management?

It means a continuous and integrated multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures aimed at-

- (a) preventing or reducing the risk of disasters;
- (b) mitigating the severity or consequences of disasters;
- (c) emergency preparedness;
- (d) a rapid and effective response to disasters; and
- (e) post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation;

A disaster is a local disaster if--

- (a) it affects a single metropolitan, district or local municipality only and
- (b) the municipality concerned, or, if it is a district or local municipality, that municipality either alone or with the assistance of local municipalities in the area of the district municipality is able to deal with it effectively.

A disaster is a provincial disaster if--

- (a) it affects-
 - (i) more than one metropolitan or district municipality in the same province
 - (ii) a single metropolitan or district municipality in the province and that metropolitan municipality, or that district municipality with the assistance of the local municipalities within its area is unable to deal with it effectively; or
 - (iii) a cross-boundary municipality in respect of which only one province exercises executive authority as envisaged by section 90(3)(a) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998); and
- (b) the province concerned is able to deal with it effectively.

A disaster is a national disaster if it affects-

- (a) more than one province: or
- (b) a single province which is unable to deal with it effectively.

Until a disaster is classified in terms of this section the disaster must be regarded as a local disaster. The classification of a disaster in terms of this section designates primary responsibility to a particular sphere of government for the co-ordination and management of the disaster, but an organ of state in another sphere may assist the sphere having primary responsibility to deal with the disaster and its consequences.





Reporting a disaster incidence

The Early warning Committee (EWC) members in each municipality reports disastrous incidence of any magnitude and severity to the provincial coordinator who then consolidated the information for the attention of the PDMC and DAFF. The disaster incidence is also reported to the local municipality for inclusion in the risk profile of the municipality and IDP. The coordinator through the assistance of the municipality then activate teams comprising of the EWI, agric advisors, engineers, economists, sustainable resource management to verify, assess and quantify the extent of the damage. Depending on the severity of the disaster the PDMC may activate a Joint Operation Committee (JOC) to assist the Department in the verification process.

Points to consider when reporting and advising farmers;

- A disaster incident becomes a disaster after a declaration by the council and the Premier at local municipality and provincial level respectively (see more information on declaration below)
- When a disaster is declared the National Disaster Management Centre through the National Treasurer may or may not provide relief aid.
- The Department has no obligation to compensate devastated farmers. Farmers must have contingency strategies to mitigate potential disasters.
- Compensation, if made available may be subject to the; credibility of information reported by the municipality, adherence to the disaster risk related Acts, framework for the scheme and fiscal base of the government.

Classification and recording of disasters

When a disastrous event occurs or threatens to occur the National Disaster Management Centre must, for the purpose of the proper application of the Disaster Management Act, determine whether the event should be regarded as a disaster in terms of the Act, and if so the National Centre must immediately; assess the magnitude and severity or potential magnitude and severity of the disaster, classify the disaster as a local, provincial or national disaster in accordance with subsection (4), (5) and (6); and record the prescribed particulars concerning the disaster in the prescribed register.

When assessing the magnitude and severity or potential magnitude and severity of a disaster, the National Centre-

- (a) must consider any information and recommendations concerning the disaster received from a provincial or municipal disaster management centre in terms of section 39 or 49; and
- (b) may enlist the assistance of an independent assessor to evaluate the disaster on site.

The National Centre may reclassify a disaster classified in terms of subsection (1)(b) as a local, provincial or national disaster at any time after consultation with the relevant provincial or municipal disaster management centre's, if the magnitude and severity or potential magnitude and severity of the disaster is greater or lesser than the initial assessment.

Declaration of provincial state of disaster

(1) In the event of a provincial disaster, the Premier of a province, after consultation with the other MECs, may, by notice in the provincial gazette, declare a provincial state of disaster if-

- (a) existing legislation and contingency arrangements do not adequately provide
- (b) other special circumstances warrant the declaration of a provincial state of disaster.

(2) If a provincial state of disaster has been declared in terms of subsection (1), the Premier of the province concerned may, subject to subsection (3) make regulations or issue directions or authorize the issue of directions concerning;

- (a) the release of any available resources of the provincial government, including stores, equipment, vehicles and facilities;
- (b) the release of personnel of a provincial organ of state for the rendering of emergency services;
- (c) the implementation of all or any of the provisions of a provincial disaster management plan that are applicable in the circumstances;





- (d) the evacuation to temporary shelters of all or part of the population from the disaster-stricken or threatened area if such action is necessary for the preservation of life;
- (e) the regulation of traffic to, from or within the disaster-stricken or threatened area;
- (f) the regulation of the movement of persons and goods to, from or within the disaster-stricken or threatened area;
- (g) the control and occupancy of premises in the disaster-stricken or threatened area;
- (h) the provision, control or use of temporary emergency accommodation;
- (i) the suspension or limiting of the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages in the disaster-stricken or threatened area;
- (j) the maintenance or installation of temporary lines of communication to and from or within the disaster area
- (k) the dissemination of information required for dealing with the disaster;
- (l) emergency procurement procedures;
- (m) the facilitation of response and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation;
- (n) steps to facilitate international assistance; or
- (o) other steps that may be necessary to prevent an escalation of the disaster, or to alleviate, contain and minimize the effects of the disaster.

(3) The powers referred to in subsection (2) may be exercised only to the extent that this is necessary for the purpose of-

- (a) assisting and protecting the public;
- (b) providing relief to the public;
- (c) protecting property;
- (d) preventing or combating disruption; or
- (e) dealing with the destructive and other effects of the disaster.

(4) Regulations made in terms of subsection (2) may include regulations prescribing

(5) A provincial state of disaster that has been declared in terms of subsection (1)-

- (a) lapses three months after it has so been declared;
- (b) may be terminated by the Premier by notice in the provincial gazette before it lapses in terms of paragraph (a); and
- (c) may be extended by the Premier by notice in the provincial gazette for one month at a time before it lapses in terms of paragraph (a) or the existing extension is due to expire.



DARDLA cares for farmers: COLD WEATHER EARLY WARNING ADVISORY INFORMATION



Madoda Nkambule

Farmers are advised to follow the suggested strategies during cold weather conditions:

When temperatures plunge below zero, livestock producers need to give extra attention to their animals. Prevention is the key to dealing with hypothermia, and other cold weather injuries in livestock.

What to do when cold conditions are forecast

**Farmers are advised to follow the suggested
Protecting livestock from cold weather conditions**





- Please take the extra care to provide for your pets and livestock during cold period.
- Management of the cow's environment- move all livestock to the safe area e.g. warm place.
- It is very important that livestock be provided extra hay/forage/feed as up to double the calories for normal body heat maintenance may be needed in extreme cold.
- Do not shear the Angora goat. Also, take extra time to observe livestock, looking for early signs of disease and injury.
- Severe cold-weather injuries or death primarily occur in the very young or in animals that are already debilitated. Cases of cold weather-related sudden death in calves often result when cattle are suffering from undetected infection, particularly pneumonia. Sudden, unexplained livestock deaths and illnesses should be investigated quickly so that a cause can be identified and steps can be taken to protect remaining animals.
- Special attention should be paid to very young and old animals. They may be less able to tolerate temperature extremes and have weaker immune systems.

Protecting plants from cold weather

- Protect plants by covering – paper, cloth – over framework around tree, mulching
- Wrapping trunks of frost to sensitive trees e.g. citrus
- Watering during cold stages (irrigate drop with frost/apply just a trickle at base of tree).
- Increase air circulation.

Concerns and recommendations

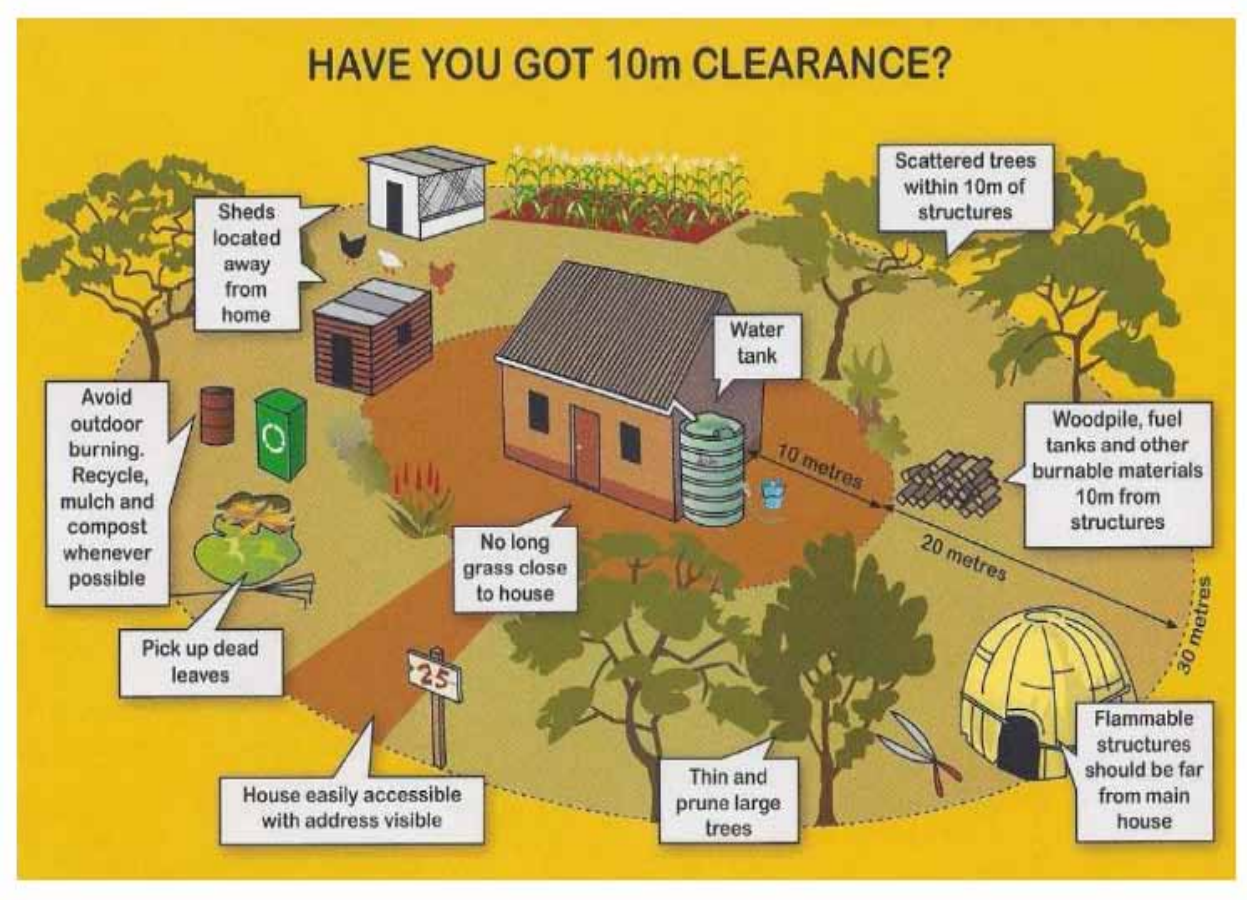
- Our animals, especially indoor/outdoor pets, probably do not have an adequate cold coat for protection in these very low temperatures.
- Hypothermia and dehydration are the two most probable life-threatening conditions for animals in cold weather, wet conditions and wind-chill add greatly to the cold-stress for animals.
- Livestock should be provided with wind-break and roof shelter, and monitored for signs of discomfort (extensive shivering, weakness, lethargy, etc.)
- It is critical that animals have access to drinking water. Usual water sources may freeze solid in low temperatures and dehydration becomes a life-threatening factor. Many of our animals, especially the young, may not know how or be unable to break several inches of ice to reach water. In general, animals tend to drink less in extreme cold, risking dehydration.
- Adding a warm sloppy bran mash, sloppy moistened beet pulp or soaking pelleted feed in warm water is a good way to add water to your horses; diet and provide some comfort food; in the cold weather.
- Animals suffering from frostbite don't exhibit pain. It may be up to two weeks before the injury becomes evident as freeze-damaged tissue starts to slough away. At that point, the injury should be treated as an open wound and a veterinarian should be consulted.
- Cold weather can cause all types of problems for plants in South Africa. Freezing temperatures can damage plants by rupturing plant cells as ice crystals form and rapid changes in temperatures occur. Evergreen plants can suffer damage from blowing winter winds and dry out when water is unavailable from ground that is frozen in the colder regions of the state.
- Select frost tolerant plants over frost prone areas
- Place frost sensitive plants in protected locations Western, northern exposures, full sun or lock walls.
- Do not prune frost-damaged plants until they begin growing in spring





VELD FIRES MANAGEMENT

Madoda Nkambule

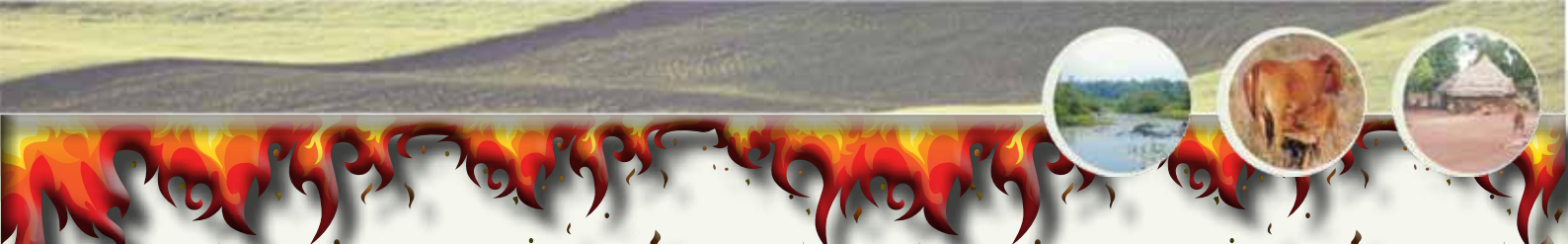


Veld fires

Farmers are advised to ensure that firebreaks are in place especially in winter rainfall areas where fuel load is high and may exacerbate the spread of fires. An owner of the land who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, the following is taken care of in terms of installing firebreaks (Chapter 4 of National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998):

- It has to be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veld fire from spreading to or from neighbouring land.
- It does not cause soil erosion and
- It is reasonably free of inflammable material capable of carrying a veld fire across it.



- 
- Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent.
 - Firebreaks should consist of fire-resistant vegetation, inflammable materials, bare ground or a combination of these.
 - Firebreaks must be located in such a way as to minimize risk to the resources being protected.
 - Erosion control measures must be installed at the firebreak.

Firebreaks can be made through the following methods:

Mineral earth firebreak:

- Through ploughing, grading, other earth movement
 - Use of herbicides
 - Use animals to overgraze specifically to minimize fuel
 - Strategic placement of burned areas,
- Not to be done on days with fire hazard (windy and dry/hot).
 - Plant fire resistant plants.
 - Plant species selected for vegetated firebreaks must be non-invasive and capable of retarding the spread of fire.

Maintaining firebreaks:

- Mow, disk, or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect all firebreaks for woody materials.
- Inspect firebreaks at least annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary.
- Repair erosion control measures as necessary.
- Access by vehicles or people must also be controlled.
- Bare ground firebreaks, which are no longer needed, must be stabilized i.e.
- Sow grass.
- Mulch

What to do when conditions favorable for veldfire are forecast:

- Prohibit fires in the open air during periods of high fire hazard and establish a fire control committee.
- To control fires, an alarm system, firefighting teams, and beaters must be organized in advance and plans prepared.
- Livestock should be moved out of grazing land to a safe place.


What to do during veldfire:

- Water is generally not available in sufficient quantities or at adequate pressure for the control of major fires; however, sand or other loose mineral soil material can be an effective method of control.
- Tree branches can be used to beat fire.

Boundary breaks with neighbours

• All members are to prepare fire breaks where there is a risk of veld fires on his or her side of the common boundary with the adjoining land; note that this refers to neighbours and not to boundaries within the owners land. The firebreak need not follow the common boundary if the neighbour agrees to locate it elsewhere. This offers the





flexibility needed to adjust for problems such as terrain.

A recommended 10 m on each side of the boundary.

- Dimensions of firebreak to be agreed between the neighbours.
- Condition: The break must be reasonably free of all inflammable material and must not cause erosion.
- The break must be made annually, where possible these breaks must consist of two 10m breaks which can be alternated annually
- This will allow the break to be burnt earlier as flammable material would have build up in the alternate break that was not burnt the previous year.
- This practice will allow the area burned to rest for a year between burns.

FARMER'S DUTIES WHEN PREPARING FIREBREAKS

The following are the steps to be taken by farmers when they intend to burn firebreaks;

- The owner intending to burn must consult with the neighbour to find a suitable date for both. If the member cannot obtain agreement then he or she may simply give 14 days' written notice of intention to burn.
- The act requires the neighbour to burn his or her firebreak on the same day as agreed or notified, to be present or have an agent present, and have sufficient fire fighters available to prevent the spread of the fire.
- No burning operations will be allowed between the 1 June and 31 October without a permit issued by Lowveld Escapement Fire Protection Association (LEFPA), or one of its Ward Chairpersons.
- No burning of firebreaks if the actual Fire Danger Index (FDI) exceeds 55 in the yellow.
- No burning on Saturdays and Sundays or Public holidays.
- The member must comply with LEFPA's minimum landowner requirements before the burning of firebreaks commences.
- The Environmental Vision Solutions (EVS) Detection Centre room is to be notified before burning operations commence on the day of burning.
- The EVS Detection Centre is to be notified of any uncontrolled spread at the site where firebreak is being burnt.
- The EVS Detection Centre is to be notified of completion of the burning operations

GUIDELINES FOR CANE GROWERS

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE BURNING PROTOCOL

- To make sure that the burning of cane is done in a safe and legitimate manner
- To avoid smuts deposits in sensitive residential areas or industrial complexes and other sensitive areas
- To prevent traffic accidents caused by smoke hazards moving across district and national roads from controlled or accidental fires
- To prevent "arcing" between power lines and the ground below which causes surges and cuts to industrial and domestic power
- To confine cane burning immediately adjacent to sensitive areas when prevailing winds are favourable to minimize smuts fallout on sensitive areas

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

- Landowners intending to conduct a prescribed burn or to burn a firebreak must inform their neighbours
- Any runaway fires to be reported to the neighbours and the FPA immediately.
- Any planned controlled burns under Eskom power lines to be reported to the FPA operation centre of



Eskom before such burn

- Do not leave controlled burns unattended until the fire is totally extinguished
- Before controlled burns take place, a permit must be obtained from the LEFPA office

MINIMUM REQUIRMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS

The contractor must:

- Be a registered business within the field of Fire Management
- Minimum qualifications for a contractor: Fire Boss 1 or IC type 5
- Crew leader qualifications: Crew leader type 1 or 2
- These qualifications must be certified
- The rest of the team must be qualified in Basic fire fighting
- Proof of Public Liability Insurance to the value of R20 million is recommended
- 4 x 4 Bakkie with bakkie sakkie not less than 500 litres is recommended
- 1 x High lift jack
- 1 x DCP 2.5kg fire extinguisher
- 1 x Handheld FDI weather kit
- Emergency contact detail list for the appropriate area

NOTES:

- All FDI's based on Vital Fire Weather Forecast, Regional Average at 14:00 on the current day or the following day (Escarpment, Lowveld and Onderberg)
- Permits are required for LEFPA area/Ehlanzeni District from 1 June – 31 October of each year
- No harvest residue (slash burning) for LEFPA area/Ehlanzeni District from 1 June – 31 October of each year.
- Vegetation block burns for grazing purposes, permits granted if the current FDI for 14:00 is less than 46, and if the forecast for the following day is less than 55.
- Vegetation block burns for high intensity fires, permits granted on special request
- Permits can be obtained from the LEFPA office or the EVS Detection centre in Sabie.
- Permits will be given on the day of the burn and are only valid for that specific day.
- Permits cannot be rolled over for the next day or used for other farms or farm owners other than specified on the specific permit

Week days	Fire Danger Index (FDI)	Permit Issuing
Monday - Thursday	Below 55 forecast for 14:00 current day	Permit Granted
Monday - Thursday	Below 55 actual at 14:00 current day	Permit Granted
Monday - Thursday	Above 55 forecast for 14:00 current day	Permit not Granted
Monday - Thursday	Above 55 actual at 14:00 current day	Permit not Granted
Monday - Friday	Forecast for following day at 14:00 above 60	Permit not Granted
Friday	Forecast above 55 for 14:00, Saturday	Friday permit not Granted
Saturday, Sunday & Public holidays	On special request, in advance a permit can be obtained from the FPA manager only	On request with written permission from the neighbours





PICTURES DEPICTING THE EFFECT OF VELD FIRES ON AGRICULTURE



CREATION OF FIRE BELTS





WHERE WE CAN BE FOUND

HEAD OFFICE

Building 6, Floor 1&2
No 7 Government Boulevard
Riverside Park
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 11219
Nelspruit 1200
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6048/6020
Fax: +27 (0)13 766 8429
Email: info.ardla@mpg.gov.za

REGIONAL OFFICES

EHLANZENI NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE

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Thulamahashe
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Private Bag x 1321
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Fax: +27 (0)13 759 4165
Email: pnzmpangane@mpg.gov.za

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