



general information





overview by director-general

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate our first ten years of democracy we also reflect on the achievements and successes of our department over this decade. Historically the department rendered services to a relatively small number of well-resourced commercial farmers and was not inclusive at all. We were also faced with the enormous challenge of addressing poverty, landlessness and a general skewed participation of black people, youth and women in the sector.

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1994

In 1994, government introduced the reconstruction and development programme with the aim of creating a strong and balanced economy, address structural problems in the industry, trade, commerce, mining, agriculture, finance and labour markets, while ensuring the elimination of poverty, low wages and extreme inequalities created by the apartheid system.

The *White Paper on Agriculture* published in 1995, formed the basis for the development of the department's reconstruction and development programme, BATAT. This thrust was specifically targeted at providing services to resource-poor, previously disadvantaged and prospective farmers. The aim of BATAT was to broaden access to agriculture at community level in the provinces, through five focus areas. The focus areas were financial services, human resources development, technology development, delivery systems and efficient marketing systems.

As a result of political and administrative changes, one national and nine provincial departments of agriculture were established, in line with the requirements of the Constitution. The role of the national department was redefined as focusing on policy, regulatory, monitoring and co-ordination services aimed at improving competitiveness and equity in agriculture.

Agricultural marketing reform

Since 1997 a progressive marketing reform process aimed at deregulation was initiated to transform marketing from a highly regulated to a basically free dispensation. Additionally, the reform process aimed to meet the objectives of market access for all market participants, efficiency, optimisation of export earnings and the enhancement of viability of the overall agricultural sector value chains.

Since then, there has been a significant positive response to deregulation by all parties concerned, along the marketing chains for most commodities. Deregulation created many opportunities and resulted in a phenomenal increase in the number of new entrepreneurs participating in different nodes of agricultural marketing value chains.

International trade

South Africa's entry into the international arena has been an area of tremendous change. In line with domestic liberalisation policies and export promotion strategies, South Africa has become an active member in international trade and a member of various international organisations.

South Africa hosted the mid-term meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in Durban in 2001 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. In March 2004, South Africa hosted the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) regional conference for Africa. Within Africa, South Africa is also playing a leading role through NEPAD and organisations such as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The department also plays a leading role in negotiations with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on agricultural matters.



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The agricultural trade agenda has been consolidated by the conclusion of an agricultural trade strategy during the year under review. This strategy guides the development of negotiating positions for multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, for example applying the principle of not negotiating tariff reductions on products subject to distorting subsidies by trading partners. Departmental positions were developed for the WTO, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)/USA, the SACU/European Free Trade Area and the SACU/Mercosur trade negotiations. Trade with Africa was brought into sharper focus in the department's planning for 2004/05.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR PLAN

One of the most important developments of the past five years was the finalisation of the *Strategic plan for South African agriculture* in collaboration with Agri SA and the National African Farmers' Union. The strategy, published in November 2001, articulated the long-term vision for the sector, which is to create "A united and prosperous agricultural sector". The plan is not a government exclusive, but is guiding and uniting the entire sector.

Three key strategies were identified: to promote equitable access to resources for agricultural development, to enhance global competitiveness and to ensure sustainable use of our natural resources. To work towards action and implementation of our strategic goals, a working group between government and its partners was established. Through this mechanism intersectoral linkages have been strengthened to ensure effective co-operation and improved service delivery.

The sector plan further challenged us to work for public-private partnerships in the area of research and development. As a result of our social compact, active partnerships have already been established. The National Agricultural Research Forum (NARF), a consultative forum where government, public entities, academic institutions and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) are involved in research and technology development, was constituted. A memorandum of understanding to co-operate on research, development and technology transfer was also adopted. This forum enables the partners to share best practice models and work for synergies in the optimisation of existing capacity.

BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

In response to the second imperative of the sector plan, the objective of equitable participation in the sector, the department has developed a policy framework for Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). Good progress was made during the review year and through a consultative process involving individuals from the sector, government stakeholders and industry groups, we developed the draft broad-based empowerment framework, called AgriBEE. The first BEE conference in agriculture will be held in 2004.

To further empower black participants in the sector, government and its partners initiated a commodity approach to develop a number of commodity action plans. During the course of the year under review, commodity plans were developed for cotton, grain, wine, red meat, poultry and the fruit industry. The first-ever empowerment strategy was finalised in collaboration with all parties for the cotton industry.

LAND REDISTRIBUTION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme was designed to provide grants to previously disadvantaged South African citizens to access agricultural land. By March 2004 a total of 387 485 ha agricultural land were distributed through the programme to 19 736 beneficiaries. Farmer-to-farmer mentorship programmes have been initiated to ensure that the beneficiaries of land reform and agricultural development make good use of their land.

The development of the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme during 2003 led to the realignment of the programme linkages to other operational units within the department. The programme is crucial for farmer support and financial resources have been allocated to fund the programme during 2004. The aim of the programme is to enhance the provision of support services and to promote and facilitate agricultural development targeting beneficiaries of the land and agrarian reform.



FOOD SECURITY

One of the lead programmes of the department, is the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (IFSNP) which is also one of the key programmes of the social cluster. The vision of the integrated food security strategy is to attain 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.

Food security was of particular concern in 2002 as food prices soared and the price of maize went up by more than 120 %. As a result, a large number of particularly rural people became extremely vulnerable to poverty and hunger. A number of short and medium-term interventions were agreed upon to respond to the looming food crisis. Emergency relief measures were implemented for local food emergencies and followed up by the distribution of food parcels through the Department of Social Development, targeting the most vulnerable households in our society. We have further strengthened the linkages between these food parcels and the department's initiative on food gardens by making available seed, fertiliser and information packs to the recipients of emergency food.

As part of medium-term measures, the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs appointed a Food Pricing Monitoring Committee in January 2003 to monitor the prices of basic food items. The committee also had to undertake a longer-term analysis of the link between food prices and the structure of the agricultural supply chain. The committee produced quarterly reports during 2003 as well as a final report, which concluded that food prices had stabilised by December 2003.

The Minister also signed an agreement at the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 4 December 2003 to implement phase one of the special programme for food security. She launched the programme during the FAO's Africa regional conference in the Limpopo Province in March 2004.

DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES

The devastating drought in the country could have a far-reaching impact not only on agriculture, but also on the economy of South Africa as a whole. Maize planting for the 2003 season was the lowest in more than 60 years. To mitigate the effect of this disaster, Cabinet approved a total of R500 million for drought relief for the 2003/04 season, with a further R500 million earmarked for 2004/05. The funds will be used for emergency relief to vulnerable rural communities, provision of fodder for livestock to both established and emerging farmers, water provision for human consumption and for livestock and safeguarding of boreholes and prevention of communicable diseases in affected poor rural communities.

Because of the severe drought in 2003, we also had to focus on water provision for rural communities, emerging and commercial farmers. Boreholes were tested for water quality, particularly those for use by people and livestock. Testing is already underway and the results from these tests will be added to the national geo-hydrology database.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The economic performance of the agricultural sector was monitored on a quarterly basis and overviews of economic changes and their impact on the sector were produced regularly. To fill information gaps, Statistics South Africa launched the census of commercial agriculture in 2002. The results will be available towards the end of 2004. Improvements to the crop forecasting system are also being addressed via a contract awarded to an ARC led consortium. The aim is for the forecasts to be within 5 % of the actual harvest.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

An amount of R72,8 million was surrendered to the Exchequer, which represents 5,8 % of the total appropriation for 2003/04. The underspending can be attributed to certain capital works projects which were not completed in time as well as vacancies which were not filled timeously as a result of Resolution 7 of 2002 which was only terminated on 12 September 2003



The latter had a carry through effect on expenditure items such as administration, inventories and equipment. Programmes such as Agricultural Production and Programme Planning were still being phased in, while the actual impact of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the Limpopo Province and along the borders of Zimbabwe and Mozambique was overestimated by the department.

LANDCARE PROGRAMME

The national LandCare programme is one of the flagship programmes of the department in which more than R140 million has been invested since 1998 in promoting sustainable land management practices, reversing the degradation of natural resources and implementing about 300 rural development projects. In addition, more than 13 000 jobs have been created through the community-based partnerships approach.

LandCare projects are implemented co-operatively with the provincial departments of agriculture, who contribute additional project funding. To ensure project ownership, community groups are also expected to contribute in cash or kind towards the funding of projects.

In the year under review the department funded 140 rural development projects to the value of about R40 million and 7 000 temporary jobs were created through the national LandCare programme. An amount of R11,8 million, representing 26 focused investment programmes, was earmarked for poverty nodes throughout the country, mainly in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces.

FEMALE FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The department recognises the role women play in agriculture and their contributions to food security through the Female Farmer of the Year Awards. Initiated in 1999, this competition enabled many female farmers to influence other women in a much broader spectrum and to play a leading role in the sector. A new category, Top household producer, was introduced in 2003 to strengthen the campaign against hunger and to reduce poverty. The other three categories remained Top producer for the export market, Top producer for national markets and Top producer for informal markets. The competition is aimed at both emerging and commercial farmers and draws its strength from diversity. The project is a joint venture of the department and public/private partnerships.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

The recruitment of black professionals and, in particular, members of the designated groups has increased by over 50 %, compared to the previous financial year. This achievement is attributed to the commitment of managerial members to our employment equity targets and effective monitoring mechanisms in the form of performance agreements. In the management echelon, black women account for just over 35 %.

Major challenges remain in terms of employment equity in the middle management level, which is still dominated by white males and females. However, in the year under review, significant inroads were made and 90 % of the appointments made in this category were of members of the designated groups.

Bongwiwe Njobe

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: AGRICULTURE



economic overview

This report gives an overview of the major macro-economic trends of the agriculture sector for the period 1 April 2003 until 31 March 2004. Aggregates are compared with the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

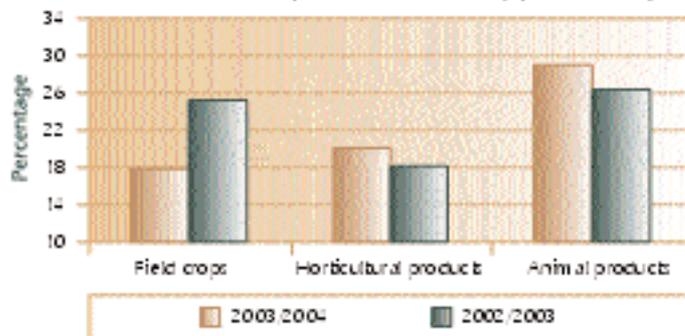
GROSS FARM INCOME

Gross income refers to that part of agricultural production marketed at basic prices. It also includes production for own consumption valued at the same prices.

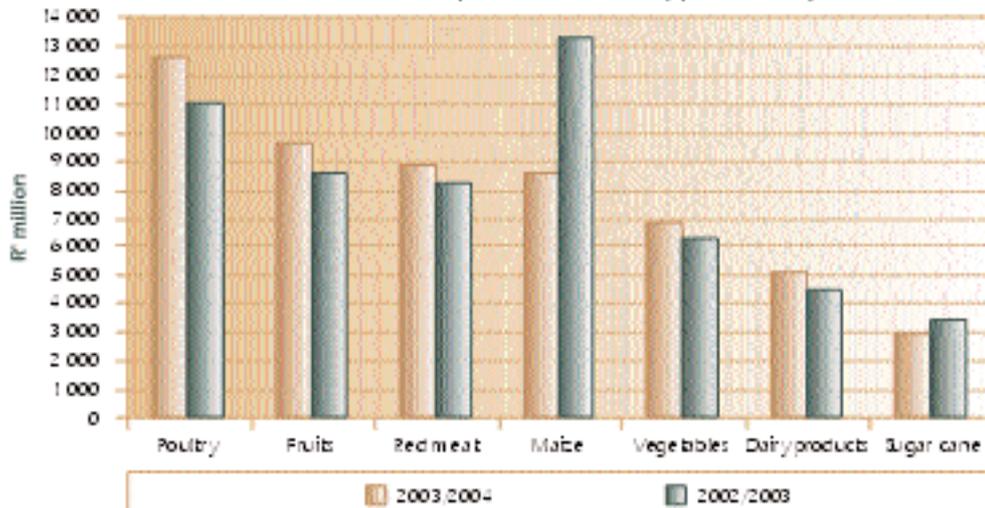
Gross income from all agricultural products amounted to R66 957 million for the year that ended on 31 March 2004, which is 4,3% lower than the previous year. This decrease can mainly be attributed to the decrease of 29,7% in the gross income from field crops. Animal products contributed 43,4%, horticultural products 30,0% and field crops 26,6% to the gross farm income.

The gross income from animal products increased by 9,6% and amounted to R29 065 million for the year under review. The gross income from poultry increased by 14,5%, income from sheep slaughtered by 13,8% and income from milk as well as cattle and calves slaughtered, increased by 9,3%. These increases can mainly be attributed to the increases in the prices that producers received for animal products.

The percentage increase/decrease in gross farm income 2003/2004 compared to 2002/2003 (April to March)



Gross farm income from the seven major agricultural products 2003/2004 compared to 2002/2003 (April to March)





The income from horticultural products increased by 10,9% to R20 077 million as the result of an increase of 25,7% in the income from citrus fruit, 24,4% from viticulture and 13,0% from vegetables.

The gross income from field crops decreased by R7 521 million and amounted to R17 815 million. Decreases of 42,7% in the income from wheat and 35,3% from maize as well as the 26,4% from sunflower seed are mainly the result of smaller crops.

INTERMEDIATE EXPENDITURE

Intermediate expenditure refers to the value of the goods and services that were purchased to be consumed as inputs during the process of production. Intermediate expenditure increased by 0,7% to R89 354 million. Expenditure on farm feeds remained the biggest expenditure item, accounting for 25,2%, followed by 16,5% for maintenance and repairs, 9,7% for farm services, 9,5% for fuel, 8,5% for fertilisers and 8,1% for dips and sprays.

Large increases occurred in the expenditure on farm services, which increased by 15,2%, maintenance and repairs by 12,2%, building and fencing material by 10,5%, and insurance by 8,9%. However, expenditure on fertilisers, fuel as well as dips and sprays decreased by 18,7%, 15,2% and 2,5%, respectively.

PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS AS WELL AS TERMS OF TRADE

On average, prices received by farmers for all agricultural products increased by only 2,0%. The weighted average prices of field crops decreased by 5,7%, mainly because of decreases in the prices of summer grains, dried beans and sugar cane, which decreased by 25,5%, 2,1% and 0,7%, respectively. Prices of horticultural products increased by 8,8%. Fruit prices increased by 11,6%, but vegetable prices increased by only 1,8%. The average prices of animal products increased by 3,9%, mainly as a result of an increase of 6,9% in dairy products and 6,4% in slaughtered stock. Prices of pastoral products, however, decreased by 22,2%.

The prices paid for farming requisites, including machinery and implements, material for fixed improvements as well as intermediate goods showed a small increase of 0,9% compared to an increase of 18,2% the previous year. Prices increased by 11,3% for fencing material, 11,3% for maintenance and repairs, 7,5% for building material, 6,4% for tractors and 5,2% for irrigation equipment. However, prices of fertilisers, dips and spays as well as fuel decreased by 5,5%, 4,0% and 3,9%, respectively.

The result of the relatively higher increase in prices received, compared to the increase in prices paid by farmers resulted in an improvement of 1,2% in the domestic terms of trade.

GROSS MARGIN, NET FARM INCOME AND CASH FLOW

The decrease of 4,3% in gross farm income compared to an increase of 0,7% in intermediate expenditure resulted in a decrease of 9,5% in the gross margin (gross income – intermediate expenditure). Net farm income decreased by 17,8% to R16 599 million, due to the decrease in the gross income and gradual increases in intermediate expenditure as well as factor payments such as labour, rent and interest payments. This also contributed to a decrease of 17,6% in the cash flow of farmers.

CONCLUSION

For the period under review the gross income of farmers decreased due to a smaller increase in prices received by farmers as well as lower levels of production of some field crops. This contributed to the decrease in net farm income and the cash flow of farmers. The increase in international fuel prices could result in an increase in prices of expenditure items. Expectations are that economic growth of the agricultural sector during 2004 will not show any significant improvement on 2003.



office of the director-general

The purpose of the Office of the Director-General is to provide strategic leadership and extensive managerial and administrative support to the department.

OBJECTIVES

The office has the overall responsibility to oversee and monitor performance of the department against its intended strategic goals. It is also responsible for ensuring that proper alignment exists within departmental programmes and broad government objectives. The office endeavours to achieve these objectives through the establishment of frameworks for the co-ordination and implementation of national policy and the development and implementation of quality standards. It focuses on identifying organisational risks, developing and implementing appropriate risk management policies and implementing and encouraging the realisation of organisational values.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Intergovernmental co-operation

Cluster participation

The department participated actively in all government cluster programmes to ensure that its programmes are aligned to the broad government policies and priorities. Each cluster has a representative from the department, i.e. the Director-General attends and performs a leadership role in one cluster and the Deputy Directors-General and the Chief Operating Officer in the others. The information from the clusters has been forwarded to the Departmental Executive Committee (DEXCO) for further implementation. We have seen a better implementation of cluster priorities at all levels during this year.

Government oversight on public entities

A policy framework on co-operative governance has been developed and negotiated with the public entities. Its role is to facilitate the working relationship between the department and the public entities as instruments in government service delivery.

Provincial government relations

A framework on co-operative governance has been developed and negotiated with the provinces to improve working relations and to follow an integrated approach in service delivery. Regular meetings of the Intergovernmental Technical Committee on Agriculture (ITCA) were held.

Strategic direction

Oversight committee meetings

The Director-General, Deputy Directors-General and the Chief Operational Officer met regularly to co-ordinate departmental operations. As this committee reports to DEXCO, there has been better co-ordination and follow-up on issues in the system. This committee adds value to the departmental delivery strategy.

Meetings between the Minister, Deputy Minister and the Director-General

The Minister, Deputy Minister and the Director-General continued with regular meetings to reach agreement on policy direction and pressing public communication, Cabinet and parliamentary issues. It is envisaged that the Minister and Deputy Minister would meet regularly with all the oversight committee members in future.

general information



bafedile hopape
executive assistant



Quarterly performance review meetings

Senior Management members of the department met every quarter to review performance progress. As a result we have witnessed an improvement in a number of programmes. The following programmes are running successfully because of the teamwork and the integrated approach that the department is using:

- Farmer settlement programme
- Framework for financing mechanisms
- International strategy
- AgriBEE
- Implementation of IFSNP

An integrated programme, CASP resulted from these meetings. The South African Excellence model was used to assess the department's progress.

Agricultural sector participation

Contact with agricultural unions

A framework for partnership was developed by the Oversight Committee to improve working relations and to clarify roles and responsibilities. Regular contact with the unions took place where discussions on the implementation of the sector plan were held. These interactions helped in carrying the strategy forward.

Contact with the industry/commodities

Commodity strategies were initiated and a framework for developing these strategies was developed by the oversight committee.

Transformation

During the year under review the unit facilitated the resuscitation of the sub-transformation forums in all the directorates of the department. This process resulted in effective monitoring and the implementation of transformation programmes and policies. The development of various policies, including one aimed at accelerating the development and capacity building of black professionals, was facilitated.

Employment equity

The recruitment of black professionals and particularly members of the designated groups, has increased by over 50 %, compared to the previous financial year. Top management is 100 % black of which 60 % are women. In management echelons, black women account for just over 35 %.

Major challenges in terms of employment equity in the middle management level still exist were the majority of incumbents are white males and females. However, 90 % of the appointments made in this category were of members of the designated groups. The recruitment of disabled people remains a great challenge but programmes are in place to improve the situation. In its endeavour to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the workplace, the department has embarked on employment equity and anti-discrimination awareness campaigns, followed by training of employees in diversity management.

Service delivery

Improvement of service delivery is central to all departmental programmes and initiatives. As a result, a nation-wide agricultural clients needs survey was sanctioned, due for completion in the next financial year. The results of this survey will be integrated in the service level agreements of senior managers, within the context of the newly designed performance management framework and service delivery improvement plans for senior managers.



Internal audit

Internal Audit renders an independent and objective assurance and consulting service, designed to add value and improve the department's operations. It assists the department to achieve its objectives by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

Internal Audit reports functionally to the Audit Committee and administratively to the Director-General. The Audit Committee reports annually on the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Directorate.

The directorate derives its mandate from the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999) and the Treasury Regulations.

OBJECTIVES

Internal Audit is a management tool that guides the department to meet its objectives efficiently and effectively. To achieve this, it follows a process to provide reasonable assurance of effective and efficient resources, reliable financial information and reporting and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

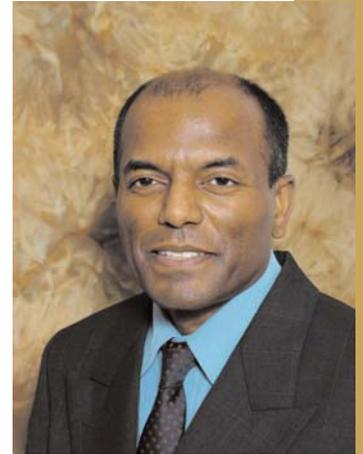
Internal Audit also assists the Director-General in achieving the objectives of the department by evaluating and developing recommendations for the enhancement or improvement of the processes through which objectives and values are established and communicated, the accomplishment of objectives is monitored, accountability is assured and corporate values are preserved. Furthermore, it also assists management in identifying and evaluating risks in the department as well as evaluating management strategy to manage these risks.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the period under review, Internal Audit performed audits in accordance with the approved internal audit plan. The focus areas covered, included:

- Human Resources management issues—leave
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Aids policy, the smoking policy and the employee assistance programme
- Stellenbosch office—a comprehensive audit covering all the financial and administrative activities
- Grootfontein Agricultural Developmental Institute—a comprehensive audit covering all the financial and administrative activities
- Potential breach of security measures/safeguarding of assets
- Control over confiscated items at the border posts, harbours and airports
- Quarantine stations—Durban, Kempton Park and Milnerton
- Transfer payments
- Ad-hoc assignments and investigations into:
 - Transport facilities at the Parliament office in Cape Town.
 - Fraud investigations at the quarantine stations at Durban and Milnerton.
 - Audit of management's leave.

The recommendations made by Internal Audit were approved by management and implemented as recommended.



ramalingam reddy
senior manager



vusi nong
senior manager

Security services

The purpose of the directorate is to secure personnel, state assets and information through the development and implementation of security policies. It also represents the department in the criminal justice cluster and other security forums to provide advisory services regarding security issues to the Ministry and the office of the Director-General.

The mandate of the directorate is to provide for the safeguarding of public premises, vehicles, the protection of people by means of the Access Control to Public Premises and Vehicles Act, 1985 (Act No. 53 of 1985) and the implementation of the national information security policy and the minimum information security standards approved by Cabinet on 4 December 1996.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the directorate is to promote a safe and secure working environment by rendering physical, protective, information, personnel and security advisory professional services.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the review period Documentation Management was relocated to Security Services. The support series of the new filing system that was implemented in all directorates of the department, was completed and approved by the National Archives. In total 70 % of the file plans have been completed.

In accordance to the Batho Pele principles the following service delivery improvements were made:

- Thirty percent of employees were revetted for security clearance, notwithstanding the shortage of staff from the National Intelligence Agency. Due to this problem, the directorate established capacity to carry out security vetting in the department and three posts have been job evaluated.
- At the Stellenbosch offices three additional security officers will be appointed.
- To create an information security risk management capability, the post of Information Security Officer has been job evaluated.
- The security policy has been approved.
- Public-private partnerships were created by outsourcing security services at the Roodeplaat and Maize Board Buildings, in accordance with the guidelines of the National Intelligence Agency.
- In compliance to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act No. 85 of 1995) a contingency plan was developed and emergency evacuation drills are carried out and practised on a quarterly basis at the agricultural buildings. The plan is geared to save lives, safeguard property and information as well as ensure that activities of the department and the office of the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs can continue with as little disruption as possible.

The Department of Agriculture is among the few departments that have been accredited by the Central Firearm Register for compliance with the new Firearm Act, 2002 (Act No. 60 of 2000).

The department contributed to the rural safety awareness programme by printing 30 000 rural safety tips pamphlets. The pamphlets are printed in English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Sotho and will be distributed to the rural and farming communities.

Security service standards are in compliance with the minimum information security standards policy through customer surveys, written comments from officials, members of the public and the National Intelligence Agency and the South African Police Services.



mission statement

VISION

The vision of the Department of Agriculture is that of a united and prosperous agricultural sector

MISSION

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

- Ensuring 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

OBJECTIVES

To fulfil its mandate and meet its commitment to the national strategy for agricultural development, the department has set the following as its medium-term strategic objectives:

- Guide and support equitable access to resources for agricultural development
- Enhance the economic performance of the sector
- Ensure sustainable natural resource management and use
- Promote and support the participation of black people, women, youth and the disabled in agriculture
- Ensure consumer confidence in agricultural products and services
- Achieve departmental service excellence

DEPARTMENTAL VALUES

The departmental values are underpinned by the ethos of “Vuk’uzenzele”. This concept builds on the meaning of the word through its direct interpretation of “self-reliance” in capturing the spirit of South Africans at home and abroad, expressed by President Mbeki in his State of the Nation Address in 2002, as people who want to “lend a hand in the national effort to build a better life”.

Recognising that being in the public service is indeed already a privilege to be able to serve the nation and having adopted the principles of Batho Pele—the challenge is now to respond comprehensively to the call for action. The departmental values that support the above context are therefore:

Bambanani	We believe that the sum of our collective efforts will and should be greater than the total of our individual efforts.
Drive	We are purposeful and energised in all that we do.
Excellence	We are committed to exceeding our customers’ expectations for quality, responsiveness and professional excellence.
Innovation	We motivate and reward creativity, innovation and new knowledge generation that support outstanding performance.
Integrity	We maintain the highest standards of ethical behaviour, honesty and professional integrity.
Maak ‘n plan	We always will find a way to make it happen.



The departmental management is committed to ensuring the creation of an environment within which all the staff members can live through these values.

KEY CLIENTS

The key clients of the department are:

- Provincial departments of agriculture
- Public entities working in the agricultural sector
- Consumers of agricultural products
- Processors, traders and exporters of agricultural products
- Producers of agricultural products
- Agricultural services providers
- International organisations working in agriculture

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The key products and services of the department are:

National leadership	In terms of policy, legislation, setting strategic priorities, advice, norms and standards, information, monitoring and evaluation, supervision and reporting
National regulatory services	With respect to national legislation, regulations, controls, auditing services and inspection services
National co-ordination services	Facilitate provincial and public entities co-ordination, international agreements, professional networks, public, private, community partnerships and agricultural human resources development
National agricultural risk management	Manage early warning systems, disaster management policy, response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness, pest control and plant and diseases control





legislative mandate

The department derives its core mandate from Section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution. It is currently responsible for over 30 pieces of legislation. Underpinning this definition of the scope of the mandate of the Department of Agriculture is the understanding of agriculture, as being inclusive of all economic activities, from the provision of farming inputs, farming to adding value. In view of the reality that the agricultural sector is continuously subjected to changes in the production and marketing environment, the policy and legislative environment that governs the sector needs to continuously adjust through amendments and sometimes replacement of legislation.

The following list of acts reflects and further elaborates the legislative mandate of the Department of Agriculture.

Performing Animals Protection Act, 1935	Act No. 24 of 1935
Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947	Act No. 36 of 1947
Animal Protection Act, 1962	Act No. 71 of 1962
Fencing Act, 1963	Act No. 31 of 1963
Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act, 1970	Act No. 70 of 1970
Plant Breeder's Rights Act, 1976	Act No. 15 of 1976
Plant Improvement Act, 1976	Act No. 53 of 1976
Co-Operatives Act, 1981	Act No. 91 of 1981
Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982	Act No. 19 of 1982
Perishable Products Export Control Act, 1983	Act No. 9 of 1983
Agricultural Pests Act, 1983	Act No. 36 of 1983
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983	Act No. 43 of 1983
Animal Diseases Act, 1984	Act No. 35 of 1984
Liquor Products Act, 1989	Act No. 60 of 1989
Agricultural Research Act, 1990	Act No. 86 of 1990
Agricultural Products Standards Act, 1990	Act No. 112 of 1990
Agricultural Produce Agents Act, 1992	Act No. 12 of 1992
South African Abattoir Corporation Act, 1992	Act No. 120 of 1992
Groot Constantia Trust Act, 1993	Act No. 58 of 1993
Societies for the Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act, 1993	Act No. 169 of 1993
Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996	Act No. 47 of 1996
Agriculture Laws Extension Act, 1996	Act No. 87 of 1996
Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997	Act No. 15 of 1997
Animal Improvement Act, 1998	Act No. 62 of 1998
Agricultural Laws Rationalisation Act, 1998	Act No. 72 of 1998
Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act, 1999	Act No. 19 of 1999
Meat Safety Act, 2000	Act No. 40 of 2000
Agricultural Debt Management Act, 2001	Act No. 45 of 2001
Land And Agricultural Development Bank Act, 2002	Act No. 15 of 2002
KwaZulu-Natal Cane Growers' Association Act Repeal Act, 2002	Act No. 24 of 2002
Animal Identification Act, 2002	Act No. 6 of 2002



top management



masiphula mbongwa
deputy director-general
agricultural economics and business
development



bongive njobe
director-general



vangile titi
deputy director-general
programme planning, monitoring and
evaluation



njabulo nduli
deputy director-general
agricultural production and resources
management



luvuyo mabombo
chief operating officer
operations management and
governance



the ministry

The main purpose of the office of the Minister is to render personal and administrative support to the Minister and Deputy Minister and to ensure that they are able to execute their governmental obligations and delegated functions in an obstacle-free environment.

The Department of Agriculture derives its mandate from the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation 103 of 1994), while the President appoints the political principals. The Ministerial Handbook provides guidelines concerning the number and appointment of staff members within the Ministry, while special advisors are appointed in terms of cabinet directives.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the office of the Minister are to render secretarial, advisory, parliamentary, administrative and public relations and media liaison support services to the Minister and Deputy Minister.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the period under review, significant progress was made in uniting the agricultural sector towards implementing the strategic sector plan. The Minister held regular meetings with the two main agricultural unions, the National African Farmers' Union and Agri SA, the provincial ministers of agriculture and her two Directors-General.

In a constantly changing agricultural sector the policy and legislative environment is reflected in the amendments to, or replacement of, legislation. During the review period the Agricultural Produce Agents Amendment Bill, 2003 (Act No. 47 of 2003) was approved by Parliament.

One of the biggest challenges facing the Ministry during 2003, remained the issue of food security. The Food Price Monitoring Committee appointed by the Minister, produced quarterly reports as well as a final report which concluded that food prices in the country had stabilised by December 2003.

The following public entities report directly to the Minister:

- The Agriculture Research Council
- The Land Bank
- The National Agricultural Marketing Council
- Onderstepoort Biological Products
- The Perishable Products Export Control Board
- Ncera Farms

Regular meetings were held and various issues pertaining to the public entities were discussed and addressed. Annual reports of all the public entities were presented to Parliament.

In total, 47 questions pertaining to agriculture asked in Parliament were satisfactorily answered. An additional nine questions were asked for reply by both the Departments of Agriculture and of Land Affairs.



cecilia sillilo-tshishonga
chief of staff



The Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs, Ms Thoko Didiza, and Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, cut a ribbon to launch the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in South Africa



The Minister travelled extensively during the period under review and undertook 12 visits to the following foreign countries:

Nigeria	14–18 July 2003	Participating in the 6 th Biennial Leon H Sullivan Summit
Tanzania	19–26 August 2003	Attend a SADC Council of Minister’s meeting
Brazil	5 September 2003	Accompany Minister Erwin of the Department of Trade and Industry to a preparatory meeting for the Cancun visit
Lesotho	22–23 September 2003	Consolidate and strengthen regional ties with South Africa’s African counterparts (African footprints)
Mexico	10–14 September 2003	Attend the 5 th World Trade Organisation’s ministerial meeting
Botswana	25 September 2003	Launch of the Minister’s SADC appeal for assistance in the control of foot-and-mouth disease
India	13–19 October 2003	Accompany the President on a State Visit to India
United Kingdom	24–26 October 2003	Attend Solidarity Conference entitled “A decade of freedom—the decade ahead.”
Italy	26 November to 10 December 2003	Attend the 32 nd Food and Agriculture Organization’s council meeting and the preceding council meeting
Brazil	11–12 December 2003	Attend the G20 Ministerial meeting
Democratic Republic of Congo	4–8 January 2004	Participate in bilateral communication as part of a presidential delegation
Libya	9–11 February 2004	Participation in deliberations of the African Union extraordinary summit on water, agriculture and energy



Ms Thoko Didiza, South African Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs and her Mozambican counterpart, Mr Helder Muteia, at a one-day Agricultural Investor Conference between South Africa and Mozambique held in Maputo (March 2004)