



# **SJRP Draft**

Agriculture Value Chain

# Introduction to SJRP

- **Purpose of the Agriculture SJRP:**

- Mandated by the *National Climate Change Response White Paper* to protect vulnerable groups from climate-related job and livelihood risks.
- The proposed SJRP for the agricultural value chain is designed to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable groups in the sector, particularly farmworkers, small-scale farmers and household gardeners in historic labour-sending regions
- **5 strategic areas:**
  - Institutional drivers
  - Climate adaptation
  - Economic diversification
  - Active Labour Market Policies
  - Social Protection

# Background

- Agriculture contributes to food security, employment, and rural development.
  - Sector employs ~840,000 workers; many are seasonal and vulnerable.
    - Employment largely in Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal
  - In 2024, agriculture generated ~50% of agro-industrial Gross Value Added (GVA).
    - Western Cape + KwaZulu-Natal accounted for 40% of national agricultural value added.
- In 2024, 17% of households participated in agriculture - highest in Limpopo (36%), Eastern Cape (32%), Mpumalanga (32%).
  - Most activities are backyard gardening
- Sector shaped by historical suppression of African agriculture, resulting in a dual system
  - Globally competitive commercial-industrial agriculture, vs. marginalised household production, especially in historic labour-sending regions.
  - Small-scale farmers face constraints in land, irrigation, infrastructure, markets, and training.

# Vulnerable groups in Agriculture: NEVA

- Farmworkers
  - **High climate-related job loss risk** (droughts, heat stress, farm closures).
  - **Very low earnings & savings** → weak ability to absorb shocks.
  - **Housing tied to employment** → job loss may mean eviction.
  - **Low skills & education** limit transition to other work.
  - **Social and geographic isolation** reduces access to services and rights.
  - **Very low unionisation** and high reliance on temporary/seasonal work
- Farmers and Gardening households in historic labour-sending regions
  - **High risk of food insecurity** from crop failure and water shortages.
  - **Low incomes** & weak adaptive capacity (median wages often < R4 000).
  - **High grant dependence** and low employment levels.
  - **Poor-quality assets:** traditional dwellings, limited services, little access to farmland/irrigation.
  - **Severe land pressures:** overcrowding and land degradation widely reported.
  - **Minimal protection** from climate shocks despite home ownership.

# SJRP Institutional Drivers Proposal

- **SJRP Working/Steering group**

- **Main tasks:** Develop an Agriculture Sector Adaptation Strategy/Plan (CC Act 22 of 2024), which includes an Agriculture SJRP
- **Who:** NDOA, DFFE
  - PCC to act as advisory body
- **Purpose:** Oversight, coordination, communication, alignment

- **Provincial level platform**

- Agri-SJRP to be coordinated and implemented at provincial level, using existing Provincial/ Premier's Intergovernmental Forum
- A dedicated SJRP task team/working group?
- **Purpose:** Coordinate, implementation and oversight
- **Who:** Provincial departments of agriculture, employment and labour, rural development, organised business and organised labour

# Climate Adaptation Proposal

- **Sector Adaptation Strategy include:**

- An evaluation of existing initiatives by crop, producers and location to identify possible weaknesses in climate change adaptation support structures and strategies at provincial level
- **Who:** NDOA, DFFE
- **Task:** Evaluate, collaborate with research institutions, private sector and focus on diffusion of knowledge and technologies

**NB!** In drought-stricken and flood prone regions, where farms have been affected the most

- **Supporting Actions:**

- Evaluate early warning systems and climate data weakness, inefficiencies
- Increased collaborative efforts between SAWS and ARC
- Evaluate water efficiency, especially constraints faced by small-scale farmers, irrigation issues, access
- Community-based adaptation for households in historic labour-sending regions – dealing with food security through technical, financial support
  - Tailored to community-specific challenges

# Economic Diversification Proposal

- **Evaluate options to assist farm town economies to diversify**, especially farm towns in Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State
- **Who:** NDOA, provincial government departments, the dtic
- **Task:** Asses available on-farm and off farm activities such as agritourism, crop switching or crop diversification\*
  - Agritourism and crop diversification and/or crop switching will be context specific
- Economic diversification in these regions will have to be realistic, practical and context specific
  - Consideration needs to be given to the improvement of local infrastructure and logistics in remote/rural/ “traditional” areas, especially that which can benefit small-scale farmers in these areas.

# Active Labour Market Policies Proposal

- **ALMP tailored to farmworkers**

- However, the effectiveness of ALMPs depends on the existence of real economic opportunities

- **Who:** DEL, NDOA

- **Task:** Conduct needs analysis of farmworkers, especially seasonal workers, on the challenges and opportunities available to ensure that ALMPs are specifically tailored to their circumstances.

- **Supporting Actions:**

- Consideration for possibility of farmworkers through adapting agri-support schemes to include climate-related grant for farmers
- Trade union service centres in farming communities

- ALMP proposals should include measures that strengthen worker protection and support transitions into sustainable employment. This includes:

- Encouraging farmworker unionisation by supporting service organisations that protect workers' rights and help safeguard fair labour practices.
- Planning for potential relocation of farmworkers through the Farm Dweller Programme, as climate-related farm closures may increasingly make evictions unavoidable.
- Promote worker ownership of commercial farms wherever practical, given the limited number of agriculture-specific ownership models currently available.
- Supporting transitions into alternative employment through accurate reporting of job losses, relocation assistance, recognition of prior learning, and access to retraining.
- Provide training opportunities that allow workers to move into better-quality jobs or shift into new forms of employment.

# Social Protection Proposal

- **Social protection be considered alongside ALMPs and economic diversification**
- **Who:** DSD, UIF, EPWP, NDOA
- **Task:** Strengthen temporary financial support for farmworkers and households in drought- and flood-affected areas
- **Alternatively:**
  - A system could be introduced that allows grants to be fast-tracked specifically for climate-related events.
    - These reforms must consider the provincial level impacts of climate change and draw on the findings of the proposed climate change adaptation strategy
  - Increasing availability of disaster response insurance through a **parametric insurance system** that is triggered when a pre-condition is met (floods, droughts)

- Supporting Actions:
  - Household and small-scale farmer financial support through temporary climate-related grant, available for full duration of a drought
  - Improve and strengthen grant system to have dedicated climate emergency response system – focus on small-scale farmers



**Thank you**

Michael@tips.org.za