

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT ON 2011/12 BUDGET VOTE INJUCTIONS

Agricultural Mechanization

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) have supported the Department of Agriculture and Rural development with 72 tractor packages. In addition the department supported three projects in Xhariep and Thabo Mofutsanyane with mechanisation.

Agro-processing in partnership with Potato SA

In supporting Agro-processing in partnership with Potato SA, ten (10) Ha of potatoes was planted and will be harvested at the end of March 2012. Water reticulation has been completed (borehole drilled and equipped), security fence for the 55 Ha has been erected, a tractor and sprayer was also bought. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is constructing a potato shed in which potato chips (frozen) will be processed.

Animal handling facilities

The construction of the 14 animal handling facilities at Motheo, Lejweleputswa, Thabo Mofutsanyane and Fezile Dabi have been completed, while construction in Xhariep (Zastron Commonage, Faurismith Commonage and Lismore Farm) will be completed by the end March 2012.

Create Poultry Hubs

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has entered into partnerships to establish poultry hubs. In the first phase the department was concentrating in Thabo Mofutsanyana and Fezile Dabi in partnership with VKB. The implementation of these projects is at an advanced stage.

Dorper Sheep International stud breed project

A Dorper stud "Dorper International" was established in Brandford and three commercial farmers were assisted with Dorper sheep, infrastructure and pasture establishment. The project has also been assisted to flush embryos to assist other farmers. The project was supported with 784 ewes. Twelve (12) permanent job opportunities were created. The area is managed within the quarantine station guidelines to ensure compliance to export requirements.

Eastern Free State dairy cooperatives

The development of dairy industry in Eastern Free State is underway and 20 farmers have been identified as beneficiaries of this initiative. Currently they are being supported with Milking Machines, Milk Tanks, Solar Geysers, Generators and the Renovation of Milking Parlours

Extension Recovery Plan

In enhancing extension and advisory service DAFF has provided support to the department for the implementation of Extension Recovery Plan. In the current financial year eight extension officers have been recruited bringing the total number to 110 since the inception of the plan. Further support includes re-skilling, re-orientation and provision of ICT equipment to all extension officers

Fencing

Thirteen projects were supported with the erection of more than 111 km of fence in total.

Fish Hatchery in Partnership with People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China donated about R45 million to the Republic of South Africa for the construction of the Demonstration Fish Hatchery Center. The project has passed the final construction phase. The Certificate of Completion will be handed over before the end of March 2012. The project is

scheduled to be fully operational in terms of training, breeding and research within the next financial year. To ensure that the Gariiep Fish Hatchery fulfill its mandate effectively the department has initiated the process of implementing 39 fish tanks for production of fingerlings in the following towns Springfontein (13), Koffiefontein (Gotswametsing) (13) and Bethulie (13).

Implement resolutions of the Farm Worker's Summit held in 2010

The department has appointed a farm workers' coordinator to ensure the implementation of the resolutions and there is also a provincial committee delegated with the responsibility to address all concerns related to farm workers and dwellers.

Implementation of Comprehensive Rural Development Program (CRDP)

A Comprehensive Rural Development Program was implemented in Diyatalawa, Jacobsdal and Kgolokoeng. The program was further extended to Thaba Nchu, Steynsrus, Cornelia and other areas. The department began to revitalise and revamp the old infrastructure and created new economic, social, public amenities in villages and small towns. The department developed infrastructure projects in the rural areas of the following towns of which most of the projects have been completed:

- a) Harrismith (Makgolokweng)
- b) Makgolokweng hall
- c) Makgolokweng crèche
- d) Makgolokweng hall fencing
- e) Makgolokweng crèche fencing
- f) Harrismith Diyatalawa
- g) Diyatalawa School
- h) Diyatalawa crèche
- i) Diyatalawa school fencing
- j) Diyatalawa crèche fencing
- k) Thaba Nchu
- l) Thaba Nchu hall
- m) Cornelia
- n) Cornelia Mafube Municipal Hall
- o) Cornelia Ntswanatsatsi community hall
- p) Mafube Municipal Office dwelling No.1
- q) Mafube Municipal Office dwelling No.2
- r) Jagersfontein
- s) Boaramelo Combined School
- t) Itumeleng Community hall (in complete still to do finishing, ceiling, tiling, and painting)
- u) Edenburg
- v) Bethany: Five new school classrooms

Irrigation systems

The installation of Irrigation systems in sixteen projects are in various stages and will be completed by the end March 2012.

Masizakhe projects

The construction of 14 broiler houses has commenced and will be completed by the end of March 2012. Fourteen families will benefit from this initiative.

Nguni cattle breed program

To date eight (8) Livestock farmers have benefited from this scheme and have received more than 96 Nguni cattle. Farm workers/dwellers at Springvale farm also benefited from the Nguni program and

have received 8 Nguni cows and a bull. Meetings were held with partners (IDC, UFS, and CUT) to accelerate the implementation of the program.

Re Kgaba Ka Diratswana (Beautification of gardens)

The program has been rollout at Cornelia, Reitz, Warden, Memel, Vrede, Senekal and Kestell. The starter packets distributed included seeds, wheelbarrows, spades, hosepipes, rakes and watering cans. On the 29 October 2011, The World Food Day was commemorated at Thibella Village, QwaQwa where the community was supported with 2 tractors, implements, seedlings and seed packets. More than 2000 households have benefited from this intervention.

Revitalize apple orchards (75 hectares):

The old apple orchards of about 75 hectares at Diyatalawa were cleared and the new orchard will be established in partnership with NDA.

Sunflower processing - Motheo

A 20% equity share for the eight (8) workers at Vergezoght sunflower processing plant. The project is currently marketing their product to Nationwide Chain Retail Stores.

Thitapoho Dam

The 30 ha irrigation system is being installed and it will be completed by end of March 2012. The farmer has appointed a consultant as part of his own contribution to plan the distillation plant and production.

Training and mentorship

Twenty two mentorship contracts were signed to provide support to two hundred and ninety five (295) farmers. Through this support five hundred and sixty eight (568) farmers have received outsourced accredited training and, a further five hundred and twenty six (526) farmers have received non accredited training from the department.

Wilhemina Agro-processing

Agro-processing at Wilhemina has increased by extending the production by establishing 2 Ha of apples and 1 Ha of cherries under shade nets. A total of eighteen (18) households will benefit from this initiative. This is in addition to the project which is currently processing (drying and packaging) from already existing 6500 peaches peach trees and 2500 cherry trees.