



**Western Cape  
Government**

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**Department of Environmental Affairs  
and Development Planning**

# **GREEN ECONOMY PROJECT SHEETS**

**Date: August 2020**

## GREEN ECONOMY PROJECT SHEET

### PROJECT TITLE

**SMART Agri - The Western Cape Climate Change Response Framework and Implementation Plan for the Agricultural Sector**

### RESPONSIBLE WCG DEPARTMENT(S)

DEA&DP

DoA



### BACKGROUND

The Western Cape Climate Change Response Framework and Implementation Plan for the Agriculture Sector (known as SmartAgri) was developed as a collaborative project between DoA and DEA&DP with UCT-ACDI and its team of experts as service provider to compile the plan. It resulted in several resources for the agricultural sector including the SmartAgri Plan, case studies and regional briefs. The SmartAgri Plan includes six Priority Projects for immediate implementation that will fast track implementation. The set of six projects include both adaptation and mitigation activities that are critical components of creating a resilient agricultural sector in the short- to medium-term, and of beginning the transformative process which is required to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability in the face of continued climate change.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The key achievements are:
- SmartAgri is the most authoritative source of information for the Western Cape agricultural sector on how climate change will affect the future. It is the first sector plan of its kind developed by a team of experts who consulted various levels of the sector in 23 agro-ecological regions of the Western Cape, resulting in concise and grassroots focused plan which was compiled with the input from farmers themselves and other agricultural roleplayers.
- The plan is a roadmap to resilience and its four strategic focus areas have been developed to lead to way to climate smart agriculture and resilience of the sector. It is a sterling example of how government developed a plan and is implementing the plan to the benefit of all involved in the agricultural sector - including commercial and small holder farmers, agri-workers, agri-businesses, etc- in an attempt to secure the food basket of the Western Cape and beyond (regional, global exports, etc.); and how government developed a plan that would make the agricultural sector in the Western Cape more climate change resilient, thereby securing jobs and ensuring economic development.

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- The plan was awarded with the Premier Service Excellence Award (Gold) for the Best implemented project in 2018 and also awarded the Gold Climate Change Award in the 2019 Eco-Logic Awards.
- A radio programme – the first radio series on climate change – Die Kwik Styg – was an outcome of the plan and was developed to create a greater awareness on climate change and specifically the challenges in agriculture. The programme is a finalist in the 2020 Eco-Logic Awards in the category Climate Change.

### FUTURE WORK

Projects in the Smart Agri Plan are currently being implemented. An Evaluation of the implementation of the Smart Agri Plan has also been undertaken in 2019/20 to assess whether the plan was properly designed and relevant, to what extent its outcomes have been achieved after three years of implementation, whether there are indications that the sector is more resilient and how the plan and its implementation can be strengthened.

The evaluation was based on data compiled utilising a mixed-methods approach. Blue North, a specialist consulting practice, concluded the evaluation during March 2020 amidst the COVID-19 challenges and the final report was received at the end of April 2020. Regarding the diagnostic, the evaluation found that the process to develop the SmartAgri Plan was conducted in a systematic and scientifically grounded manner. The diagnostic informing the SmartAgri Plan's development was comprehensive and remains valid. The SmartAgri Plan response framework and implementation plan is found to be a highly relevant, innovative, well-designed, and scientifically robust plan of action for climate change resilience.

Progress with implementation of the projects and activities varied, and while there is clear evidence of the institutionalisation of the plan within WC-DOA and Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (WC-DEA&DP), clear areas remain where this can be strengthened. The assessment of the six priority projects finds that a catalytic effect can be observed primarily at an institutional level for most priority projects, with some achieving sectoral effects. A gap has been the absence of an appropriately resourced operational structure for overseeing and coordinating the implementation of the plan. A detailed assessment of progress highlights successful areas of implementation as well as what may be inhibiting progress and requires refinement going forward. A SWOT analysis of the SmartAgri Plan synthesises the overall findings of the evaluation and informs seven higher-level recommendations.

The seven recommendations arise from the excellent foundation made over the implementation phase; and are formulated in a way that acknowledges the SmartAgri Plan as having its impact at farm level (and the sector) via a series of key role players. As such the recommendations take consideration of this 'ripple effect' from the plan itself, its institutionalisation within WC-DOA and WC-DEA&DP, through the sector role-players engaged in the projects and activities of the plan, and finally at farm level where it finds its ultimate impact.

The next step of the process is to unpack the seven recommendations into a Management Improvement Plan (MIP) focusing on the key areas which should be improved/strengthened as indicated by the evaluation.

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### CONTRIBUTION BY PARTNERS

WCG DOA and DEA&DP partnered to develop the plan, with UCT ACDI and its team of experts appointed as service provider to compile the plan. The plan was developed over 23 agro-ecological regions and included several stakeholder engagements in many regions of the Western Cape.

### CONTACT INFO

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.greenagri.org.za/smartagri-2/about/>

<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/energy-security-game-changer/news/cutting-carbon-cutting-energy-journey-backsberg>

<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/energy-security-game-changer/news/hydropower-l-ormarins>

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### Acronyms and links to Western Cape Government Departments

DoA	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture</a>
DoCS	<a href="#">Department of Community Safety</a>
DCAS	<a href="#">Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport</a>
DEDAT	<a href="#">Department of Economic Development and Tourism</a>
DEA&DP	<a href="#">Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning</a>
DoH	<a href="#">Department of Health</a>
DHS	<a href="#">Department of Human Settlements</a>
DLG	<a href="#">Department of Local Government</a>
DoSD	<a href="#">Department of Social Development</a>
DoTPW	<a href="#">Department of Transport and Public Works</a>
DoTP	<a href="#">Department of the Premier</a>
PT	<a href="#">Provincial Treasury</a>
WCED	<a href="#">Western Cape Education Department</a>

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