MINISTER
AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X250, Pretoria, 0001; 20 Steve Biko Street, Pretoria, 0001
Tel.: 012 319 6000; Email: queries@nda.gov.za; Web: www.nda.gov.za

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **02 October 2025**

Media Statement

A NEW ERA FOR ACT 36 – CALL FOR USE OF ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM FOR PESTICIDES

Each year, thousands of pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides, nematicides and rodenticides, amongst others, are sold and used across South Africa. The sale and use of these products is strictly regulated under the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). Key regulatory activities of the Department of Agriculture (DoA) include assessing and registering pesticides, issuing and managing permits, monitoring compliance with registrations, and investigating suspected cases of non-compliance, traditionally implemented through a lengthy paper-based process.

In December 2023, the department launched the online application system for the pesticides leg of agricultural inputs that allows applicants to submit applications electronically. Over the past 18 months, the department has conducted training sessions and piloted the system with industry stakeholders. This engagement assisted the sector for the transition and to ensure a smooth rollout. The system now enables applicants to:

- Submit applications and register their products online;
- Track the status of applications in real time and provide feedback to the applicant; and
- The system will also generate reports like lists of registered pesticides for the applicant and general public to view.

Going Digital

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, welcomed the rollout of the system as a milestone in modernising agricultural governance. “Previously, applicants had to travel to DoA offices to file paperwork manually, a lengthy and often frustrating process. By going

digital, the department is eliminating unnecessary delays and creating a “fast lane” for companies that comply with requirements from the start, the minister said.
Applicants will have real-time information on the status of their application. The online system is already live, and applicants are strongly encouraged to start making use of it.

The department cautions applicants that it will no longer accept manual applications for pesticides from 1 April 2026.

The minister highlighted that automating the Agricultural Inputs Control System is a crucial step towards efficiency, accountability and transparency. “In today’s fast-paced world, both Government and industry must embrace innovation to remain competitive. This system will not only improve service delivery, but also ensure that compliant applicants are processed quickly while non-compliant applications are identified upfront,” the minister said.

He added that it requires the pesticides industry and the department to work together to leverage the benefits the system offers. The rollout will begin with pesticides and expand to other regulated agricultural inputs over time. The department is confident that the new system will significantly improve turnaround times, strengthen compliance, and build greater trust between industry and Government.

End.

For media enquiries, please contact:
Ms Joylene van Wyk
Director: Media Liaison Ministry
Cell: 083 292 7399
Email: Joylenev@nda.gov.za

Issued by: The Ministry of Agriculture