



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Private Bag X833, Pretoria, 0001; 600 Lilian Ngoyi Street Tel: 012 312 8264; Email: LPage@dalrrd.gov.za ;
Web: www.dalrrd.gov.za

Media release

4 April 2024

**THE DEPARTMENT REACTS TO THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON THE
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is assessing the severity of the El-Nino-induced drought and its impact on crop yields the financial status of farmers in the country. The recent Crop Estimates Committee's report shows that South Africa's 2023/24 summer grains and oilseed production could fall by 21% year-on-year to 15,2 million tonnes.

Despite the drop in summer grains and oilseed production, 15,2 million tonnes will still be sufficient for South Africa's domestic needs, however, neighbouring countries in the region have been hit hard and may experience food insecurity.

There are also emerging animal feed challenges for livestock farmers. Fortunately, however, the supplies of fruit and vegetables are sufficient, and prices should be moderate in the near future.

The department has also briefed the Cabinet about the difficulties presented by the drought and some measures are being considered to mitigate the impact and ensure business continuity for farmers.

The minister will soon meet with leaders of organised agricultural associations, relevant departments, and Agriculture MECs from all provinces, to assess the full impact of the drought. The outcome of these engagements will help to refine the government's response and approach to the drought.

-END-

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

• **Media Liaison Officer and Spokesperson: Mr Reggie Ngcobo, 0662980980 or MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za**

• **Eviction Toll-free Number 0800 007 095**

Follow us on:



@DALRRDgov_ZA,



Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development or



DALRRDgov_ZA

