

FETSA TLALA

INTEGRATED FOOD PRODUCTION

2013/14

Food Security and Agrarian Reform

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

2014

Published by

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Directorate: Communication Services
Private Bag X144, Pretoria 0001

ISBN 978-1-86871-395-0

CONTENT

ACRONYMS.....	v
FOREWORD BY MINISTER: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES	vii
FOREWORD BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES	ix
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. BACKGROUND.....	1
3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT.....	1
4. FETSA TLALA TARGETS FOR 2013/14 PLANTING SEASON	1
5. PLANTING PROGRESS TO DATE	2
6. DISCUSSION	4
6.1 Summary of ha planted	4
6.2 Analysis of performance per province	5
6.2.1 <i>Free State</i>	5
6.2.2 <i>Gauteng</i>	6
6.2.3 <i>Western Cape</i>	6
6.2.4 <i>Eastern Cape</i>	7
6.2.5 <i>Limpopo</i>	7
6.2.6 <i>Mpumalanga</i>	7
6.2.7 <i>Northern Cape</i>	8
6.2.8 <i>KwaZulu-Natal</i>	8
6.2.9 <i>North West</i>	9
7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION APPROACH	9
8. CHALLENGES	9
7.1 Inclement weather	9
7.2 Funding mechanisms	10
7.3 Reporting.....	10
7.4 Supply and Demand.....	10
7.5 Land fertility	10
7.6 Fencing.....	10
8. CONCLUSION	10
9. RECOMMENDATIONS	11
9.1 Inclement weather	11
9.2 Funding mechanisms	11
9.3 Reporting.....	11
9.4 Supply and Demand.....	11
9.5 Land fertility	11
9.6 Fencing.....	11

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Fetsa Tlala annual targets per province	2
Table 2 Free State provincial performance against annual target.....	2
Table 3 Gauteng provincial performance against annual target.....	2
Table 4 Western Cape provincial performance against annual target.....	2
Table 5 Eastern Cape provincial performance against annual target	3
Table 6 Limpopo provincial performance against annual target.....	3
Table 7 North West provincial performance against annual target.....	3
Table 8 Mpumalanga provincial performance against annual target.....	3
Table 9 Kwa-Zulu Natal provincial performance against annual target.....	3
Table 10 Northern Cape provincial performance against annual target	4
Table 11 Summary of performance per province	4
Table 12 Total area planted per commodities	5
Table 13 Total area planted per commodities	9

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Summary off Ha planted per province.....	4
Figure 2a Area planted per commodity	5
Figure 2b Area planted per district	5
Figure 3a Area planted per commodity	6
Figure 3b Area planted per district	6
Figure 4a Area planted per commodity	6
Figure 4b Area planted per district	6
Figure 5 Area planted per district	7
Figure 6a Area planted per commodity	7
Figure 6b Area planted per district	7
Figure 7a Area planted per commodity	7
Figure 7b Area planted per district	7
Figure 8a Area planted per commodity	8
Figure 8b Area planted per district	8
Figure 9a Area planted per commodity	8
Figure 9b Area planted per district	8
Figure 10 Area planted per commodity	9

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CASP	–	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
DAFF	–	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DDG	–	Deputy Director-General
DoRA	–	Division of Revenue Act
GHS	–	General Household Survey
ha	–	Hectare
IFSS	–	Integrated Food Security Strategy
MEC	–	Member of Executive Council
WFP	–	World Food Programme

FOREWORD BY MINISTER: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Less than a quarter of households (18.1%) are involved in agricultural production (GHS, 2012). Urbanisation and the decline in household agricultural production have transformed South Africa into a wage economy, where most households are net consumers of purchased food rather than producers thereof. Access to food has therefore become a function of household cash income, resulting in cash-deficit households being more likely to experience inadequate access to food.

According to the 2012 General Household Survey by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), about 13.6 million individuals (26.1%) of the South African population had inadequate or severely inadequate access to food. Households continue to face a wide spectrum of developmental issues such as poverty, increasing food prices, unemployment, inadequate safety nets, unstable food production and these increase their vulnerability to food insecurity. The cost of basic food basket increased by about 4.1% year-on-year (April 2013 and April 2014) from R456 to R475 in nominal terms (NAMC, 2014). Unemployment rate also increased from 25,0% to 25,2% between January 2013 and January 2014 (Stats SA, 2014). The impact of global economic volatility and changing weather patterns as a result of climate variability further pose a risk to South Africa's food security status.

In response to these challenges, the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security together with Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative were approved by Cabinet in September 2013 to address the food security challenges. The strategic goal of the National Policy is to ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of safe and nutritious food at national and household levels. The Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative seeks to put 1 million hectares of under-utilised agricultural land in communal areas and land reform farms back to production.

It gives me great pleasure to report that following the successful launch of the Fetsa Tlala Initiative by His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma in October 2013, over 154 000 hectares of fallow land were placed under production during the 2013/14 season. This is a significant milestone towards achieving vision 2030 – increasing food production to increase food security. This achievement will steadily continue to increase in line with our commitment to the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) to realise the objectives of Outcome 7 (vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all). During 2013/14 production season, Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Ilima/Letsema remained key funding delivery vehicles for the Initiative.

I am pleased to report the performance of this Flagship Programme in the backdrop of the African Union Commission's declaration of 2014 as a Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa. In this respect, the department will accelerate support programmes and continue on a path to forge partnerships with private sector and other relevant stakeholders to maintain the upward trajectory of the Initiative in the 2014/15 production as South Africa's contribution to the Continental celebration of the Year of Agriculture and Food Security.

.....

Mr S. Zokwana (MP)

MINISTER: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Date:

FOREWORD BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Households face a wide spectrum of developmental issues such as poverty, increasing food prices, unemployment, inadequate safety nets, unstable household food production and these increase their vulnerability to food insecurity. Urbanisation and declining agrarian activities in significant parts of the country have transformed the South African economy into a wage economy, in which most households are net consumers of purchased food, rather than producers thereof. Less than a quarter (18%) of households in South Africa are involved in agricultural activities. Access to food has therefore become a function of household cash income, resulting in cash-deficit households more likely to experience inadequate access to food.

The country continues to seek ways of unlocking poverty traps and providing meaningful ways to uplift all citizens to a state of much stronger resilience. The National Development Plan (NDP) sets out targets to eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment and eliminate inequality by 2030. The NDP identifies food and nutrition security as a key element for vision 2030. In light of the importance of food and nutrition security in the NDP and the approval of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security, this implementation plan represents practical plans towards realising the policy goal by 2030.

The multisectoral, multidimensional and multidisciplinary nature of the policy requires implementation in the broader context of developmental agenda of government as informed by the NDP by diligently forging synergies and collaborations within government and private sector partners. The envisioned food security ideal is to facilitate the salience and forward the diversified stakeholders for a common good. These will include addressing fundamental challenges of escalation of commodity prizes, unstable household food production, diversification of sources of income, expansion of social protection, access to education, water, land, electricity and sanitation.

As an area of convergence, food and nutrition security players need to claim the space to counter the effects of high food prices and stave off starvation through families planting their own food gardens. The challenge facing the department borders on how the country could move farmers from conditions of utter destitution to becoming formidable players in primary food production and the entire agricultural value chain.



.....
Edith Vries

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Date:

1. INTRODUCTION

While the state continues to champion the hopes of many, scores of people (13,6 million) still suffer debilitating food insecurity in South Africa. Poverty eradication is not something that government can do for the poor on its own, however partnering can help promote conditions in which the poor can use their own skills to work their way out of poverty. The widespread hunger prevailing in the country is not because of the non-availability of food in the market place, but on account of general lack of sufficient purchasing power among the rural and urban poor owing to insufficient opportunities for gainful employment. In most cases, agriculture is the major source of employment and income in rural areas. In this context, the agricultural sector assumes a more significant role as a job creation engine than just being the source of food. Therefore, importing food would have the unintended undesirable outcome of promoting rural joblessness. Therefore, food security has to be viewed in the contexts of food production, job creation and income generation.

While food insecurity challenges are staggering, particular attention should be accorded to producing more food, a thrust of Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative. Putting 1 million hectares under food production requires substantial infusion of capital to have a visible impact while working toward the 2030 vision of eradicating hunger. Whatever the magnitude of investment, it will be prudent to make conscious decisions in improving current declining production levels.

An overriding significant question begging for answers is whether food production would remain higher than the population growth rate going into the future. Food production must increase substantially if the country is to be self-sufficient and meet its food requirements. Therefore, yield increases through Fetsa Tlala would be the mainstay of realising the projected food grain demands of the country. Therefore, while projecting the need to produce more food grains to meet the additional requirements in the country, it is also important to consider the technological needs of agriculture and the conservation of the ecological base for sustained agricultural production.

2. BACKGROUND

Food and nutrition security is a socio-political and economic issue, thus food security equals national security. Political decisions determine the status of the nation's food security. Within a South African context, the right to have access to sufficient and safe food is enshrined in the Constitution (Constitution, 1996:2) of the country. In line with this legislative imperative, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) developed and implemented the Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS) in 2002 as a baseline to ensure streamlined, harmonised and integrated diverse food security programmes. Some successes have been recorded in different priority areas of the strategy, therefore South Africa is currently boasting national food sufficiency through a combination of own production and food imports.

The General Household Survey (GHS) has also indicated that the food access index has improved and the incidence of hunger has declined although approximately 26% (13,6 million) of the population still suffers food insecurity. Household food security is threatened by globalisation, international trade regimes, climate change and the poor storage and distribution of food. Without coordinated interventions, increasing numbers of the population may experience inadequate access to food and many more failing to derive benefits from proper nutrition. In addition, the global economic slowdown, increased food price volatility and the impact of climate change have compelled a review of the IFSS and the development of a comprehensive National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security.

On 11 September 2013, Cabinet approved the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security, together with the Household Food and Nutrition Security Strategy and the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative to facilitate a policy system which ensures that "we have food on their table". The Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative is aimed at implementing the food production pillar of the National Policy to maximise cultivation of food by putting 1 million hectares of land under production. Government and the Institutional Food Procurement Programme under Fetsa Tlala constitute the major thrust of the initiative for smallholder producers to tap into both national (e.g. giant local retailers) and international (e.g. WFP) markets.

3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has taken a stand to divert 70% of the CASP and Ilima/Letsema conditional grants towards food production initiatives. This is aimed at increasing food production and making staple food accessible, affordable and available for the impoverished South Africans.

The purpose of the report is to inform the sector of the performance of Fetsa Tlala in terms of targeted hectares against actual hectares planted for the 2013/14 planting season. The aim is to increase food production and reduce food insecurity. This serves as a basis for poverty alleviation by reducing the cost of basic food and creating employment for the otherwise unemployed by building a stable and vibrant socio-economy in South Africa.

4. FETSA TLALA TARGETS FOR THE 2013/14 PLANTING SEASON

In the 2013/14 financial year, government anticipated to put at least over 104 312 hectares of land under crop production. In this respect, government invested a total of R803 million from CASP to ensure that this minimum target is realised. It is estimated that just over 59 000 households benefited directly from this investment.

In the main, provinces have exploited off-take agreements, although there are still piecemeal arrangements with other informal opportunities such as selling to local communities. These include off-take agreements clinched with retail grocery shops and processing plants. The 2013/14 season saw most smallholders securing market deals with the World Food Programme (WFP), where consignments found their way to Lesotho as a crisis intervention to alleviate potential famine in the neighbouring country. This market opportunity is not fully defined yet or conceptualised to cater beyond Lesotho. A marketing plan should be devised to formalise and optimise these off-take agreements.

Table 1 below, illustrates the breakdown of targeted hectares, households, institutional gardens and the beneficiaries per province. In this regard, provinces submitted reports weekly against these targets.

TABLE 1: Fetsa Tlala annual targets per province

Province	Households targeted	Schools targeted	Community gardens targeted	Small holders targeted	Hectares targeted to be planted
Eastern Cape	12,568	0	0	4,755	13,415
Free State	6,114	0	0	487	2,430
Gauteng	12,000	0	60	49	2,045
KwaZulu-Natal	7,082	0	0	6,322	10,952
Limpopo	2,958	0	0	2,212	26,691
Mpumalanga	15,005	193	0	17,880	27,208
Northern Cape	388	0	0	1,379	1,055
North West	995	0	0	4,296	20,014
Western Cape	1,895	0	142	95	447
Total	59,005	193	202	37,475	104,257

5. PLANTING PROGRESS TO DATE

Tables 2 to 10 demonstrate the progress to date disaggregated at a district level per province. The commodities planted by provinces vary owing to their unique production potential as dictated by climatic variables.

TABLE 2: Free State provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity			
			Maize	Beans	Vegetables	Sunflower
Thabo-Mofutsanyane	2 430	2 015	920	975	22	98
Mangaung Metro		427	292	130	5	–
Fezile Dabi		119	50	–	19	50
Lejweleputsa		2 015	967	40	12	996
Xhariep		410	380	–	30	–
Total		4 986	1341	615	86	996

TABLE 3: Gauteng provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity		
			Maize	Beans	Vegetables
Tshwane Metro	2 045	1 369,0	1 129,0	240	–
Sedibeng		1 092,0	720,0	340	32
Ekurhuleni		–	–	–	–
West Rand		308,5	308,5	–	–
JHB Metro		80,0	80,0	–	–
Total		2 849,5	2 237,5	580	32

TABLE 4: Western Cape provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity		
			Fruit	Vegetables	Grains
West Coast	447	450	50	70	330
Overberg		233	51	18	164
Eden		20	–	20	–
Cape Town Metro		38	–	38	–
Central Karoo		–	–	–	–
Cape Wine lands		96	57	39	–
Total		837	158	185	494

TABLE 5: Eastern Cape provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity
			Maize
Chris Hani	13 415	2 381	2 381
Joe Gqabi		823	823
OR Tambo		1 035	1 035
Alfred Nzo		1 705	1 705
Cacadu		–	–
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro		–	–
Amathole		924	924
Buffalo City		–	–
Western		217	217
Total			6 579

TABLE 6: Limpopo provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity				
			Maize	Beans	Sorghum	Sunflower	Vegetables
Waterberg	26 691	2 774	1 800	470	–	500	4
Capricorn		11 555	10 436	731	388	–	–
Sekhukhune		20 277	11 582	1 228	7 319	–	148
Vhembe		14 134	8 704	–	3 560	–	1 870
Mopani		3 230	3 090	140	–	–	–
Total			51 970	35612	2 569	11 267	500

TABLE 7: North West provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity							
			Maize	Sunflower	Wheat	Grain sorghum	Soya beans	Ground-nuts	Dry beans	Vegetables
Bojanala	20 014	10 164	24	11 520	45	0	0	1	1	9
Dr Kenneth Kaunda		3 045	1 649	1 240	–	100	6	0	50	–
Dr R Segomotsi-Mompoti		173	–	–	–	–	–	173	–	–
Ngaka Modiri-Molema		13 785	4 454	9 103	–	250	–	–	–	–
Total			27 167	6 127	21 863	45	350	6	174	51

TABLE 8: Mpumalanga provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity			
			Maize	Beans	Sunflower	Vegetables
Nkangala	27 208	12 221	6 111	3 495	843	1 772
Gert Sibande		23 188	11 594	6 632	1 600	3 362
Ehlanzeni		8 560	4 878	2 439	–	1 243
Total		43 969	22 583	12 566	2 443	6 377

TABLE 9: KwaZulu-Natal provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity	
			Maize	Beans
Zulu Land	10 952	1 865		
Uthungulu		2 454		
Ilembe		191		
eThekweni Metro		301		
Amajuba		1 181		
Sisonke		2 693		
Ugu		541		
uMgungundlovu		677		
Umkhanyakude		740		
Umzinyathi		879		
Uthukela		3 151		
Total		14 673	11 978	2 695

TABLE 10: Northern Cape provincial performance against annual target

District	Targeted ha	Actual ha planted	Number of ha planted per commodity						
			Rooibos	Dates	Vegetables	Maize	Beans	Grapes	Groundnuts
Francis Baard	1 109,5	677	-	-	8	500	83	-	86
John Taolo-Gaetsewe		34	-	-	32	2	-	-	-
Pixley Kaseme		154	-	-	0,15	154	-	-	-
Namakwa		303	100	40	3	120	40	-	-
ZF Mgcau		12	-	-	-	-	-	11,6	-
Total		1 180	100	40	43,15	776	123	11,6	86

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary of hectares planted

The general performance (see table 11 and fig. 1 below) paints a positive picture of the planting season. The weather forecast predicted a generally poor season across all provinces. Up to the end of March 2014, a total of approximately 154 211 hectares have been planted to many types of commodities ranging from maize, beans, sunflower, grain sorghum, groundnuts, vegetables and fruit. This performance has been achieved owing to outstanding performance from Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng, North West, Northern Cape and Free State provinces despite the delays attributed to torrential heavy rainfalls leading to isolated flooding and general lack of maintenance of the fleet of tractors. There has been a slow movement in the Eastern Cape, holding the planting season on the back foot by almost 8 000 ha, which could have improved the performance to 151%.

Notwithstanding widespread torrential rainfall experienced in all provinces, some provinces still grappled with pockets of drought incidents and slow onset of the planting season which delayed cultivation. There were also sporadic occurrences of flooding that may have roll back potential yields.

All provinces, with the exception of Western Cape, have planted cereals and other crops for the 2013/14 planting season. The Western Cape and some areas in the Northern Cape (in the Karoo) are winter rainfall areas, therefore grains are not planted in large quantities. The hectares planted to date are summarised in the following table:

TABLE 11: Summary of performance per province

Province	Targeted ha	Actual ha	% Achieved	Comment	Difference ha
Free State	2430	4 986	205	Over achievement	2 556
Gauteng	2045	2 850	139	Over achievement	805
Western Cape	447	837	187	Over achievement	390
Eastern Cape	13 415	6 579	49	Over achievement	-6 836
Limpopo	26 691	51 970	147	Over achievement	25 279
North West	20 014	27 167	136	Over achievement	7 153
Mpumalanga	27 208	43969	162	Over achievement	16 761
KwaZulu-Natal	10 952	14 673	140	Good achievement	3 721
Northern Cape	1 110	1 180	106	Over achievement	70
Total	104 312	154 211	148	Over achievement	45130

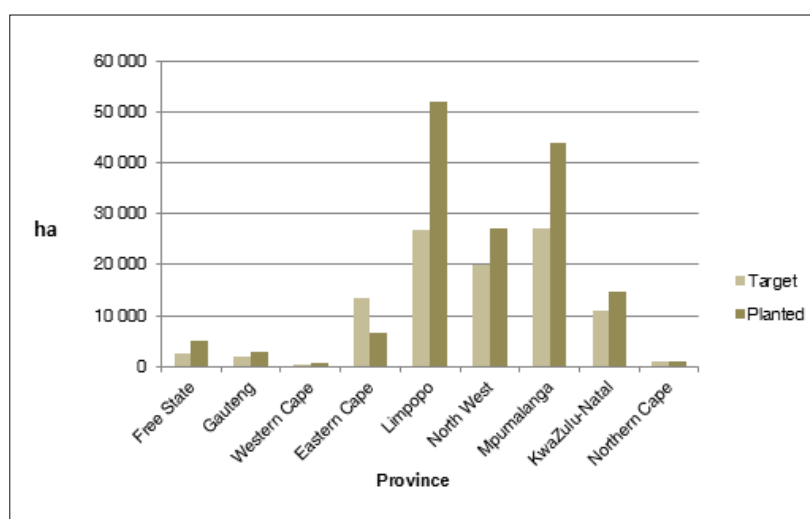


FIG. 1 Summary of ha planted per province

Fig. 1 and table 11 represented above, depict a picture of total national delivery of hectares disaggregated per province. Mpumalanga and Limpopo posted a significant 43 969 ha and 51 970 ha, respectively, representing 92% of the total national target. Moreover, Limpopo and Mpumalanga's performances surpassed their respective provincial annual targets by a massive 25 279 ha and 16 761 ha, respectively. The aggressive strategies adopted in Mpumalanga and Limpopo could be replicated in other provinces, this would be a perfect example and contribute favourably to Fetsa Tlala. These provinces' prioritisation of maize (22 583 ha) and beans (12 566 ha) augurs well with Fetsa Tlala for the production of cereals to promote food security. Notwithstanding their low annual targets, Gauteng, North West, Northern Cape and Free State also followed suit to over-achieve on their targets, also prioritising maize, beans and sunflower. This is phenomenal performance which holds potential promise for the Fetsa Tlala Initiative going into the future.

Owing to the rural nature of the province, KwaZulu-Natal is steeped in history for reporting large numbers of hectares planted to maize and beans. The province is consistently keeping this momentum. Up to March 2014, the province achieved 140% of their annual target. Western Cape is a winter rainfall areas. Despite the nonalignment of the production season, the Western Cape delivered 837 hectares by leveraging on irrigated hectares.

The Eastern Cape wrestled with a huge deviations (51%) from their targets. This is ascribed to myriad of challenges plaguing delivery of remaining hectares ranging from dysfunctional tractors to inclement weather conditions. Enormous scope still exists for significantly overshooting the national target of 104 312 ha planned in the next planting season.

TABLE 12 Total area planted per commodities

Maize	Sunflower	Beans	Grain sorghum	Vegetables	Groundnuts	Fruit	Wheat
88 749	25 802	19 348	11 617	8 714	260	242	45

All provinces, except Western Cape, planted maize to a total area of 82 747 ha (see table 6.2 above) followed by sunflower on a total area of 25 802 ha. Beans, grain sorghum and vegetables were planted on areas of 18 048 ha, 11 617 and 8 714 ha, respectively. The least planted commodities were groundnuts (260 ha), fruit (242 ha), and wheat (45 ha).

6.2 Analysis of performance per province

6.2.1 Free State

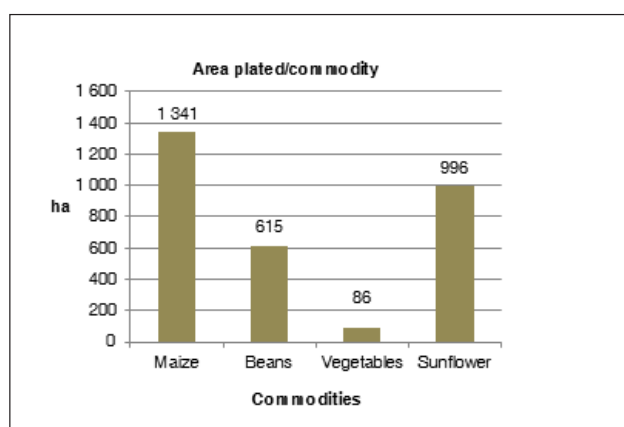


FIG. 2a Area planted per commodity

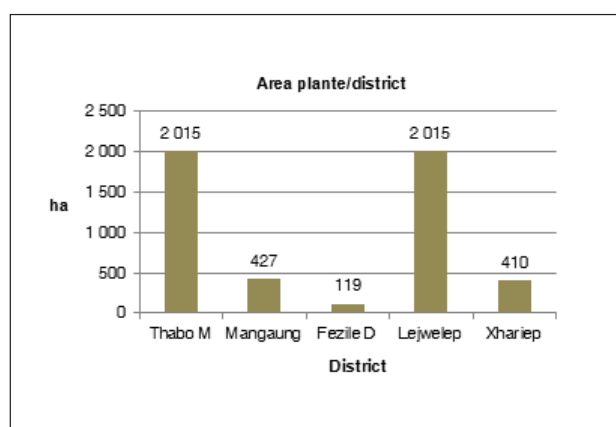


FIG. 2b Area planted per district

As part of the maize belt, the Free State planted 1 341 ha of maize, followed by sunflower with 996 ha and beans at 615 ha. The province has a huge production potential for the three commodities owing to favourable soil and climatic conditions. The lowest area (86 ha) was planted to vegetables.

The largest areas were dedicated to Lejweleputswa (2015 ha) and Thabo Mofutsanyane (2015 ha) District Municipalities of the province. Areas planted in Mangaung Metro (427 ha) and Xhariep (410 ha) districts were fairly similar while Fezile Dabi (119 ha) District registered significantly lower hectares.

6.2.2 Gauteng

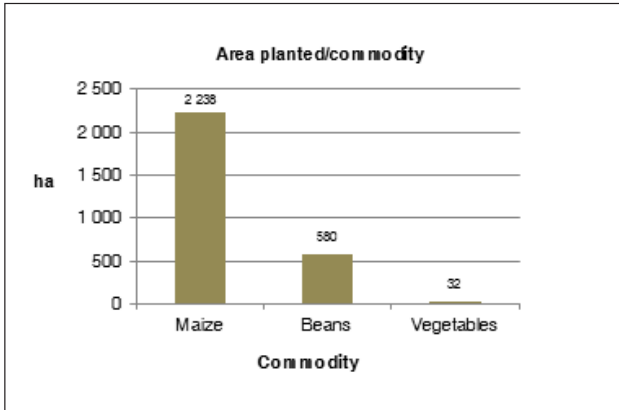


FIG. 3a Area planted per commodity

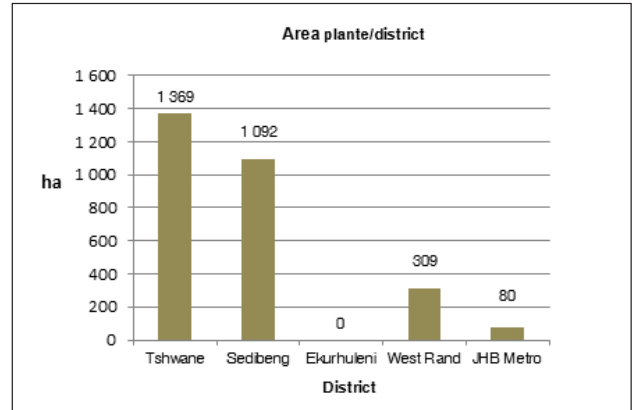


FIG. 3b Area planted per district

Gauteng province, the smallest in spatial terms, dedicated the Fetsa Tlala Initiative to maize, beans and vegetables. Maize (2 238 ha) was by far the most planted commodity relative to beans (580 ha). It is worth noting that Gauteng is also located within the maize belt together with Free State and North West provinces. The urban nature of the province may be a limiting factor for agriculture because a larger proportion of land is occupied by industry, mining and settlements. Vegetables were planted on a meagre of 32 ha.

Tshwane Metro (1 369 ha) and Sedibeng municipalities (1 092 ha) topped the areas planted in relation to the West Rand (309 ha) and Johannesburg Metro (80 ha). There were no planting activities recorded in Ekurhuleni District Municipality (0 ha).

6.2.3 Western Cape

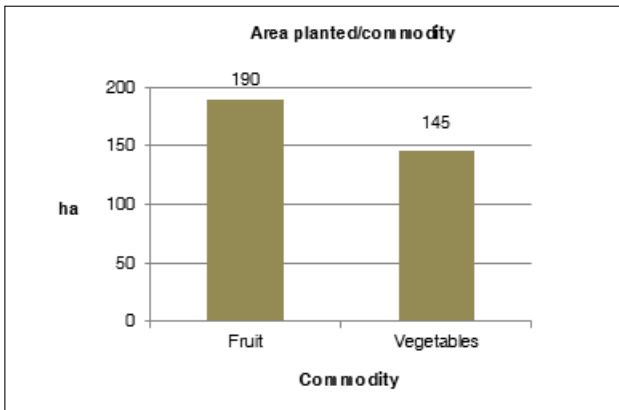


FIG. 4a Area planted per commodity

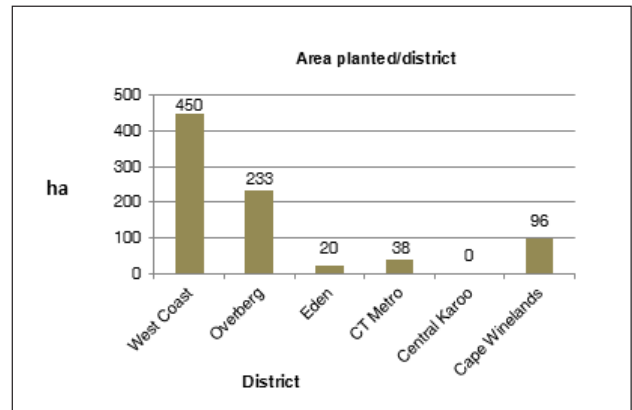


FIG. 4b. Area planted per district

Western Cape Province decided to plant fruit, grains and vegetables as a contribution to the Fetsa Tlala Initiative although the province is not necessarily a cereal-producing area. A total area of 158 ha was dedicated to fruit while vegetables and grains occupied areas of 185 ha and 494 ha, respectively.

West Coast (450 ha) and Overberg (233 ha) districts planted more ha followed by Cape Winelands (96 ha). Cape Town Metro (38 ha) and Eden (20 ha) districts planted less commodities while the Central Karoo (0 ha) did not plant any commodity.

6.2.4 Eastern Cape

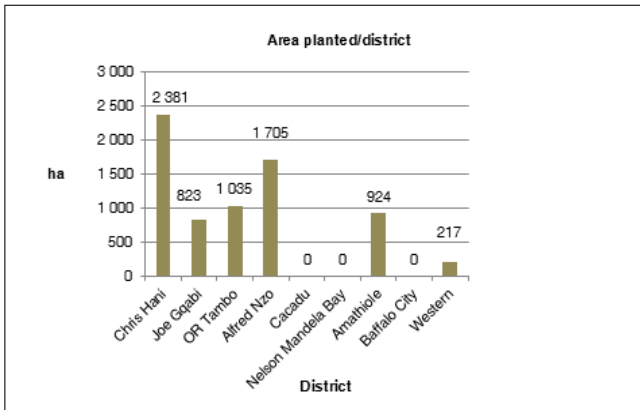


FIG. 5 Area planted per district

The Eastern Cape decided to plant only maize as a contribution to Fetsa Tlala Initiative. The areas planted in Chris Hani (2 381 ha) and Alfred Nzo (1 705 ha) district municipalities were significantly higher than areas planted in OR Tambo (1 035 ha), Amathole (924 ha), and Joe Gqabi (823 ha) districts. The Western District contributed only 217 ha, the lowest in the province. There were no planting activities reported in Cacadu, Buffalo City, and Nelson Mandela Bay municipalities.

6.2.5 Limpopo

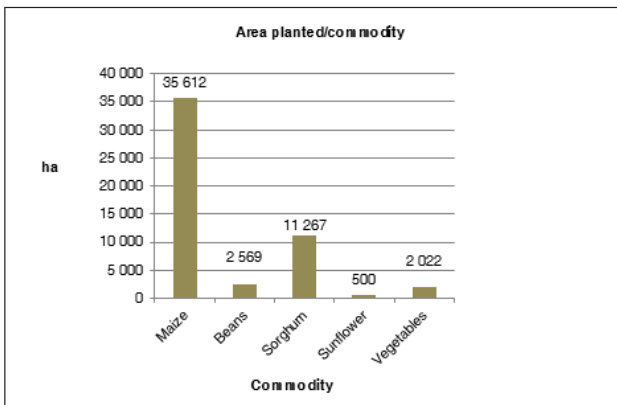


FIG. 6a Area planted per commodity

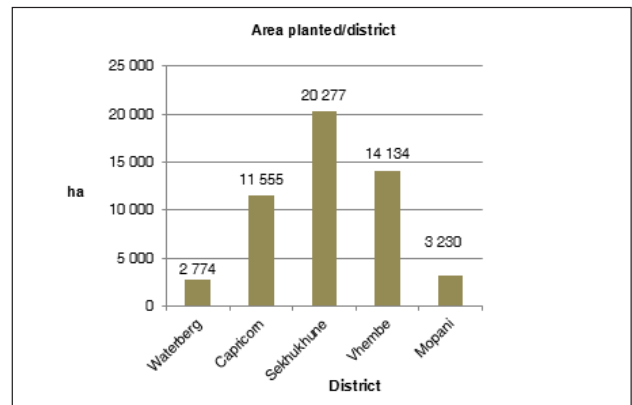


FIG. 6b Area planted per district

A massive area was planted to maize (35 612 ha), grain sorghum (11 267 ha), and beans (2 569 ha). About 2 022 ha and 500 ha of land was planted to vegetables and sunflower, respectively, owing to migratory *Quelea* birds and dove infestations. Limpopo highlighted challenges of dysfunctional tractors which severely affected the planting season. The mechanisation challenges resulted in late planting and in some cases, cultivation activities came to a grinding halt. This challenge went against an instruction from the MEC of Agriculture in the province to plant 70 000 ha for the Fetsa Tlala Initiative.

A major share of planting took place in Sekhukhune (20 277 ha), Capricorn (11 555 ha), and Vhembe (14 134 ha) district municipalities in Limpopo. Although there were looming drought threats as forecasted, the province managed to plant a record total of 51 970 ha, leading the pack by a significant margin. Hectares planted in the Mopani (3 230 ha) and Waterberg (2 774 ha) municipalities were relatively low compared to the other three district municipalities.

6.2.6 Mpumalanga

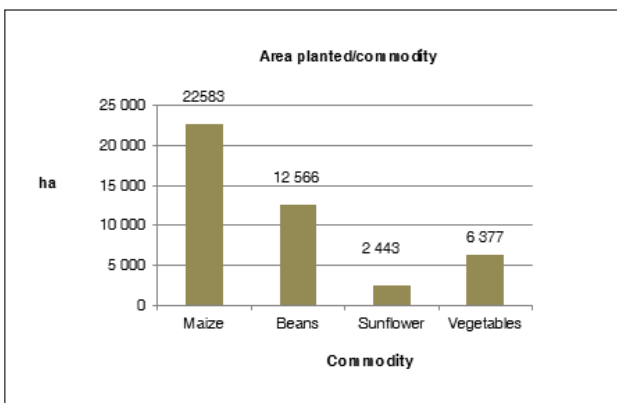


FIG.7a Area planted per commodity

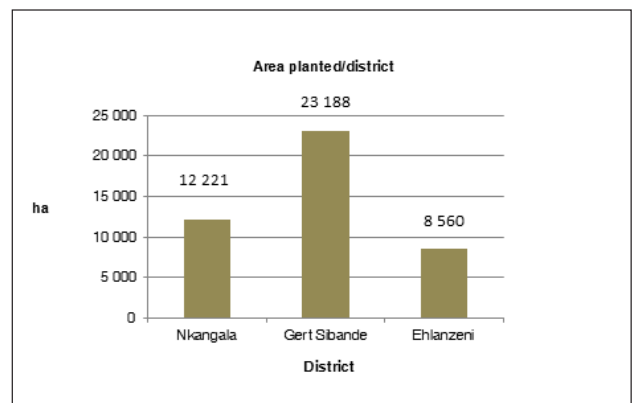


FIG. 7b Area planted per district

A significantly large amount of 22 583 ha of maize was planted in the province followed by an area of 12 566 ha planted to beans. Vegetables (6 377 ha) were also planted on a large area considering the output per area planted. Sunflower (2 443 ha) was planted on a relatively small area in comparison to the three (3) commodities, however, high in terms of inter-provincial hectares planted.

Gert Sibande District Municipality (23 188 ha) saw a significantly larger area planted followed by Nkangala District (12 221 ha). Ehlanzeni District Municipality planted 8 560 ha, still very high compared to other district municipalities in various provinces.

6.2.7 Northern Cape

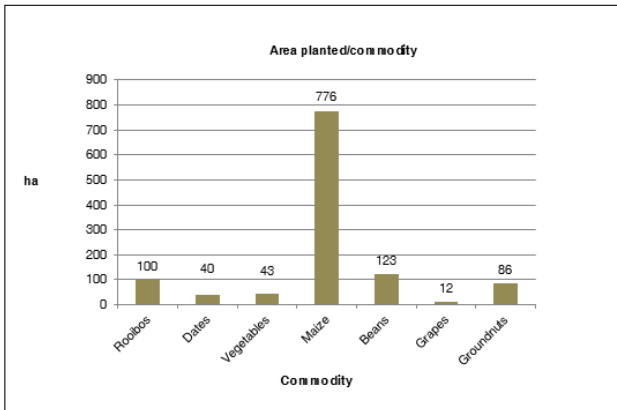


FIG.8a Area planted per commodity

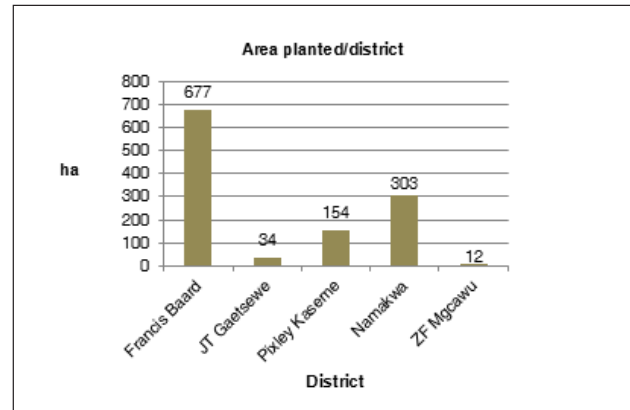


FIG. 8b Area planted per district

Although naturally dry, Northern Cape planted maize (776 ha) on a relatively large area followed by beans (123 ha), rooibos (100 ha) and groundnuts (86 ha) also planted on a reasonable area. There were also smaller pockets of areas planted to dates (40 ha), vegetables (43 ha) and grapes (12 ha).

Francis Baard District Municipality (677 ha) boasted more hectares planted followed by Namakwa (303 ha) and Pixley Kaseme (154 ha). JT Gaetsewe (34 ha) and ZF Mgcawu (12 ha) district municipalities planted the lowest hectares in relation to the latter district municipalities.

6.2.8 KwaZulu-Natal

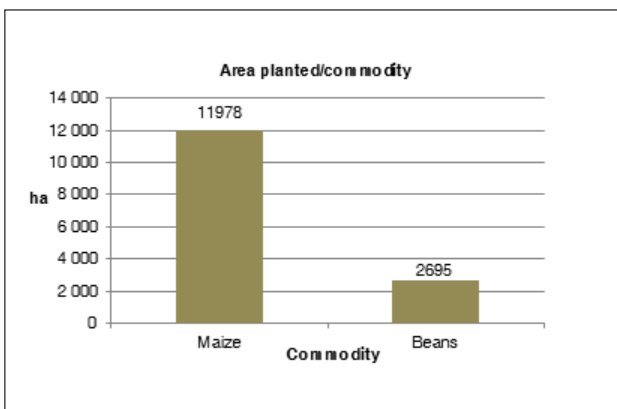


FIG.9a Area planted per commodity

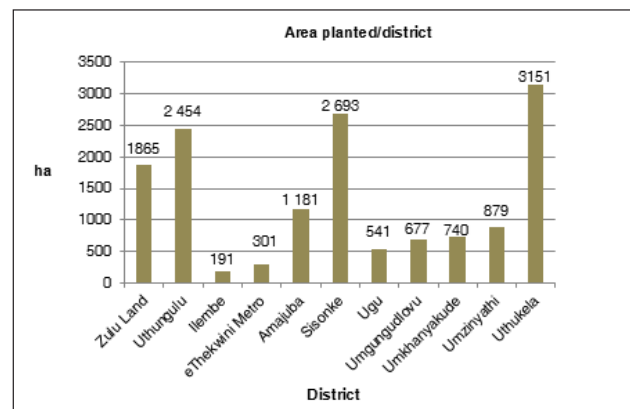


FIG. 9b Area planted per district

KwaZulu-Natal put maize and beans on the top of their priority as a contribution to the Fetsa Tlala Initiative. A total of 11 978 ha and 2 695 hectares were planted to maize and beans, respectively.

Uthukela (3 151 ha), Sisonke (2 693 ha), UThungulu (2 454 ha) and Zulu Land (1 865 ha) district municipalities got the lion's share of the areas planted followed by Amajuba and Umzinyathi with 1 181 ha and 879 ha, respectively. (879 ha), Umkhanyakude (740 ha), uMgungundlovu (677 ha), and Ugu (541 ha) planted fairly the same amount of hectares while the lowest areas were recorded in Ilembe (191 ha) District and eThekweni Metro (301 ha).

6.2.9 North West

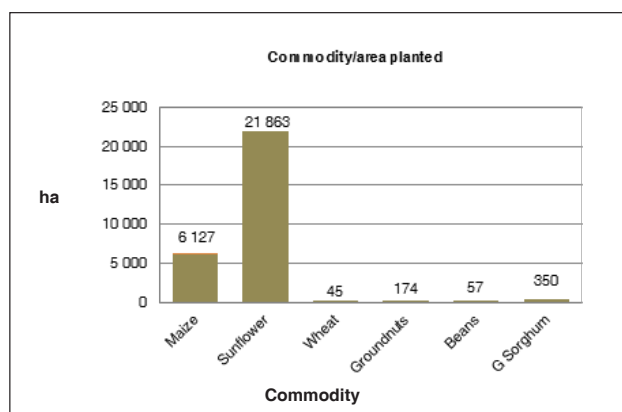


FIG.10 Area planted per commodity

Sunflower (21 863 ha) was the most planted commodity in relation to maize (6 127 ha). Comparatively, maize was just below 28% of the area under sunflower, pointing to the fact that in the North West province, sunflower was at the top of its list of priorities. Groundnuts (174 ha), beans (57 ha), wheat (45 ha), grain sorghum (350) and vegetables (9 ha) were relegated to smaller areas.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION APPROACH

While Fetsa Tlala performance is at an upward trajectory, monitoring will provide the unequivocal indicator for measuring that success. The numbers recorded for the 2013/14 financial year chronicle a good story with great prospects for improvement. To keep tabs on performance of the programme of Fetsa Tlala magnitude will accordingly require a well thought-out strategy to ascertain the true footprint of the programme. Tangible success can be attained by tracking these areas through proper validation and ground-truthing.

Methods that will be employed for monitoring will include geo-referencing of areas using the Global Positioning Systems (GPS). This tool will allow for accurate location and mapping of planted areas. Provinces as well as their respective District Municipalities will be randomly sampled to represent the country's actual status of hectares planted. Projects in Districts which may have a footprint across the province will be used as main anchors of the task to assess the impact of the programme.

The monitoring process will extend beyond the planting period to include the projected yields at the end of the season, which will be conducted on an annual basis. The yield figures will be harmonised with hectares planted to determine the correlation with projections (i.e. number of ha planted compared with actual yields in tonnes/ha). The monitoring process will be gauged against the annual target set for each province each year. At the end of each monitoring process, reports will be compiled and sanctioned by respective Heads of Department (HoDs) in the provinces. Table 13 below tabulates hectares planned for the 2014/15 planting season and the corresponding budget allocations.

TABLE 13 Targeted ha per province

Province	Fetsa Tlala allocation (R'000)	Hectares planned
Eastern Cape	143 233	17 200
Free State	61 502	5 321
Gauteng	10 561	2 265
KwaZulu-Natal	103 500	13 160
Limpopo	59 062	46 175
Mpumalanga	109 446	33 960
Northern Cape	66 650	2 037
North West	46 062	9 015
Western Cape	14 200	640
Total	614 216	129 773

8. CHALLENGES

8.1 Inclement weather

Most areas in all provinces have been plagued by moderate to severe drought conditions especially in some inland and other coastal areas. The inclement weather conditions resulted in the delay of the planting season as a result of drought conditions. Invariably, farmers in other parts of the country have completely lost the season's potential yield as a consequence.

In contrast to the forecast, the country received above-normal rainfall during November, December and parts of January, leading to temporal flooding of crop lands in provinces such as Gauteng, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo. The intense rains have further contributed negatively to farmers' capabilities to service the lands in the current production season.

8.2 Funding mechanisms

Implementation of the Fetsa Tlala Initiative has not been rolled out to its full potential yet, owing to insufficient funding dedicated to the initiative. The current funding model has been confined to CASP and Ilima-Letsema, a conditional grant initially designed to address infrastructural development (90%) and food security (10%) in the provinces. This approach was reviewed to reprioritise 70% of CASP funds to food production to mainstream the Fetsa Tlala Initiative.

It is worth noting that the National Treasury has been engaged in discussions with DAFF for possible funding model and explored other streams of funding for the Initiative. Once funding modalities are finalised, this will eventually allow government to realise the full implementation of the intervention as approved by the Cabinet.

8.3 Reporting

Reporting under CASP and Ilima-Letsema has not been synchronised with the departmental reporting intervals due to Division of Revenue (DoRA) requirements. As a result of the latter, validation and signing off of reports by provincial Heads of Department suffer six (6) week time lag after the end of the reporting period.

There was agreement reached with provincial departments of agriculture to report weekly on progress made for the planting season on Fetsa Tlala at the CASP Quarterly Review Meeting held in December 2013. Most provinces did not report updates regularly as required. In terms of the requirement for DoRA conditional grants, a receiving provincial department has a responsibility to report on performance of the funds transferred by a national entity.

8.4 Supply and demand

Provinces have witnessed a growing interest on Fetsa Tlala from farming communities because of the positive mobilisation conducted by government through Presidential Service Delivery events. Unfortunately, the overwhelming appetite exceeds the supply. However, some of this pressure will be absorbed in the subsequent outer years of the programme commensurate with resource allocation.

It is also encouraging that some farmers have gone to an extent of securing their own production inputs in anticipation of mechanisation services which were to be rendered through State interventions. This has amplified some of the objectives of the Initiative which seeks to restore dignity and pride of the people. The sustainability of Fetsa Tlala Initiative is predominantly dependent on adequate funding and interest from producers.

8.5 Land fertility

Soil fertility and correct nutrient balance is paramount for the successful production of the land. Land holdings managed or owned by subsistence and smallholder producers is riddled with low soil fertility owing to a variety of variables. Notable amongst others, is inadequate application of fertiliser as a consequence of unaffordability. Some areas periodically have excess rainfall leading to leaching of soil nutrients. As such, acidic soils are more pronounced, leading to the attainment of devastating production output (low yields).

To address land fertility challenges, government can establish a well coordinated Soil Fertilisation Scheme to assist vulnerable farmers to produce competitively with their commercial counterparts. It is, however, encouraging that some provinces have already introduced liming programmes to deal with this limitation.

8.6 Fencing

In general, crop farmers contend with the challenge of controlling and keeping livestock from destroying their produce. Farmers are invariably left to harvest less than the production potential in a season as a consequence of damage attributed to livestock intrusion.

9. CONCLUSION

By design, Fetsa Tlala's main aim is to end hunger and malnutrition by encouraging households to grow their own food. Its genesis started in the desire to empower producers and households who are living on the borderline. When formulating support packages, a delicate balance should be induced to avoid creating a welfare state and dependency on State support. Fetsa Tlala will contribute to the arduous task of halving the number of food insecurity in the country. Apart from providing food security to the poor, Fetsa Tlala has innumerable other benefits such as stabilising the supply of food grains, cushioning the food grain prices, promoting equity, infrastructure development, identifying niche markets, etc.

While Fetsa Tlala still lacks dedicated resources, government can still leverage on CASP/ and Ilima/Letsema conditional grants to contribute significantly in supporting resource-poor producers to gain entry into mainstream agriculture. Judicious use of CASP has potential to add the necessary impetus to Fetsa Tlala as a policy delivery mechanism, thereby improving income and reducing vulnerability to food insecurity. In this case, a dedicated fund can go a long way in achieving Fetsa Tlala long-term goals and objectives. Although there are still challenges to wade through as discussed in section eight (8) of this report, there are glorious opportunities in implementing recommendations proposed in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Inclement weather

Agriculture is dependent on favourable weather conditions. Unfortunately, farmers can do nothing to restrain the inclement weather. However, to manage unfavourable climatic conditions, farmers can resort to irrigation as an alternative. Where irrigation is not possible, farmers can adopt climate-smart techniques such as water harvesting and other water conservation practices for efficient use of water. Precision agriculture also presents glorious opportunities in curtailing water scarcity challenges.

9.2 Funding mechanisms

Reprioritisation of CASP funds offers short-term solution and falls short of realising the full benefits of Fetsa Tlala. For the Initiative to make a lasting dent on the household food insecurity, government should source dedicated and ring-fenced funding. The government should investigate funding options and modalities to realise the full implementation of the intervention.

9.3 Reporting

CASP/Ilima-Letsema reporting should be aligned with the departmental reporting by negotiating access to preliminary reports to avoid the time lag after the end of the reporting period. Provinces should regularly report progress made in accordance with DoRA conditional grants' requirements.

9.4 Supply and demand

Presidential Service Delivery events should continue to mobilise communities to participate in the initiative in order to amplify the objectives of the initiative. The need for the initiative can only be fulfilled once the intervention is adequately resourced.

9.5 Land fertility

To address land fertility challenge, government should systematically introduce a Soil Fertilisation Scheme to assist these vulnerable farmers. These schemes can immensely contribute to optimisation of production.

9.6 Fencing

Government should endeavour to subsidise fencing through the infrastructure programme in implementing the infrastructure pillar of Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative.

