





agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET VOTE AND POLICY SPEECH 2026/2027



 **BUILDING A
NORTH WEST PROVINCE
THAT WORKS FOR ALL** 

National Farmworker's Day

**WE GIVE THANKS
TO THE
FARM WORKER
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
WHO FEED THE WORLD.**



Hon. Speaker, Dr. Desbo Mohono and Deputy Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Mr. Collen Maine;

Tonakgolo ya Porofense Ya North West, Rre Lazarus Mokgosi;

Hon. Members of the Legislature & Colleagues in the Executive Council;

Distinguished Members of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development;

Revolutionary Leaders of the Ruling Party, African National Congress and other Political Parties;

Kgosi Thari Maotwe, Ntlo ya Bogosi mo Profenseng, mmogo le Magosi otlhe;

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers and Councillors;

Youth; Women & People with Disability (PWD) Structures in the sector;

Organised Agriculture, Farmers, Farm Workers & Farm Dwellers Fora;

Labour & Sectoral Unions, Sectoral Partners & Agricultural stakeholders;

Our Sister Department and all Provincial Departments that are present;

Esteemed Guests and all Media Houses present;

Baagi botlhe ba Porofense ya North West, ka go ikala ga yone;

Bagaetsho, Dumelang!

It is a privilege to present Budget Vote 13 of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the Financial Year 2026-27. This budget is being presented at a time when the agricultural sector is currently engaged in the battle against the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, and the country, including our province, is experiencing a high level of uncertainty as a result of the Middle East conflict, and the unemployment rate and poverty levels are persistent.

Between Quarter Four of 2025 and Quarter One of 2026, eight provinces experienced a decline in the number of employed individuals, as reported by Statistics South Africa. In our province, North West, the most significant employment losses were recorded at 80 000. Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, and Limpopo followed with 67 000 (GP), 54 000 (MP), and 43 000 (EC and LP), respectively. North West Province is the largest loser, as could be observed. This should prompt us to contemplate our actions.

Even though the North West Province experienced the most significant employment losses, the quarterly comparison of employment statistics indicates that the Agricultural Sector in the North West Province experienced a 10 000 job increase from 950,000 in Quarter Four of 2025 to 960,000 in Quarter One of 2026. Compared to the 35.1% rate in Quarter Four of 2025, the official unemployment rate in the North West increased by 0.2 percentage points to 35.3% in Quarter One of 2026. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate in the North West Province decreased by the most, by 5.1%, when compared to the previous financial year.

The 0.2 percentage point increase, which is primarily sourced from the agricultural sector in the Province, is a positive development; however, additional efforts are required.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPERATIVES

Honourable Speaker, the agricultural sector continues to face the challenge of climate change. The Department will maintain its efforts to raise awareness of climate change in the province and will collaborate with critical stakeholders, including the National Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Council (ARC), North West University (NWU), Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), and the Just Transition Programme, to guarantee the successful implementation of the climate change imperatives in the sector.

The province has aligned itself with the ongoing upscale of biogas production within integrated crop-livestock systems in rural areas, a commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This work is currently being conducted by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and the National Department of Agriculture. While enhancing food and water security, this initiative seeks to enhance the resilience of rural households and smallholder farmers by providing them with access to clean, renewable energy.

Hon Speaker, the department has established a goal of 1 500 job opportunities to be created across a variety of programmes starting in the First Quarter of the 2026-27 financial year, in accordance with the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) Strategic Priority One (1) of Inclusive Growth and Job Creation.

Our Departmental strategies involve the establishment of employment opportunities in the following manner:

PROGRAMME	JOB CREATION TARGETS
Land Care Programme	208
CASP	611
Rural Development Initiatives	350
Animal Health	40

PROGRAMME	JOB CREATION TARGETS
Agricultural Assistant Practitioners	21
Agricultural Advisors	25
Unemployed Graduates	140
Project Related (Kgora Coffee Project)	105
Total	1 500

Honourable Speaker, this Department will generate a total of 1 927 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) employment opportunities for our communities that have been significantly affected in our 2026-27 financial plans.

In accordance with the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) Strategic Priority 2 of Reducing Poverty and Tackling the High Cost of Living and the adopted Departmental Strategic Outcome 3 of Creating Skills for the Economy, the Department is also preparing to provide training to a total of 2 200 farmers in the areas of plant production, animal production, horticulture, agro-processing, South African Good Agricultural Practices (SAGAP), and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Compliance for a total of R8 327 100 during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) will be the primary collaborator in most of the training, as per our pre-existing relationships. Additionally, Honourable Speaker, we have allocated R10 649 100 for Farmer Training and Mentorship in the 2026-27 financial year budget. Moreover, we have provided R12 053 923 for training and stipends for 120 unemployed agriculture graduates (Trainee Entrepreneurs). Cumulatively, the Department will allocate a total of R22 703 023 to our Capacity Building Pillar.

Most of the training sessions will be conducted at the Kgora Farmer Training Centre (KFTC), while livestock practical training will be primarily conducted at Klipkuil Research Farm. Honourable Speaker, our Department is pleased to inform you that 103 of our Third Cohort graduates successfully completed the Agri-preneurship Training with the North West University (NWU) Business School and subsequently exited the programme at the end of March 2026. The Fourth Cohort intake, consisting of 140 individuals, is currently being appointed and will initiate the programme in July 2026.

Honourable Speaker - a total of nine (9) agricultural initiatives throughout the province will be subjected to an eight-month mentorship programme in accordance with the Departmental Mentorship Implementation Framework that has been approved for the 2026-27 financial year. It is imperative to note the following – that the total enrolments of the two (2) agricultural colleges for the academic year 2026 are 473 students. The Taung Agricultural College [TAC] has registered 222 students, while Potchefstroom College of Agriculture [PCA] has registered 251 students.

Our Department awarded 68 graduates with Diplomas in Agriculture in Mixed Farming at the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture on February 28, 2026, this year, Honourable Speaker. Earlier this month, on June 5th, we awarded 46 graduates with Diplomas in Agriculture in Irrigation at the Taung Agricultural College. Additionally, it is crucial to remember that in October 2025 of the previous year, we conducted a collaborative benchmarking exercise with the objective of improving the academic performance of Agricultural Colleges in our province.

We are currently in the process of establishing an articulation model that will be beneficial to our two agricultural institutions, Potchefstroom College of

Agriculture (PCA) and the Taung Agricultural College (TAC), with the assistance of international expertise from the North West University (NWU). The Quality Control for Trades and Occupations is currently in the process of accrediting the two agricultural colleges to provide short-term learning programmes.

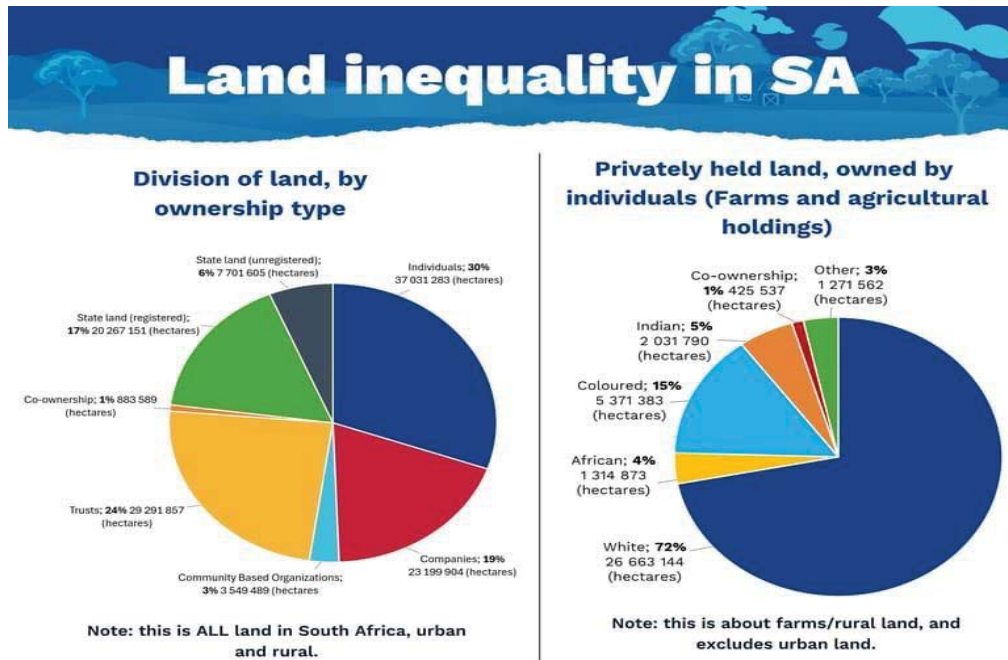
The purpose of this accreditation is to enhance the skills of the farming communities, especially in our province of the North West.

Through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme [CASP] funding, the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently in the process of establishing the College Revitalisation Programme [CRP]. The College Revitalisation Programme [CRP] is designed to facilitate the implementation of and guarantee that there is sufficient and compliant infrastructural support to improve the quality of teaching, learning, and student life at our two agricultural colleges.

Honourable Speaker, the College Revitalisation Programme (CRP) is also essential in ensuring that food safety compliance is promoted and that markets have access to our agricultural produce, which is a critical factor in the development of economies. Additionally, the College Revitalisation Programme (CRP) will develop and improve additional skills for the sector. The agricultural food safety and regulatory compliance framework will assist and empower at least 20 identified provincial farmers in achieving South African Good Agricultural Practices (SAGAP) compliance. As part of our preparation for the 2027-28 student intake, the Department will conduct an awareness workshop on Global Good Agricultural Practices (Global GAP) through this agricultural food safety and regulatory compliance framework.

In order to showcase our ongoing commitment to the agricultural sector in the province, the Department will provide five (5) accredited "product handling facilities" Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) that are horticulture-related to the following facilities: Lucydale in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, Farmer Hope, Casper, and Morogong in the Bojanala District, and Mor Farming in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District. The Department's dedication to collaborating with provincial municipalities in the establishment of farmers markets and the operationalisation of fresh produce markets is further illustrated by this support.

Honourable Speaker, it is impossible to discuss agriculture without considering the issues of land tenure and access to land. The Natives Land Act, which was passed on June 19, 1913, perpetuated the historical legacies of colonialism, resulting in the material dispossession of vast tracts of land from native people. Subsequently, this resulted in significant hardships and suffering for the majority of black South Africans. The state owns approximately 17% of registered land, which equates to 151 hectares, while 30% of land (37 031 283 hectares) is owned by individuals. Whites own 72% of agricultural land, while Africans, coloureds, and Indians each own 4%, 15%, and 5%, respectively.



Thankfully, Honourable Speaker, the Regional Land Claims Commissioner's office in the North West Province is making substantial contributions to the improvement of the lives of ordinary people and the reversal of this legacy. The Commissioner has spent an excess of R375 million in the 2025-26 financial year, surpassing its allocated budget of R302 million.

In terms of the Departmental Annual Performance Plan (APP) targets, we have effectively completed the finalisation of forty-seven (47) of these claims, settled two (2) land claims, and implemented ten (10) phased projects. The programme has benefited over 9 024 beneficiaries, including 1 801 households, 531 of which are headed by women. The Department has transferred 15 599 hectares of land to the respective and meritorious communities.

In the previous fiscal year, Barolong Boo Rapulana in village was among the communities that received post-settlement support in the amount of R39 million to facilitate the development of their restored properties. A portion of the funds

that were received were allocated to the procurement of agricultural machinery and livestock. The Department has been allocated a budget of R332 Million for the settlement of claims in the 2026-27 financial year. It plans to resolve three (3) land claims and finalise the remaining thirteen (13). The Commission will persist in its efforts to rectify these historical injustices within the constraints of its financial resources.

Honourable Speaker, the agricultural sector's development is contingent upon the effective management of available land. Consequently, the Land Care grant allocation for the 2026-27 financial year is R10 324 000.00. This amount will be utilised to finalise the multi-year land care projects at Sekhing, Seoding, Nyetse, and Reagile. The primary land care pillars that require attention through these funds are veld care, conservation agriculture, junior land care, and the promotion of land care awareness among producers.

In order to add to the Land Care budget, the Department will allocate an additional R5 million from its equitable share. The Department aims to generate a minimum of 208 green employment opportunities between Quarter Two and Quarter Four of this fiscal year through the implementation of these grants. In order to raise awareness and provide assistance to the communities, the Department collaborated with the North West University (NWU), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Landbank, and other key stakeholders to hosted a two-day bush encroachment summit on June 3rd and 4th, 2026, in response to the challenges posed by bush encroachment in the province. The summit deliberated on the most effective strategies and practices for addressing the challenges of bush encroachment in the province.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN

It is crucial to note that the results of this research are aiding in the creation of the National Department's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Plan, which guarantees that agriculture plays a significant role in the reduction of emissions and the preservation of the environment. The North West Province is aligning itself with these activities due to its robust livestock sector. In the North West Province, numerous biogas facilities have been constructed, and additional ones are currently under construction. The benefactors of these biogas plants are located in Mokasa, Lokgabeng, Voordonker, Vrede, Mosweu, Tlokweng, Moubane, and Nyetse. A shade-net structure and a biogas digester are provided to each beneficiary in order to facilitate vegetable production.

We reaffirm our dedication to climate-smart farming, food security, and sustainable agriculture. One example of this commitment is our participation in a project that examines the "Valorisation of Bio slurry as a Biofertilizer." Bio slurry, an organic fertiliser that is high in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, is a promising by-product of biogas production. In addition to enhancing crop production, bio slurry plays a substantial role in the restoration of soil health. It enhances soil structure, reduces salt accumulation, and encourages healthy microbial activity, all of which are essential for the operation of sustainable agricultural systems.

LIVING LABORATORIES

Living Laboratories were established throughout the province by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in collaboration with the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. In these living laboratories, researchers, extension officers, farmers, and communities collaborate to test and develop practical agricultural solutions in authentic farming environments. Between 2022 and 2024, fifteen (15) living labs were effectively established, with ten (10) in Lokaleng and five (5) in Masutlhe, with a focus on cabbage production. Ten (10) additional living laboratories are currently operational in Taung, Jagersfontein, Ramatlabama, Matile, Lomanyaneng, Motswedi, Gopane, and Rustenburg, with activities projected to continue until 2027, building on this success.

Honourable Speaker, this initiative is already generating substantial advantages. Farmers are enhancing their production knowledge, adjusting to climate-smart agricultural technologies, and fortifying their farming enterprises by increasing productivity and market participation. Simultaneously, the initiative is improving the ability of our extension officers to provide more effective support to farming communities. We acknowledge, as a government, that environmental sustainability and rural economic development must be inextricably linked with agricultural innovation. We are reducing reliance on expensive synthetic inputs, developing resilient farming systems for the future, and converting agricultural waste into valuable resources through projects like this. We are fostering a more sustainable, productive, and inclusive agricultural sector for the people of the North West Province and South Africa as a whole by utilising collaboration, research, and farmer participation. In 2026-27, the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), and the National Department of Agriculture will collaborate to support eight (8) project sites across the province.

AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The Department will maintain its involvement in the provincial disaster management structure with respect to agricultural disaster risk management. The Department collaborates closely with the North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association (NWUFPA) to raise awareness about fire, establish, resuscitate, and train Fire Protection Associations (FPAs), a body that includes landowners, tribal authorities, and individual owners, such as large-scale farmers. The Department successfully implemented 102 disaster risk awareness campaigns during the 2025-26 fiscal year, and approximately 100 awareness campaigns on disaster risk reduction are scheduled to be implemented this fiscal year.

Honourable Speaker, the Department has accommodated the North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association (NWUFPA) at its Potchefstroom Agricultural College precinct as a gesture of cooperation and support for disaster-related campaigns. This is a mutually advantageous agreement for all parties involved. The Department will devise and execute the implementation plan in accordance with the Disaster Risk Strategy, which was developed in the previous financial year 2025-26.

EXTENSION AND ADVISORY PROGRAMME

Honourable Speaker, the Extension and Advisory Programme continues to be a critical component in the promotion of knowledge transmission and skills development, which is the foundation for the development of sustainable, competitive, profitable, and productive agricultural value chain enterprises. Consequently, the Extension Recovery Programme continues to be a fundamental component of our strategy, with a budget of R35.5 million that is

intended to enhance farmer support, strengthen professionalism, and improve advisory services. R21 million of the R35.5 million budget allocation is allocated to the COE of the twenty-one (21) Agricultural Assistant Practitioners and twenty-five (25) contract Agricultural Advisors.

During the 2026-27 financial year, two hundred (200) producers will receive training in Smallholder Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP), and Extension Practitioners will provide support to approximately eight (8) producers' study groups. Furthermore, the Department has procured forty (40) vehicles for the 2025-26 financial year, and it has allocated approximately R5 million to procure an additional thirty (30) vehicles for the 2026-27 financial year. The provision of a functional tool is essential for the programme. This will help the department fulfil its obligation to help farmers.

COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CASP) GRANTS

The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) grants allocation has been structured as follows:

- Infrastructure and Production Inputs = R153.1 million (61%) , **R13 million has been reprioritised and shifted to Agricultural colleges infrastructure**
- Extension and Recovery Programme = R36.5 million (15%)
- Training and Capacity Building = R22.7 million (10%)
- Programme and Project Planning = R15 million (6%)
- Marketing = R6.4 million (6,4%)
- Information and Knowledge = R1.5 million (1%)

This programme is guided by the **ANC Manifesto priority number 1** that says, **“Put SA at work”- “Increase support for small enterprises”**.

Infrastructure and Crop Massification

Honourable Speaker, the Infrastructure and Crop Massification (production inputs) is the largest investment area, with a focus on poultry, aquaculture, piggery, and crop production initiatives, as well as livestock development. Bojanala and the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Districts are among the districts that prioritise communal livestock programmes.

The Table below illustrates the aggregate number of beneficiaries who were targeted or supported by the main pillars across all pillars:

CASP Pillars	Budget Allocation	Adults		Total
		Male	Females	
Infrastructure	70 645	971	376	346
Production inputs	71 019	962	1520	2482
Marketing	6400	86	70	156

In the context of **Infrastructure Support**, this refers to the issues of livestock water provisioning and managing facilities in communal, state, and private farms throughout the province's four (4) districts.

In the context of **Crop Massification**, this refers to the Department's assistance to farmers in the procurement of production inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, and diesel), with a particular emphasis on the production of sunflowers, dry beans, and maize.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1 OF ACCELERATED GROWTH OF STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL AND LABOUR-INTENSIVE SECTORS

Honourable Speaker, the Department will continue to provide support to producers of a variety of commodities, including turmeric, saffron, castor oil, potatoes, and rabbitry commodity, as part of our Strategic Outcome 1 of Accelerated Growth of Strategic Industrial and Labour-intensive Sectors for this financial year.

Eight (8) producers are anticipated to receive implementation support beginning in Quarter Two, and approximately twenty-three (23) clients will receive assistance with agro-processing initiatives. The support will include moringa cultivation and cannabis. The future of agriculture in the North West Province is not solely dependent on production; it also depends on value addition through agro-processing. In our capacity as government, we acknowledge that agro-processing is indispensable for the enhancement of food security, the development of employment opportunities, the expansion of markets, and the profitability of agricultural enterprises.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WITH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)

Honourable Speaker, as a Department, we continue to benefit from innovative technologies and research solutions that can help farmers and agro entrepreneurs process agricultural products locally, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance product quality and competitiveness by working in conjunction with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). Empowering emerging farmers, particularly small-scale and black producers, to participate meaningfully across the complete agricultural value chain will be facilitated by incorporating agro-processing into our agricultural development agenda.

This encompasses opportunities in market access, processing, storage, and packaging. Agro-processing has the potential to create sustainable employment opportunities, support local economic development, and stimulate rural industrialisation, particularly for adolescents and women in rural communities. We, the North West Province, are dedicated to fortifying our partnerships with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and other stakeholders to guarantee that research, innovation, and technology transfer continue to benefit our farmers and communities. We are investing in a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agricultural economy for our province by investing in agro-processing.

In collaboration with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the Department will persist in providing assistance to emerging potato producers in order to help them gradually achieve two (2) hectares of sustainable production. North West is one of the sixteen (16) potato production regions in South Africa, with approximately 3 000 hectares of land planted. Nevertheless, the hectares have decreased by 0.1% annually over time. With the strategic objective of enhancing the hectares of potato production in the province, increasing the involvement of small-scale and black farmers in the potato industry, and fostering sustainable in-province expertise within the sector, the Potato Enterprise Development Programme was initiated by the Department in 2022.

Numerous initial obstacles have been encountered by the programme, but these obstacles have yielded valuable insights that are influencing a more resilient and sustainable approach in the future. The significance of adequately equipping farms to support the long-term development of potato enterprises and to ensure the sustainability of participating farmers is a critical aspect of these teachings.

Furthermore, the Department is establishing Kgora as a provincial seed potato centre to enhance local production capacity and ensure consistent support for the programme throughout the province. By means of this initiative, we are establishing a potato industry that is more competitive, resilient, and inclusive, thereby fostering economic development, farmer empowerment, and food security in the North West Province. The primary focus areas for this year will be the continued development of capacity and training, as well as the assurance of water usage compliance.

BEEKEEPING PROJECT

Honourable Speaker, two thousand (2 000) bee-supers were distributed to beekeepers throughout the province in the previous financial year in partnership with the MDA. The Department conducted awareness campaigns in the four (4) districts through the North West Bee-Keepers Association (NWBPA). Additionally, all prospective beekeepers in the province were integrated.

The beekeepers were provided with assistance in attending the bee conference in Centurion, and two beekeepers were given financial support to attend the bee conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Five (5) beekeepers were provided with beehives and equipment, and ten (10) were provided with protective clothing through the Department's support of emerging enterprises.

Additionally, beehive-making apparatus was furnished. Collaborations with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), MDA, and Sibanye will be fortified in 2026-27. The National Bee-Con 2026 will be hosted by the Department in partnership with the South African Bee Industry Organization (SABIO) at the end of June 2026. A minimum of twenty (20) beekeepers from the province will be able to attend and exhibit.

Distribution of Bulls for Breeding improvement plan

Hon Speaker, the research directorate will persist in providing livestock producers in the provinces with exceptional cattle breeding materials during the 2026-27 fiscal year. The Department will distribute a minimum of seventy-one (71) breeding bulls to the following beneficiaries in collaboration with the North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: one (1) bull per traditional authority (excluding the Traditional Leaders who received the Bulls with the visit of the President in Ratlou Local Municipality)- the Premier and the House of Traditional and Khoisan leadership will decide on how and when to formally distribute these Bulls meant for livestock improvement, the total is fifty-six (56- the Ratlou distributed Bulls) . The total of four (4) bulls to YARD members, four (4) bulls to WARD members, four (4) bulls to Military Veterans structures and a total of three (3) bulls to People Living with Disability- these will be distributed by the Hon Premier in the programme and dates to be finalized with the House of Traditional Leaders.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Provincial government- let me appreciate the working relationship we have with sectoral players and the mining industry, let me happily inform this house that Sibanye Stillwater through a concluded agreement with the DARD has procured 12 bulls for communal breeding improvement in Marikana- the MEC has added two extra bulls which takes the number to 14 Bulls for Marikana communal breeders and this will be issued in a public launch on 9 July 2026, pending availability of the Premier and Minister of Mineral Resources and Petroleum Development.

As the response to challenges faced by communal farmers during the outbreak and vaccination for FMD, **the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development has contributed R54 357 300.00 (Fifty-Four Million, Three**

Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred Rand) towards the provision of movable kraals, walk-in refrigerators, mobile cold rooms, handling facilities, boreholes, and crush pens to support livestock management in communal grazing lands and the development of commonage infrastructure facilities.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS (YEA) AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS (WEA)

Honourable Speaker, the 2026-27 financial year will see the Department host the annual Youth Entrepreneur Awards (YEA) and Women Entrepreneur Awards (WEA). The programme's goal is to foster sustainable social and economic well-being by promoting the active engagement of adolescents, women, and individuals with disabilities in agriculture, agro-processing, and agribusiness.

It also aims to recognise the contributions and efforts of youth, women, women, and persons with disabilities in the sector by transitioning these entrepreneurs from subsistence to commercial farming. The department will commemorate and celebrate the contributions and efforts of farm labourers to the agricultural sector during the month of March 2027, which is designated as human rights month.

During the 2026-27 financial year, farm labourers who are actively engaged in agricultural production will receive assistance. Older individuals and former mine workers are also included in the 2026-27 Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the purpose of support and development.

Hon Speaker, as part of industry engagements, the department has engaged the National Chamber of Milling in order for the Province to host the National

Milling Academy that the Milling Chamber has advertised its development in South Africa.

The National Milling Chamber has agreed to have the National Milling Academy to be hosted and developed in NW at JB Marks Municipality and in the Potch Agricultural college. In enhancing skills development within the grain milling and agro-processing sectors, Potchefstroom College of Agriculture in partnership with National Chamber of Milling (NCM), through its industry training partner, **the South African Grain Milling Academy (SAGMA), and the JB Marks Local Municipality, are in the process of development of the MOU between the Department and National Chamber of Milling.** This initiative aims to foster industry-aligned theoretical training with practical workplace experience.

The academy will support the development of future millers, lecturers, students and industry professionals, while promoting youth development, artisan training, and recognition of prior learning. Beyond skills development, the academy has the potential to enhance food security, support agro-processing growth, strengthen industry competitiveness, and contribute to sustainable economic development and job creation. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to investing in people, building industry capability, and securing the future of South Africa's agricultural value chain

AGRI-HUB SUPPORT

In the last financial year, the Department, through the Agri-hub, supported three (3) commodities, which are Goat Improvement and Beneficiation, Beef Transformation and Crops.

- **Goat Improvement and Beneficiation** - The goat commodity convenor, with the assistance of the hub, organised a goat development and beneficiation

information day at Koedoesberg farm. The event was attended by 170 aspiring goat farmers. The Hub fund allocation also provides support to six (6) emerging goat farmers from designated organisations, who collectively own 150 commercial goats. **During 2026/27 financial year, the Agrihub will procure goat breeding stock(with an amount of R1 million) and this stock will be based in Molelwane for an AgriHub coordinated Goat breeding programme.**

- **Crops** - The North West University (NWU) established its Potchefstroom Farm Portion to serve not only academics but also the crop commodity support. A provincial agricultural information day was conducted at the crop hub site of North West University (NWU). At the location, crop trials are being conducted to assist farmers. Makouspan Village was designated as an agricultural pilot site by the North West University (NWU) crop hub site. We have conducted soil tests, conducted social engagements, and provided fencing material to secure the pilot site.

Honourable Speaker, the Department will enhance its administration of the Agri-hub and the stakeholder relations associated with the Agri-hub. In this regard, collaborative agreements will be signed with the Landbank, NAMC, Grain SA, RMIS, MDA, SERNIC, and other key stakeholders to facilitate implementation.

The primary emphasis of the hub will be on the emerging commercial commodities and stud breeders. In this regard, fifty (50) emerging commercial producers will receive support during the fiscal year. This assistance encompasses mentorship, research and technology development, training and capacity building, requirements analysis and profiling, and market access support for Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART). In addition, emerging commercial producers will have access to the mobile soil lab, the mobile plant

clinic, and the mobile Assisted Reproduction Technology (ART) lab to guarantee the efficiency of production and reproduction.

LAND BANK, ABSA AND OTHER FINANCIAL PARTNERS

The Department intends to commercialise fifty (50) producers over a three-year period in partnership with ABSA, Land Bank, and other financial partners, Honourable Speaker. The year 2026 will be dedicated to the selection process, farmer registration, introduction of non-financial services, and farmers' funding preparedness.

The Department and Land Bank have executed collaboration agreements.

Developmental enterprises, including apiculture, cuniculture, and cannabis, will also establish momentum for enterprise development during the fiscal year. The Department core will guarantee that the AAMP's imperatives are executed.

The feasibility of donkey meat consumption has been established at the Donkey Enterprise, and the farmer is receiving assistance to ensure that all other compliance requirements are met. The Department will organise a donkey symposium in the Ngaka Modiri Molema Districts in partnership with the Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS). This event will provide a platform for researchers, academicians, and interested producers to convene.

FOOD AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

Honourable Speaker, the external factors, such as disease outbreaks and our mitigation strategies, may affect the progress registered on the support provided and the planned support for 2026-27. The entire province has been

affected by the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. The province is currently experiencing an outbreak with 414 cases that are dispersed throughout the province as of June 18, 2026.

The disease is currently proliferating as evidenced by the new lesions that animals are exhibiting. The province has received 1 021 140 doses of vaccines from both Bioaftogen and Aftogen, and approximately 879 163 animals (86%) have been vaccinated. These vaccines have been received in various consignments and are, as a result, at varying phases of utilisation.

The Department is persisting in its endeavours to enhance its vaccination strategy and raise awareness of the disease throughout the province, with a particular emphasis on active epidemics in order to decrease the viral load and rate of transmission.

Veterinary services continue to be indispensable in the protection of our agricultural sector. In response to Foot and Mouth Disease [FMD], there is a heightened emphasis on biosecurity measures. Farmers will be safeguarded and food security will be guaranteed through investments in early detection, vaccination, and movement control.

The North West province will guarantee adequate biosecurity for all maladies of economic significance through the development of infrastructure in communal areas. The infrastructure engagement will facilitate the vaccination of infected and affected animals, thereby contributing to the control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The laboratory revitalisation program will also improve biosecurity by upgrading the Potchefstroom Veterinary Laboratory.

The Department will augment its capacity to intervene in disease control by hiring forty (40) Animal Health Technicians to participate in FMD control, as a mitigating measure, Honourable Speaker. Out of the total allocation of R10 million. R2.7 million for laboratory revitalisation and R7 million for biosecurity. The Red Meat Industry Service (RMIS) has extended an offer to deploy eight (8) Animal Health Technicians to the North West. These technicians will be disseminated to Kgetleng River, Potchefstroom, Ventersdorp, Maquassi Hills, and Matlosana. The establishment of coffee bean production, processing, and export to the Republic of Turkey will be launched by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in partnership with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the National Emerging Farmers Association of South Africa (NEFASA).

The project also includes the construction of a processing facility that will be responsible for the on-site de-husking, roasting, and packaging of coffee beans and granules. As part of the project's preparations, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) delegation conducted a site visit to the designated property. The undertaking entails the cultivation of 2 000 coffee trees on a 5-hectare field that has been prepared for the production of coffee beans.

Hon Speaker, on the policy space which must inform the shift on mega and strategic developmental approaches, the department will:

a) Activate the operational functioning of the government silos, in this financial year an approach of getting possible and **ready private investors who will be concessioner for the government silos in order to start a programme of crop massification focussing on production of raw crop material** (farmers development and support), commodity storage and commodity trading in the

silos. This programme is targeting a minimum of 60 farmers, Kopano Trust Villages, and communal land agricultural production in all the 56 Traditional Villages of NW working with the House of Traditional and Khoisan Leadership.

In this regard the department will host a farmers day for Crop Massification and Mechanisation on 20 July 2026 at Springbokpan silos.

This programme must respond to what our Democratic first President Nelson Mandela said that “as long as poverty, injustice and gross inequalities persist in our rural areas, none of us can truly rest”

b) The Department will **work with private investors** to revival the previous plan to have Milling within the Springbokpan silos, this plan will activate Agro-processing capability within the silos... the first principle will be to close any gap on availability of animal feed and producing capacity for the province on maize milling for both internal market and export market with primary focus on African continental trade on maize meal.

c) On food security and a properly coordinated and impactful approach, the department **will work with ARC in order to use the research and tested with success commodities by ARC** in all the Districts- as food security priority projects- this will ensure that food security budget is not used to experiment but to commodities where research and testing has confirmed their viability and future performance.

d) The department will **appoint a food security implementing agent** which is meant for proper coordination, project development and implementation. Hon members, food security will shift from dominantly procurement of gardening implement and be an introduction to commodities development and trading- this must ensure production and aggregation for sustainability of food security project. Inspired by the Agricultural Philosopher Masamobu Fukuoka when he

said, “the ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops but the cultivation and empowerment of communities”.

The first projects of this nature will be:

- Ga Matlhako (Phela village fruit farm- village cooperative), led by the Traditional council- another project that the department will partner with ARC in the same village is development and value addition on free Range chicken. 2026/27 will allocate R1 million for this project, (Bojanala)
- Kabe (KhamaYatsha)- village cooperative- focussing on ARC tested crops and found to be performing and any other practical commodity agreed with the community. 2026/27 will allocate R1 million for this project, (Ngaka Modiri Molema)
- Tosca(village cooperative), activate an agricultural village cooperative conceptualized for a minimum of 10 hectares- Municipality land. 2026/27 will allocate R1 million for this project,(Dr Ruth Sekgomotsi Mompoti)
- Tigane(village cooperative and establishment of Ex-mineworkers Agric Development centre with MDA, engage Matlosana to avail any Municipality land or Land Reform for access to a farm to be allocated for this purpose. 2026/27 will allocate R1 million for this project, (Dr Kenneth Kaunda)
- Kgora Moretele, converted to village vegetable cooperative, 2026/27 will allocate R600 000.00 for this project. This project be implemented with Disabled People of South Africa. (Bojanala)

NB:

In each of the above food security project the priority beneficiaries will be selected by DARD, Social Development and ARC with primary focus on food insecure households/individuals and focussed groups as youth, women, people with disabilities, military veterans and ex-mineworkers. In each project

ensure a minimum of 40 beneficiaries if its not the whole village based on village activities like fruit trees in Phela.

e) The Department is working with Bright Ideas on the Cannabis/Hemp industry, to establish a Provincial Cannabis/Hemp. This collaboration will facilitate the integration of hemp with other companion plants, with approximately 800 learners participating in the LAP program. This programme will be based in Taung Agricultural College.

f) The Department is collaborating with the **Rustenburg Local Municipality and Bojanala District Municipality** to facilitate the availability of suitable land for the establishment of an **abattoir and feedlot**. This initiative is aimed at strengthening the Red Meat value chain, enhancing local processing capacity, creating employment opportunities, and promoting sustainable growth within the livestock sector.

g) The NW Agricultural show continues, this time the department will work with the NW University through the Agricultural Hub to jointly host the NW Agricultural show. The department will issue a call of **expression for an entity to administer and market the Agricultural show**. The Provincial YARD and WARD awards will done on day one of the Agricultural show in the form of gala dinner- the entity that must be appoint must take responsibility to administer the nomination process up until the adjudication is done. **The 2026 Agricultural show will be held as farmers heritage celebration on 24-27 September 2026.**

h) The process of converting Kgora Farmers centre to a **registered government entity is at an advance stage for the development of a costed Business Case with costed Organizational structure for this government entity**, before the end of this financial year a submission will be done through

EXCO. In the meantime, the National Department of Agriculture is implementing project of Hatchery in Kgora. Currently Kgora produces 30 000 eggs a week, as the department we have introduced a new approach on the distribution of the eggs produced- 20 000 are now made available to incubate YARD and WARD farmers who are currently involved in layer industry- and these eggs are sold at cost price of R1 an egg meaning its $20\ 000 \times R1 = R20\ 000.00$ per week, and R80 000.00 per month which is **R960 000.00 per annum**(Kgora own revenue just on 20 000 eggs per week), the remaining 10 000 eggs are donated to needy institutions determined by DARD and Social Development.

i) As part of departmental response to the impact of FMD to the livestock especially cattle and red meat industry, **we will issue a call for interest on entities who have capacity to help develop a detailed breeding plan, farmer development, job creation and up until the whole beef value chain.**

Based on what President Ramaphosa said when addressing the Red Meat Abattoir Association on 15 June 2026, “In a landmark achievement of our country, South Africa negotiated a veterinary Health Certificate in early 2026 that now allows the export of red meat and meat products derived from vaccinated livestock against food and mouth diseases”, Because of this development and the coordinated approach by the Department of Agriculture on increased capacity for internal supply and export access for red meat- In the meantime the department working with Land Bank and the Agrihub will work out **an emergency intervention linked to an accredited black abattoir with export licence-** to intervene on enhancing provincial capacity for **an active grower farmers support and feedlot support** to ensure the Province has capacity to keep the Beef market competitive. Funding for this intervention will be R3 million from the allocation on Land Bank collaboration. This

intervention is also derived from the **ANC manifesto priority number 6 that says “Strengthening trade and investment”**:

j) Through Blended Finance, the department and all the finance institutions participating and implementing the blended finance scheme will start a three year programme 2026-2029- this programme must enrol 60 deserving and qualifying agricultural enterprises per annum under Blended Finance scheme, in each year 15 of the 60 Agricultural Enterprises must be grain farmers and this 15 Grain Farmers will be managed and supervised through Grain SA PGP programme- the AgriHub will be coordinator, capacity builder, administrative supervision, monitoring and evaluation working with the financial institutions implementing Blended Finance.

k) The department will introduce a combo of 1500 layers, will release a call for expression of interest by entities involved in layer units for design, delivery and construction of this combo, this year the province will procure three of such layers.

The Department working with Land Bank is engage on the possibility of introducing Lurcene Aggregation in Taung Irrigation scheme, project on conceptualisation and targeting a minimum of 60 farmers as beneficiaries, once this project has started , the next conceptualisation aggregation model will be on goats within the AgriHub.

Mmusu Kgotla, I would like to take this opportunity to present the **departmental budget allocations for the 2026/2027 financial year**, as outlined in the programme, to you and the entire house:

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2026/2027 per PROGRAMME NAME

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2026/2027 per PROGRAMME NAME		TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION (R)	AMOUNT IN WORDS
1	Administration	373 486 000	Three Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand
2	Sustainable Resource Use & Management	35 723 000	Thirty-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand
3	Agricultural Producer Support & Development	424 130 000	Four Hundred and Twenty-Four Million, One Hundred and Thirty Thousand
4	Veterinary Services	182 812 000	One Hundred and Eighty-Two Million, Eight Hundred and Twelve Thousand
5	Research & Technology Development	77 178 000	Seventy-Seven Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand
6	Agricultural Economic Services	39 182 000	Thirty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand
7	Agricultural Education & Training	83 575 000	Eighty-Three Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand
8	Rural Development	77 669 000	Seventy-Seven Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand
TOTAL		1 293 755 000	One Billion, Two Hundred and Ninety-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand

Honourable Speaker and House Members, I am in awe and appreciation of you all as I conclude. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Premier Lazarus Mokgosi for the opportunity to serve under his wing, his steadfast leadership, his continued policy guidance, and his commitment to cooperative governance.

To the North West Provincial Executive Council, the Portfolio Committee, House of Traditional and Khoisan leadership and my fellow members, I am deeply grateful for your constructive criticism, guidance, and forbearance in our endeavour to establish agriculture as a sustainable and viable sector in the province.

To the ANC-led Alliance (ANC/SACP/COSATU/SANCO), the peace-loving people of the North West Province, and the House of Traditional Leadership, I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me as a member.

I am honoured to be among the ANC Deployees in the 7th Legislature. Additionally, I am grateful to the ANC Chief Whip and the Study Group Chairperson for their political guidance. The Department's existence is a direct result of the combined efforts of the Departmental Staff (DARD and Land Reform) and all Managers (DARD and Land Reform).

By working together, we can accomplish even more as we continue to influence and assist the agricultural landscape of our province.

Our interaction and relationship with the Farmer Unions and Associations, Labour Unions, particularly NEHAWU and PSA within the Department, COSATU office-bearers, and all Affiliates acknowledges the needs and priorities of our constituencies.

The pillar of my daily survival and warmth acceptance is my wife (uMamfene), our children, my late mother, and my siblings. Your understanding and support are always felt and appreciated.

KE A LEBOGA!!!!

During Harvest, Farmers give up
meals at their table
so we can have meals at ours.

Thank A Farmer





**agriculture &
rural development**

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET VOTE AND POLICY SPEECH 2026/2027



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE

TEB BUIDLING

2482 Sekame Street, Mmabatho
Unit 4
Contact: 018 384 3111

TALK TO US!

We invite readers to follow us on



facebook



YouTube

X : NWPG_DARD

FACEBOOK : North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development-DARD

YOUTUBE : North West Agriculture and Rural Development

See the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 's latest news
as well as invitations to join with us on events and discussions.



BUILDING A
**NORTH WEST PROVINCE
THAT WORKS FOR ALL**



www.nwpg.gov.za

