



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

BACKGROUND

The Directorate: National Extension Reform (NER) has started the process of developing a new integrated national policy on extension and advisory services. The development of a nationwide, unified and all-inclusive National Extension and Advisory Services Policy is done in partnership with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). The new policy seeks to shape and align research and extension across the three sectors (agriculture, forestry and fisheries). This policy will inform the management, coordination and implementation of Extension and Advisory Services in South Africa. The envisaged Extension Policy for national, provincial and local government will promote and facilitate a harmonised extension and advisory services approach for South Africa; give extension and advisory services a sector-wide dimension and representation. The policy's purpose is to guide and regulate the provision of extension and advisory services in the country.

Phuhlisani Solutions has been awarded a grant by the Ford Foundation to work with DAFF, ARC and key stakeholders to facilitate a national policy dialogue and development process.

DEDICATED WEBSITE

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the National Extension Policy development website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.extensionpolicy.za.net/>. The website has a green header with the title "National Extension Policy" and navigation links for "Register", "Login", and "Contact". Below the header is a banner image showing a group of people in a field. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- News / Events:** A section titled "What should we expect from a National Extension Policy?" with a sub-headline "A scan of the international experience highlights some of the key components we should expect to find in a national extension policy document. But what about the gap between policy and implementation?".
- Agriculture:** A section titled "South African research and development focusing on resource poor farmers" with a sub-headline "Review a selection of recent research undertaken by the Agricultural Research Council with a focus on small holder farmers".
- Fisheries:** A section titled "Supporting small scale fisheries" with a sub-headline "To date much of government policy focus has been on regulating the fisheries sector. Ways to support small scale fishers and the sector as a whole will be a key component of the new extension policy".
- Forestry:** A section titled "Transitions in the forest sector" with a sub-headline "An estimated 40% of plantations in South Africa are set to change hands from state and private ownership to black community ownership. Extension and technical support services are currently inadequate to manage this transition".

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the date and time "10:07 AM 2012/08/24".

The Directorate: NER has commissioned a dedicated website through its Service Provider (Phuhlisani Solutions). The National Extension Policy website www.extensionpolicy.za.net is used as a vehicle for the communication of policy development process. All DAFF officials and other development actors with an interest are encouraged to contribute to the Policy Dialogue. It also seeks to enable Extension Specialists from DAFF, the provincial departments of agriculture and researchers to share their knowledge and make important contributions to the development of the National Extension Policy to shape the future of extension and advisory services in South Africa. The website carries news and updates on the policy development process with dedicated sections for agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Stay informed about the process for developing a new National Extension Policy. Visit the site to view a short animated Prezi which provides further information on the planned research led policy dialogue. Click **Register** on the *Front Page*, and then complete a registration form where you create your user name and password.

The **User Name** and **Password** will enable you to login to a secure online discussion space. Once you are registered you will be able to comment on research papers and take part in online discussions which will shape the new policy development.

Officials are also invited to participate *via* a Twitter account [@ExtensionPolicy](https://twitter.com/ExtensionPolicy) linked to over 200 local and international organisations. The Service Provider has started to send out Tweets providing progress updates and information on the policy development process.