



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FETSA TLALA
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

REF: 15/4/R
2017 Reviewed Edition

Date of approval: 22 Nov 2017

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13/11/2017

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22-11-17

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Contents	Page
1. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	1
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
3. INTRODUCTION	2
4. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY	3
5. AUTHORITY OF POLICY	3
6. LEGAL FRAMEWORK	3
7. SCOPE OF APPLICATION	4
8. DEFINITIONS	4
9. SOP PRONOUCEMENTS	5
9.1 Fetsa Tlala support services	5
9.2 Procurement and payment	7
9.3 Monitoring and assessment of work done by service providers	7
9.4 Key administration requirements	7
10. DEFAULT	7
11. INCEPTION DATE	8
12. TERMINATION AND REVIEW CONDITIONS	8
13. ENQUIRIES AND REPORTING	8

1. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CARA	Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act
CBSG	Community Based Seed Growers
DAFF	Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GHS	General Household Survey
GPS	Global Positioning System
HoD	Head of Department
IFSPI	Integrated Food Security Production Initiative
LDARD	Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MOV	Means of verification
NDP	National Development Plan
NPO	Non-profit Organization
PTO	Private Tractor Operators
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SANSOR	South African Seed Certification Scheme
SMME	Small Medium Micro Enterprise
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure.

2. DEFINITIONS

Application form – a prescribed form completed by the applicant with the intention to request assistance in line with the mechanization framework stating the requested for assistance.

Land Rights – refer to the unchallengeable legal or customary rights of an individual or group, freely obtained to utilise and possess land for agricultural purpose.

Certified seed – seed certified under the Seed Certification Scheme of the Plant Improvement Act 53 of 1976.

Mechanization service - a complete traction power package including (but not limited to) ploughing, ridging, planting, spraying, ripping and harvesting services which such are attachable to a tractor.

Smallholder farmers – farmer having land rights producing for both household consumption and commercial purpose.

Subsistence farmers – farmers producing for household food consumption only.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Fetsa Tlala Programme guide and inform processes to be followed in the acquisition of services to support to farmers and communities on their crop production initiatives, it seeks to explain all the matters regarding Fetsa Tlala in relation to the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD). It is in line with Food and Nutrition Security Policy at the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

4. INTRODUCTION

Fetsa Tlala is a multi-disciplinary approach by Government to deal with structural problems of food insecurity. This initiative stems from various legislative frameworks, including the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security. The Integrated Food Security Production initiative (IFSPI) referred to as Fetsa Tlala, is championed by DAFF. Through Fetsa Tlala government intends to assist subsistence and smallholder producers to put at least one million hectares of arable land under production by 2019 across the country as per the National Development Plan (NDP) target. LDARD is working traditional authorities, municipalities and private sectors to ensure an integrated approach in reducing hunger at the household level.

The findings of the Stats SA General Household Survey (GHS) report of 2016, provide a critical assessment of the levels of development in the country as well as the extent of service delivery and the quality of services in a number of key service sectors. Amongst these, is the level of households access to food which is also linked to the number of people involved in agriculture.

The GHS survey report shows that Limpopo Province compared to other Provinces has the highest number in terms of households that have adequate access to food, at 91.8% compared

to national average of 77.2%. The report further draws a correlation between households involved in agriculture, with Limpopo Province highest at 43.8 % compared to National average of 16.9%. The picture gives more impetus to the Province through LDARD, to continue to support food production initiatives through programme such as Fetsa Tlala.

The immediate reasons for Fetsa Tlala initiatives include the following:

- Reduction of households vulnerable to food insecurity by 95% by 2019/20 (DAFF 2015/16 Strategic Plan)
- Protection of productive agricultural land
- Urbanization leading to declining agrarian activities and utilization of fallow land
- Most households are net consumers of purchased food rather than producers thereof

5. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE.

5.1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to guide the LDARD on the acquisition of mechanization services and production inputs from previously disadvantaged individuals or groups for the implementation of IFSPI.

5.2. Primary Objectives

- Provide mechanisation services support to the farming communities.
- Reduce crop production challenges facing farming communities.
- Encourage farming communities to go back to tilling the lands for food production.
- Ensure food security at household level.
- Promote maximum utilisation of fallow arable land for food production.

5.3 Secondary Objectives

- To increase the number of ploughed hectorage in order to contribute to one million hectares by 2019.
- To increase food production capacity of subsistence and smallholder producers.
- To create opportunities for agricultural value chain development at a local level.
- To create opportunities for SMME development at a local level.
- To create job opportunities within the agricultural sector.

6. AUTHORITY OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

This Standard Operating Procedure is issued under the authority of both the Member of Executive Council (MEC) as the Executive Authority of the LDARD, and the Head of Department (HOD) as the Accounting Officer of LDARD.

7. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The constitution of the Republic of South Africa, read together with the Bill of Rights clearly prescribes that every citizen has the right to access to sufficient food and water. The state is obligated by the constitution to provide food and water within its means.

8. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

8.1. The targeted clients for this SOP are;

- 8.1.1. Subsistence farmers
- 8.1.2. Smallholder farmers
- 8.1.3. Previously disadvantaged Small Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME)
- 8.1.4. Previously disadvantaged production input producers (Certified seeds and Fertilizers)
- 8.1.5. All the eligible farmers shall have acceptable rights to the land. The support to be provided to the targeted beneficiaries shall not exceed 10ha.

9. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE PRONOUNCEMENTS

9.1. Fetsa Tlala support services

9.1.1. Mechanization services

In order to promote the food production initiative, mechanization support will be provided in the form of the following:

- Ploughing
- Ripping
- Ridging
- Disc harrowing
- Planting (seeds/seedlings)
- Sprayer (pesticide, herbicides etc.)
- Fertilizing

9.1.2. De-bushing in the crop fields

- 9.1.2.1. LDARD shall only cover the cost of de-bushing if it is justified after consultation with the relevant units in the Department. A written approval from the HOD is required before commencing with de-bushing.

- 9.1.2.2. De-bushing in crop fields shall be done only on fields that were fallow for a long period of time which resulted in bush encroachment.
- 9.1.2.3. The service provider for de-bushing shall be appointed through the Supply Chain Processes.
- 9.1.2.4. The service provider will be required to have all machineries and equipment to perform such an operation.
- 9.1.2.5. The service provider should have relevant qualifications and experience for bush clearing.
- 9.1.2.6. No land user shall cultivate a virgin land (land not being ploughed for a period of more than 10 years) on the farm unit. Such farm unit requires the land user to obtain a form and be lodged with Executive Officer in terms of CARA on which such virgin land is situated and shall be lodged at the extension office for the area within which the farm unit concerned is situated at least three months prior to the intended date of cultivation.
- 9.1.2.7. De-bushing shall be carried out in a manner that it will not cause erosion and be done to protect water sources.
- 9.1.2.8. De-bushing shall be carried out in a manner that it will not cause or permit the dispersal of any declared weeds and invader plants.
- 9.1.2.9. Permission must be sought for debushing through applicable forms obtained from competent and relevant authorities.
- 9.1.2.10. Debushing to an area that exceeds 20 ha, a full EIA is required.
- 9.1.2.11. When de-bushing is carried out, this should be done to avoid the spread of weeds and removal of native plant species.

9.1.3. Agronomic Management Practices

- 9.1.3.1. The initiative shall be implemented in line with sound agronomic management practices.
- 9.1.3.2. All the production inputs should be certified by relevant authorities.
- 9.1.3.3. To ensure maximum production, the Department encourages the use of seeds that conforms to the following traits:
 - Drought tolerant
 - Early maturing
 - Suitable to climatic and soil condition prevailing in the Limpopo Province.
- 9.1.3.4. The ploughing and planting shall be guided by prescribed schedule.
- 9.1.3.5. Fertiliser application will be based on soil analysis where applicable.

- 9.1.3.6. The choice of mechanization services to be performed will depend on crop requirements and best local practices for the specific crop.
- 9.1.3.7. The tillage should range from 30-60cm in depth in all soil conditions.
- 9.1.3.8. The disc should be able to break clods and control weeds.
- 9.1.3.9. A written approval from the HOD is required before commencement of any ripping activity.
- 9.1.3.10. It is recommended that planters be used for proper agronomic management practices.
- 9.1.3.11. No cultivation shall be performed on “vlei”, marshes or wetlands (protected Land).
- 9.1.3.12. Every land-user shall take all precautionary measures to prevent cultivated land from erosion, salination and waterlogging.
- 9.1.3.13. Cultivation of land within 10 metres of the flood line is prohibited and care should be taken that no land-user shall divert the normal flow pattern of run-off from natural water course.

9.2. Procurement and payment for Private Tractor Owners (PTO)

- 9.2.1 Procurement shall be done according to Supply Chain Policy and Procedures.
- 9.2.2. Service providers shall be required to register their services in the Central Supplier Database.

9.3. Monitoring and assessment of work done

GPS shall be used for measuring of the area worked.

Land preparation should be preceded by the mapping, including taking of coordinates, of the target fields, and the establishment and verification of the beneficiary lists.

- 9.3.1. Local Agricultural Office and the District Office should assess, monitor, evaluate and keep records the work done by PTO. The Provincial Office in consultation with the local agricultural office shall also from time to time conduct, monitor and exercise on the overall implementation. The visits will sometimes be coupled with assessment visits from National Office.
- 9.3.2. All reporting templates should be fully completed by the relevant Extension Officer of the area.

9.4. Key administration requirements

- 9.4.1. Database of all registered tractor operators / owners to be developed.
- 9.4.2. Database of all Fetsa Tlala beneficiaries should be updated annually
- 9.4.3. Completed application form is expected to be submitted annually
- 9.4.4. Information on number of hectares ploughed and planted to be collated weekly.
- 9.4.5. Impact assessment of the initiative to be conducted every five years.
- 9.4.6. Since the initiative is based on the self-help principle this will include staggering support going forward, starting with full package and then scaling down services in succeeding years. This includes production inputs (seed, fertilizer) and mechanization services (ploughing, disc, ripping, planting and harvesting).
- 9.4.7. District workshops will be held annually before the start of the new season to familiarize and clarify issues related to program implementation for the new season

10. DEVIATION

This Standard Operating Procedure shall be applicable in all cases and under no circumstances will any deviation of the SOP be allowed. Should any deviation be deemed necessary, it will only be done with the written consent of the HoD of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

11. INCEPTION DATE

The inception date is the date of approval of the SOP.

12. TERMINATION AND REVIEW CONDITIONS

The SOP will be reviewed every 24 months (2 years) or as and when a need arise. Should the SOP still be in the review process by the time it lapses, an extension period is applicable and the approved SOP remain valid until the reviewed version is approved.

13. ENQUIRIES AND REPORTING

All enquiries regarding this Standard Operating Procedure should be directed towards The Rural Development Unit at the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at 015 294 3000.

The Rural Development Unit is responsible for the timeous review, circulation, advocacy, and availability and feed-back regarding this SOP document. The Rural Development Unit is responsible for reporting towards oversight bodies through the office of HoD in the event of enquiries with regards to this SOP document.

Recommended:

^ *M Maisela*
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Maisela, RJ
(Head of Department)

13/11/2017
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Date

Approved:

SC Sekoati
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Hon Member of Executive Council (Acting)
Sekoati, SC (MPL)

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