



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**AGRICULTURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT
POLICY**

Revised edition 2018

Ref: 14/3/2

Approval date: 8 Feb 2018

Recommended by:

M Labuschagne

Head of Department

(Maisela, RJ)

07/03/2018

Date

Approved by:

S Sekoati

Hon Member of Executive Council (Acting)

Sekoati, SC (MPL)

08/03/2018

Date

1. ACRONYMS

AR4	Fourth Assessment Report
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
DRMU	Disaster Risk Management Unit
DORA	Division of Revenue Act
EWS	Early Warning Systems
HOD	Head of the Department
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LSU's	Large Stock Unit(s)
LDARD	Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural development
MEC	Member of Executive Council
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
NDMF	National Disaster Management Framework
PDMC	Provincial Disaster Management Centre
SCM	Supply Chain Management

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Management reforms within government have led to the search for enhanced clarity on the role and the lines of accountability with the desire to re-define the political relationship between policy making and administrative policy implementation. The nature of this relationship has far reaching implications both for the technical quality and the democratic content of government, particularly whereby methods of policy management have been implemented with increased decentralization, pluralism and contestability.

The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy aims to outline the principles that will guide the running of disaster management programs. It is against this background that the criteria, norms and standards for disaster relief assistance shall be clearly stipulated. This will enable consistency in the implementation of all assistance measures intended to assist the farmers. Lastly, the implementation mechanisms shall as well be clearly defined to enable quality control and monitoring and evaluation of all projects that are planned.

The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy is derived from the National Disaster Management Policy Framework (NDMPF) of 2005 and it should be read in conjunction with the Agricultural Disaster Management Plan of 2017.

3. INTRODUCTION

In 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), drawing together the scientific evidence on climate change (IPCC 2007). The report states clearly the manifold evidence that climate change is occurring. The report also gave evidence of the global average air temperatures rising, with eleven of the last twelve years (1995-2006) ranking amongst the twelve warmest

years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature. Climate change, climate variability and extreme events account for the many disasters experienced globally and in particular persistent droughts in Limpopo Province, veldfires, floods, cold spells, frosts, hail, thunder storms, frequency of animal disease outbreaks, plant diseases and insect pest infestations and many other forms of disasters.

Agricultural disasters are among several most important economic sources of uncertainty affecting farm businesses in Limpopo Province. In the mist of all kinds of agricultural disasters, agricultural development and economic growth must still be sustained. Disaster effects which should never be undermined can be reduced through agricultural risk management practices.

Over the last fifteen (15) years, Limpopo Province has observed a significant trend of increased exposure to disasters, in particular to droughts, frequent heat waves, floods accompanied by hail and thunder storms, pests (fall armyworm) and disease outbreaks (avian influenza) and veldfires. The Limpopo Province has suffered severe droughts during the periods 1982-1983, 1992-1993, 2003-2004 and the recent disaster drought during 2015-2016 in which the Province has experienced huge economic losses due to the persisting drought. Pertaining to flood disasters, South Africa experience flooding hazards in 2000, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, which destroyed infrastructure such as roads and bridges, farming systems, killed people, destroyed houses, schools and disruption of the economic system. The impacts of these disasters have been particularly evident in the agricultural sector and vulnerable smallholder farming communities. These phenomena cause damages to and losses of lives, properties, infrastructure and livelihoods. Development efforts are impeded and set back and development funds diverted. The cost to repair damage infrastructure runs into billions of rands. As such it is imperative for the province to put measures in place in order to deal with any disasters systematically, hence the development of this policy.

The Limpopo Province Agricultural Disaster Management Policy emanates from the Disaster Management Act, No. 57 of 2002 and National Disaster Management

Framework of 2005. It is aiming to encourage primary producers within the Limpopo Province to adopt self-reliance approaches in managing disaster risks, climate variability and extreme events through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The objectives are to maintain and protect the Limpopo Province agricultural and environmental resource base during periods of shocks and stress, by ensuring early recovery of agricultural and rural industries that is consistent with long-term sustainable development. The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy sees climate variability and agricultural disasters as normal features of the Limpopo Province environment in which agriculture must operate. The main focus is on farm management and takes into account the risk associated with a variable climate and adheres to the principles of sustainable agriculture. This is being aided through research, extension and education and through providing economic instruments to reduce fluctuations in income from year to year, towards achieving more sustainable agriculture.

In line with this Policy the Department has an approved Agricultural Disaster Management Plan. For the successful implementation of both the approved Disaster Management Plan as well the execution of this policy direct financial assistance should be provided when agricultural disasters are deemed to be exceptional.

4. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This Agricultural Disaster Management Policy aims to alleviate the impact of disasters on communal or small scale farmers, emerging and commercial farmers through buffering the detrimental effects that the disasters have upon their production as well in reducing the vulnerability of these farmers to the impact of future disasters. It also aims at minimising the disruption of agricultural and socio-economic development in the disaster affected areas.

Specific objectives to be achieved include the following:

- a) To educate, train, capacity building and raise awareness to the farmers regarding both disaster risk reduction and climate change risk through

- early warning information systems and advisory services aimed at good farming practices;
- b) To outline the principles that will guide the disaster management programs. To identify criteria, norms and standards for disaster relief assistance;
 - c) To provide for implementation mechanisms (guidelines);
 - d) To ensure adequate financial arrangements to address hazard risks and commit government at all levels to allocate sufficient funds to provide for risk reduction and emergencies;
 - e) To promote public awareness and the roles of traditional leaders and local authorities on disaster risk reduction;
 - f) To increase political awareness on disaster risk reduction and mainstream the media in public education and awareness;
 - g) To set up and strengthen early warning systems and implement research plans and programmes;
 - h) To encourage public participation in planning and implementing agricultural disaster risk reduction interventions; and
 - i) To develop and implement disaster relief measures.

5. AUTHORITY OF THE POLICY

This Agricultural Disaster Management Policy Framework is issued under the authority of both the Member of Executive (MEC) for Agriculture and Rural Development as the executive authority of Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD), and the Head of Department (HOD) as the Accounting Officer of LDARD in Limpopo.

6. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy does not replace any of the existing policies within the Department and must be read in conjunction with all relevant policies.

The applicable legislations/ Policies relevant to this policy are:

- Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002.)
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983.)
- Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999 and its Regulations.)
- National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998.)
- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996.)
- National Disaster Management Framework of 2005
- Provincial Disaster Management Framework of 2009
- Agricultural Disaster Management Plan, 2017
- Supply Chain Management Policy for Infrastructure Procurement Delivery Management
- Farmer Support Policy
- Comprehensive Agricultural Support Program, 2003
- Animal Disease Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984)

7. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This policy, unless otherwise stipulated, is applicable to all employees and structures related to LDARD, as a Department.

The directives outlined in this document relate only to the processes and measures that will be put in place to alleviate the impact of specific agricultural related disasters in order to achieve agricultural economic sustainability as well as ensuring food security within the Province.

7.1 SERVICE DELIVERY PRIORITIES

The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy is aimed at contributing to the broader departmental development pathways through a coherent policy development approach. The development of this policy was built on the key principles of the NDMF of 2005 as a base document. This framework advocates the *5 principles* of Disaster Risk Management which are:

- a) Disaster risk prevention;
- b) Disaster risk reduction;
- c) Disaster risk mitigation;
- d) Disaster risk avoidance; and
- e) Post-Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation.

The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy is aligned to the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002. The NDMF (as per Annexure A) requires plans to be aligned to four (4) Key Performance Areas which includes among others the following:

- a) Integrated institutional capacity for disaster risk management;
- b) Disaster risk assessment;
- c) Disaster risk reduction; and
- d) Response and recovery.

The NDMF also provides for three (3) Enablers which are:

- a) Information and communication management;
- b) Education, training, public awareness and research;
- c) Funding arrangement for agricultural disaster risk management.

8. DEFINITIONS

(For the purpose of understanding concepts used in the policy)

CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
Policy	A policy is a predetermined course of action established as a guide toward accepted business strategies and objectives.
Procedure	A procedure is a method by which a policy should be accomplished, it provides the instructions necessary to carry out a policy statement.
Policy guidelines	General policy principles, rules, and advice to achieve an action
Disaster Management	<p>A continuous and integrated multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing or reducing the risk of disasters; • Mitigating the severity or consequences of disasters; • Emergency preparedness; • A rapid and effective response to disasters; and • Post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation..
District municipality	Means a municipality that has municipal executive and legislative authority in an area that includes more than one municipality.
Mitigation	In relation to disaster means measures aimed at reducing the impact or effects of disasters.
Department	At all times when used shall refer to the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and its officials.

9. POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS

The development and implementation of this Disaster Management Policy within Limpopo Province shall be guided by the following principles:

Consultation

All key stakeholders that are expected to affect or be affected by the implementation of this policy shall be consulted at all stages of the development review of the policy.

Information

All key stakeholders who are affected by the policy shall be informed about the policy.

Batho-Pele

The development and implementation of the Agricultural Disaster Management Policy, like all policies that are developed within the Department shall consider the Batho Pele Principles.

9.1 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The important elements of climate such as rainfall, temperature, wind, etc. will be continually monitored for any deviation from the normal since they have negative effects on natural resources such as water, grazing as well as crop production, livestock production, severe economic impact, etc.

Early warning systems have been developed to inform and prepare the farmers on all issues pertaining to disaster risks and climate change. The early warning systems aims to improve cropping practices, fodder banks, water conservation, harvesting mechanisms and other information that need the attention of the farmers.

In line with the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002, the Provincial Disaster Management Framework of 2009 as well as the Disaster Risk Management Plan of 2017 the following criteria will then be followed as prerequisites for disaster conditions:

- a) That an area has been declared as disaster affected area;
- b) That the municipality and/ or district concerned is unable to cope with the prevailing disaster situation; and
- c) That effective mitigation procedures with regard to the following agricultural management practices have been redesigned and were timeously implemented:

i. Livestock and Veld Management

That sound livestock management is practiced such as control of stocking rates, branding, dipping and vaccination programmes.

ii. Dry-Land Crop Cultivation Practices

That the disaster occurrence resulted in total crop failure.

iii. Livestock Water Availability.

That there is a need for replacement or extension of existing dry boreholes and equipment's for livestock water. To provide for boreholes where earth dams are dry. That there is a need for water reticulation from a source to a point where water is needed.

iv. Water for Irrigation Purposes.

That there is a need for water reticulation from a source to a point where water is needed and that there is a need for replacement or extension of existing dry boreholes and equipment's for irrigation purposes.

9.2 DISASTER ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

Disaster relief measures will be developed and implemented in line with the above mentioned Agricultural management practices to deal specifically with each specific condition, e.g. livestock feed supply scheme, emergency livestock water supply scheme, livestock feed to sell scheme, supply of agricultural production inputs, etc.

9.3 DISASTER MANAGEMENT GOALS

The disaster management goals will be to support the departmental goals for service delivery and good governance. The strategic priorities of government as outlined in the Departmental plans and policies as well as the Strategic Plan 2015/6 – 2019/20, are the following:

- a) Optimal land use and sustainable resource management.
- b) Enhance Food security and Rural Development.
- c) Support Agricultural economic development.
- d) To promote a culture of self-resilient and sustainable farming practices within Limpopo Province

9.4 THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT TO MITIGATE DISASTERS

The Role of Government to mitigate disaster are the following:

- a) To conduct a research regarding climate change and climate predictions over specified time periods;
- b) To provide seasonal climate predictions;
- c) To provide with essential tools necessary to support sound decision making;
- d) To provide training, education and public awareness campaigns to the farming community with regard to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; and
- e) To enhance agricultural advisory and extension services.

9.5 DISASTER MANAGEMENT INTERVENTION

The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy is aimed at addressing the following issues:

9.5.1 Drought Interventions

a) Livestock Management during Drought

- i. The maintenance of a nucleus herd which is measured at 1/3 of the herd size to the maximum of 120 Large Stock Units (LSU'S), subject to the availability of funds.

- ii. The livestock feed supply scheme and/ or the Feed to Sell livestock scheme shall be implemented pending the situation on the ground as revealed through assessment.
- iii. To encourage farmers to adjust livestock to available grazing.

b) Crop Production

Assistance to annual and permanent crop farmers with agricultural production inputs. The production input policy shall be used to guide implementation procedures.

c) Environmental Effect.

The policy aims to ensure sustainable natural resource management.

d) Water Availability

Another point of focus within this policy is ensuring emergency water supply for livestock and crop production during periods of droughts.

e) Job Security

The policy is also aimed at limiting retrenchments of employees in the farming business.

9.5.2 Hydro-meteorological hazards

The policy seeks to address the cold spell, frost, hail, thunder storms, floods, strong winds, heat waves through monitoring and conduction awareness campaigns and the provision of early warning and advisory services.

9.5.3 Biological hazards

The policy seeks to address animal disease outbreaks, plant disease, veldfires and insect pest outbreaks through continuous monitoring and public awareness and the dissemination of early warning information and advisory services.

9.5.4 Cash Crop Production

To assist and mentor farmers to insure all insurable cash crops and farm equipment's against the high risk of possible loss and damage due to the effects of unforeseen disasters, such as black frost, hail, veldfires, heat waves, animal disease outbreaks, plant diseases, insect pests, etc., by providing a subsidy of 75%

on the balance of the loss between insurance pay-outs and crop estimates or book value of farm implements and equipment's at the time of loss, not covered by existing insurance related to specific damage on such assets. This measure will only come into effect for the following production season if a farmer can provide sufficient prove that he/she again insured his/her assets against such hazards and/or disasters from a registered insurance company, or financially assist affected farmers who suffered 70% and more crop loss per Ha for such cash crop commodities not accommodated by insurance, due to disasters, by providing a subsidy on production inputs per Ha for the following production cycle pending availability of funds.

9.5.5 Compensation on Livestock Losses

Compensation of livestock lost due to severe weather conditions, veldfires, floods and diseases shall be implemented pending approval of such a scheme by the LDARD and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), as well as the availability of funds to implement such a scheme.

9.6 IMPLEMENTATION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

9.6.1 Integrated approach in implementing Agricultural Disaster Management Policy

The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy begins with a political will, an administrative and legislative commitment for the coordination of all role players and their participation in policy-making. The latter requires institutional capacity and support to address gaps in disaster risk management. For proper planning and preparedness, all role players need to adopt an integrated approach (as outlined in figure 1) in addressing agricultural disasters by allocating roles and responsibilities even before an agricultural disaster occur.

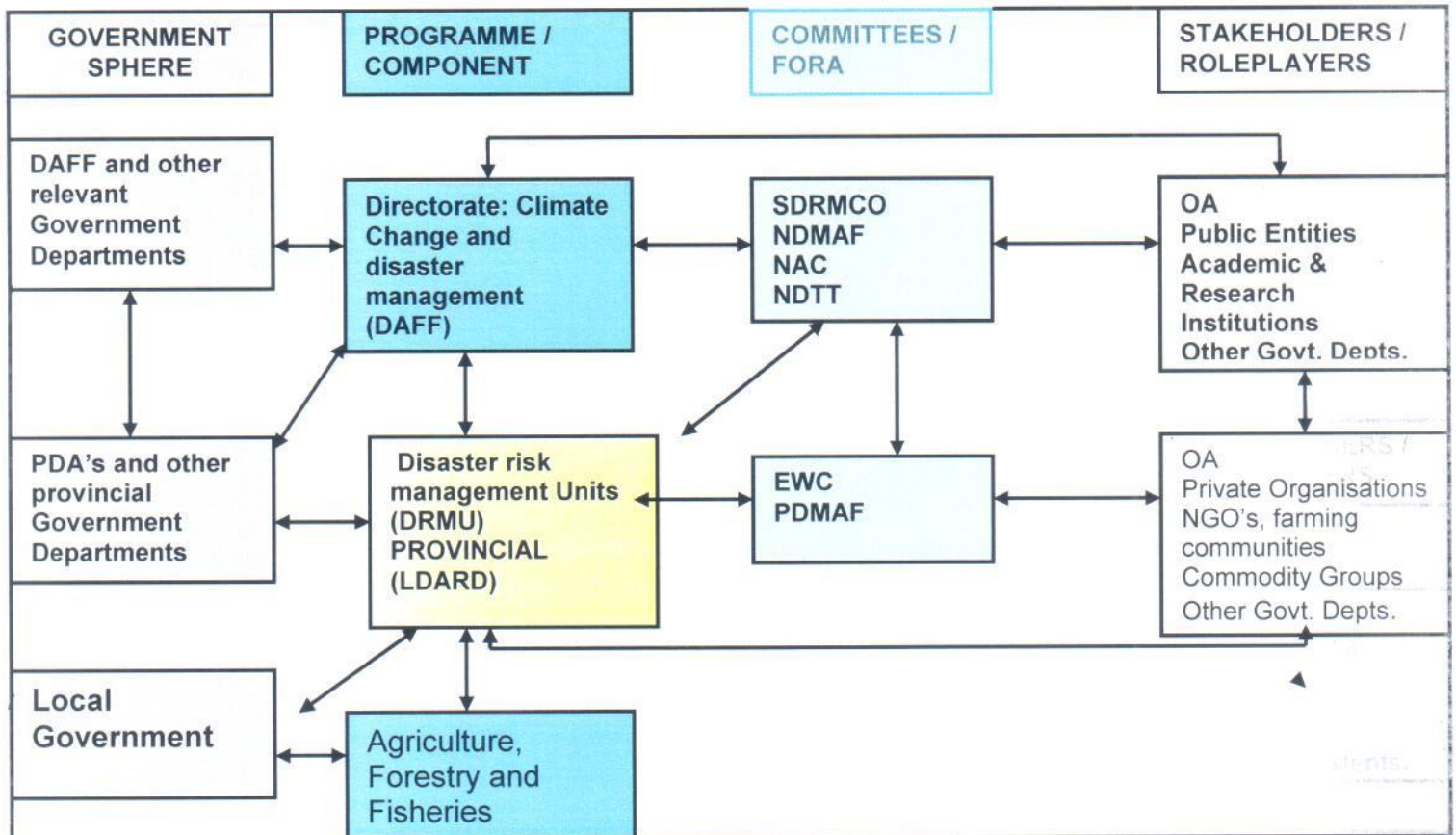


Figure 1. Integrated approach for effective agricultural disaster management

9.6.2 The Role of Local Agricultural Office

- a) After the occurrence of any disaster the farming community must report the occurrence of such an incident in writing to the local agricultural municipality office within two (2) working days.
- b) The local municipality manager should then conduct a preliminary economic impact assessment using the approved template provided by the Provincial office.
- c) The economic impact assessment must be conducted within two (2) working days after receiving an incident report from the farmer.
- d) Upon completion of the economic impact assessment report the local manager must compile a consolidated report and recommendations based upon the Disaster Management Act No. 57.

- e) The report submitted to the district must be accompanied by an electronic database of all the affected farmers, and must reach the district municipal manager within twenty four (24) hours.
- f) Only reported incidents shall be attended by the Department.

9.6.3 The Role of District Agricultural Municipalities

- a) Once the district has received a disaster report from the local municipality it is the responsibility of the district manager to verify similar occurrences within all local municipalities in the district.
- b) The district must assess all the reports as forwarded by the local municipal managers, and make the necessary recommendations based upon the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002.
- c) The district must then forward a consolidated district report to the provincial office within two (2) working days of receiving local manager's reports.

9.6.4 The Role of the Provincial Office

- a) The provincial Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRMU) will verify the occurrence of all reported disasters and will then consolidate the reports to develop a provincial report within 10 working days.
- b) Based upon the final assessment report and need analysis the provincial disaster management unit shall develop assistance measures, a strategic implementation plan and a budget within 2 working days.
- c) A submission to this effect shall be developed and forwarded to the offices of the HOD and the MEC for recommendation to the Executive Council for approval.
- d) The recommendation of request of disaster declaration of the affected areas shall be submitted to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) and DAFF for application of declaration by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).
- e) A written response shall be forwarded to the districts upon receiving of the approval or disapproval.

9.6.5 Role of Supply Chain Management (SCM)

- a) After careful assessment of the agricultural disaster at local level, the DRMU will submit a request to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) through Supply Chain Management (SCM) to begin the processes of gazetting of the 2% disaster fund which every Department is expected to set aside in case of disasters.
- b) The SCM will assist the DRMU by ensuring that all procurement processes related to agricultural disasters are prioritised and finalised in the shortest possible time.
- c) It remains the responsibility of the DRMU to provide SCM with correct information pertaining to the agricultural disasters to facilitate the procurement processes thereof.

9.7 COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL DISASTERS

- a) The LDARD Communication Directorate will be responsible for all communication related to any agricultural disaster which may occur from time to time.
- b) When an agricultural disaster has occurred at any Local Municipality, information pertaining to such a disaster must be communicated to the Disaster Risk District Co-ordinator in the District who will submit a written report to the District Director.
- c) The written report will then be forwarded to the DRMU at Head office for consolidation of the disaster reports and further submission to the Executive Management of the LDARD and to the Provincial Disaster Management Committee and DAFF.
- d) Any media statements on the said agricultural disaster will only be issued and communicated to the public in consultation with the LDARD Communication Directorate after approval by the Executive Management.
- e) A Sub-committee on Communication would be formed in the event of any agricultural disaster hitting any part of the Limpopo Province, and all

communications on the disaster will be done in conjunction with LDARD Communication Directorate.

9.8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- a) The Department is mandated to make funding provision of 2% of the budget for disaster management purposes
- b) Upon a disaster occurrence and a gazetted declaration, an emergency disaster relief fund should be secured by the Provincial Government to enable immediate relief until such time that the National Government intervenes.
- c) DRMU will assess the impact where after specific criteria will be developed.
- d) The implementation and administration of a specific scheme will be administered within the allocated budgets.
- e) Criteria, norms and standards for each specific scheme will be strictly adhered to.

10. DEFAULT

This Policy clearly sets out all matters regarding the management of Agricultural disasters and no deviation from this Policy will be allowed. Should circumstances dictate that a specific case might need consideration other than being treated according to the Policy, it should only happen with the written permission of the Accounting Officer.

11. INCEPTION DATE

The inception date of this Agricultural Disaster Management Policy is the date of approval.

12. TERMINATION AND POLICY REVIEW CONDITIONS

This policy will be reviewed after every three (3) years, or as and when a need arise.

Should the Policy still be in the review process by the time it lapses, an extension is applicable and the approved Policy remain valid until the reviewed version is approved.

13. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries with regard to any matter relating to this Policy shall be directed to the Director, Disaster Risk Management Unit: Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Tel 015 294 3000/Private Bag X 9487, Polokwane, 0700

Disaster Risk Management Unit is responsible for the timeous review, circulation, advocacy, availability and feed-back regarding this Policy. Disaster Risk Management Unit is responsible for reporting towards oversight bodies in the event of enquiries with regards to this Policy.

Recommended by:

.....

Head of Department

(Maisela, RJ)

.....

Date

Approved by:

.....

Hon Member of the Executive Council (Acting)

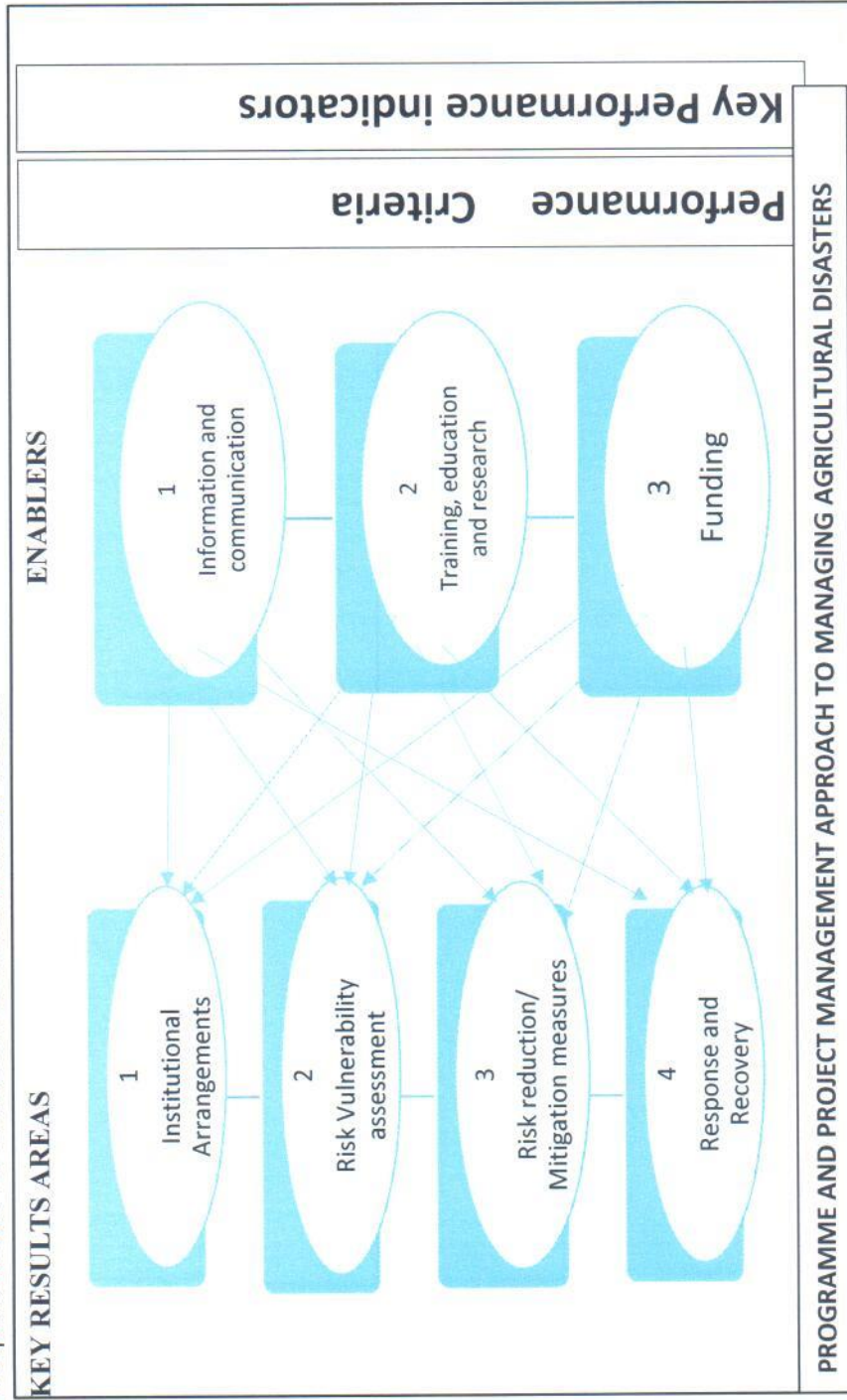
Sekoati, SC (MPL)

.....

Date

Annexure A

Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Process



Recommended by:

M. Lakshragi
.....

Head of Department
(Maisela, RJ)

07/03/2018
.....

Date

Approved by:

S. Sekoati
.....

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

8/03/2018
.....

Date