



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


**AGRICULTURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
POLICY**

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Approved and Signed by:

  
Head of Department

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Date:

  
MEC for Agriculture:

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i. Acronyms

<b>IPCC</b>	-	<b>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</b>	
<b>AR4</b>	-	<b>Fourth Assessment Report</b>	
<b>ACT No. 1 of 1999 and its regulations</b>			- <b>Audit Policy</b>
			- <b>Asset management Policies</b>
			- <b>Procurement Policies</b>
			- <b>DORA</b>
<b>DORA</b>	-	<b>Division of Revenue Act</b>	
<b>EWS</b>	-	<b>Early Warning Systems</b>	
<b>LSU's</b>	-	<b>Large Stock Unit(s)</b>	
<b>MEC</b>	-	<b>Member of Executive council</b>	
<b>HOD</b>	-	<b>Head of the Department</b>	
<b>DAFF</b>	-	<b>Department of Agriculture Forestry &amp; Fisheries</b>	
<b>PDMC</b>	-	<b>Provincial Disaster Management Centre</b>	
<b>Department</b>	-	<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	
<b>Department of Agriculture policies</b>	-	<b>Strategic Plans of the Department</b>	
<b>CFO</b>	-	<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	
<b>SCM</b>	-	<b>Supply Chain Management</b>	
<b>Municipality</b>	-	<b>Municipal offices of the Department of Agriculture.</b>	
<b>District</b>	-	<b>District office of the Department of Agriculture.</b>	



## 1. Background.

In late 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released their Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), drawing together the scientific evidence on climate change (IPCC 2007). The report states clearly unequivocally 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 and climate variability accounts for the many disasters experienced globally and in particular persistent droughts in Limpopo Province, veldfires, floods, cold spells, frosts, hail, thunder storms, 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. The Limpopo Province has suffered severe droughts during the periods 1982-1983, 1992-1993, 2003-2004 and the recent disaster drought during 2008-2009 in which the Province has experienced huge economic losses due to the persisting droughts. The 2000 floods also rank among the historic disaster events of huge economic significance. These economic losses are unbearable to the Province and therefore proactive measures are deemed necessary.

The Limpopo Province Agricultural Disaster Management Policy emanates from the Disaster Management Act, No. 57 of 2002. It is aiming to encourage Primary producers within the Limpopo Province to adopt self-reliance approaches in managing climate variability, to maintain and protect the Limpopo Province Agricultural and environmental resource base during periods of extreme climate stress, and to ensure early recovery of Agricultural and Rural Industries, consistent with long-term sustainable levels. This 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, through providing economic instruments to reduce fluctuations in income from year to year, at achieving more sustainable agriculture.

In line with this policy document direct financial assistance should be provided when agricultural disasters are deemed to be exceptional.

## 2. Purpose.

This 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 avoiding the disruption of agricultural and socio-economic development in the disaster affected areas.

## 3. Objectives.

Specific objectives to be achieved include the following:

- ❖ To educate and raise awareness to our farmers regarding weather and climatic conditions through early warning information systems and advisory services aimed at good farming practices.
- ❖ To outline the principles that will guide the disaster management programs.
- ❖ To identify criteria, norms and standards for disaster relief assistance.
- ❖ To provide for implementation mechanisms.

## 4. The New Approach in Managing Agricultural Disasters.

The Agricultural Disaster Management Policy is developed based on the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002 and National Disaster Management Framework. The Framework requires plans to be aligned to four (4) **Key Performance Areas**:

- Integrated institutional capacity for disaster risk management.
- Disaster risk assessment.
- Disaster risk reduction.
- Response and recovery.

The framework also provides for three (3) **Enablers**:

- Information and communication management.
- Education, training, public awareness and research.
- Funding arrangement for agricultural disaster risk management.



## 5. Policies Affected by the Disaster Management policy.

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 No. 57 of 2002.
- ❖ Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act No. 43 of 1983.
- ❖ Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 1999 and its Regulations.
- ❖ Veld and forest fire Act No. 101 of 1998.
- ❖ The constitution of South Africa, 1996
- ❖ National Disaster Management Framework of 2005.
- ❖ Provincial Disaster Management Framework of 2009.
- ❖ Asset Management Policy.
- ❖ Department of Agricultural Policy.
- ❖ Procurement policies.
- ❖ Audit Act and policies

## 6. Guiding Principles for Disaster Relief Assistance.

### 6.1. 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.

The early warning system has been developed to inform and prepare the farmers on all issues pertaining to climate changes, cropping practices, fodder banks, water conservation, harvesting mechanisms, and other information that need the attention of the farmer.

In line with the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002, the National Disaster Management Framework of 2005 and the Provincial Disaster Management Framework of 2009 the following **Criteria** will then be followed as prerequisites for disaster conditions: