



# BUDGET SPEECH

2024 - 2025



" A Modern Growing and Successful Northern Cape "



agriculture, environmental affairs,  
rural development and land reform  
Department:  
agriculture, environmental affairs,  
rural development and land reform .  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**BUDGET SPEECH DELIVERED MEC MASE MANOPOLE ON THE 10TH  
SEPTEMBER 2024 NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

Honourable Speaker Ms Newrene Klaaste

Deputy Speaker: Mr Mangaliso Matika

Honourable Premier, Dr Zamani Saul

Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Legislature

Leaders of Local Government

Traditional Leaders

Agricultural sector Leaders & Partners present;

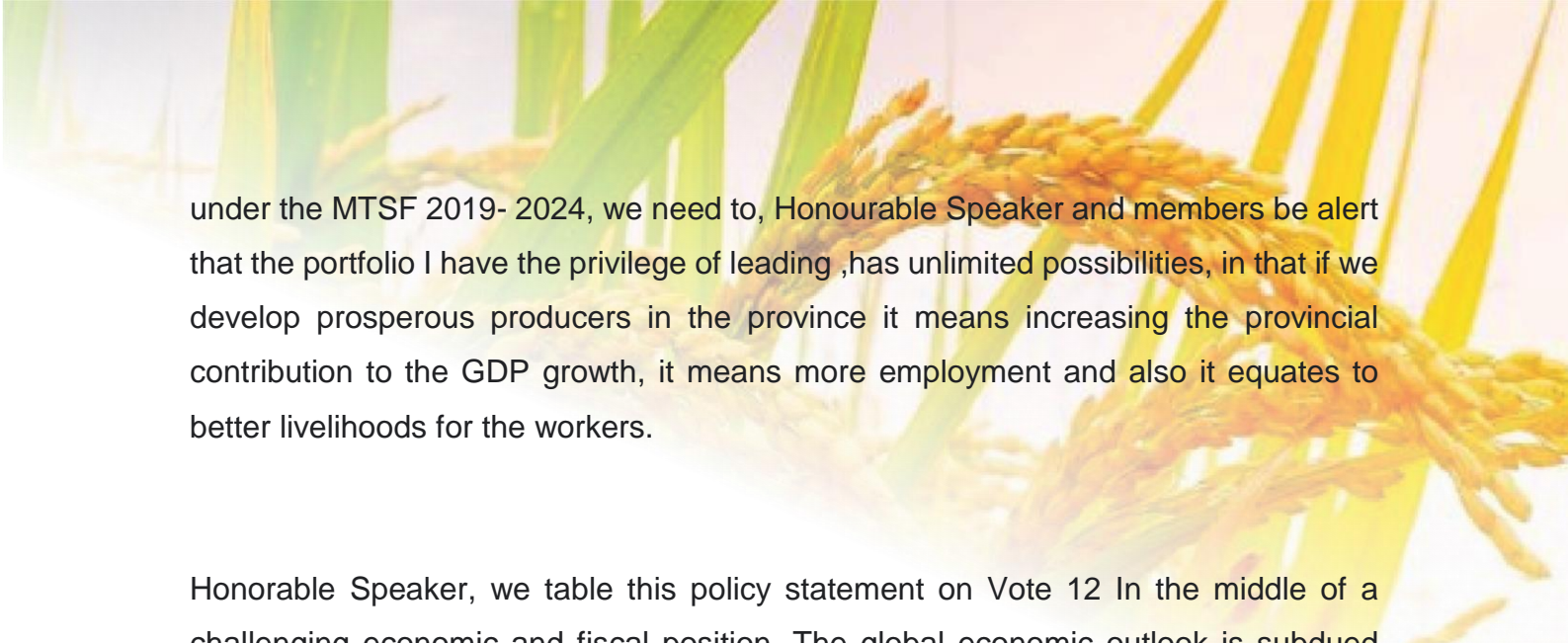
Distinguished Guests and People of the Northern Cape;

Comrades, Ladies and gentlemen

The ultimate mandate of this Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform is essentially not only about providing support for our service recipients to breed livestock, grow crops, conserving and protecting the environment, it is the nourishment, cultivating and sustaining the perfection of human beings who cares about the food security of others.

It is in that context that I want us to internalize the mandates of the Department as critical contributors to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. In all our endeavours as a Department, we understand that sustainable development creates a balance that advocates for neither the elimination of the people and the environment.


The former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said **“If we get agriculture right in Africa, where most of the people now are working in that sector, not only would it help boost development, but will be secure in terms of food and nutrition and then be able to move on to other areas”**, as we conclude with the last budget speech



under the MTSF 2019- 2024, we need to, Honourable Speaker and members be alert that the portfolio I have the privilege of leading ,has unlimited possibilities, in that if we develop prosperous producers in the province it means increasing the provincial contribution to the GDP growth, it means more employment and also it equates to better livelihoods for the workers.

Honorable Speaker, we table this policy statement on Vote 12 In the middle of a challenging economic and fiscal position. The global economic outlook is subdued while South Africa experienced over a decade of weak economic growth. Consequently, the National Treasury instituted cost containment measures resulting in budgets cuts and termination of some of the planned programmes.

Nevertheless, the picture is not all doom and gloom. The medium-term outlook has improved marginally, with average growth of 1.6 percent forecast, compared with 1.4 percent which was estimated in 2023. Right in middle of the global economic crisis, South Africa's economy grew by a marginal 0,1% in the fourth quarter (October–December), taking the annual growth rate for 2023 to 0,6%. On the downside, trade, agriculture, construction and government services exhibited a weaker growth. Agriculture, forestry & fishing had a notably tough year, shrinking by 9,7%. This stagnated growth is attributed to weaker production figures for field crops such as grain sorghum, hay, wheat, sugarcane and chicory root; Horticulture products (most notably, viticulture and citrus fruits) as well as animal products like slaughtered pigs, poultry and eggs.



In terms of the agricultural sector employment, the country reached **eight hundred and ninety-four thousand** (894 000) in Quarter 2 of 2023 and declined at around 420 opportunities per quarter. Similarly for the Northern Cape, the agricultural sector employment for the province reached **thirty-eight thousand** (38 000) in Quarter 2 of 2023, declining at around 130 opportunities per quarter. The quarterly contribution declined seven times from the last 13 quarters since Quarter 2 of 2020.

Honourable Speaker, the prevailing socio-economic and fiscal situation calls upon all sectors of our society to be prudent while being innovative in accelerating the development agenda of society. It is for this reason that we table the plans of our department aimed at contributing to inclusive economic growth, optimisation of the social wage, and building a capable, ethical and developmental state. It is common cause that it in the context of the Northern Cape we are pursuing a vision of a modern, growing and successful province which is about a better life for all.

**The budget will also focus on rural development, sustainable agriculture, and food security, addressing the province's unique challenges, such as water scarcity and climate change.** Nelson Mandela's said I quote, **"It always seems impossible until it's done,"** this quote resonates in the context of overcoming these challenges to achieve a thriving, sustainable agricultural sector. The emphasis remains on balancing fiscal constraints while pushing for inclusive development that secures a prosperous future for the province and its people.

## Growing the Provincial Economy

Honourable Speaker, both the agriculture and environmental sectors are key to helping grow the economy, reduce poverty, and raise household income to improve food security. In the agriculture sector our key intervention is to support smallholder producers to improve productivity and facilitate access to markets. In this regard, we continue to rely on the Comprehensive Agricultural Producer Support (CASP and Ilima/Letsema) conditional grants to fund our interventions. The department has however, explored other sources of funding and has initiated the process of tapping into the Budget Facility for Infrastructure fund at National Treasury for major infrastructure projects such as the Vaalharts Revitalization Scheme to fast-track its actualisation. At current funding rates, the completion of this project would take another 50 years unless other sources of funding are explored. The department is also exploring a partnership with the LandBank for co-funding of certain projects and to this end, an engagement with LandBank's CEO has already taken place. A technical team has been set up on both sides to explore this relationship and come up with specifics. We are finalising the nitty-gritty around an MoU with the Landbank which will spell out clear areas on cooperation and deliverables interventions.

In the 2024/25 financial year, these conditional grants have a collective allocation which will ensure our continued support to projects across the province.


Our focused support will in particular be directed to smallholder producers with the provision of on and off-farm infrastructure, skills development and market access. At least 200 smallholder producers in **variety** commodities will be supported. The Provincial Department in collaboration with National Department is in the process of implementation of Phase 3 of Presidential Employment Stimulus 3 initiative have allocated the amount of R 11,722,981.92 (eleven million, seven hundred and twenty-two thousand and nine hundred and eighty-one rand only) to the department towards the support of subsistence producers in 2024/25 financial year. In October 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that government would make available an employment stimulus package to support subsistence and household producers to sustain livelihoods, retain self-employment and support food value chains. This was in the response to the (COVID-19) pandemic's impacts.

## Training and Capacity Building of Producers

CASP will also be used for capacity building and training of producers through training and learnership programs. This program seeks to optimize production through application of new agricultural technology, mitigation strategies on climate change and new innovations in farming. A total of 1000 participants will be trained in **different** agricultural training programs to improve production and increase farm profit.

This will be delivered through both credit and non-credit bearing courses provided by departmental officials in collaboration with **various/several** agricultural stakeholders and commodity organizations as well as **various/numerous** commercial cooperatives and organized agriculture. Our training interventions will be anchored on partnership or implementation working plans with the following training institution; Sol Plaatje University, University of the Free State, Technical Colleges, Agricultural Colleges including Grootfontein Development Institute (GADI), Raisin SA, **various/several** Commercial Cooperatives; SENWES, Citrus Growers, GWK, and KLK and other partner to be identified. At the centre of the delivery of all these training interventions will be our own training entity the Northern Cape Agricultural Training Academy. The Department will position the Northern Cape Agricultural Training Academy to be the one responsible for concluding all our training interventions partnership and implementation working plans with the above listed institutions but not limited to them to assist to achieve our capacity building objectives

An estimated 140 agribusiness will be supported with marketing services to ensure that they are able to access markets. More specifically, the department is coordinating Farmers' market days which is an initiative that assist smallholder producers who are unable to sell through formal market to market their produce. These are producers who produce limited quantities and are generally inconsistent with their production outputs. Through this initiative the department arranges producers with products to sell to gather at a central point on identified days. The market day rotates between identified spots. **Different** vegetables and other commodities are sold through this market days. The department is planning to enhance this initiative by assisting these farmers with support on durable infrastructure.



**The Department will explore and assess the viability of steel containers shop concept in some communities where food insecurity is severe for fresh produce sales as a means to fight food insecurity and enhance nutrition. Should the concept prove viable the department will expand this to other areas.**

### ***Rural Safety and Stock theft***

Responding to the provincial vision of a Modern, Growing and Successful province, the department, in the 2023/24 year, had introduced the Smart Farming Initiative which sought to connect farmers to the latest technologies in terms of animal tracking. The first phase of the project focused on establishing the core infrastructure necessary for smart farming in the Northern Cape. The initial areas targeted were 3 sites in JGT and 1 site in the Frances Baard District were phase 1 was completed. The second phase is approved for the 2024/25 financial year and involves expanding on the infrastructure and ensuring its integration with existing systems which means integrated advanced monitoring technologies, including drones, long distance thermal imaging cameras, and sniper cameras, to enhance the capabilities of the livestock tracking systems. This will have the benefit of reducing stock theft in the targeted areas.



## Job Creation

Central to inclusive economic growth is the creation of sustainable jobs. Our sector remains key in the battle against unemployment. As a direct intervention, the department will use its resources to create about 750 jobs across the province. At least 400 EPWP jobs will be created through the projects funded by CASP and Ilima/Letsema, 210 will be created through the environmental sector public employment programs, and at least 140 jobs will be created by the implementation of the LandCare programme.

The Unemployed Graduates Programme will continue to be implemented where the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development made available R8 830 000m ( **Eight Million Eight Hundred and Thirty Thousand**) through CASP Grant Fund to support unemployed agricultural graduates to undergo entrepreneurial skills transfer for a period of two year. To date, a total of 323 unemployed agricultural graduates were recruited and placed in relevant smallholder/commercial producer to undergo on job training in the areas of production, agro-processing, farm management, governance, business and entrepreneurship under the supervision of experiences mentors/producers with entrepreneurial skills. Of the 240 graduates, (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort) 40 secured jobs in **different** areas of the sector and 22 have started their own farming enterprises.

Furthermore, as part of the support to the youth, Department through CASP Training Funding allocated an amount of R1 180 million with this we have targeted 20 young people in Pixley Ka Seme who will be trained in Piggery Production. The initiative is part of the training and capacity of the Youth Producers in the Province. During the previous financial year, 25 Youth participated in the Learnership Programme in John Taolo Gaetsewe, at Heuningvlei and are receiving training in Animal Production.



## Food Security

Honourable Speaker, food security remains a pressing challenge to the people of our province. According to Statistic SA, **General Household survey (2022)** about 19.6% of South African households had inadequate or severe inadequate access to food in 2022, which is slightly lower than 20.9% recorded in the 2021 GHS. The Northern Cape has about 32.6% of households experiencing inadequate access to food, which is a 3.2% decrease from the 35.8 reported in the GHS of 2021. Only 14 % of the households in the province are reported to be involved in agriculture of those 41.8 % participate to have an extra source of food and 25.1% participate to earn extra income (Stats SA 2021 &2022 GHS (65)).

The food security situation is exacerbated by the effects of climate change, increasing food price, fuel price hikes, unemployment and poverty. The Department promote and support initiatives to enhance household food security through the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (IFSNP). Key to this is the implementation of urban agriculture and support to community and institutional food gardens in collaboration with **various/several** Departments through the Balelapa Initiative (War on Poverty). The integrated Programme is championed by Department of Social Development while DAELR contribute to the programme by encouraging communities to produce own food through subsistence vegetable gardens and poultry production.

Department through the Extension and Advisory Services will continue to promote establishment of household food gardens, backyard poultry production to encourage households and communities to produce own food that contribute to their daily dietary needs. A total of 1 300 subsistence producers will be supported with agricultural garden and poultry starter packs to rural farming communities to address poverty and food security at household level. Establishment of food gardens at **different** institutions including schools, soup kitchens, community gardens and early learning centres will be undertaken. The Department has allocated the budget of R3.8 million through the equitable share allocation to support households and subsistence producers.

## Natural Disasters

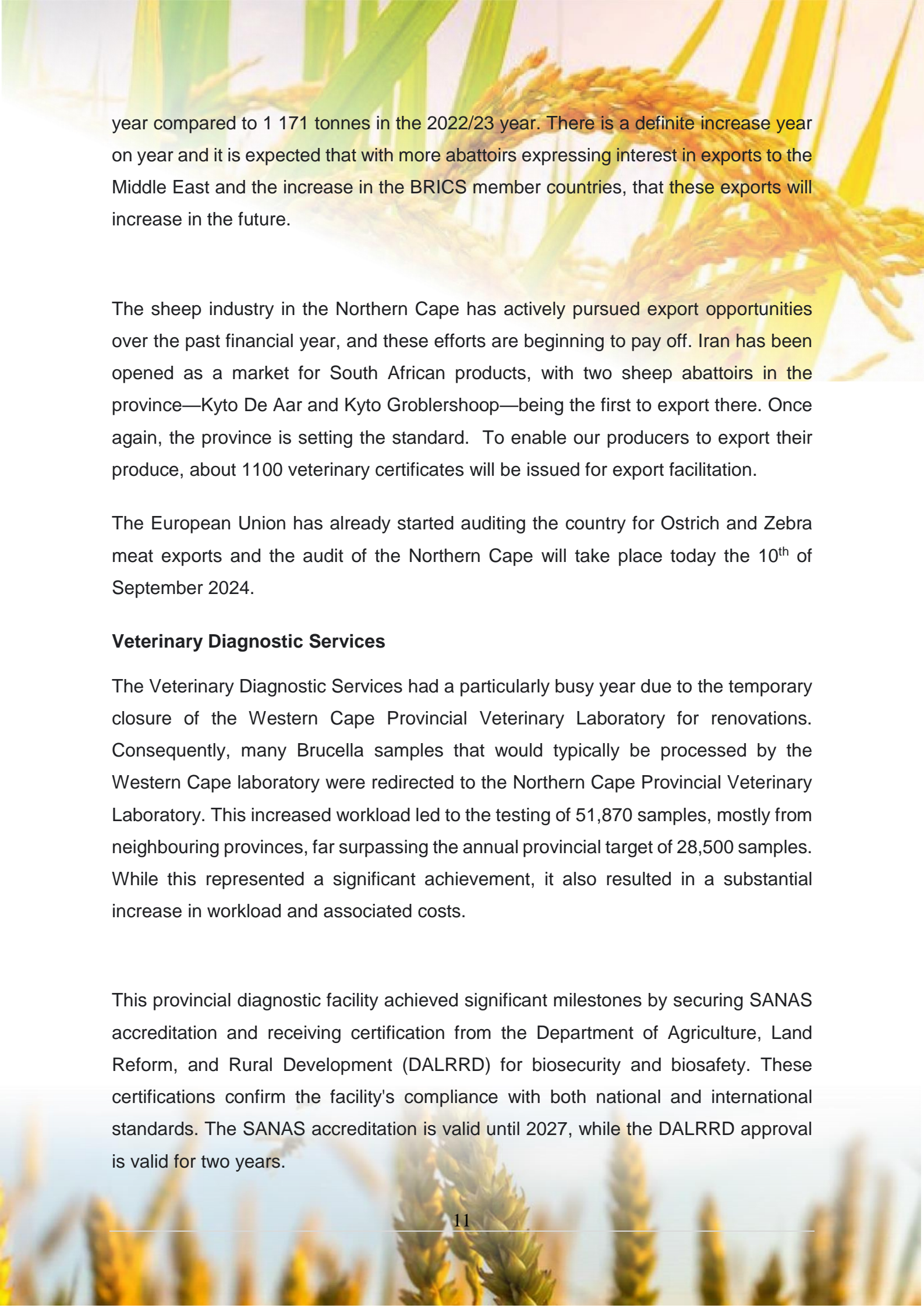
Honourable Members, natural disasters are the biggest threat to the sector's contribution to economic growth and food security. We must be always prepared to intervene when natural disasters strike. Currently, due to consistent dry and hot conditions over large parts of the province more especially the north western part it was severely affected by seasonal drought. The department assisted affected farmers through the fodder bank.

Veldfire risk have evidently worsened significantly during the past several years. There has been major veldfires in many Districts within the Province. JTG District has reported an alarmingly high number, surpassing other districts and followed by ZF Mgcawu District. Working with COGHSTA, DFFE, Fire Protection Associations and Organized Agriculture, some mitigation measures are being implemented such as training of farmers.

As part of our intervention the Fodder Banks will provide emergency fodder support to farmers during times of drought, or other crises that might lead to disasters. Currently the fodder bank has successfully stockpiled an estimated 751 tons of lucerne bales with an estimated gate value of R3 000 000.00. **Already a total of 55.3 tons of fodder have been distributed to disaster risk affected areas within the province for 2024/25 season, supporting farmers in their time of need.**

## Veterinary International Trade

A significant milestone has been achieved with the commencement of trade with Saudi Arabia. After lengthy negotiations to finalize the health certificate, Beefmaster became the first South African establishment to export beef to Saudi Arabia. This accomplishment is a source of great pride for the province, with the expectation that it will benefit the entire red meat value chain. Beef exports to China are thriving, with substantial volumes being shipped. At least 4 100 tonnes of beef in the 2023/24 compared to 1 560 tonnes in 2022/23 were exported from the Northern Cape to these new markets. In terms of lamb, the province exported 1 581 tonnes in the 2023/24



year compared to 1 171 tonnes in the 2022/23 year. There is a definite increase year on year and it is expected that with more abattoirs expressing interest in exports to the Middle East and the increase in the BRICS member countries, that these exports will increase in the future.

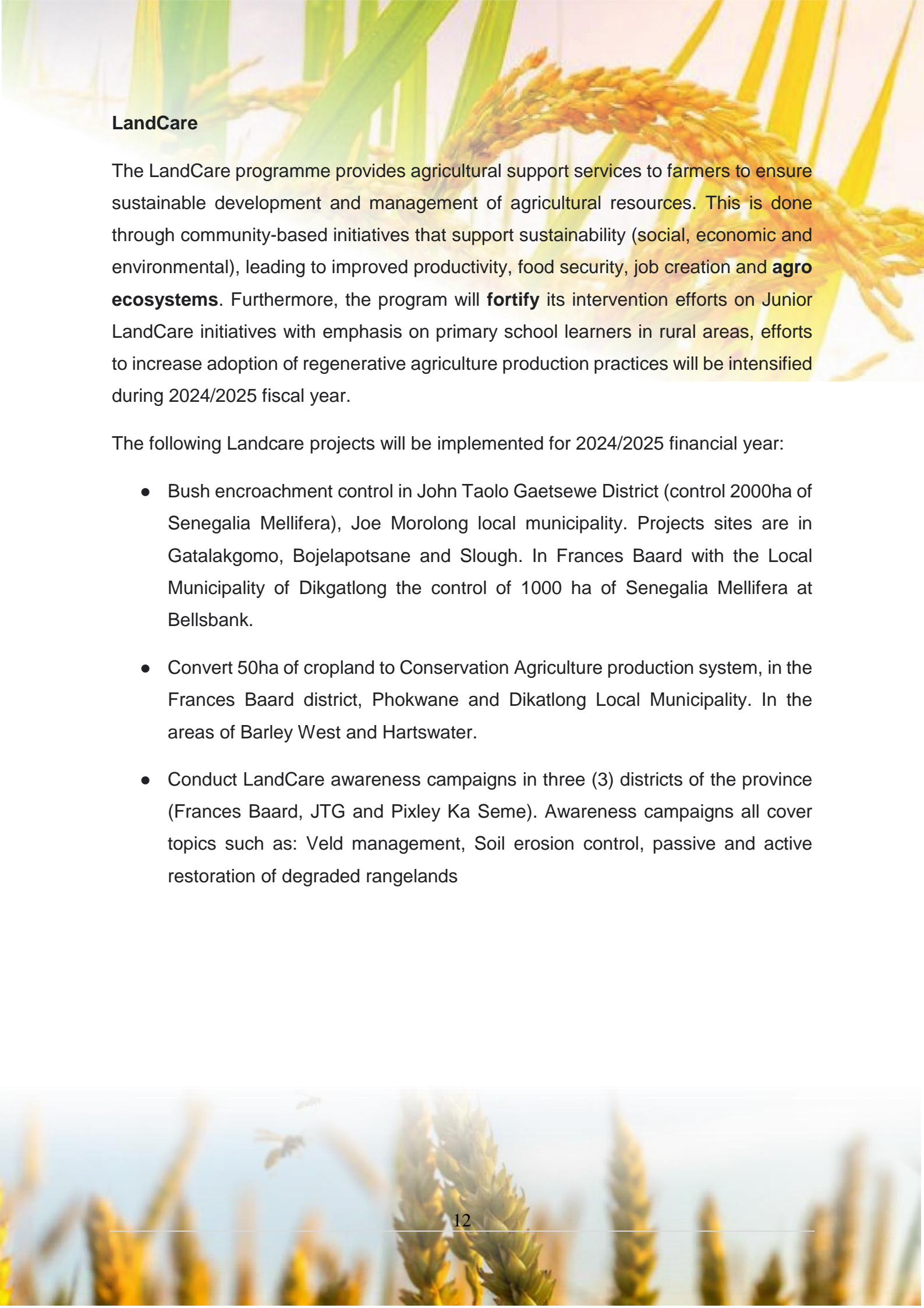
The sheep industry in the Northern Cape has actively pursued export opportunities over the past financial year, and these efforts are beginning to pay off. Iran has been opened as a market for South African products, with two sheep abattoirs in the province—Kyto De Aar and Kyto Groblershoop—being the first to export there. Once again, the province is setting the standard. To enable our producers to export their produce, about 1100 veterinary certificates will be issued for export facilitation.

The European Union has already started auditing the country for Ostrich and Zebra meat exports and the audit of the Northern Cape will take place today the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.

### **Veterinary Diagnostic Services**

The Veterinary Diagnostic Services had a particularly busy year due to the temporary closure of the Western Cape Provincial Veterinary Laboratory for renovations. Consequently, many Brucella samples that would typically be processed by the Western Cape laboratory were redirected to the Northern Cape Provincial Veterinary Laboratory. This increased workload led to the testing of 51,870 samples, mostly from neighbouring provinces, far surpassing the annual provincial target of 28,500 samples. While this represented a significant achievement, it also resulted in a substantial increase in workload and associated costs.

This provincial diagnostic facility achieved significant milestones by securing SANAS accreditation and receiving certification from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (DALRRD) for biosecurity and biosafety. These certifications confirm the facility's compliance with both national and international standards. The SANAS accreditation is valid until 2027, while the DALRRD approval is valid for two years.




## LandCare

The LandCare programme provides agricultural support services to farmers to ensure sustainable development and management of agricultural resources. This is done through community-based initiatives that support sustainability (social, economic and environmental), leading to improved productivity, food security, job creation and **agro ecosystems**. Furthermore, the program will **fortify** its intervention efforts on Junior LandCare initiatives with emphasis on primary school learners in rural areas, efforts to increase adoption of regenerative agriculture production practices will be intensified during 2024/2025 fiscal year.

The following Landcare projects will be implemented for 2024/2025 financial year:

- Bush encroachment control in John Taolo Gaetsewe District (control 2000ha of *Senegalia Mellifera*), Joe Morolong local municipality. Projects sites are in Gatalakgomo, Bojelpotsane and Slough. In Frances Baard with the Local Municipality of Dikgatlong the control of 1000 ha of *Senegalia Mellifera* at Bellsbank.
- Convert 50ha of cropland to Conservation Agriculture production system, in the Frances Baard district, Phokwane and Dikgatlong Local Municipality. In the areas of Barley West and Hartswater.
- Conduct LandCare awareness campaigns in three (3) districts of the province (Frances Baard, JTG and Pixley Ka Seme). Awareness campaigns all cover topics such as: Veld management, Soil erosion control, passive and active restoration of degraded rangelands



## Research and Development

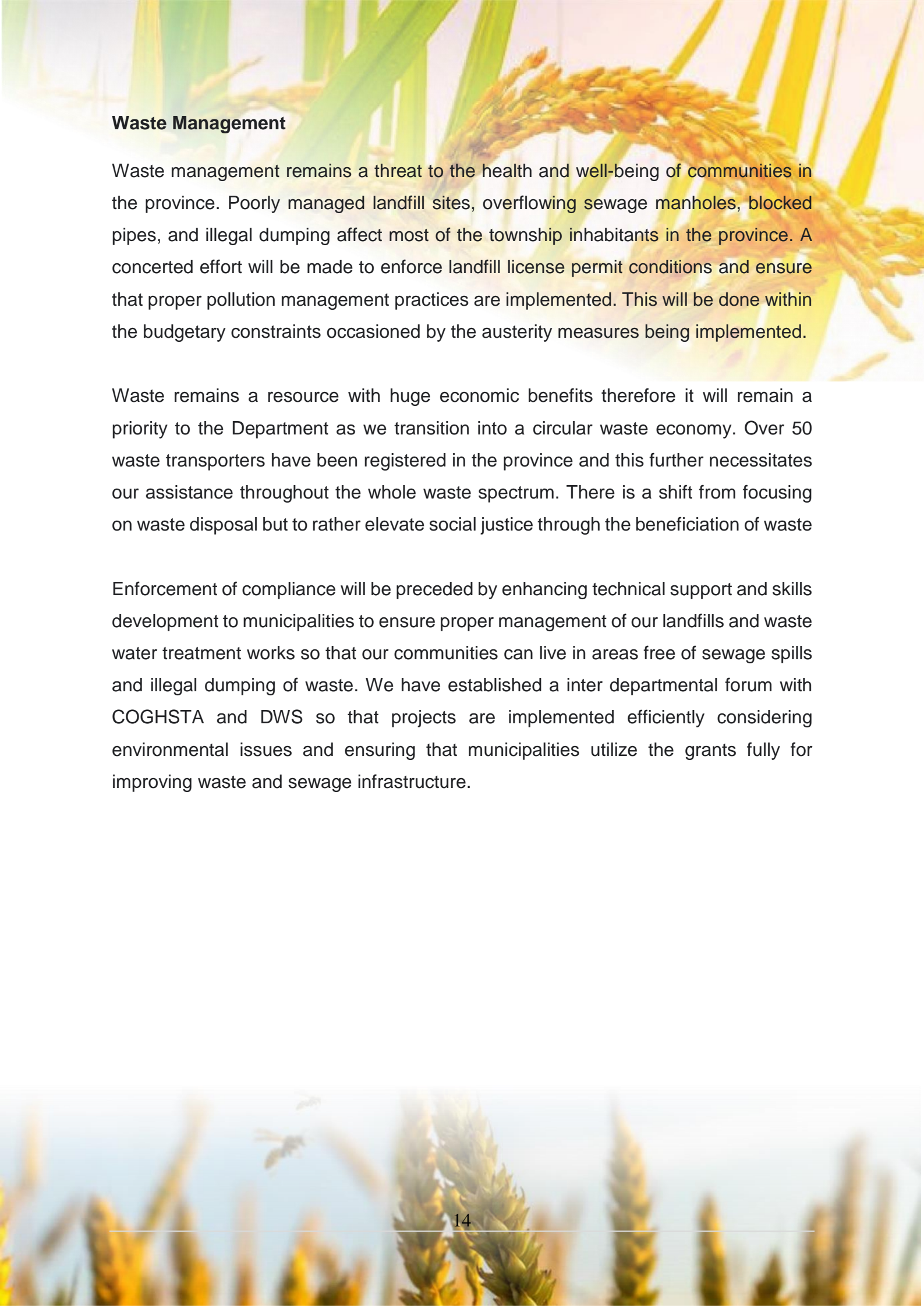
The department's key research focus in previous years has been on the impact of climate change and disaster related research. Key projects such as:

- Development of remote screening techniques to track vegetation change in arid rangelands and tracking the impact of climate change, which was utilizing remote sensing techniques and drone technology as part of 4th Industrial Revolution and is critical in the Early Warning Systems for farmers as it will predict the start of droughts and farmers can be advised in time on mitigation measures. The province has applied for further funding to extend this research to the **Kalahari biome**.

The Department has also collaborated with other institutions in pursuit of Climate smart farming such as:

- Collaboration with the Agricultural Research Council titled "*The effect of climate change on beef production in Southern Africa*" and "*Can Crossbreeding reduce the carbon footprint of **weaner** calf production in beef cattle*".
- The province is also hosting an Agricultural Research Council project at Eiland Research Station looking at Bioprospecting of Devil's Claw, Cancer Bush and Kanna

It is imperative that this research agenda be pursued with vigour in order to prepare farmers for a climate smart agriculture and improving livelihoods. These are long-term studies that will greatly benefit future generations.

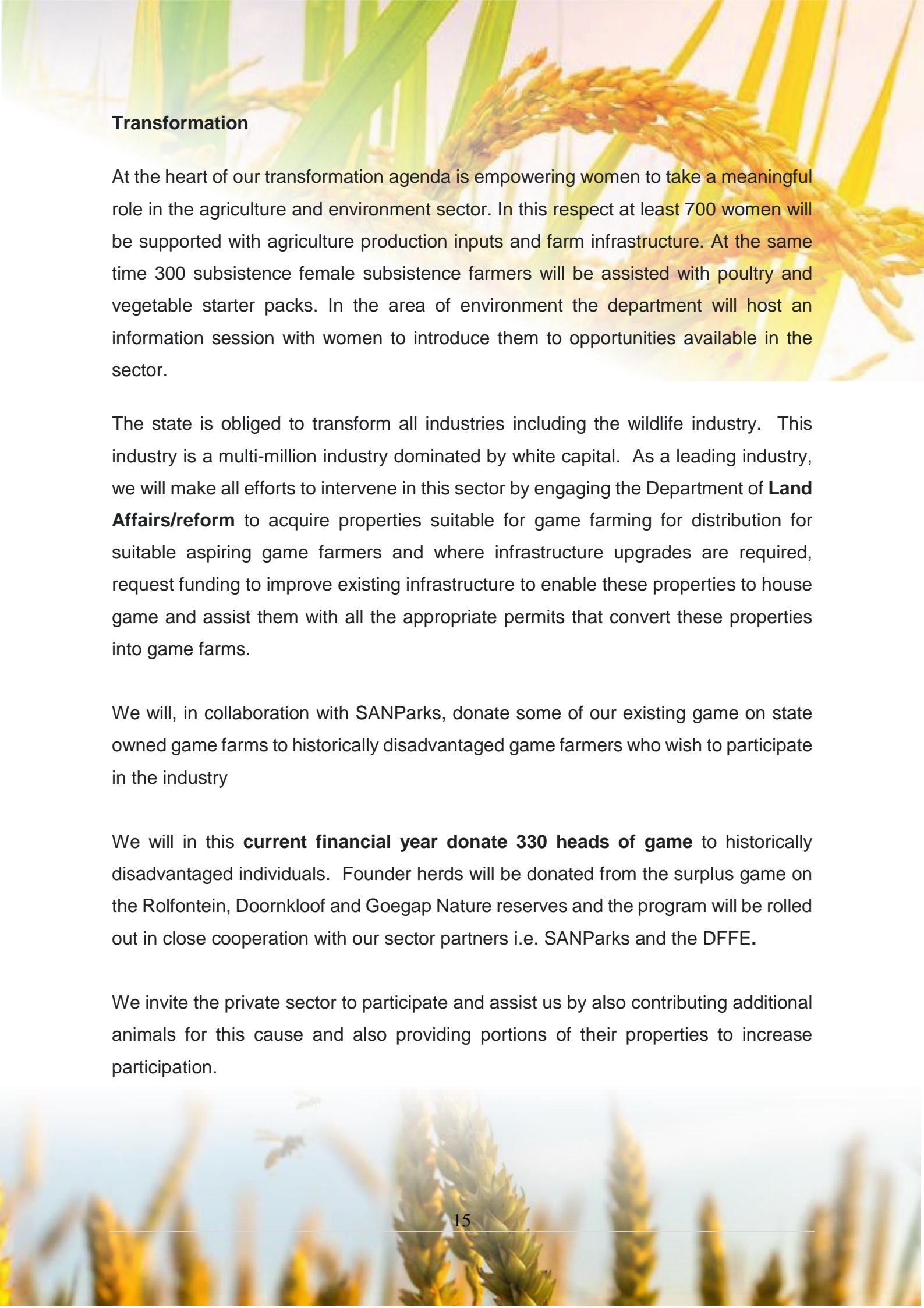


## **Waste Management**

Waste management remains a threat to the health and well-being of communities in the province. Poorly managed landfill sites, overflowing sewage manholes, blocked pipes, and illegal dumping affect most of the township inhabitants in the province. A concerted effort will be made to enforce landfill license permit conditions and ensure that proper pollution management practices are implemented. This will be done within the budgetary constraints occasioned by the austerity measures being implemented.

Waste remains a resource with huge economic benefits therefore it will remain a priority to the Department as we transition into a circular waste economy. Over 50 waste transporters have been registered in the province and this further necessitates our assistance throughout the whole waste spectrum. There is a shift from focusing on waste disposal but to rather elevate social justice through the beneficiation of waste

Enforcement of compliance will be preceded by enhancing technical support and skills development to municipalities to ensure proper management of our landfills and waste water treatment works so that our communities can live in areas free of sewage spills and illegal dumping of waste. We have established an inter departmental forum with COGHSTA and DWS so that projects are implemented efficiently considering environmental issues and ensuring that municipalities utilize the grants fully for improving waste and sewage infrastructure.



## Transformation

At the heart of our transformation agenda is empowering women to take a meaningful role in the agriculture and environment sector. In this respect at least 700 women will be supported with agriculture production inputs and farm infrastructure. At the same time 300 subsistence female subsistence farmers will be assisted with poultry and vegetable starter packs. In the area of environment the department will host an information session with women to introduce them to opportunities available in the sector.

The state is obliged to transform all industries including the wildlife industry. This industry is a multi-million industry dominated by white capital. As a leading industry, we will make all efforts to intervene in this sector by engaging the Department of **Land Affairs/reform** to acquire properties suitable for game farming for distribution for suitable aspiring game farmers and where infrastructure upgrades are required, request funding to improve existing infrastructure to enable these properties to house game and assist them with all the appropriate permits that convert these properties into game farms.

We will, in collaboration with SANParks, donate some of our existing game on state owned game farms to historically disadvantaged game farmers who wish to participate in the industry

We will in this **current financial year donate 330 heads of game** to historically disadvantaged individuals. Founder herds will be donated from the surplus game on the Rolfontein, Doornkloof and Goegap Nature reserves and the program will be rolled out in close cooperation with our sector partners i.e. SANParks and the DFFE.

We invite the private sector to participate and assist us by also contributing additional animals for this cause and also providing portions of their properties to increase participation.

## **Youth Empowerment**

As part of the Kangnas Mainstream biodiversity offset agreement twenty (22) youth from seven adjacent communities i.e. Springbok, Nababiep, Okiep, Concordia, Fonteintjie, Carolusberg and Matjieskloof will continue to receive employment and training at Goegap Nature Reserve.

In collaboration with the National Department of Tourism and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism the provincial nature reserves will serve as host sites for the employment and training of thirty-one (31) local youth through the Tourism Monitor and Open for Business Initiatives.

Honourable Premier

Honourable Speaker and

Honourable Members

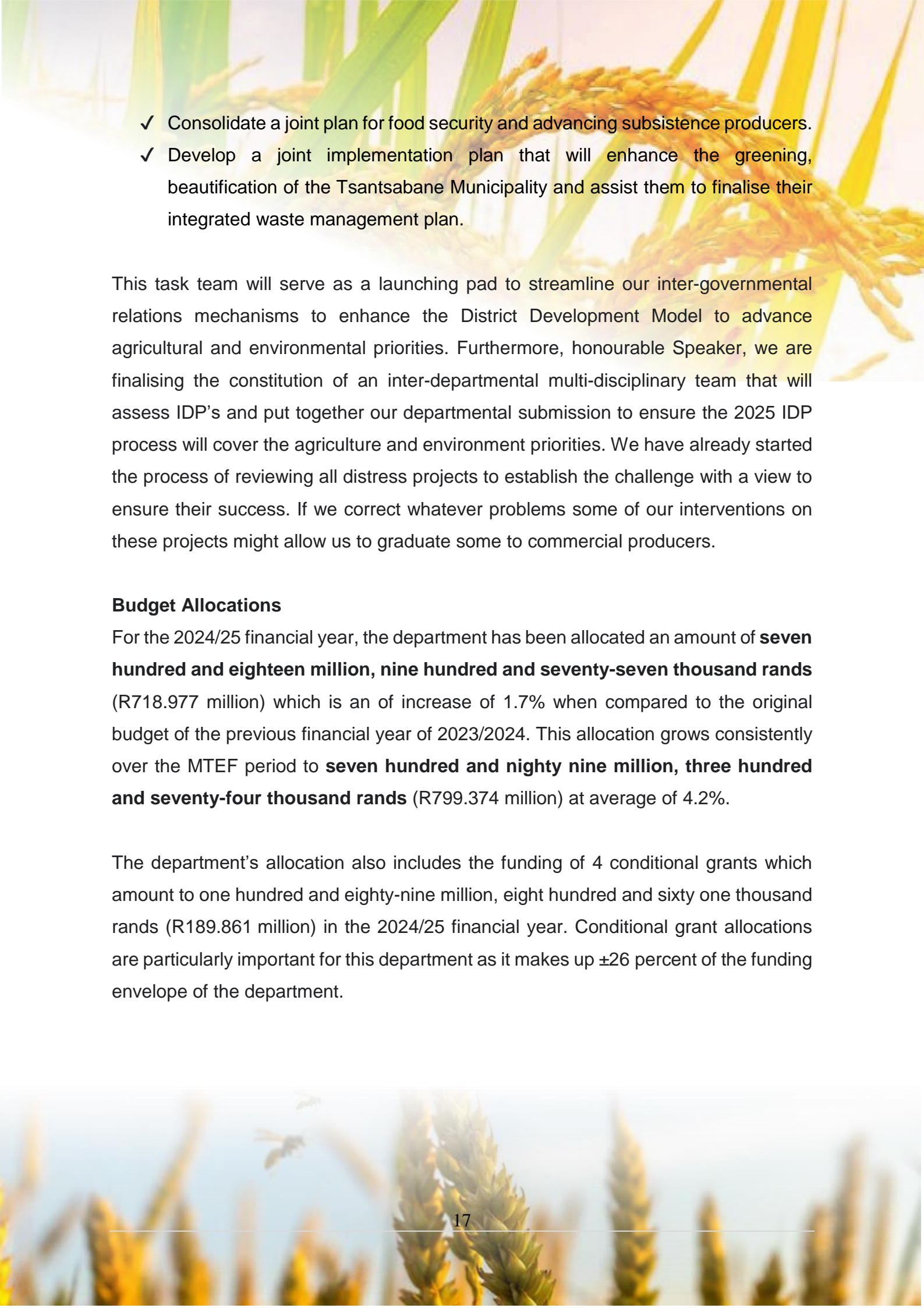
**For the 2019 electoral cycle as a Department we had made funding available for certain projects as part of our efforts of integration and coordination through the District Development Model.**

The past experience has taught us that the District Development Model is not about only giving municipalities money to implement certain projects, but it is about joint planning, project identification, support provision and consolidating joint funds to make meaningful impact. We will therefore going forward engage in a process of a meaningful implementing of the District Development Model to advance the agriculture and environment sector.

In this respect we will set-up a joint task team with the Tsantsabane Municipality and Kolomela mine to look at the following interventions:

- ✓ Assessment of commonage farms and the extend to which the potential for growth exist for our small holder producers.
- ✓ Develop a joint intervention plan that will facilitate the growth of smallholder producers to commercial producers.



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- ✓ Consolidate a joint plan for food security and advancing subsistence producers.
  - ✓ Develop a joint implementation plan that will enhance the greening, beautification of the Tsantsabane Municipality and assist them to finalise their integrated waste management plan.

This task team will serve as a launching pad to streamline our inter-governmental relations mechanisms to enhance the District Development Model to advance agricultural and environmental priorities. Furthermore, honourable Speaker, we are finalising the constitution of an inter-departmental multi-disciplinary team that will assess IDP's and put together our departmental submission to ensure the 2025 IDP process will cover the agriculture and environment priorities. We have already started the process of reviewing all distress projects to establish the challenge with a view to ensure their success. If we correct whatever problems some of our interventions on these projects might allow us to graduate some to commercial producers.

### **Budget Allocations**

For the 2024/25 financial year, the department has been allocated an amount of **seven hundred and eighteen million, nine hundred and seventy-seven thousand rands** (R718.977 million) which is an increase of 1.7% when compared to the original budget of the previous financial year of 2023/2024. This allocation grows consistently over the MTEF period to **seven hundred and ninety nine million, three hundred and seventy-four thousand rands** (R799.374 million) at average of 4.2%.

The department's allocation also includes the funding of 4 conditional grants which amount to one hundred and eighty-nine million, eight hundred and sixty one thousand rands (R189.861 million) in the 2024/25 financial year. Conditional grant allocations are particularly important for this department as it makes up  $\pm 26$  percent of the funding envelope of the department.

**The budget allocation to each programme in 2024/25 is as follows:**

**Programme 1, Administration: two hundred and fifteen million, three hundred and thirty-three thousand rands (R215.335 million)30%**

**Programme 2, Sustainable Resource Management is thirty-four million, two hundred and seventy-eight thousand rands (R34.278 million) 5%**

**Programme 3, Agricultural Producer Support and Development- allocated two hundred and twenty-five million, two hundred and sixty nine thousand rands (R225.269 million)31%**

**Programme 4, Veterinary Services - allocated fifty three million, one hundred and eighty nine thousand rands (R53.189 million)7%**

**Programme 5, Research and technology development services- allocated sixty five million, nine hundred and seven thousand rands (R65.907 million)9%**

**Programme 6, Agriculture Economics Services allocated thirteen million, two hundred and thirty thousand rands (R13.230 million)6%**

**Programme 7: twenty-seven million, eight hundred and seven thousand rands (R27.807 million)4%**

**Programme 8: Environment and Nature Conservation allocated eight three million, nine hundred and sixty-four thousand rands (R83.964 million)12%**

## **In Conclusion**

Honourable Premier

Honourable Members

My greatest experience and home taking through my involvement in the portfolio I serve is my conclusion that the backbone of livelihoods and food security is agriculture and the environment. Thus as a department in pursuing of the objectives of the Annual Performance Plan of 2024/25, our resolve is to tackle food insecurity and enhance nutrition as the foundational **precepts/principles** of subsistence and smart farming.

Madam Speaker, I have carefully considered the comments and observations made by the Portfolio Committee and other stakeholders. I reaffirm both my own and the



Department's commitment to the plans presented today. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon. Premier for his leadership and support, as well as to the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party, COSATU, and its affiliates for their unwavering support and guidance.

Let me also take the opportunity to thank the Acting Head of Department, Adv, Thulane Binase, management and staff of the Department and the Ministry for their support.

**Sa bofelo, ntetle ke tseye tshono e go leboga ba lelapa, ba masika le ditsala, ba bantseng ba ntshegeditse ka nako tsotlhe, bogolo segolo Mme Motswadi.**

I, therefore present this budget vote 12 under the backdrop that agriculture and the conservation and protection of our environment constitutes a fundamental source of our provincial prosperity for the consideration of this house.

Thank you

Ka leboga

Dankie



" A Modern Growing and Successful Northern Cape"