



INTERVENTIONS TO ASSIST THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DURING COVID-19

On 15 March 2020, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced a declaration of the National State of Disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act, (Act 57 of 2002) into the COVID-19 global pandemic that necessitated the national lockdown to try to curb the spread.

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza (MP), then announced the department's interventions to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19.

The department has ring-fenced R1.2 billion for assistance to mainly target financially distressed small-scale farmers. Of the R1.2 billion, R400 million has been allocated for farmers within

the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) programme, and the remainder will be channelled towards all other farmers that are mainly within the following commodity sectors:

- **Poultry:** Day old chicks, point of lay chickens, feed, medication and sawdust;
- **Other Livestock:** Feed and medication.
- **Vegetables:** Seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and soil correction.
- **Other commodity sectors** will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as the department continuously monitors the impact of COVID-19 on the sector at large.

Qualifying criteria for farmers

Applicants must be:

- South African citizens who have been actively farming for a minimum of 12 months and currently in the production season or cycle.
- Registered on farmer register, commodity database or provincial database [Those who are not on the Farmer Register will be registered to benefit].
- Communal farmers.
- Smallholder farmers with annual turnovers of between R50 000 and R1 million.
- The adjudication will prioritise women, youth and people with disabilities.

Exclusions

Mechanisation, infrastructure and overhead costs will **NOT** be supported. This is not comprehensive support but an intervention package amid COVID-19.

Farmers who are preparing for the 2020 summer production season and those who are currently receiving support through other government programmes and its entities will not be supported. The aim is to provide immediate to near-term support to smallholder farmers currently affected by COVID-19.

No payment for debts will be supported.

The applications for this funding was officially opened from 08 April 2020 and

close on 22 April 2020. No late applications will be accepted.

Application forms were available since 08 April 2020 on the departmental website – www.dalrrd.gov.za and through national, provincial, district and local offices of both the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and provincial departments of agriculture.

Applications can be lodged electronically via email to **applications@dalrrd.gov.za** or submitted to the offices outlined below.

KwaZulu-Natal applications can be forwarded at the following offices:

Office Name	Contact Person	Contact Number	E-mail address	Physical Address
KZN Provincial Shared Service Centre (PSSC)	Mr Isaiah Mahlangu	071 878 7243	isaiah.mahlangu@drdlr.gov.za	188 Hoosen Haffejee Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Pietermaritzburg Regional Shared Service Centre (RSSC)	Mr Ntuthuko Myeza	073 394 2585	ntuthuko.myeza@drdlr.gov.za	3rd Floor, 199 Pietermaritz Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Port Shepstone RSSC	Ms Nokubonga Radebe	083 565 2440	nokubonga.radebe@drdlr.gov.za	41 Nelson Mandela Drive Port Shepstone, 4240
Ladysmith RSSC	Mr Siegfried Haschke	083 565 2437	siegfried.haschke@drdlr.gov.za	45 Beacon Road, Hospital Park Ladysmith, 3370
Vryheid RSSC	Mr Patrick Lukhele	083 400 6648	patrick.lukhele@drdlr.gov.za	Vryheid RSSC, 160 High Street Vryheid, 3100
Richards Bay RSSC	Mr Zwakele Ndovela	083 575 5748	zwakele.ndovela@drdlr.gov.za	5th Floor, ABSA Building, Lakeview Terrace Richards Bay 3900