



# **Adapting to change for collective action by small producers in a rapid and dynamic environment in South Africa**

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# Introduction



- ❑ NAFU SA is a farmers organization representing the interests of diverse farmers in SA, especially historically disadvantaged;
- ❑ The mission and objectives of NAFU SA are to:
  - develop and enhance farmers' capacities;
  - A home for farmers to participate and make a contribution in agriculture;
  - lobbying and advocacy based on sound research and information.
  - influence both national and international agricultural policy
- ❑ NAFU SA is a national organisation with decentralised chapters in the provinces and municipalities;
- ❑ NAFU SA has commodity associations in maize, citrus, fruits, apples, bee farming, livestock, red meat etc.

# Provincial areas of South Africa



# Dynamic context of South Africa



- ❑ New democratic dispensation in 1994 dealt with political issues;
- ❑ People of diverse cultures and ethnicities, negotiating for space;
- ❑ In GDP contribution terms, agriculture is important, but falls way below manufacturing, mining and the services sector;
- ❑ Economic growth of over 5%, but agriculture has remained stable;
- ❑ Increase in food prices and energy has worried farmers in the last few years.

# Constraints faced by small farmers



- ❑ Production level bottlenecks:
  - Inadequate land- slow land reforms;
  - Insecurity of land tenure;
  - Inadequate skills- poor response to human resources development;
  - Elusive technology development
- ❑ Finance for agriculture:
  - complex financing systems,
  - inadequate to credit facilities;
  - High interests rates;
- ❑ Market access:
  - Limited access to markets;
  - Market monopolies for inputs and outputs;
  - Lopsided market information;
  - Policy and institutional bottlenecks

# Agri-food markets and collective action



- ❑ Broadening the availability of food producing skills at the very lowest levels is the foundational starting point of developing the production base.
- ❑ Black farmers who have the ability to play in the basic foodstuff space are finding it increasingly difficult to gain a foothold in the sector.
- ❑ Commercial farmers are diversifying into non-basic foodstuffs as well as non-foodstuff agricultural products and concentrating on exports. This makes local food more expensive.
- ❑ Intelligent policies are required to promote food security at a grassroots level, whilst also enhancing commercial production;
- ❑ Food security is achieved when the appropriate portion of effort, land and other resources is aimed at producing affordable food for local consumption.

# Collective action and agri-business



- ❑ Need to set up a smallholder farmer led and controlled comprehensive system of information management in order to improve policy analysis;
- ❑ Rehabilitation of the debts of small farmers should be given high priority – underpinned by a mechanism to ensure sustainable commercial viability;
- ❑ China is advanced on science and technology and South African farmers can benefit from this expertise;
- ❑ Harmonization of trade relations, need for developing robust marketing and information systems through ICT;
- ❑ Foster linkages between farmers and agri-business as facilitators across borders and continents.

# Conclusion



- ❑ Collaboration among farmers through collective action should be promoted and appropriately funded.
- ❑ Unification of farmers to build an agricultural system that flourishes, provides food and employment.
- ❑ Export production needs to be balanced by internal domestic food requirements and security.
- ❑ Linking smallholders with agribusiness as part of reducing transaction costs;



THANK YOU