



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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## THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REACTS TO THE DRAUGHT IMPACT ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is assessing the severity of the El-Nino-induced drought and its impact on crop-yields and financial status on farmers. The recent Crop Estimates Committee shows that South Africa's 2023/24 summer grains and oilseed production could fall by 21% year-on-year to 15,2 million tonnes. This will still be sufficient for domestic needs, but the neighboring countries in the regions have been hit hard and may experience food insecurity. There are also emerging feed challenges for the livestock farmers. Fortunately, the vegetables and fruit supplies are reasonably decent, and prices should be moderate in the near future.

The department has also briefed the cabinet about the difficulties presented by the drought and some measures are being considered to mitigate the impact and also ensures business continuity of farmers.

The minister will soon meet with leaders of organized agriculture, relevant departments and MECs from all provinces to assess the scale of the full impact in various regions. This insight will help refine the government's response approach to the drought.

**-END-**

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

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