

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FARMER NEEDS SURVEY: AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2023

Being a farmer makes you the most important link in the food value chain, after the consumer. However, the reality is that farmers in South Africa are constantly confronted with a changing socio-political-economic environment that puts undue pressure on farmers' profitability. One way to support farmers during challenging times is to ensure that they receive the services they need from the most appropriate service provider.

In June 2023, OABS was appointed by the Department of Agriculture: Western Cape to conduct **"A diagnostic and design evaluation of the service needs of different farmer categories in the Western Cape"**.

The project consists of two key elements:

- The **diagnostic part** of the study is to **establish the needs** of different farmer categories, and whether **these needs are currently met**, and if not or unsatisfactorily, **to establish the reasons** – this requires a situation analysis and prioritisation of needs per farmer category.
- The **design evaluation** will address needs that are not currently satisfied by considering a redesign of institutional (both public and private sector) institutions and systems to address these needs.

We are of the opinion that this project could make a significant contribution in assisting the Department of Agriculture: Western Cape to align its services to the needs of different farmer categories (subsistence, smallholder, and commercial farmers). In addition, the study will also recommend which services should be provided by other agricultural service providers (public as well as private) to assist farmers to farm sustainably.

This is a unique opportunity for you as farmer to provide an input that could improve service delivery to the agricultural sector in the Western Cape. We wish to kindly request your support and assistance with the following:

- To make all fellow producers in your sphere of influence aware of this project and to encourage farmers and industry leaders to cooperate when so requested.
- To please complete the "Survey Monkey" questionnaire. The information provided by you will be captured anonymously - only a survey number will be used as reference with no name attached.

The link to the "Survey Monkey" questionnaire is [Engels](#) (just click on the link).

The OABS researchers responsible for the research are:

Dr Daan Louw	082 857 3458 (Project leader and Director: OABS)
Dr Hamman Oosthuizen	082 783 6192 (Managing Director: OABS)
Dr André Jooste	083 307 3703
Prof Johan van Rooyen	082 785 3300
Mr Ryan Newborn	082 305 2914
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Me Suzelna Louw 082 569 1191
Me Mariaan van der Burgh 082 876 7237

Apart from the request to complete the Survey Monkey questionnaire, you may in due course also be contacted by one of the above-mentioned team members to invite you to a workshop in your region to participate in the formulation of recommendations and a broad strategic framework to provide services. I will be most appreciative of your co-operation in this regard, as it will enable OABS to do a proper evaluation.

We would like to assure you that any information supplied by you will be regarded as highly confidential. The survey questionnaire don't ask for your identity and the platform used (Survey Monkey) cannot identify the participant.

Kind regards,

Jannie Strydom
CEO Agri Wes-Cape