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of the
Director-General
National Department of Agriculture
1999



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Cover page: the winning poster in a World Food Day
competition by the Koos Matli Primary School

Report of the
Director-General of the
National Department of Agriculture
for the period 1 January to 31 December 1999

THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND
LAND AFFAIRS, PRETORIA

Madam,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the
Department.



*Ms B. Njobe
Director-General of the
National Department of Agriculture*

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Introduction

The year under review once again posed many challenges to all roleplayers in agriculture and agriculture-related fields.

The agricultural sector is diverse in terms of its participants, products and problems. This sector is responsible for the production, processing and marketing of food and fibre as well as ornamental products for the domestic and export market. The success of the sector depends on ways in which production, transport, processing, marketing and services to the sector can be successfully integrated. It also depends on the skills of its managers and workforce, while underlying all these, is the productive capacity of the natural resource base.

During the year under review, the NDA endeavoured to address coherently as many of these success factors as possible, by setting the regulatory framework to instill public confidence in the health and natural resources, launching programmes to build capacity and addressing the provision of marketing information to all levels of farmers.

Policy and functional priority areas were reflected in structural changes within the NDA, most notably in the establishment of a Directorate Genetic Resources with two subdirectorates dealing with animal and plant genetic resources respectively. The Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Act became law in December 1999. This act regulates genetically altered live forms and is testimony to the NDA's commitment to have reliable regulatory systems with appropriate institutional support to conduct risk assessments in order to protect the environment and the South African consumer.

The Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act (No 10 of 1999) provided for the corporatisation of Onderstepoort Biological Products. This was done in order to enable it to become commercially viable by getting equity partners that can supply much needed capital to modernise the production facilities and meet international production standards.

A highlight of the year was the Sectorial Job Summit that was held in October. Attention was given to factors that contribute to jobshedding in the sector and to drawing up strategies to explore agriculture's capacity to create jobs. The NDA contributed towards job creation by means of a public works programme within the LandCare project. Twenty-two Landcare projects with a total value of R25 million were initiated in partnership with provincial roleplayers to promote a conservation ethic and to transfer conservation technology to land-users. People in rural areas are trained to combat degradation of our natu-



*Director-General
Ms Bongwiwe Njobe*

ral agricultural resources and how to use these resources in a sustainable manner to the benefit of the community.

The regulatory framework, although mainly concerned with safeguarding human, plant and animal health, also contributes to job creation by setting standards and therefore creating the environment for entrepreneurial development. There is scope for increasing this contribution by setting the norms and standards for adding value to the primary commodities that emanate from the sector and encouraging farmers to investigate means to improve the value of their produce so that they can compete on the global market. The NDA is also actively involved in promoting quality standards amongst black and resource-limited farmers in order to empower them to export their products. In addition, the NDA facilitates trade by constantly addressing unjustified Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements of other countries which are our existing or potential markets either bilaterally or in multilateral international fora such as the SPS Committee of the WTO.

Special programmes to promote awareness of the importance of South Africa's indigenous and locally developed farm animal breeds were supported during the year. The first farm sale and show was held towards the end of the year. This will become an annual event which should broaden access of the emerging farming sector to the growing market for these animals.

Good progress was made with the fencing of the Kruger Park, which has proved to be very effective in controlling foot-and-mouth disease. Altogether 460 km of the total 500 km have been completed. A revised foot-and-mouth-control policy was also implemented successfully during the year. Of great concern was the serious outbreak of African horsesickness which occurred in the controlled area of the Western Cape. After an absence of several years there was also a recurrence of Rift Valley fever among buffalo in the Kruger Park.

The project to retrieve and dispose of the region's obsolete pesticides, which commenced in 1998, was completed in 1999 in respect of the products to be incinerated. All such stocks were packed and shipped to incineration facilities in the UK.

Eradication of poverty and hunger and establishing household food security remained one of our main priorities during the year under review. Together with the FAO we are engaged in a venture to support the implementation of a food security programme in the country. This will be launched early in the year 2000. The need for a diversified production structure that results in a raise in incomes and an increase the number of successful small-holder farming enterprises is a major step towards improving household food security, particularly in rural areas. Young people can also contribute to agriculture in rural areas through participation in development programmes.

During 1999 great progress was made in developing village financial services which make it possible for farmers in rural areas to have access to banking services as well as for community savings for development purposes. The original pilot "village banks" in the North West Province were replicated in several other provinces like Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and the Northern Province. We now have over ten such banks countrywide. These we believe can increase the opportunity to encourage savings in the country.

We are actively engaged in improving our support services to farmers by means of a pilot scheme financed by the Netherlands in terms of which all provinces are experimenting with different extension models, in order to determine which models are best in particular circumstances. These will be reviewed after three years.

Much attention was given to our most precious resource, human capacity, and how to accelerate the development of capacity. One such initiative was the launching of various programmes to promote agri-businesses and build financial, managerial and institutional skills which are required in a successful and sustainable business enterprise. The development of such enterprises will enhance small-scale farmers' access to agricultural activities and help ensure food for our local markets.

As a result of our efforts in this field, we saw an increase in the number of co-operatives registered from 130 the previous year to 175 during the year under review. Co-operatives provide people with control over their own destiny and a means of improving their quality of life, and benefits include access to markets and the creation of employment, infrastructure and services. Simultaneously, we conducted a policy and legislative review of co-operatives and initiated workshops as part of the consultative process in all nine provinces. The report will be used as a basis for a review of the current Act.

Growing globalisation and the country's commitment towards the African Renaissance has greatly increased the NDA's involvement in international affairs. We signed several bilateral agreements while others are still being negotiated. Countries involved in these negotiations include various African countries, Hungary, Germany, Japan and Australia. We started engaging with major foreign countries like China, which presents a challenge to us in terms of trade and technology. Progress has also been made towards formulating a strategy for the Middle East. Relations with multilateral organisations such as the FAO, CGIAR and CAB International, as well as our involvement in the FANR sector of the SADC, were fostered.

One of our focus areas during the year under review was the changing of biased perceptions about agriculture. An important action in this regard was the launching of the first ever Female Farmer of the Year competition to highlight the significant role played by women in eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The quality of the finalists, who represented a variety of enterprises and scales of farming, certainly defeated the stereotype of women providing support to males who are the actual farmers. Secondly, a new logo (reproduced on the cover of this report) was adopted by the NDA. Our "mooi blommetjie" symbolises the vibrant and attractive nature of



Minister Thoko Didiza with the winners of the Female Farmer competition: Ms Jean Davidson, overall winner, Ms Philisiwe Mathbela, winner in the Category Contribution to Rural Development, Ms Elizabeth von Maltitz, winner in the category Best Management Practices and Ms Nadia Hassan of TOTAL, the main sponsor

agriculture versus stereotypes of conservatism and dullness. Thirdly, the important role of agriculture in fostering rural development, income generation, job creation and household food security is gaining wider support in government's overall policy approach.

Our efforts to reposition agriculture and change the racial, gender and age stereotypes associated with it were given impetus by the appointment of Ms Thoko Didiza as Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs during 1999. Being the youngest cabinet minister, Ms Didiza embodies the involvement of women and youth in agriculture.

After the South Asian financial crisis in 1997/98, South Africa was greatly affected by the drop in commodity prices and the loss of confidence of international investors in emerging economies. By the beginning of 1999, however, it became evident that our economy could cope with these difficulties better than most other emerging economies. South African agriculture was protected in part by its reliance on exporting some 60 % of agricultural produce to the protected markets of Europe. But even there it had to compete with low-priced exports from countries which had lost their traditional markets in the East. And contrary to many countries where levels of farm support were increased, South African agriculture was exposed to the full force of the world economy. Net farm income fell for the third year, from 9,1 billion in 1997 to R8,3 billion and R7,2 billion in the following years. At 31,8 % of assets, agricultural debt also remained worryingly high.

Nevertheless, the farm sector has shown itself to be more resilient than some had expected. The value of total farm exports rose during 1999 (from R13,4 billion in the previous year to R14,7 billion, partly accounted for by the depreciation of the Rand). The gross income from animal products rose 2,8 % to R19,946 million, the gross income from horticultural products increased by 2,0 % to R11,660 million, and the gross farm income from field crops increased by 10,8 % to R12,257 million. This was due to increases in the production of field crops and moderate increases in producer prices.

In 1999 the NDA once again manifested itself as a dynamic department, liaising with other government departments, exchanging information with our counterparts all over the world, allowing for innovative and responsive action and forming partnerships across the spectrum of private and other organisations. This dynamism is also characteristic of the sector: South African agriculture has managed to grow in the face of difficult economic and climatic conditions. The NDA plans to continue providing the leadership to sustain the competitiveness of our sector whilst at the same time broadening access to agriculture.

1999 Highlights

- January - admission of NEHAWU as a second trade union to the Departmental Bargaining Council
- March - the total outstanding debt was R1 022 539 203,00 1999, compared to R1 143 973 541,00 in March 1998
- March - the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) for promoting the sustainable use of soil and water was launched in South Africa
- March - an outbreak of African horsesickness occurred in the surveillance area of the Western Cape Province. A total of 34 horses were affected of which 31 died as a result of illegal movement of animals from the Free State to the Western Cape provinces
- April - maximum residue limits on food commodities of 52 compounds were considered at the 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Pesticide Residue held in The Hague
- April - the promulgation of the Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act for the establishment of a company in 2000 to be able to meet global challenges
- April - launch of the new logo of the National Department of Agriculture
- June - a South Korean delegation visited South Africa to familiarise itself with the South African citrus industry
- July - South Africa hosted the 12th International Farm Management Conference in Durban, with the theme "Think globally, farm locally"
- August - launch of the first Female Farmer of the Year competition
- September - 239 posts were transferred from the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute of the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture to the Department as a result of the termination of agency services pertaining to staff functions
- October - KwaZulu-Natal and a few remaining magisterial districts in the Northern Province were declared as compulsory branding areas
- October - the overall Trade Development and Co-operation Agreement with the European Union was signed



- November - South Africa hosted a Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM)
- December - the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma signed an agreement with Germany regarding the reorientation and development of agricultural advisory services in the Northern Province

Implementation of projects

The implementation of projects under different programmes assisted in achieving the strategic goals of the Department. All the Directorates formulated their own objectives for the year 1999 and designed specific projects that were meant to achieve those objectives.

Further, milestones were created to reflect the achievements in various fields. It is this area that reflects commitment and dedication of the staff of the Department in policy implementation.

Agricultural Development

Agricultural Development has as its aim to guide and support the creation of wealth in the agricultural sector through business and entrepreneurial promotion; the development of human resources; international relations; and information dissemination and provision of land reform support services.



*Deputy Director-General
Mr Masiphula Mbongwa*

Communication

The Directorate Communication offers communication support as a service to the Department. It is divided into three subdirectorates, namely information, liaison and support services, and public communication.

Objectives

- efficient management of campaigns to increase public awareness of agricultural issues
- improve information delivery to external and internal audiences/clients

Milestones

- establishing a new corporate image for the Department
- organising the first Female Farmer of the Year competition
- printing of *Agricultural News* in full colour for the first time in its more than 40 years' history



Information

Electronic and Print Media

Information was disseminated to the farming sector and other agricultural stakeholders through *Agricultural News*, the official newsletter of the Department, and *Info Paks* (information brochures). The following activities were performed:

- 24 editions of this newsletter were published, 6 000 copies per edition
- some of the editions were used to introduce the activities of new entrants to the farming sector and projects aimed at developing agriculture, highlighting especially the role of women and young people in agriculture. A supplement, *Women in Agriculture*, was published in September 1999
- a total of 30 *Info Paks* were written and published. An additional seven on HIV/AIDS were printed in all official languages
- the first six of a new series of agricultural commodity fact sheets were compiled during 1999 dealing with production, import, and export information about the main crops being cultivated

- contributions on agriculture were made to the following publications: *South African Yearbook*, *Who's Who in SA*, *A-Z of Careers in SA*, *ITB Guidebook to doing Business in SA* and *Career Services/My Career*.

Library

During the year the library moved to temporary accommodation sites to allow for renovations to the Agriculture Building. About 80 % of the stock was moved. However, the library continued to operate under these difficult circumstances.

Activities of the library were:

- More than 8 000 publications were issued to borrowers and as interlibrary loans and more than 10 000 journals were circulated to interested officers in the Department
- A total of 17 602 books were found to be redundant and sent to the State Library's book exchange centre and other interested libraries
- The weeding of one section of the pamphlet collection was completed. More than 1 700 pamphlets were discarded
- More than 3 000 records were added to the electronic catalogue database.

Documentation Centre

This year the documentation centre implemented a new procedure for the supply of CABA references by using the Internet instead of the former tapes. Other activities were:

- retrospective searches provided 374 clients with references from CABA
- 256 information searches were done in the AGRIS database
- a total of 21 558 references were supplied to clients from the Department, provincial departments of agriculture, Agricultural Research Council, and other organisations
- a total of 1 054 references from South African publications were added to the AGRIS database.

Resource Centre

- the staff of the Resource Centre received about 7 600 written and verbal enquiries
- 11 175 priced publications were sold
- 180 000 publications were distributed to various individuals, groups, and organisations locally and in foreign countries.

Audio-visual Services

Audio-visual Services comprises three sections: radio, television and photography.

Radio

The radio section broadcast agricultural news and information on events through national and community radio stations and compiled *Info Paks* on audiotapes.

This year, the activities of the division included extending airtime and improving the quality of radio programmes.

Other activities included:

- a weekly Afrikaans programme of 15 minutes was produced for broadcast on Radio Sonder Grense (RSG).
- interviews were organised and conducted with radio stations on general farming issues as well as matters such as aspects of animal health, marketing of produce, planting of crops and the Female Farmer of the Year competition
- the Afrikaans programme *Landbou Oorsig* is still being sent *via* satellite to community radio stations through the Christian Network Radio
- *Info Paks* were translated into official African languages, recorded into 10-minute slots, and sent to identified radio stations
- the Department currently broadcasts 10-minute pre-recorded slots once per week on selected SABC and community radio stations.

Television

Information produced from the weekly agricultural television programme *Agriforum 2000* and *Ziyamila/Diamela* was repackaged and duplicated for further use as training material.

Photography

The photographic services supplied photos to *Agricultural News* and took photos at events such as the launch of the new departmental logo, the annual sports day of the Department, etc.

Liaison and Support Services

This year, the Directorate gave support to events such as the Female Farmer of the Year competition, launch of the new logo of the Department, Women's Day, World Food Day, and World Aids Day.

Liaison and support services included:

- launching of the new logo of the Department in April
- organising a departmental function in August to celebrate National Women's Day. At this event, women of the Department of Agriculture were honoured for their outstanding performance during the year
- creating HIV/AIDS awareness by publishing regular articles in *WezoLimo* on the subject and organising a commemoration on World Aids Day for people who were living with the disease and those that had already died from it



- organising the presentation of a play by an industrial theatre group to increase HIV/AIDS awareness
- *WezoLimo* was published 10 times during the year and 50 *Agricom*s were compiled and distributed

- printing of publications for the Department and provincial departments of agriculture was scaled down because of renovations to the Agriculture Building. A total of 57 new *Info Paks*, eight newsletters and many *ad hoc* publications were printed.

Editorial and Publishing Services

Editorial and Publishing Services presented information that was user-friendly yet upholding the standards of design in both full colour and monochrome. Most of the productions coincided with the events of the Department.

Public Communication

Various campaigns were held to promote the activities of the Department. These included:

- the TOTAL Female Farmer of the Year competition in partnership with the SABC, NAFU and SAAU. For the first time in the Department's history recognition was given to female farmers in their own right.

Winners in the group and individual categories from the nine provinces competed for the award of Female Farmer of the Year. Ms Jean Davidson of Gauteng was the overall winner. The aim of the Department is to empower women in agriculture and this competition is geared towards this.

- planning the World Food Day function with the theme "*Youth Against Hunger*"
- encouraging community participation in gardening and food production for communities in and around Pretoria. As a result, communities celebrated World Food Day by bringing along food produce from their communal gardens, setting up stalls, and selling vegetables. Food items not sold were donated to the Operation Hunger project
- organising a poster competition for schools in and around Pretoria to draw posters depicting the theme "*Youth Against Hunger*". The Koos Matli Primary School won and took home a prize of R5 000
- planning celebrations of World Aids Day together with the Task Team on Aids under the auspices of the Department of Health.

Public and Media Liaison

Public and media liaison involved the development of an updated media list, media relations, and improvement of the image of the Department, the Ministry, and its senior officials. To achieve this objective,

- a significant number of press releases were issued and media and public enquiries attended to



The winner of the Female Farmer of the Year competition, Ms Jean Davidson, with Minister of Agriculture Thoko Didiza and Director-General Bongive Njobe

- substantial media coverage was generated for the Female Farmer of the Year competition and World Food Day celebrations
- national and provincial assistance was rendered to the LandCare projects.
- live interviews were arranged on issues such as food security, the Female Farmer of the Year competition and LandCare.

International Relations

The National Department of Agriculture (NDA) has the task of establishing and re-affirming agricultural relations with the rest of the world and supporting the provinces and local agricultural community in their activities.

The Directorate International Relations is responsible for the facilitation of bilateral and multilateral relations worldwide. It manages and co-ordinates South Africa's relations with international organisations such as Southern African Development Community (SADC), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) by:

- giving advice on foreign policy and protocol
- establishing and maintaining Agreements and memberships
- co-ordinating and facilitating technology and trade exchanges
- initiating and expanding contact through representation
- liaising in matters of international congresses/symposia and fora.

Milestones

Bilateral liaison and interaction

Hungary

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Alfred Nzo, signed the Animal Health Agreement between South Africa and Hungary in May 1999 to facilitate trade in animals and animal products. This was a result of President Nelson Mandela's visit to Hungary in May 1999, when it was announced that the two countries were preparing Agreements on animal health and would co-operate in viticulture and laser technology for food preservation.

Germany

The Deputy Director-General: Agricultural Development, Mr Masiphula Mbongwa, signed a Declaration of Intent (DoI) with Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisen Verband (DGRV) in Germany to co-operate in the provision of legal and agricultural financial assistance to co-operatives and provision of assistance to the Directorate: Business and Institutional Development.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma signed an agreement with Germany on 10 December regarding the re-orientation and development of agricultural advisory services in the Northern Province.

Australia

The Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State of Western Australia in September to develop a LandCare programme in South Africa. This bilateral relationship would assist in developing locally customised land care projects and in training South African international trade officials.

Japan

Following the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in October 1998, Japan pledged US\$1.5 billion to support social and economic development in South Africa for the next five years.

Food and Agriculture Organisation/The Netherlands

The recent outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Ghana has led to a Technical Co-operation Project proposal by FAO for South Africa to assist with work on genetic resistance to such diseases as they need technical assistance in particular experimental design. Currently, no vaccine against ASF exists and only strict zoosanitary measures can be applied to control the disease.

Bilateral liaison with the rest of the world

United States of America (USA)

Currently, some young South Africans receive post-graduate training in the US under the auspices of the Binational Commission established by the Agriculture Committee. In addition, a Village Banking System has been established in some rural areas.

The status quo of projects within the four working groups of the Agriculture Committee is as follows:

Market Access and Regulatory Programmes

- In September 1999, a workshop was held in Stellenbosch on assessment of US and SA food safety and trade in regulated food for human consumption
- In November 1999, two officials from the Department undertook a tour to inspect food safety practices in the US with the intention to reach equity on food safety issues
- In July 1999, a regional regulatory exchange workshop was held in South Africa on agriculture biotechnology focussing on existing legislation in SA and US, new trends in biotechnology, and the role of genetically modified organisms in the trade of agricultural products.

Small and Medium Business Development

- The Rural Financial Services Co-operatives (FSC) project is extending the initiative completed under the first phase of the Village Bank by rep-

licating its model to the provinces beyond North West and building a sustainable institutional support capacity

- The three-year long Agribusiness extension development project has just completed one year of its implementation. Located in Northern Province at Nebo and in KwaZulu-Natal in the Msinga district, this project is implemented in collaboration with American PVO Africare to improve rural agricultural entrepreneurship through skills transfer, capacity building, and repair of irrigation infrastructure
- A workshop was held in October 1999 to establish risk management strategies in areas of insurance and education for the agricultural sector in South Africa
- The one-year co-operative and human capacity development project would develop a model for leadership and business-craft development. It involves the training of women, youth, and grassroots communities in forging partnerships to strengthen their local capacity
- In June 1999, an official from National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) visited the Department to assist in a pilot project to design an appropriate questionnaire for obtaining information on small-scale farmers. In addition, officials from the Department, provincial departments, and Statistics South Africa undertook a study tour to USA from 2-17 October 1999 to learn about the methodology and organisation used to generate statistics in US agriculture and to look at the possibility of collaboration.

Sustainable Natural Resource Utilisation – Agricultural Technology Development for Income Generation

- A draft framework for a field office technical guide, Development of a South African Sustainable Resource Use Guide, for natural resource and conservation was developed in October 1999. Provincial consultation on it would take place in 2000 and implementation thereof would begin in June 2001.

People's Republic of China (PRC)

In November 1999, the Minister of Agriculture in South Africa, Ms Thoko Didiza, indicated to her counterpart that SA would like to increase agricultural trade with the PRC. In terms of the relations an umbrella Agreement should be signed rather than agreements per consignment or commodity.

The Chinese Minister showed willingness to support the provision of technical assistance for the Special Programme on Food Security (SPFS) of the FAO.

Multilateral liaison and interaction

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

The South African Government attaches considerable importance to the contribution that the FAO can make to agriculture and rural development in Africa. Globalisation and market liberalisation are presenting developing countries with new challenges, risks



Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs Thoko Didiza and Prof A Sawadogo, Assistant Director-General of the FAO, signing a declaration of intent regarding cooperation on Integrated Rural Development and Food Security

and social costs and assistance is thus needed to assist developing countries to overcome such obstacles and enable them to benefit from globalisation and market liberalisation.

South Africa hosted a Workshop on Incorporating Nutrition Considerations into Agricultural Research Plans and Programmes funded by FAO from 20 to 23 April 1999. Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and South Africa participated in the workshop to discuss guidelines compiled by the FAO.

The Netherlands took the initiative to organise an international technical conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land, which took place in Maastricht during September 1999. South Africa benefited from participation in this conference in respect of guidelines for policy options and alternative instruments for land resource management for rural development.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing phase II of the Regional Food Security Training Programme at the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) meetings held in Botswana on 28 June and 2 July.

Agreement has been reached with SADC on the harmonisation of sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

Southern African Development Community-Food Security Programme

By April 1999, 81 South Africans had participated in eight of the 17 training courses offered by the Southern African Development Community-Food Security Programme to exchange working experience and expertise on food security matters.

In September 1999, a five-year regional food security programme replaced this one-year programme as a continuation to maintaining momentum created.

International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD)

In collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands and FAO under the auspices of IFAD, South Africa hosted a Partner Seminar in Johannesburg in July to address rural poverty and urbanisation. This preceded the Conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land held in the Netherlands in September.

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

A team of experts from International Water Research (IWR) visited South Africa during the year, particularly the Northern Province, to discuss their possible involvement in projects. The team held workshops with communities regarding the Oliphantsfontein River Project in that Province.

Maize and Wheat Improvement Research Network (MWIRNET)

The European Commission in Pretoria sponsored a series of seminars in June for the European Union-funded Programmes and the MWIRNET programme is benefiting from this fund. Two of the Institutes of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC Grain Crops Institute - Potchefstroom and ARC Small Grain Institute - Bethlehem) signed a research agreement on the MWIRNET project with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT).

Regional Agricultural Strategies

The Agricultural Strategy for Africa was completed in August and revised in December this year to incorporate the vision and mission of the Department.

Substantial progress has been made towards formulating a strategy for the Middle East. Information on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan, Kuwait, and the Emirates has been gathered through electronic media, literature, and consultations with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign delegations received

The following visitors were received in South Africa:

- the Deputy Minister of the Jihad in Iran in May to obtain information on ostrich farming and conclude contracts for the purchase of maize as an animal feed
- the Director-General for the Ministry of Agriculture in Netherlands in May to establish a joint commission on promoting co-operation between the two countries in the field of agriculture
- the South Korean delegation during June and July to familiarise themselves with the South African citrus industry. Shortly thereafter, the first consignment of oranges was exported to South Korea
- a delegation from Eritrea in October to discuss sanitary and phytosanitary issues
- a delegation from the People's Republic of China (PRC) in October to finalise protocols on sanitary and phytosanitary issues. Subsequently, three agreements were signed on the quarantine and health requirements for ostriches, ostrich hatching eggs and day-old ostriches, and elephants respectively to be exported from SA to the PRC
- a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture in Zimbabwe in October to strengthen their country's position on multilateral trade negotiations, harmonisation of technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, capacity building, implementation of trade protocols and agreed programmes, information sharing on livestock identification, smallholder irrigation and water management strategies



Director-General Bongwiwe Njobe with Deputy Minister A Kabiri from the Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran

- Dr Daniel Annerose from Centre de Co-operation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Developpement (CIRAD) in November, when it was agreed that co-operation should focus on the development of small scale farmers, the implementation of the EU agreement, and tertiary education. Parties agreed that co-operation in agriculture will take place as part of activities under the Science and Technology Committee
- the Minister of Agriculture in Rwanda in November to exchange information and discuss areas of co-operation in the field of agriculture and agro-processing industry

Business and Institutional Development

During the year, the two directorates, Co-operatives and Programme Planning, were merged to form the Directorate Business and Institutional Development to facilitate business development in agriculture. However, their respective activities continued to be pursued.

Registrar of Co-operatives

The total number of co-operatives on the register at the end of 1999 was 1 252. Forming co-operatives allow people to improve their social and economic lives. The annual registrations were as follows:

1999—175
1998—130
1997— 114

Milestones

The formation of co-operatives enable people to access economic markets. It creates employment, infrastructure, and services to the previously disadvantaged communities.

Agri-business institutional promotion

A number of programmes were run to enhance small farmer access to agricultural activities by building their financial, managerial, and institutional skills. These included management training, mentorship, and project management.

Development finance promotion

Development finance promotion supports the village financial services to create financial access to rural farmers. It links up with the village bank project, which was piloted in the Northern Province in 1998. During 1998 an exemption from the Banks Act was granted which allows the operation of village financial services co-operatives true to their nature.

Since that exemption, *Government Gazette* of 6 March 1998, Notice No. 327, (Registrar of Bank regulations), the structuring of two regulatory bodies, Financial Solution and Financial Services Associations (FSA), was initiated and one of which has been registered by the Registrar of Banks. Also the replication of the Village Financial Services Co-operatives (VFSC)

has taken off in several other provinces like Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Northern Province.

Food Security Programme

The food security programme includes capacity building, policy analysis, monitoring, and evaluation. With regard to this aspect, the Department coordinates the SADC's Food Security Training Project (FSTP). To date the following has been achieved:

- two hundred South Africans participated in the FSTP
- two workshops were held on *Building Partnership: Bridging the Gap Between Policies and Implementations Programmes* and on *Promoting Household Food Security: Empowering People to Make a Difference* at the university of the North and Fort Hare respectively
- three officials of the Department and one of the North West Provincial Department participated in the work attachment programme
- three officials were identified to launch the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) strategy in the year 2000

Disaster management in agriculture

The current scientific knowledge and projections show that the SADC region is likely to become more prone to conditions of low rainfall in future. Research suggests that the regional climate is likely to become drier and warmer as we enter the year 2000.

The challenge for South Africa is to advocate for improved Drought and Disaster Management and Risk Reduction policies. This led to the initiation of two parallel but related processes, the National Disaster Management Policy Development and the Development of the Agricultural Policy on Drought and Disaster Management.

Human Resource Development

The Directorate Human Resource Development was established in January but became operational in August this year.

Objectives

- ensure value adding human resource development services
- ensure the development of a network of education and training service providers

Milestones

Co-ordination of international study programmes

The Directorate has co-ordinated international study programmes in accordance with the principles of representivity to promote skills in trade, training, and technology transfer.

Proposed skills audit plan

The Directorate presented a proposed skills audit plan for the Department and its parastatals to address the requirements of the new Acts, particularly their role in agriculture within the context of representivity, gender, disability, affirmative action, employment equity, etc.

Human resource development strategy

The first draft document on the current and future positions of the Department's human resources activities was finalised in December. It seeks to make agriculture internationally competitive.

Human Resource Development newsletter

Agri-skills, the Department's quarterly newsletter on human resources development, was introduced in October 1999 to keep the agricultural fraternity abreast of human resource development initiatives of the new democratic order in the areas of education and training.



Learnership policy

The first draft of the Learnership policy has been completed to prepare the Department in dealing with the Outcome-Based Education system.

Setting up an HRD database

The Directorate serves as a source of agricultural information on education and training. An application for establishing a comprehensive database has been approved by the Chief Directorate Information Technical Committee. It is expected to be effective by 1 April 2000.

Sector education and training authorities

The Directorate played a participative role in the October deliberations spearheaded by the Department of Labour towards the establishment of Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA). It was able to register its intent to participate in the four SETAs, namely, Primary Agriculture, Secondary Agriculture, Food and Beverage, and Public SETA.

The new bursary policy

The new bursary policy, known as the National Department of Agriculture Bursary Policy (NDABS), will be operational in January 2000. It will be administered by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Incorporation of agricultural colleges into higher education

The participation of the Department in a task team set up by itself, the Ministry of Education, and other stakeholders, on higher education was based on promoting the future of the colleges of agriculture and the planning of agricultural tertiary education.

Agricultural Resources Management

Agricultural Resources Management aims to:

- Develop, promote, co-ordinate and support the national policy regarding sustainable agricultural resource utilisation
- Develop, promote, co-ordinate and support the national policy for veterinary services
- Promote the effectiveness and evaluate the impact of agricultural economic and marketing policies and instruments
- To conserve our natural resources and put in place policies and institutions for sustainable resource use:
 - Develop, promote, co-ordinate and support this policy regarding sustainable agricultural and genetic resource utilisation
 - Develop, promote, co-ordinate and support this policy for agricultural production and plant and animal health
- To create an efficient and internationally competitive agricultural sector
- Develop, promote, co-ordinate and support this policy by better resource management
- Develop, promote, co-ordinate and support this policy by increasing production, ensuring quality control and improving plant and animal health



*Deputy Director-General
Dr Steven Comelius*

Agricultural Land Resource Management

The Directorate Agricultural Land Resource Management regulates, promotes and co-ordinates the conservation of the natural agricultural resources. It comprises the Subdirectorates Conservation Promotion and Rehabilitation, Reclamation and Prevention Services.

Objectives

- render support to the agricultural sector in adopting whole-farm and catchment-wide solutions to improve the sustainability of agriculture

Milestones

Conservation Promotion



Twenty-two community-based LandCare projects were launched in partnership with provincial role-players through networking, technical, and financial aid to the value of R25 million.

Sustainable farming practices and technologies were also promoted through the development of promotional material and exhibitions at international, national and local shows such as Agri-Marine, NAMPO, Glen, Hoopstad, Educate, and Moutse between April and October.

Auditing

The Directorate initiated a programme to develop cost-effective national monitoring systems that are based on remote sensing and GIS technology to determine the impact of agricultural practices on the status of the natural agricultural resources.

A pilot study that was initiated in the Mpumalanga Province during 1998 will be completed this year and be used as a basis for evaluating the monitoring system in Gauteng during 2000.

The Directorate funded the development of the World Soil and Terrain (SOTER) database for South Africa this year. This involves the transformation of current national databases on soil and terrain to a generalised level at 1.1 million scale by means of set standards.

The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) for promoting the sustainable use of soil and water was launched in South Africa in March 1999. Its training workshop in KwaZulu-Natal was attended by 36 participants.

Geographical Information System (GIS)

The development of an Agricultural Geographical Information System (AGIS) is a combined project between the national and provincial Departments of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council to generate information for use by the agricultural sector *via* the Internet and other technologies.

A comprehensive short and long-term GIS strategy was developed, including the development of a quality control and environmental management system in accordance with ISO 9 000 and ISO 14 000.

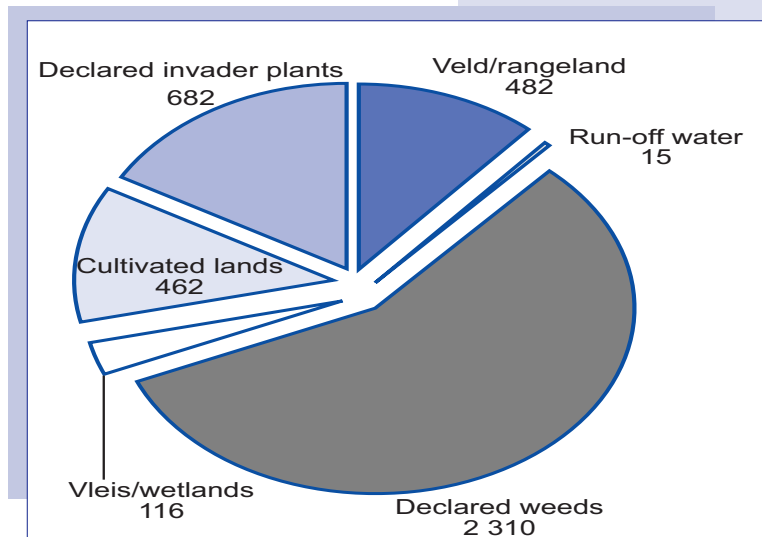
Inspection services

During the past year draft legislation for the utilisation of agricultural resources was prepared to replace Act No. 43 of 1983. The draft Utilisation of Agricultural Resources Bill is currently being reviewed by the Department's legal advisors. It will replace Act No. 43 of 1983, legislation on the utilisation of agricultural resources.

Regulations governing the combating of weeds and invader plants are under review. Regulations 15 and 16 of the control measures as well as the applicable lists of weeds and invaders have been amended and sent for public comment.

The inspectorate was also intensively involved in the chemical and biological control of invader plants. In total 48 000 ha of Queen of the night infestation were controlled, partly in co-operation with the Working for Water programme of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

During 1999, a total of 4 067 inspections were carried out on the protection of natural veld, cultivated lands, vleis, sponges, water runoffs and on the occurrence of declared invader plants and weeds in the following presentation.



Combating of migratory pests

Management policies and manuals for the control of the brown locust and redbilled quelea were developed in close co-operation with the parties involved. In this regard, a long-term framework was developed to enhance effectiveness of the control operations.

Research to develop an early-warning system to predict locust outbreaks was completed during 1999. Further research to determine the develop-



ment and reaction of locust eggs to climatic and soil variables is needed before an early-warning system can be implemented.

During 1999, 64 quelea control operations were undertaken, resulting in the control of 20,2 million birds. Although there were reports of small brown locust swarms, no serious outbreaks occurred.



A quelea swarm in flight

Research

The Directorate has allocated R10 million of its operational budget of R37 million to research and development focused on sustainable resource use in the following areas:

- land evaluation systems
- national agricultural resource monitoring systems

- migratory pest control
- alien vegetation control
- integrated rangeland management systems

During the year under review, 29 research and development projects were funded. Another 21 new projects are also in the process of being funded. A research plan and research guidelines are also in the process of being finalised. It is envisaged that a complete web-based database of all research financed by the Directorate will be completed during 2000.

Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act, 1970 (Act No. 70 of 1970)

The purpose of the Agricultural Land Act is to control the subdivision and accompanying rezoning of agricultural land, retain high potential agricultural land for agricultural uses, and prevent agricultural land from being indiscriminately divided into smaller units. Altogether 1 577 applications in

Agricultural Water Use Management

The Directorate deals with management of agriculture water conservation and use with particular attention to production and agricultural process factors and natural disasters such as droughts and floods.

Milestones

Five projects are under construction. These are:

- *Golden Valley subsurface drainage project in the Eastern Cape Province*—installation of infrastructure to facilitate the rehabilitation of salinised and waterlogged irrigation areas
- *Flood repair work in the Eastern Cape and the Free State Provinces*—the repair work at Spitskop near Hofmeyr was completed in December and the construction camp has moved to Senekal, Free State, to commence with the repair work to two existing key soil conservation works
- *Rysmierbult runoff control in the North West Province*—construction of waterways to restore the drainage pattern will be completed in June 2000
- *Kikimbe/Dendetu land rehabilitation project in KwaZulu-Natal*—rehabilitation of land of small-scale farmers that was devastated by Demonica
- *Elukwatini runoff control and rehabilitation in the Mpumalanga Province*—structures are constructed to safely drain the area and combat further erosion

Some of the activities of the Directorate

- the Subdirectorate Agricultural Water and Soil Conservation and Utilisation undertook a R500 000,00 LandCare project at Spitskop in which 120 local resource-poor persons were recruited to repair small embankments as well as other soil conservation structures and clear 1 600 ha of invasive acacia species.
- training was given in the use of hand and machine tools. Women accounted for 60 % of the worker force. Team leaders were trained in management, finance and planning
- the Directorate is also participating in Department of Water Affairs and Forestry activities of the National Water Act 1998 to give effect to the provisions of the draft Agricultural Policy on Irrigation



Workers at the Spitskop project



Scorpion drilling machine

- the Directorate collaborated with the SABS to establish borehole drilling, testing, maintenance, and operation standards. The last machine in the programme of building purpose-made drilling rigs, Scorpion 20, was completed in November, tested, and deployed to join the other 19 machines in the field
- currently, provinces are receiving assistance in the drilling of boreholes to establish small-scale farmers. A total of 1 000 gardeners benefited from 89 boreholes drilled for community garden projects
- the Department, in conjunction with the Netherlands and ARC, co-funded and launched a research project in September to integrate animal draught power in farm mechanisation that will reduce human drudgery on small-scale farms
- three Black artisans (B Group) qualified as drillers during this year. The training of drillers (Artisan B Group) in collaboration with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry also showed progress
- five officials of the Department completed a refresher course held at Brits Drilling School. Mercedes Benz offered a two-day course in the operation of heavy 4x4 vehicles in offroad conditions to 15 officials at Nylstroom on 25 and 26 May 1999
- two officials of Somerset East completed the First Aid Instructors' course. A total of 38 officials completed a fire-fighting course in September 1999
- altogether 19 officials were assessed to determine their level of literacy and numeracy
- in June, Deloitte and Touche began to conduct an investigation on the future of drilling services and presented the report to the Minister in November
- a South African team of specialists interacted with their USA counterparts to compile a BNC deliverable, the *Field office technical guide* during July and August
- the FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of the Netherlands held an International Conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land in Maastricht in September

Genetic Resources

The Directorate Genetic Resources promotes the conservation, availability and sustainable use of plant and propagation material of a high genetic, physical, and physiological quality.

Promotion of programmes

The Directorate promoted programmes such as:

- strategies to improve the enabling environment for the application of intellectual property rights on plant genetic resources in South Africa
- development of legislation and policies concerning the conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including genetically modified organisms
- co-ordination of access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the development of a system of farmers' rights.

Milestones

Several activities took place in different divisions of the Directorate in 1999. Among these were:

- In February two workshops were held targeting unions, organisations, traditional healers' associations, and agricultural extension on *The introduction of farmers' rights in South Africa* and *The conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources with particular reference to tropical and subtropical species*.

Plant Genetic Auditing

The number of audit inspections came to 1 832. Approximately 1 300 samples were taken at registered premises for the sale and propagation of plant genetic material. These inspections were conducted in terms of the Plant Improvement Act, 1976 (Act No. 53 of 1976), as well as the interim legislation for the control over the introduction of genetically modified organisms into South Africa.

Genetic Control

Regulations and a guideline document to the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997 (Act No. 15 of 1997), proclaimed on 1 December, were compiled.

During the past year until March 1999, the number of accessions at the Departmental Gene Bank increased from 1 341 to 1 537. Twenty-eight accessions of previously-collected germplasm were deposited in the regional gene bank of the SADC in Zambia. A total of 786 accessions of commercial varieties were also deposited in the South African National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NPGRC).

The NPGRC subsidised the Gene Bank of the South African Cactus Pear Growers' Association at Mara in the Northern Province to enable the Association to prepare the field gene bank. All the accessions of this gene bank were also duplicated during October and November 1999 in the field gene bank of the NPGRC at Roodeplaat.

Seed Quality Control

The Subdivision Seed Analysis tested 2 353 seed samples for various purposes such as official trade control.

Other reflections are:

- the two main seed tests were carried out to determine physical purity and germination capacity
- a total of 4 110 tests were completed, of which 72 % were for official purposes
- 137 tests, reflecting 15 % of samples submitted for testing, did not comply with the requirements of the Plant Improvement Act
- a total of 480 International Seed Testing Association quality certificates were issued
- of 35 investigations conducted by the Subdivision Seed Quality Investigations, 17 entailed resolution of disputes
- a comprehensive review of the provisions relating to seed in the Plant Improvement Act is still under investigation and 14 crops have already been completed
- the National Seed Collection performed 121 identifications and a total of 870 seeds were checked for accurate identification
- an on-going training, standardisation, and referee programme for the establishment and auditing of the 29 registered private seed testing laboratories in South Africa continued
- 20 candidates completed four practical examinations in seed testing techniques.

Variety Control

Evaluations for Variety Listing, Plant Breeders' Rights, Trade Control, and Certification (post control) are conducted in the three evaluation centres at Roodeplaat, Nelspruit, and Stellenbosch. A total of 125 kinds of plants were declared in terms of the Plant Improvement Act, 1976 (Act No. 53 of 1976).

During the year, 273 applications to be added to the official variety list were received: 138 for vegetable crops, 119 for agricultural crops, and 16 for fruit crops.

Plant breeders' rights

At present, 247 kinds of plants have been declared in terms of the Plant Breeders' Rights Act, 1976 (Act No. 15 of 1976). In terms of this Act, protection can be granted to a breeder of a new variety. Currently, the total number of plant breeders' rights in force is 2 893. More than 900 of these originate from foreign countries.

Plant genetic promotion

A national survey was conducted from September to December 1999 to audit traditional varieties of crops that are still cultivated by traditional or rural farmers. National strategies on conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources were primarily brought to grassroots through partnerships with Extension Services and civil society in the provinces.

Livestock Improvement and Identification

Livestock Improvement and Identification assists with animal welfare and aquaculture matters.

Livestock improvement/farm animal genetic resources

Various activities were performed with regard to livestock improvement/farm animal genetic resources. These included:

- special programmes to promote the importance of South Africa's indigenous and locally developed farm animal breeds and to broaden access to markets for value-added products
- holding the first farm-animal sale and show at the Willem Prinsloo Museum on 18 October to broaden the access of the emerging farmer sector to the growing market for indigenous farm-animal breeds
- officiation of the registrar as President of Rare Breeds International (RBI) and president of Farm Animal Conservation Trust (FACT) from 1998 to 1999.

Animal identification

A few activities took place with regard to animal identification:

- a programme to promote a uniform animal identification system for the Southern African region continued by introducing country identification marks
- research conducted in conjunction with Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute into suitable techniques and colourants for tattooing dark pigmented ears concluded that the locally-available black and green colourants were suitable. White ink imported from the United Kingdom for research purposes was less effective
- the first course, a joint NERPO/NDA/Provincial initiative to orientate and train people in animal marking, tattooing and branding, was held at Fort Cox in the Eastern Cape Province in April.

Aquaculture

Contact was made with the Sea Fisheries division of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to maintain close ties as far as freshwater and marine aquaculture is concerned.

While the Western Cape Province continued with the development of programmes for small-scale aquaculture in the resource-poor sector, KwaZulu-Natal continued with the development of integrated freshwater aquaculture systems on the Makhathini flats.

Other activities

Reproduction services

The number of centres rendering services such as semen and embryo collection decreased slightly from 23 to 19 during 1999. Four of these centres offer artificial insemination services (two for cattle and two for pigs) and the other 15 (6 for cattle and 9 for sheep) include embryo collection and general artificial insemination services.

The South African Veterinary Semen and Embryo Group (SAVSEG) certified a number of the embryo collection teams at the respective centres during the year. A certificate for breeding soundness is also being developed by the SA Veterinary Association as a warranty for the sale of bulls and rams.

Donor animals

The number of approved donor animals currently stands at 398, 294 bulls and 104 Bull 200 registrations. The number of Bull 200 registrations increased to 98 as more donors were registered by this method as a precursor to the implementation of the Animal Improvement Act, 1998 (Act No. 62 of 1998). This Act which will facilitate the sale of semen collected locally, will come into effect early in the year 2000.

Reproduction operators

Current registrations stand at 451 inseminators, two embryo transferors, two inovulators, and 110 semen collectors. In 1999, 102 new inseminators and three semen collectors were registered. The total of 565 reproduction operators shows a decrease from the 743 registrations in 1998.

The deregulation in this sector in terms of the Animal Improvement Act, 1998, (Act No. 62 of 1998) has resulted in an increase in the number of semen collectors, from 71 to 110. However, it has also resulted in a marked decrease in the number of inseminators.

Importation of genetic material

This year, semen imports increased from 513 340 to 2 462 086 while embryo imports decreased from 312 to 287. Altogether 650 animals and 590 ostriches were imported. Imports of poultry breeding material stood at 220 621.

Dairy cattle semen still accounts for the largest percentage of the importation. There is growing concern about the possible importation of surplus dairy bull semen at prices below that of locally-available alternatives.

General activities

During 1999 the following exports took place:

- greater numbers of Nguni cattle to Mozambique and Bonsmara embryos to South America
- an increasing number of small-stock embryos to Australia and other countries
- semen and animals of the South African Holstein-Friesian cattle breed to various African countries
- fertile ostriches and eggs to various countries including Malaysia, China and the Emirates (this included 62 017 chicks, 3 897 grown birds, and 12 610 eggs).

Livestock identification

The Livestock Brands Act, 1962 (Act No. 87 of 1962) provides for a National identification system of livestock to control stock theft.

Following the publication of the draft Animal Identification Bill this year, provincial information sessions were held with stock owners in the rural areas, especially to inform them about their responsibilities regarding compulsory branding.

The Registrar assisted SADC countries to draft animal identification legislation and to develop compatible registration systems. In 1999, 28 015 brands were registered, bringing the total number in South Africa to 178 194. On 1 October, KwaZulu-Natal and a few remaining magisterial districts in the Northern Province were declared as compulsory branding areas.

Inspection services

The control inspector responsible for inspection services in terms of both Acts held workshops with the resource-poor sector. In future, inspection services will be delegated to the provinces and will be largely restricted to the inspection of reproduction services. Law enforcement will remain the responsibility of the SAPS stock theft unit.

Animal Production and Health

The Directorate Animal Production and Health regulates, promotes, and audits all related activities of animal production and health. Among other functions, it

- develops policy, norms, standards and guidelines for animal disease control and veterinary laboratory services
- develops and maintains veterinary epidemiological data
- determines norms, standards, and guidelines with regard to animal management and production
- certifies animals and animal products for import and export control, including the provision of quarantine facilities

In November, the Directorate Animal Health amalgamated with the Directorate Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health to form the Directorate Veterinary Services to expand the scope and quality of services to be rendered.

Disease control

The disease control programme aims at:

- controlling and eradicating animal diseases
- restricting movement of animals during outbreaks to avoid the spreading of diseases

Milestones

For the past two years, the Directorate, Medunsa's veterinary faculty and the Jericho community were engaged in developing a scheme on primary health care. A final working document on Primary Animal Health Care will be finalised by the end of April 2000.

Fencing programme

The fencing of the northern section of the Western boundary of the Kruger Park, north of the Olifants River, was completed by the end of the year. However, about 30 km of the southern border is still to be completed.

Altogether R1,7m was spent to erect a new 55-km fence in Madimbo Corridor, next to the Zimbabwean border.

Animal Health legislation

The Animal Health Bill was approved and published in the *Government Gazette* for comments.

The new regulations on foot-and-mouth disease were completed and the provinces are now implementing appropriate measures.

Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme

The Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme promotes the eradication of bovine tuberculosis for the advancement of human and animal health through subjecting all bovine herds in the Republic to a tuberculin test. Most of the provinces reported an increase in the number of cattle tests, especially in the communal areas.

Epidemiology

The epidemiology section updated the database by verifying the georeferences of data received from the provinces. The Animal Disease Information System, ADISSA, which aims to improve disease reporting, was completed and implemented in most of the provinces.

Some of the activities included:

- preparation of disease information and livestock figures
- in March this year, an outbreak of African horsesickness occurred in the surveillance area of the Western Cape Province. A total of 34 horses were affected and 31 died. This was the result of the illegal movement of animals from the Free State to the Western Cape
- extension of information through video cassettes, *Info Paks*, etc, to various stakeholders including farmers and provinces

Import and Export

Various protocols on import and export of animal and animal products were completed this year. The highlight was the signing of an agreement with China on the export of horses, ostriches, rhinos, and elephants.

Other activities included:

- Swaziland's approval of a hatchery owned by National Chicks RSA to import day-old chicks to South Africa without three months' quarantine in South Africa. Altogether 12 permits issued in January introduced 243 600 day-old chicks
- two dairy plants in Zambia were visited and approved for the possibility of exporting beef and dairy products to South Africa
- Botswana's foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD) status was recognised in September. Model Health Certificates were agreed upon and would be implemented on 1 January 2000 and others by 1 April 2000 to improve trade with the SADC.

Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health

The Directorate sets national norms and standards for hygiene management at abattoirs. It controls the importation of fresh meat to ensure that only safe, healthy, and wholesome meat imported from foreign countries is released for human and animal consumption, and negotiates the sanitary export requirements with the Veterinary Authorities of foreign countries.

Milestones

Hygiene Control

Inspection services by meat examiners and trained animal health technicians at small rural abattoirs were introduced in order to phase out abattoirs with exemption from meat inspection. Regulations were also formulated requiring compulsory meat inspection at poultry abattoirs.

Capacity building in the provinces included the introduction of the National Certificate for a Meat Examiner's course, attending to training needs in rural areas, upgrading of Meat Inspector Training Manuals, and making available manuals for inspection procedures for various animal species.

Monitoring of national standards was promoted through the completion of a national survey on the delivery of meat hygiene services in the country, an investigation into the incidence of cysticercosis (measles) in cattle, and the introduction of the Hygiene Assessment System (HAS) as a national standardised assessment method of hygiene standards in abattoirs in South Africa.

The National Residue Monitoring Programme enabled South Africa to export dairy products to European Union countries as certified free of certain chemical residue was expanded to include dairy products. A national residue programme for raw milk was compiled, finalised, and forwarded to the EU for approval. The final compilation of the residue-monitoring programme for raw milk was a joint effort between the Directorate and the South African dairy industry.

Currently, most of the export of dairy products takes place to neighbouring countries.

Import/Export

The Directorate is involved in ongoing negotiations with Denmark to obtain access for wild soliped meat to the Danish market. Negotiations also include a veterinary health certificate for the export of ostrich meat to Russia and the possibility of exporting poultry meat to Iran as well as a veterinary

health certificate for the export of fresh meat of domestic animals of the bovine, ovine or caprine species.

A health certificate for the export of bonemeal, toenail meal, and leather meal obtained from ostriches was successfully negotiated with the Veterinary Administration of the Netherlands.

The certification arrangements for meat, raw material for pet food, raw material for pharmaceutical use, and meat meal with New Zealand were ratified.

Negotiations with the Veterinary Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative region regarding the revision of the veterinary health certificates for the export of meat and meat products to Hong Kong were concluded.

Based on a risk assessment to determine the probability of introducing Newcastle disease virus to importing countries by exporting ostrich meat cuts, renewed access into the Canadian market was sought. South Africa has lost access to Sweden and Austria for the export of ostrich meat because of concern about the current Newcastle disease situation in the country.

A research team from the Netherlands, in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Council and the ostrich industry, conducted a study on the stunning of ostriches to examine the effect of electric and captive needle air pressure stunning methods under practical conditions on some meat quality parameters in ostriches.

The dispute with the Saudi Arabian Government regarding its ban on the importation of beef from South Africa took a more serious turn when an article was published by a London-based Saudi paper, which alleged that Saudi Arabia has stopped beef imports from South Africa because of South African cattle being infected with mad cow disease (BSE). The Directorate released a press statement denying these allegations and rumours. Interactive communication is being maintained with the Middle East Desk of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Plant Health and Quality

The Directorate Plant Health and Quality promotes and regulates the availability of healthy and productive plant material and the quality of agricultural products. It administers and implements four Acts of Parliament:

- The Plant Improvement Act, 1976 (Act No. 53 of 1976)
- The Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983)
- The Liquor Products Act, 1989 (Act No. 60 of 1989)
- The Agricultural Product Standards Act, (Act No. 119 of 1990)

Objectives

- control certain agricultural pests and diseases to ensure the quality of various agricultural products and to apply prescribed legislation

Milestones

- a total of 1 727 samples were received for identification of fungi, viruses, bacteria, insects, mites, and nematodes
- altogether 194 cultivars representing 2 580 vegetative propagation units were quarantined
- a total of 605 pest risk assessments were conducted for plant species other than fresh produce and seeds
- import conditions were drafted for 12 fresh fruit and vegetable varieties for consumption for 45 countries
- the imports of 277 cultivars/clones of 21 different crops were authorised. These importations consisted of gene sources destined for breeding, evaluation, and research purposes
- commercial importation included walnuts (32 000 cuttings), strawberries (2 000 root-cuttings), persimmon (6 000 cuttings), and leucadendron (2 700 cuttings)
- a total of 158 consignments of imported and exported processed products were tested
- a total of 11 367 inspections were carried out in various fields on liquor, fresh produce, and processed and animal products

- notices regarding amendments to the export standards and requirements for different grains, deciduous fruit, animal and processed products were published in the *Government Gazette*
- a record number of 28 000 export applications for liquor products were received. During this period, a total of 227 352 164 litres of liquor were exported
- approval was obtained for the establishment of a National Co-ordinating Committee to facilitate education awareness programmes to inform and educate the community
- posters, pamphlets, technical manuals and FAO videos on the larger grain borer, as well as resin-mounted specimens were distributed to importers, exporters, producers and extension personnel to inform and educate them to protect the industry against the threat of LGB
- establishment, review, and drafting of a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) model for South Africa
- during 1999 the Subdirectorate Plant Health took part in four rounds of an international proficiency-testing scheme (FAPAS). About 75 laboratories from 27 countries participated in these tests.



Larger grain borer

Agricultural Production Inputs

The Directorate Agricultural Production Inputs administers and implements the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies, and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). It is responsible for:

- registering all fertilising materials, animal feeds, stock remedies, and agricultural remedies before they can be offered for sale to end-users
- registering sterilising plants that produce products such as bonemeal for use in manufacturing some animal feeds and fertilisers, and pest control operators (PCOs)
- managing the administration of 12 600 registered products

Milestones

During the year, various milestones were achieved in the areas of agricultural remedies, stock remedies, and inspection services.

Agricultural remedies

Altogether 11 new active ingredients were recommended for registration approval. A total of 470 other new applications for amendments to current registrations were evaluated. Furthermore, 125 advertisements were checked for scientific correctness. All uses of the insecticide monocrotophos have been voluntarily withdrawn from the Western Cape because of bird toxicity problems.

The publication *A guide to the use of herbicides* was revised and published in the first quarter of 1999. *A guide to the use of pesticides and fungicides in the Republic of South Africa* has also been extensively revised and published as two separate publications, i.e. *A guide for the control of plant diseases* and *A guide for the control of plant pests*.

Maximum residue limits on food commodities of 52 compounds were considered at the 31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Pesticide Residue held in The Hague in April.

Stock remedies

During the year, 155 new applications for stock remedies were recommended for approval, 47 applications for daughter registrations, 16 amendments to existing registrations, 10 parallel registrations, 10 changes of product names, and 214 advertisements.

There were 143 transfers of registrations as a result of company mergers and one reinstatement of registration. In addition, there were 11 reports of adverse reactions and six cases of the sale of unregistered products were referred to the inspectorate. More than 60 Certificates of Free Sale were issued and 22 import permits for unregistered products intended for development trials were granted.

Inspection services

The statistics below indicate the activities of inspection services for 1999:

STATISTICS FOR INSPECTION SERVICES	
ACTIONS	1999
Physical inspections	2 382
Taking of samples	496
Complaints handled	2 382
Court cases	9
Number of cases recorded in Control Register	2 382
Cases handled administratively	1 346
Cases still under investigation	770
Routine inspections (total number of routine inspection points - ± 1 397)	1 399
New inspection points	212
PCOs tested	17
Visitors	91

Additional activities were:

- The project to retrieve and dispose of South Africa's obsolete pesticides that commenced in 1998 was completed. A total of 710 tons of such stocks were shipped to Rechem in the UK where incineration was completed by October.
- Through the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, contributions were made to the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a legally binding instrument on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure of the FAO. Pesticides that are banned or severely restricted because of health or environmental reasons are subject to the PIC. South Africa has ratified its involvement by signing the agreement.

Onderstepoort Biological Products

Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) manufactures and supplies new biological products while improving the existing ones for the prevention of animal diseases.

Objectives

- produce sufficient quantities of vaccine to meet demand
- acquire SABS ISO 9000 certification
- acquire business-oriented financial system
- support restructuring of OBP

Milestones

In achieving its objectives, OBP performed a variety of activities, including the following:

Production of vaccine

Altogether 56,2 million doses were sold. Compared to last year when 57,2 million doses were sold, there is a difference of 0,4 million doses.

The increased sales of Rift Valley fever and lumpy-skin-disease vaccine increased, resulting in an increase of the overall sales of vaccines for viral diseases.

SABS ISO 9000 Certification

The procedures for the establishment of ISO 9000 standards to ensure that OBP becomes a centre of excellence are being compiled and will be completed by April 2000. It is expected that OBP will be certified by July 2000.

Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP)

Crux Technologies, a company trading as Macola SA in software technology, was awarded a tender to develop a business-oriented financial system in accordance with GAAP.

Certain parts of the system are already functioning and the staff is currently receiving training on its utilisation.

OBP restructuring

The promulgation of the Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act (Act No.19) on 23 April this year paved the way for the company to be established from 1 April 2000 to meet global challenges.

In the new environment, OBP would be able to acquire much needed vaccine production techniques and become an active player in the market.

Agricultural Trade and Policy

- Collects statistics on agriculture and food security
- Provides economic analysis and advice on policy issues in agriculture to
 - maximise agriculture's contribution to the national economy
 - optimise resource application
 - contribute to the development of a diverse agriculture sector and a support system which favours resource-poor farmers and previously disadvantaged people
- Ensures that South Africa's agricultural trade interests are well represented
 - analysing the effects of trade agreements
 - promoting the interests of the sector through negotiations and trade initiatives
 - facilitating trade administration and regulation
- Renders an import and export certification service.



*Deputy Director-General
Ms Diana Callear*

International Trade

The Directorate International Trade provides trade policy advice, bilateral and multi-lateral trade negotiations, implementation of trade agreements, and analysis of other countries' trade policy. It provides support in terms of these relations to ensure market access for agricultural products.

Objectives

Some of the key objectives are to:

- finalise the negotiations with the European Union and implement the signed agreement
- effectively implement, administer, and monitor current trade agreements
- prepare South Africa's position regarding agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- facilitate the implementation of the BATAT Marketing Drive investigation report
- finalise negotiations on and implement the SADC Protocol on Trade
- develop an export strategy for agricultural products

Milestones

Trade policy—bilateral

European Union

- the overall Trade Development and Co-operation Agreement was signed on 11 October
- a quota allocation system was developed and implemented to ensure maximum utilisation of the export quotas granted to South Africa by all stakeholders, including new entrants, on a fair and equitable basis
- progress was made on the wine and spirits negotiations with a final compromise on the issue of the use of the names Port and Sherry.



Celebrating the signing of the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement between South Africa and the EU are from left Minister of Trade and Industry Alex Erwin, President Thabo Mbeki, Minister of Foreign Affairs Nkosazana Zuma, Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs Thoko Didiza, and Deputy Minister Dirk du Toit

East Asia

The continuation of the export quotas in terms of bilateral agreement with the Republic of China for 1 000 tons of citrus and 1 200 tons of apples for 1999 was confirmed and implemented with the collaboration of the South African Mission to Taiwan.

Middle East

As a follow-up to the trade mission of December 1998 led by the former Deputy Minister to Saudi Arabia and Oman, the Department managed to link South African traders with possible importers and exporters in those countries.

Australia

The next meeting of the BNC will be held in South Africa in June 2000. A departmental official received training in monitoring and analysis of WTO notifications. Other officials also received similar training for Latin America and North America.

South African Customs Union (SACU)

Three SACU meetings were held in South Africa where matters concerning rebate facilities, exports of karakul breeding material, a ban on vegetable imports by Botswana, and exports of rebated wheat flour to South Africa were discussed.

An agreement was reached on most of the issues, except on the use of nontariff measures and the level of import tariffs. The documents still have to be discussed by the SACU ministers for approval.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Negotiations to establish a SADC free-trade area in terms of the SADC Protocol on Trade continued this year. An agreement was reached requiring trade coverage to be in line with the WTO regulations under Article 24 of the WTO agreement.

Rules of origin protecting the SADC agricultural sector from unfair trade diversion have been preliminary agreed upon. It is expected that the final agreement will be reached by April 2000.

Rest of Africa

The Department continued to implement bilateral agreements with Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique. Bilateral trade and development discussions with Zambia took place in January 1999 as well.

Other bilateral activities include:

Tariff policy

The Department made inputs into the investigations of the tariff dispensations for wheat, maize, cotton, and dairy products. It forwarded the recommendations to the Minister as contained in the tariff reports of the Board on Tariffs and Trade (BTT).

Industrial strategies

Two workshops were held this year for dairy and meat industries to develop strategies for long-term economic sustainability of these sectors.

Trade policy—multilateral

Objectives

In performing its multilateral activities, the Department will strive to achieve a substantial improvement of market opportunities for all South African agricultural products with export potential as well as improving fair trade conditions on the main agricultural products imported or exported

Milestones

Some of the milestones include:

- the effective implementation of South Africa's commitments in terms of the WTO agreements on agriculture
- the Directorate has fulfilled South Africa's notification obligation in terms of the Uruguay Round Agreement based on relevant objectives
- continuation of the International Grains Council (IGC) membership
- continuation of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) membership
- completing a study indicating that lack of knowledge and information are major constraints experienced when marketing agricultural products
- issuing of 520 market access rebate permits until October 1999
- issuing of 106 import permits for tobacco, dried beans, peas, and animal feeding
- issuing of rebate permits for 500 tons of natural honey. Until October this year, permits were issued for importing 352 tons
- issuing of rebate permits for 98 378 bales of cotton lint until October this year
- championing the agreement to import 175 000 bales of cotton lint free of duty during the marketing season, from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000
- utilising 99,11 % of the quota for apples and 96,15 % for citrus in executing the quotas of 1 200 and 1 000 tons for deciduous fruit and citrus
- issuing of export permits for 1 189 tons of apples and 961 tons of citrus

Office of the Counsellor Agriculture at the WTO

This Directorate was instrumental in the development of a coherent policy process supported by the industry and the Government. In promoting the objectives of the Department in the WTO, it collaborated in developing structural proposals made by the Cairns group in the WTO General Council.

In support, an external analysis was commissioned to assess the success of South African agricultural deregulation. The results were used in the UNCTAD workshop to develop future strategy.

Economic and Policy Analysis

The Directorate Economic and Policy Analysis analyses and advises on the:

- economic impact of policies and the external environment on agriculture
- availability of agricultural resources and their productive and effective use
- competitiveness of agricultural commodities
- efficiency and diversity of farm business

Milestones

During 1999, various activities took place, with the key one being a Sectoral Job Summit that was held in Gauteng in October to debate factors that contribute to job shedding and mutual strategies to explore in creating jobs within the sector.

Statistical Information

The Directorate Statistical Information generates, collates, verifies, maintains and makes available statistical information on the agricultural sector.

Objectives

- projection and monitoring of trends in agriculture, food security, and food utilisation.

Milestones

The Directorate's divisions, Agricultural Accounts, Market Information, Food Security Statistics, and Farm Profiles, performed various activities in 1999.

Agricultural Accounts

Agricultural Accounts collects and processes data to calculate the major macroeconomic aggregates used for monitoring the economic performance of the agricultural sector on a quarterly basis. This information is supplied to Statistics SA and the Reserve Bank for incorporation into the quarterly national economic accounts of South Africa.

Indications

- according to the economic accounts, the gross income from agricultural products came to R43 863 million for the 12-month period that ended on 31 December 1999. This is 4,7 % higher than during the same period in 1998
- gross income from field crops and horticultural products increased by 10,8 and 2,0 % respectively while that of animal products increased by 2,8 %
- expenditure on intermediate goods and services increased by 8,4 %
- the net income of farmers decreased by almost 13,5 %. This decrease is mainly the result of the fact that prices received by farmers decreased by 1,7 % while the prices of production inputs increased by 6,9 %
- investment in new vehicles, tractors, machinery, and other equipment is estimated at R1 816,0 million for the 12-month period up to 31 December 1999, which is 15,5 % lower than during the same period in 1998. This indicates that investment in fixed improvements increased by 6,5 %.

Market Information

Market Information collects and processes data to calculate macro-economic indicators that are used for determining trends in agriculture.

Indications

- agriculture contributes more than R10 billion annually in terms of export earnings
- the share of agricultural exports in the country's total exports has fluctuated between 7,9 % in 1995 and 9,0 % in 1999
- South Africa's total exports increased by 60,8 % from 1995 to 1999, while the exports of agricultural products increased by 83,6 % during the same period
- the share of processed agricultural products within the country's total agricultural exports has also increased from 32 to 57 %
- the main export products, based on 1999 export values, include sugar, citrus fruit, wine, grapes, and preserved fruit and jams. The top 10 earners of foreign currency accounted for 58 % of the total agricultural exports.

Food Security Statistics

Food Security Statistics provides estimates on crops and livestock, calculates the consumption expenditure on food, and determines the availability and consumption of foodstuffs.

Crop Estimates

- monthly estimates on the production of summer field crops (maize, sorghum, groundnuts, sunflower seed, soya-beans, and dry beans) and winter cereals (wheat, barley, oats, canola and lupins) were released on a provincial basis
- forecasts were also released regarding the intentions of farmers to plant summer field and winter grain crops for the 1999/2000 season
- a new Crop Estimates Committee would be established in January 2000 to do the first estimate for summer grains

Following the unsatisfactory variability in the estimates for 1999, the Department introduced short-term measures to improve the accuracy of the crop estimates. These are:

- *Mapping*—using satellite technology to construct an area frame for accurate information to determine the total area planted to various field crops
- *Co-operators*—determining the physical distribution of co-operators, i.e. farmers supplying data to the Department and assisting in their distribution
- *Cultivar trials*—determining the potential yield per hectare of various crops yearly

- *Statistics*—analysing historical data and making recommendations for testing current estimates to reduce their volatility

Livestock estimates

Estimates of livestock numbers were released on a quarterly basis together with those of annual wool production. At the end of August 1999, there were approximately 13,6 million head of cattle, 28,7 million sheep, 1,53 million pigs and 6,46 million goats in South Africa.

Farm Profiles

At a workshop held in February this year to examine new ways of obtaining agricultural statistics, it was decided that a sample survey covering all nine provinces would be more appropriate than to start with provincial censuses.

Based on the statistical needs of the sector, a questionnaire was compiled for a pilot survey to be conducted in 2000.

The following publications are useful in reflecting the statistics for various activities:

- *Abstract of agricultural statistics* (annual publication)
- *Economic review of SA agriculture* (biannual publication)
- *Trends in the agricultural sector* (annual publication)
- *Crops and markets* (quarterly publication)
- *Statistics on fresh produce markets* (annual publication)

Management Support Services

- Renders an information technology service and coordinates information management
- Promotes efficient human resource management
- Renders legal advice and support
- Renders a general administrative service
- Undertakes business analysis investigations
- Promotes organisational performance



*Chief Director
Mr Andries Goosen*

Information Management Services

The Directorate Information Management Services renders Information Technology (IT) and Information Management Services to the Department.

Objectives

- develop, facilitate the implementation of and advise on IT and IT management policy
- undertake effective budgeting and expenditure control

Milestones

A variety of activities were performed to realise the objectives of the Directorate. These include:

- completion of the renewal of the network infrastructure in the renovated parts of the Agriculture building by December
- compilation of policies relating to e-mail, pirate software, software and hardware disposal, as well as network security
- compilation of procedures and guidelines for the usage of information technology applications and systems
- ensuring Y2K compliance of systems internally and externally in the provinces
- acquisition of 14 data sets for placement on the AGIS website
- making R6 million available by the Innovation Fund for the development of applications as well as acquisition of core data set upon which AGIS could be further developed
- replacement of 66 noncompliant routers on the AGRINET WAN with Bay AS and ASN routers
- representation of the agricultural sector in the National Y2K Decision Support Centre and the Department of State Expenditure's Interim Disaster Management Centre
- establishment of a mentorship programme to promote representivity in the Directorate.

Organisation Development

The Directorate Organisation Development was established in April this year to undertake business analysis investigations and provide internal training. It comprises the Subdirectorate: Business Analysis Services, formerly known as the Work Study Component, and the Subdirectorate Training.

The objectives for the year was to enhance organisational performance through:

- training, educational, and developmental interventions
- optimising organisational systems and business processes

Milestones

During the year under review the Directorate Organisation Development played a prominent role in the facilitation of the right-sizing process in the Department. Resources were reprioritised and re-allocated according to new policies to establish the most efficient and effective organisation in terms of service delivery. A vital role was also played to manage and reduce vacancies dramatically in the Department.

Other milestones include:

- compilation of a draft Job Evaluation Policy
- development of training policies focusing on internal training aspects, job descriptions, and form control
- development of an Orientation Guide to introduce new employees to the Department
- co-ordination of Induction Programme for Political Office bearers
- development of a Management Communication Protocol to obtain uniformity and clarify communication procedures and line of authority
- provision of Adult Basic Education Training (ABET) to 60 semiliterate officials



ABET graduates

Human Resource Management

The Directorate Human Resource Management renders human resource management services through the development of policies and practices to establish sound labour relations in the Department.

Objectives

- downsizing of the Department
- decentralisation of Human Resource Administration Units
- implementation of the Code of Remuneration (CORE)
- termination of agency service to the Northern Cape
- training in various aspects

Milestones

Human Resource Administration

- 209 posts were abolished through restructuring
- human resource administration functions were decentralised through the establishment of HRAUnits at various points of service delivery according to legislative principles
- five Human Resource Administration Units were established
- 239 posts were transferred from the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute of the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture to the Department as a result of the termination of agency services pertaining to staff functions in September this year
- a multiskilling programme was introduced in the HRA Units in 1 April this year to empower staff
- 700 officials were translated to a CORE manually because they were not translated on the Persal system

Human Resource Policies and Practices

Various policies, guidelines, and procedures were developed and made available on the Intranet and transformation structures. These include:

- *Employment Management Handbook*
- fast-tracking and mentorship

- multiskilling guidelines
- retaining policy
- working hours and working arrangements
- placement, probation, lateral transfers, secondments, and re-employment
- compensation management
- outsourcing
- career management
- termination of service
- work outside the Public Service
- filing system
- smoking and dress code
- implementation of COREs

With regard to the Personnel Management Information System, the following activities were performed:

- all HRM staff completed computer training courses at various levels to enhance service delivery and capacity in the Directorate
- five team-building exercises were held to promote diversity management.

Labour Relations

The following activities were performed with regard to Labour Relations:

- 57 officials of the Department were trained in disciplinary procedures as investigators, presiding officers, and prosecutors
- Following the workshop on shop steward activities held during October 1999, recognition agreements have been signed between the Department and the Public Servants' Association (PSA), the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) and the Trade Union for South African Authorities (TUSAA) respectively, which are in line with the provisions of the Labour Relations Act, Act No. 66 of 1995.

The following policies were adopted in the Departmental Bargaining Council as Resolutions:

- determination of threshold of representivity pertaining to recognition of trade unions
- transitional arrangements for current policies regarding specific matters
- Departmental Motor Transport Policy and Work Procedure
- overtime
- fast-tracking and mentorship
- e-mail

The Subdirectorate assisted in the dispute between the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) management and NEHAWU on the issues of retrenchment and transformation. As a result, a consultant was appointed to draft an Industrial Relations Framework for the ARC, which included a

constitution for the new bargaining council of the organisation.

Other activities included:

- drafting a constitution for a bargaining council in preparation for the privatisation of Onderstepoort Biological Products in April 2000
- admission of NEHAWU as a second trade union to the Departmental Bargaining Council in January 1999
- handling of 34 cases of misconduct
- establishment of nine conciliation boards
- reporting of 42 grievances

Legal Services

The Directorate Legal Services manages and co-ordinates all the legal activities of the Department.

Objectives

- assist the Department with all the legislative activities locally and internationally

Milestones

During this year, the following activities were performed:

- multiskilling—seven legal officers received professional training to equip them for disciplinary hearings and improve their management, protocol, computer, and typing skills
- Wine and Spirits agreement—Directorate Legal Services was represented on the South African team negotiating with the European Union during protracted negotiations in Europe and South Africa
- Legislation—Parliament passed the Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act

Administration

The Directorate Administration renders administrative support, infrastructure, and security services to the Department.

Objectives

- establish the operation and the first-aid rooms for the Y2K contingency room
- develop and maintain amended and new office administrative procedures
- improve security and image of the Department
- develop and manage a new telephone policy system
- compile a tariff manual for services, goods, and products rendered by the Department

Milestones

The following activities were performed to realise the objectives of this Directorate:

- the operation and the first-aid rooms were established and fitted with the necessary equipment
- phase two renovation of the Agriculture Building was completed in November 1999
- approximately 10 000 files and registers were sorted in the Archive section to allow evacuation of Block Y for renovation
- a departmental funeral policy was developed which will be implemented from 1 April 2000.
- the upgrading of the security services image was undertaken
- a telephone management system is operational, allowing only 10 minutes for private calls per day per employee for cost-effectiveness
- four typing pools were established
- a tariff manual for goods and services were implemented in April

Financial Management

- Evaluates the financial feasibility of objectives, programmes and projects
- Ensures the implementation of effective financial management measures
- Advises on financial implications with regard to projects, schemes and services
- Renders financial and provisioning administration services
- Renders internal auditing services
- Undertakes financial investigations to ensure effective administration
- Coordinates budgeting planning
- Manages the Debt Book



*Chief Director
Mr Tommie Marais*

Financial Inspections

The Directorate Financial Inspections ensures the availability of adequate financial controls through internal audits, financial and logistical inspections and investigations, and asset and loss control.

Objectives

- finalise the restructuring and implementation of the new Directorate and its establishment
- enhance loss control
- strengthen financial discipline, control environments, and operational controls within the Department

Milestones

- Outside offices were reduced from twelve to five this year through restructuring. As a result, management and supervision over asset audits on debtors' farms improved.
- The function of the loss control directorate is now fully established in the Department. Internal control has been enhanced through the completion of major audits in the spheres of departmental debtors, revenue management, wages administration, and personnel remunerative allowances.

Budgets

The Subdirectorate Budgets co-ordinates and compiles budgetary information for submission to the Department of State Expenditure.

Milestone

Various training sessions and courses on budgeting were held with the Directorates.

Organisational Change: An Overview

The Department was involved in various activities related to transformation during the year 1999.

- Institutional change-** Due to restructuring of the Department, 209 posts were abolished. In the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, 239 posts from the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute were transferred to the National Department of Agriculture.
- The promulgation of the Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act on 23 April this year paved the way for privatisation of the institution to be able to meet global challenges.
- Corporate image -** The launch of the new logo of the Department in April was a step towards establishing a new image that would reflect all the changes that have taken place and those that the Department still needs to address.
- Provincial liaison -** The Department could not do without the support of its provincial departments. That is how it usually reaches its rural stakeholders. This year, provinces were involved in implementing most of the critical projects such as the Village Bank, Agribusiness extension development, capacity building for emerging farmers, etc.
- HIV Declaration -** A declaration to support the struggle against HIV/AIDS was signed by the Top Management of the Department



Deputy Director-General Mr Masiphula Mbongwa lighting a candle on National Aids Day

Preview 2000

The Department's goals for the year 2000 includes:

- the establishment of a new National Crop Estimate Committee
- beginning of provincial consultation on the draft framework for a field office technical guide, *Development of a South African Sustainable Resource Use Guide*, for natural resources and conservation
- privatisation of the Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP)
- the next meeting of the RSA-Australia Binational Commission will be held in South Africa towards the middle of the year