

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 1016

16 SEPTEMBER 2016



INVITATION TO COMMENT:

TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC), a schedule 3A Public Entity, is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agriculture sector.

The ARC's research and development outcomes contribute significantly to South African agriculture by enabling food security, competitiveness, sustainability, growth and a peaceful society.

The Council's interventions aim to increase agriculture production and productivity, including the creation of new areas of agricultural production to enhance food security and income generation. Special focus on expanding agricultural production in communal areas, rural poverty nodes and peri-urban areas where there's high potential for increasing the number of productive farmers.

To ensure sustainable and affordable food security, the ARC has defined the following as being the change imperative for agriculture in South Africa, leading up to the year 2050:

"South Africa's population will increase substantially leading to 2050 resulting in an increase in the demand for agriculture products. Compromised food security and food safety could impact on public welfare and socio-political stability. The mix of food supply will change to meet changing dietary requirements, consumer preferences and affordability.

Agricultural production and productivity will, without intervention, be severely negatively impacted primarily through climate change, changing land use patterns (including industrialisation and urbanisation), deterioration in soil, plant and animal health, energy supply, water availability and quality, pest and diseases outbreaks, reduced biodiversity (e.g. disappearance of pollinators), eco-system changes, and other environmental challenges.

Agricultural input and commodity prices are likely to increase substantially impacting on global competitiveness. This will alter the structure and behaviour of the agricultural market."

In response to this change imperative, the ARC has developed a Vision 2050, which considers and unpacks the challenges posed by the change imperative and also provides a response as to the measures the sector role players will need to adopt to ensure the resilience and productivity of the sector towards 2050. The ARC wishes to receive comments from all interested and affected parties, on the Vision 2050 Discussion Document, by **no later than 31 October 2016**.

The ARC Vision 2050 Discussion Document can be downloaded from the ARC website (after completion of a form) on: www.arc.agric.za and comments can be e-mailed to Vision2050@arc.agric.za, contact person and number: Ms. Tamara Mbini and (012) 427 9712.