

**NOTICE 2322 OF 2003**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996**

**(ACT No. 47 OF 1996)**

**REQUEST FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF STATUTORY REGISTRATION OF  
LUCERNE SEED AND LUCERNE HAY PRODUCERS AND THE SUBMISSION  
OF RECORDS AND RETURNS BY LUCERNE SEED AND LUCERNE HAY  
DEALERS**

It is hereby made known in terms of section 11 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996), that the Minister of Agriculture has received a request for the introduction of a statutory measures in the Lucerne industry in terms of section 10 of the said Act as set out in the Schedules hereto.

Directly affected groups are hereby invited to lodge any objection or representation regarding the proposed amendment to the statutory measures with the National Agricultural Marketing Council within 14 days of the publication thereof.

Submissions should be in writing and be addressed to:

**The Chairperson  
National Agricultural Marketing Council  
Private Bag X 935  
PRETORIA  
0001  
Fax No.: (012) 341 1911  
Enquiries: Mr. Tshifhiwa Madima  
Tel.: (012) 341 1115 ext 212**

**MG RATHOGWA  
CHAIRPERSON: NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL**

**REQUEST FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF STATUTORY REGISTRATION OF  
LUCERNE SEED AND LUCERNE HAY PRODUCERS AND THE SUBMISSION OF  
RECORDS AND RETURNS BY LUCERNE SEED AND LUCERNE HAY DEALERS, IN  
TERMS OF THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996 (ACT NO  
47 OF 1996), AS AMENDED**

**1. STATUTORY MEASURES – REGISTRATION, RECORDS AND RETURNS**

The statutory measures that is requested to be introduced, is that the Minister, in terms of section 10 of the Act, by notice in the Government Gazette, direct that the statutory measures, namely the registration of lucerne seed and lucerne hay producers and the establishment of submission of records and returns by lucerne seed and lucerne hay dealers, as requested by the Lucerne Seed Organisation acting on behalf of the lucerne industry.

**2. INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 10 OF THE ACT**

The particulars as required by section 10 of the Act to be included in a request for the introduction of a statutory measure, are as follows:

- 2.1 The statutory measures that are requested to be introduced, would relate to lucerne seed and lucerne hay producers and dealers.
- 2.2 The categories of directly affected groups which would probably be affected by the proposed statutory measures, are:
- Producers: (a person who produces lucerne seed or/and lucerne hay for commercial purposes).
  - Exporters: (a person who exports lucerne seed or/and lucerne hay from South Africa, and this shall also include the person who arranges or handles the exports in the name of or on behalf of another person);
  - Importers: (a person who imports lucerne seed or/and lucerne hay into South Africa, and this shall also include the person who arranges or handles the imports in the name of or on behalf of another person);
  - Processors: (a person who bales, or processes lucerne seed or/and lucerne hay in any manner whatsoever, for with the aim of selling the resultant product);
- 2.3 The statutory measures will be administered by the Lucerne Seed Organisation and will apply to the whole of the Republic of South Africa.
- 2.4 The proposed statutory measures are in line with the objectives of the Act as stipulated in section 2(2) thereof. Such amendment will also not contravene section 2(3) of the Act.
- 2.6 The manner in which the objectives referred to in section 2(2) of the Act will be furthered (namely the increasing of market access for all market participants, the promotion of the efficiency of the marketing of agricultural products, the optimisation of export earnings from agricultural products and the enhancement of the viability of the agricultural sector), are summarised below:

The availability of macro market information (as identified by the relevant parties) in a deregulated environment is essential for the lucerne industry as well as all the directly affected groups. Reliable market information enables role-players to make informed decisions.

The market access for all the participants could increase, and the efficiency of the marketing of grain and oilseed products could be improved with the availability of accurate and relevant market information on a timeous and continuous basis.

Market information disseminated by an independent organisation enables role players to participate on an equal footing based on objective information. It also enhances the viability of the grains and oilseeds and the total agricultural sector.

To be able to disseminate information as accurately as possible, it will be necessary for producers, processors and traders to render monthly returns on an individual basis, so that market information for the whole of the country can be processed and disseminated to the market place. A system of compulsory registration of the relevant parties involved in lucerne seed and lucerne hay will assist the administration of the statutory measure relating to records and returns.

The statutory measures will not be detrimental to the number of employment opportunities within the economy or to fair labour practice.

- 2.7 Currently the lucerne industry collects information on a voluntary basis and at its own cost.