



WHEN THE SUN RISES  
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
AFFAIRS**

**THE ROLE OF EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN AGRICULTURE**

**PRESENTED AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SUBTROP TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT**

**HELD AT ELANGENI HOTEL, DURBAN**

**BY DR MS KGAPHOLA**

# OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. What is this Extension and Advisory Service?
3. What can the role of extension in agriculture be?
4. How can we optimize the benefits of the EAS
5. Conclusion and Recommendations



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



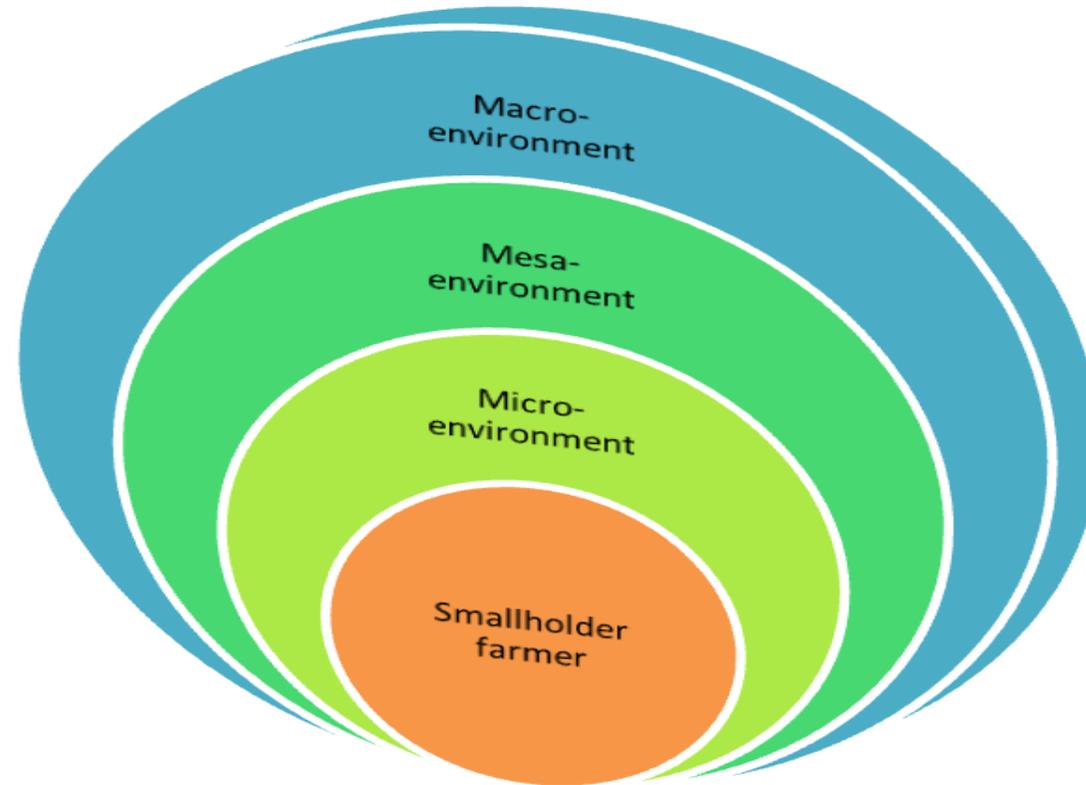
# INTRODUCTION

- **“ KNOWLEDGE IS POWER”**
- **KNOWLEDGE IS KEY THE INGREDIENT FOR TRANSFORMATION**
  
- **EXTENSION PROGRAMME IS A DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR THIS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs  
**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





**FIGURE 1: COMPONENTS OF THE SMALLHOLDER FARMER ECOSYSTEM**

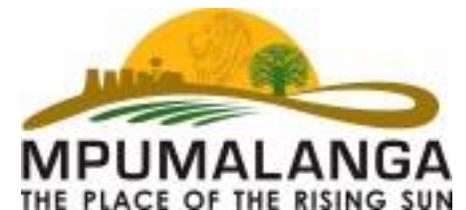
## INTRODUCTION (CONTINUES)

- The global developments (climate change, disease patterns, technology)
- The changing dynamics of the agricultural sector.
- New policy direction and ever changing environment and societal systems (NDP, APAP, Malabo declaration, etc).



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# EXTENSION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES & POLICIES

- The National Development Programme (2030 Vision)
  - APAP
  - Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP)
  - The Comprehensive Farmer Development Support Programme Draft Policy
- ❖ All indicate the centrality of extension in agricultural development support
- **National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services**



## CHALLENGES OF EAS

- Poor morale of Extension Practitioners (EPs).
- EO without Extension training background.
- But extension today does not have a good track record in terms of assisting the smallholder farmers to grow and develop.
- Extension and advisory services face major challenges in the areas of relevance, efficiency, accountability and sustainability.



## CHALLENGES OF EAS

- The challenge is that over the years Extension has been rendered paralyzed and redundant.
- Poor linkage between research, extension, stakeholders and Producers.
- Disintegrated efforts from different Extension Support Agencies.
- **To facilitate establishment of effective and efficient extension & advisory services.**



# THE ROLE OF EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN AGRICULTURE

- To facilitate establishment of effective and efficient Extension & Advisory services.
- To ensure knowledge transfer and skills development as the foundation for “equitable, productive, competitive, profitable and sustainable agriculture sectors growing to the benefit of all South Africans”.
- The aim is to ensure that all actors in the value chains enjoy equitable & **optimum access to knowledge and skills**; and have the capacity to explore opportunities for the advancement of their livelihoods and enterprises.



- Assist producers to access relevant advisory services and facilities that are essential for the enhancement of farm productivity
- Assist producers to identify & overcome production and other challenges, through the exchange of information among producers, extension practitioners, input suppliers, creditors and marketing agents.
- Work with producers in technology development and innovation processes.
- Provides information to research institutions on producers' production constraints so that appropriate basic, applied or adaptive research can be conducted.

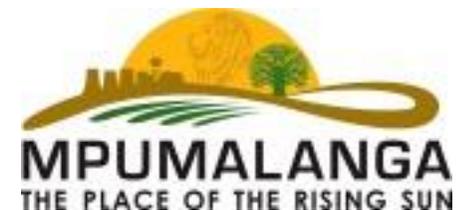


- Empowers and build capacity of producers, producer organizations' and commodity groups to ultimately become self-reliant for improved living standards.
- Share knowledge and strengthen individual and collective capacity to work with greater self-reliance and confidence.
- Design participatory and integrated institutional structures that bring together extension, research and producers at national, provincial and district levels.



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



- Facilitate demand-driven research and extension services by promoting action-based and producer-led research processes by supporting programmes based on participatory on-farm trials, research-station based research processes, to ensure inclusion of producers and extension practitioners in all research processes.
- Organise smallholder producers into commodity groups to ensure that they have a voice in all research processes.
- Develop a multi-linguistic approach in line with the dissemination of information process, to enable open access to information by all actors across the value chain.
- Promote the adoption of locally viable technologies and indigenous knowledge systems by producers.



## Afor a new cadre of extension officers?

- All these factors justify the need for extension reform including “***a new cadre of extension officer that will respond to the needs of the smallholder farmers***” and the performance of the agricultural development programmes in general.
- The National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services provide a framework for the delivery of EAS
- To effectively respond to the needs of the smallholder farmers, DAFF is in the process of finalizing the norms and standards **for supporting the the different categories of farmers.**



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish the Provincial Extension Coordinating Forum by as one of the strategies to revitalize extension and advisory services as per policy.
- The South African Society for Agricultural Extension in collaboration with DAFF are facilitating the establishment of the Country Forum (Subtrop) was not represented
- Participation of the farmers is also critical
- Forge the research, extension, training and farmer relations



## CONCLUSION

- The new cadre of extension officers will definitely play a critical role in the development of the smallholder sector, but it is a myth or unrealistic to expect that a well qualified, professional, competent, dynamic and committed extension cadre will provide a universal solution to all smallholder farmers' needs.
- It is important to note that their role will remain catalytic.
- For the NDP goals and objectives be realized, the smallholder farmers, role players, the planners, management, policy makers and stakeholders must take their positions as well.



THANK YOU



agriculture, rural development,  
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

