



WWF

FACT SHEET

2017

ZA

Food

Supporting smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable land use and production practices

Through the National Development Plan, South Africa has introduced inclusive public policies and programmes to promote smallholder farmers and to fast track their participation in agri-business supply and value chains. This results in economic growth, job creation, food security and poverty reduction.



300 000

GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED TO DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR 300 000 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN AND TO CREATE ABOUT 145 000 JOBS IN AGRO PROCESSING

South Africa's commitment to the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the global Paris Agreement on climate change also makes it imperative to advance the smallholder farming sector in order for these commitments to have a truly transformative effect.

Furthermore, South Africa's 2016 State of the Environment Outlook report stresses the importance of sustainable agriculture to address the country's pressing land-water-biodiversity interdependencies. This is partly because, despite representing only 2,3% of the total value of the South African economy, the agricultural sector including commercial and communal farming uses 80% of available land and two thirds of available water.

Conservation in smallholder agriculture

Realising the multiple constraints faced by smallholder farmers, particularly the effects of land degradation, WWF South Africa (WWF-SA) is developing a programme that will provide a framework for supporting smallholder farmers to embark on conservation agricultural practices such as minimum soil disturbance, organic soil cover, and diversified crop rotations including integrated land use planning.

Such farming practices are well aligned with the goals of climate-smart agriculture as they contribute to a sustainable increase in agricultural production and resilience to climate change. Particularly, conservation agricultural practices, such as low till no till, contribute to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

There is growing evidence that conservation agriculture will help boost yields, improve food security and ultimately help repair the natural resource base.

WWF's collaborative approach

In 2016, the government introduced a draft policy on conservation agriculture. To support this, and in line with WWF-SA's 2025 strategic goal around food, WWF-SA has shaped an approach to support smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable land use and production practices.

WWF's approach is therefore to adopt a collaborative approach to utilise various **market incentive mechanisms** to achieve market access through the formal channels while increasingly engaging alternative market channels, implement **capacity building** amongst smallholder farming communities, co-develop **collective stewardship** initiatives with interested and affected parties around important landscapes and promote **research** on conservation agriculture to reduce the barriers to its understanding and mainstreaming.

WWF works with different partners to ensure an inclusive approach to climate-smart agriculture and to leverage on the partners' unique capabilities to support the development of collaborative extension services. WWF will work to consolidate the lessons learned through this work and will continue providing leadership in the development of knowledge and expertise to advance conservation agriculture, principles of agro-ecology and climate resilience in the smallholder farming sector of South Africa.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

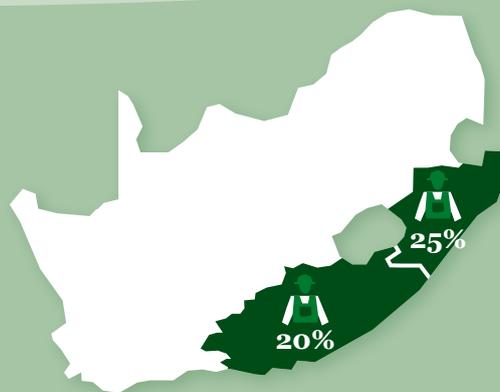
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WWF'S APPROACH FOR SUPPORTING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



	WHERE ARE WE NOW?	WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?
SUPPORT	☞ Minimal	☞☞☞ Capacity building
MARKET ACCESS	☞ Limited	☞☞☞ Market incentives
FOOD SECURITY	☞ Unstable	☞☞☞ Improved
CROP YIELDS	☞ Low	☞☞☞ Higher
NATURAL LANDSCAPES	☞ Degraded	☞☞☞ Restored



KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and Eastern Cape (EC) are amongst the provinces most heavily affected by soil erosion. Most smallholders are also in these rural provinces, 25% in KZN and 20% in EC. These provinces are also home to more than half of SA's strategic water source areas. Therefore, it is WWF's priority to support smallholder farmers in this area.

HOW DO WE MAKE THE CHANGE?

To shift smallholder farmers to conservation agriculture and climate-smart agriculture so as to produce responsibly and be part of positive environmental change.

**WWF's four approaches*

