



AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICER

Also known as Agriculture Economic Advisor, Agricultural Consultant, Farm Economic Techniques Advisor

Agricultural Extension Officers form a link between research and farmers.

Agricultural Extension Officers communicate with farmers supporting decision-making by providing information on sustainable farming practices. Information about biodiversity is increasingly important to help farmers farm sustainably and access new markets. Agricultural Extension Officers propagate new, more effective farming methods based on the latest research. This may include research on how to farm with nature for good results now and in future.

Agricultural Extension Officers work mainly outdoors visiting farmers. They also spend time in the office researching and developing plans for sustainable farming.

Skills

Communication and interpersonal skills are vital for the Agricultural Extension Officer. They spend the better part of the day interacting with farmers or scientists and benefit from:

- Strong communication skills
- Knowledge of farming and the environment
- Planning and project management
- Persuasive abilities

Tasks

- Research and strategises for more sustainable farming methods with farmers
- Some Agricultural Extension Officers also help small scale farmers to access information and establish viable independent businesses

Studies

BSc (Agric) at universities such as UFS, UL, US, UP, UKZN, UNISA, UFH, NWU and UZ

National Diploma in Agricultural Management at CPUT, CUT, NMMU, TUT, UNISA, DUT

Employers

- Government departments (e.g. DoA)
- NGO's (e.g. WWF-SA)
- Universities
- Research Institutions (e.g. ARC, CSIR)



GreenMatter®

Careers for Biodiversity