National Agro-meteorological Committee (NAC) Advisory on the
2021/22 summer season
Statement from Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
03 DALRRD 2021
02 December 2021

In light of the seasonal climate watch as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences and farming systems. Depending on the particular region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk, optimize soil water availability and to manage the renewable resources (rain water and grazing) to uphold sound farming objectives. Long-term mitigation strategies should be considered by implementing techniques to enhance in-field water harvesting by reducing run-off and improving infiltration. Reduced tillage methods are very important in this regard, as is basin tillage, to capture rainwater in the drier areas. The provinces should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible use local media and farmers’ days to disseminate the information. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory.

I. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Figure 1
Percentage of Normal Rainfall for September 2021
(Based on preliminary data. Normal period 1981-2010)

Figure 2
Percentage of Normal Rainfall for October 2021
(Based on preliminary data. Normal period 1981-2010)

Figure 3
Percentage of Normal Rainfall for 11 - 20 November 2021
(Based on preliminary data. Normal period 1981-2010)

Figure 4
Percentage of Normal Rainfall for season July 2021 - October 2021
(Based on preliminary data. Normal period 1981-2010)
During September most of the eastern parts of the country received above-normal rainfall (Figure 1). The remainder of the country was dry. October received normal to above-normal rainfall but below-normal in some areas in the eastern parts of the country (Figure 2). Mid-November received normal to above-normal rainfall in the north-eastern parts of the country (Figure 3). The remainder of the country was dry. July to October received normal rainfall over the majority of the country. However, rainfall was above-normal mainly over the Northern Cape (Figure 4). There was below-normal rainfall mostly in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and parts of the Eastern Cape.

**VCI map: 08-24 October 2021 compared to the long-term mean**

The VCI map for October indicates above-normal vegetation activity in many areas, but below normal in the northern Free State and parts of Limpopo. Drought remains in parts of the Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape.

(The VCI is a better indicator of water stress than the NDVI).

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**II. CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCES DURING OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER**

**Eastern Cape**

NIL REPORT.

**Free State**

Normal to below-normal rainfall was received. Soil preparation is taking place especially in the eastern parts of the province; and winter wheat is in good condition. The veld has started to regrow due to rainfall received. Livestock is in good condition and farmers are advised to continue with supplementary feeding. Dosing of flocks against worms especially sheep is highly recommended. Summer pastures are in excellent condition especially those that are under irrigation. There was resurfacing of Brown locust. The new swarms were spotted in Bainsvlei and were successfully controlled. There were also reports of veld fires in Ficksburg, Koppies, Ladybrand, Bethlehem and Fouriesburg. Hail storms occurred in Edenville, and Parys. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (88% in 2021; 72% in 2020).
**Gauteng**
Normal to above-normal rainfall was received. Crops are in reasonable condition. The veld is also in reasonable condition as a result of rains received. The average level of major dams has decreased as compared to the previous year during the same period (94% in 2021; 98% in 2020).

**KwaZulu-Natal**
Mainly normal rainfall was received. The drought monitor for mid-October shows that conditions have improved to Level 2 drought advisory level along the coastal regions, namely Umkhanyakude, Ilembe, Ethekwini and Ugu. The interior districts as well as King Cetshwayo remain at Level 3 minor drought. Summer pastures, mainly kikuyu, have been very slow to show regrowth with many areas still dry and brown on the surface. Burnt lands are greening, but no significant regrowth as yet. Winter wheat is growing well and in some early-planted crops harvesting has begun. Land preparations and planting of summer crops have started where there has been rain. Livestock condition across all sectors is maintaining in most areas despite the variable conditions. Veld and vegetation conditions were mostly near normal across the province. Veld fires were reported in some parts. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year (66% in 2021; 54% in 2020).

**Limpopo**
The Limpopo Province had received above normal rainfall conditions in general. Most farmers under irrigation within Waterberg and Capricorn districts have harvested their vegetable crops, whereas dryland farmers in Capricorn and Vhembe Districts are planting. Farmers in Mopani are in the process of preparing for summer planting. The conditions of livestock in most areas were ranging from fair to poor, while very poor in other areas. Few areas that reported improved conditions of livestock were in Vhembe and Waterberg Districts. Farmers are advised to buy feeds to supplement and to destock older animals to prevent mortalities. The conditions of veld in most areas within the provincial districts have started to improve, with the exception of some communal areas in Vhembe, Waterberg and Mopani where the conditions of veld are still poor. There is still a challenge of bush encroachment in the Districts of Waterberg and Capricorn. There was an incident of hailstorm in Giyani, Mopani District where damages on chicken houses was incurred. Boreholes are drying up in parts of Waterberg. The average level of major dams has increased to 75% in 2021, as compared to 58% of 2020.

**Mpumalanga**
Normal to below-normal rainfall was received. Dryland farmers are preparing land and others have planted. Crops under irrigation are in good condition. Vegetables are being harvested. The veld is recovering due some rain received, whereas livestock is in reasonable to good condition. The average level of major dams is at 75% as compared to 63% of 2020.

**Northern Cape**
NIL REPORT.

**North West**
Normal to below-normal rainfall was received. Severe thunderstorms resulted in livestock mortalities from lightning in the Ratlou Local Municipality. Many crop farmers are waiting for sufficient moisture before planting. The veld and livestock are in reasonable to poor condition due to low rainfall, veld fires and overgrazing. The average level of major dams is higher at 70% as compared to 63% of 2020.

**Western Cape**
NIL REPORT.
II. AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Livestock domestic markets
According to ABSA class A beef prices decreased marginally over the past month and are around 1.6% higher than a month ago with the same price trends apparent in weaner calves. Lamb and mutton prices increased marginally and continued the upward momentum over the past month. Porker and baconer prices have firmed considerably compared to a month ago, despite indications of an upward trend in slaughtering numbers since August. This suggests strong local and regional demand. It is expected that prices will follow an upward trend as demand is expected to improve towards the festive season. Poultry prices decreased while frozen whole birds recorded a marginal decrease month on month. It is expected that increased demand combined with a weakening exchange rate provides a conducive environment for price increases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer prices for selected livestock commodities</th>
<th>Beef</th>
<th>Mutton</th>
<th>Pork</th>
<th>Poultry</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Open market: Class A / Porker / Fresh whole birds (R/kg)</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>84.30</td>
<td>29.03</td>
<td>31.08</td>
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<td>Open market: Class C / Baconer / Frozen whole birds (R/kg)</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>70.34</td>
<td>27.89</td>
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<td>Contract: A2/A3* / AMIE Loin/ IQF (*includes fifth quarter) (R/kg)</td>
<td>54.33</td>
<td>39.50</td>
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<td>Import parity price (R/kg)</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs (R/kg)</td>
<td>41.10</td>
<td>46.00</td>
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FNB: 2021/11/22

Major grain commodities
Local white and yellow maize prices increased by 7.4% and 4.8% respectively for the week ending 19 November. Good rainfall over parts of South Africa in the past few weeks as well as stronger prospects of the La Nina bode well for summer grain production for the 2021/22 season. Local wheat prices increased supported by the weaker exchange rates. Oilseed prices increased also supported by the weaker exchange rate. It is expected that prices for soybeans will largely trade sideways supported by the depreciation in the local exchange rate which is expected to give slight local price support.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Future Prices (2021/11/23 ) R/ton</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White maize</td>
<td>3 530,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow maize</td>
<td>3 693,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>6 179,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>11 050,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>7 510,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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</table>
SAGIS: 2021/11/25
IV. SADC REGION

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) report issued in October states that as the lean season is starting in most parts of the region, many poor households in southern parts of Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique have depleted own-produced foods from the 2020/21 season. These households are now reliant on market purchases for food. Many poor households in these areas have limited income and below-average purchasing power. This is driving Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes through at least January. In southern Madagascar, particularly Ampanihy and Amboasroy provinces, where drought during the 2020/21 season drove significant crop losses and limited income, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are likely through at least January. Conflict remains a major driver of food insecurity in parts of DRC and Mozambique. In Mozambique, conflict has stabilized in recent months, with many households returning to their area of origin, engaging in the upcoming agriculture season. Households are not expected to engage in the agricultural season due to continued conflict and below-average access to agricultural inputs. In DRC, the conflict in eastern areas continues to disrupt household livelihood and market activities, including Ituri, South Kivu, and North Kivu. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to continue through January in conflict-affected areas of Mozambique and DRC.

FEWS NET further reported that the 2021/22 rainy season is expected to start typically with forecasts indicating average to above-average rainfall, most likely across much of the region. If the forecast comes to fruition, this would be the second consecutive good season in the region, the first time since 2014. Favourable rainfall will improve cropping and livestock conditions across most of the region. Agriculture labour will likely seasonally increase in most parts of the region and be above average, where rains are expected to perform well. This will improve income opportunities for poor households. On average, across the region, income from these sources is likely to be near average. This will help poor and very poor households access staple foods on the market. Due to the decline in the COVID-19 positivity rate, many governments across the region relaxed most restriction measures, which were tightened in early 2021. As businesses and the informal sector have started operating at near-normal levels, in-country remittances are expected to improve, especially from urban to rural areas. This is expected to support household access to purchase some food. Although continued border closures in some countries, like Zimbabwe, seasonal labor opportunities in neighbouring South Africa, which typically provide additional income for food and agriculture inputs for families back home, are likely to remain below average. Urban food insecurity is expected to stabilize to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Minimal (IPC Phase 1) in much of the region.

[The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardized tools that aims at providing a "common currency" for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity.]

Source: http://www.fews.net/southern-africa

Summary of the reports
Spring and summer rains have been received in most provinces. The veld is recovering where rain has been received and livestock is in reasonable to poor condition. Severe thunderstorms were reported that resulted in livestock mortalities in North West and Limpopo Provinces. There were veld fires in Limpopo, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. The average level of major dams has increased in the majority of provinces. Over SADC, many poor households in southern parts of Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique have depleted own-produced foods from the 2020/21 season.
V. MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Seasonal Climate Watch: December 2021 to April 2022

State of Climate Drivers

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a La Niña state and the forecasts indicate that it will most likely remain in a La Niña state through early- and mid-summer. As we move towards the mid-summer season, ENSO starts playing an important role in our summer rainfall. As such, the presence of a La Niña during early- and mid-summer is expected to be favourable for above-normal rainfall for the summer rainfall areas in that period.

Figure 1 – Rainfall

The multi-model rainfall forecast indicates mostly above-normal rainfall for the most parts of the country throughout the mid-summer (DJF) through to the early-autumn (FMA) season.
Figure 2 – Minimum and Maximum temperatures

Expected Min Temp Conditions for DJF 2021/22
Issued: Nov 2021

Expected Max Temp Conditions for DJF 2021/22
Issued: Nov 2021

Expected Min Temp Conditions for JFM 2022
Issued: Nov 2021

Expected Max Temp Conditions for JFM 2022
Issued: Nov 2021

Expected Min Temp Conditions for FMA 2022
Issued: Nov 2021

Expected Max Temp Conditions for FMA 2022
Issued: Nov 2021
Mostly above-normal minimum temperatures are expected across the country throughout the summer seasons. Mostly below-normal maximum temperatures are expected over the country throughout summer apart from the central interior where above-normal maximum temperatures are expected.

In summary, above-normal rainfall is anticipated during the summer season with below-normal maximum temperatures. However, the central interior may experience above-normal maximum temperatures. Farmers are encouraged to continually check updates i.e. seasonal forecasts and utilize 7 day weather forecasts for short term planning.

With the above forecast in mind, the following strategies are recommended:

VI. SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

A. Rain-fed crop production
   Soil choice
   - Choose suitable soil type.
     - Suitable soil and land use management practices that would control wind and water erosion in cultivated lands are suggested.
     - Avoid marginal soils - shallow and low water holding capacity soils.
     - Rather plant in soils with high water holding capacity or with shallow water table.
   - Ascertain that the soil profile has enough water when planting commences.
   - Roughen the soil surface to enhance rain water penetration and reduce runoff.
   - Minimise compaction by reducing the passing of heavy machinery in the field.
   - Add organic material to improve soil structure.

Land preparation

- Avoid where possible soils with pronounced plough pans.
- Consider practicing conservation agriculture such as zero or minimum tillage.
- Cover soil with organic matter or cover crops.
- Practice crop rotation.
- Do not expand land under crop production unnecessarily.
- Prioritise fallow land.

Crop choice and planting

- Choose drought resistant cultivars.
- Provide flexibility and diversification.
- Rather plant early in the season than late, but stay in the normal planting window and follow the weather and climate forecast regularly so as to make informed decisions.
- Consider staggered planting - spreading over weeks.
- Do not experiment with new and unknown cultivars and also avoid unnecessary capital investments.
- Consider intercropping for improved soil structure and pest/diseases control.
- Planting in a controlled environment (e.g. green house) is advisable where possible.
Crop management

- Adjust planting density accordingly.
- Consider mulching to minimize evaporation.
- Control weeds regularly.
- Consider a conservative fertilizing strategy during dry conditions.
- Consider organic fertilization.
- Scout for pests and diseases regularly and control where necessary.
- Practice water harvesting techniques e.g. construction of basins, contours, ridges.

B. Irrigation farming

- Remove all weeds containing seeds, but keep other vegetative rests on the land because that will reduce evaporation.
- Check and repair all tools and machinery especially where there are water leaks.
- Be aware of the state of regional water resources and whether it will be adequate for irrigation.
- Timing of irrigation - rather late afternoon or early evening to reduce evaporation.
- Manage irrigation so that the plant receives water only when needed.
- Consider using drip irrigation as it saves water by allowing it to drip slowly straight to the roots.
- Avoid over irrigation because that can create problems e.g. water logging and diseases.
- Adhere to water restrictions when issued.

C. Domestic and home garden water use

- Conserve existing water supplies.
- Eradicate water weeds.
- Limit water waste and losses.
- Repair leaking pipes.
- Re-use water and retain high quality.
- Harvest water during rainy days.

D. Stock farming

- Keep stocking rates conservative and even lower to protect grazing.
- Never exceed carrying capacity of plant associations.
- Provide lots of drinking points where possible.
- Provide additional fodder and enhance nutritional value of dry grazing/feed with licks:
  - Phosphorous deficiency is a major problem.
  - Licks should (in most cases) provide:
    - Phosphorous.
    - Urea (to help with the break-down of dry vegetation).
    - Salt.
    - Molasses.
- Deficiencies differ according to vegetation composition/soil properties/climate.
- Analysis of vegetation/soil samples can benefit the decision for supplement composition.
• Sell mature, marketable animals (to help prevent overstocking/overgrazing).
• If grazing is in danger, herd animals into pens where different animals can be segregated and fed separately.

E. Grazing

• Subdivide your grazing area into camps of homogeneous units (in terms of species composition, slope, aspect, rainfall, temperature, soil and other factors) to minimise area selective grazing as well as to provide for the application of animal management and veld management practices such as resting and burning.
• Determine the carrying capacity of different plant associations.
• Calculate the stocking rate of each, and then decide the best ratios of large and small animals, and of grazers or browsers.
• Provide periodic full growing-season rests (in certain grazing areas) to allow veld vigour recovery in order to maintain veld productivity at a high level as well as to maintain the vigour of the preferred species.
• Do not overstock at any time to avoid overgrazing.
• Eradicate invader plants.
• Periodically reassess the grazing and feed available for the next few months, and start planning in advance.
• Spread water points evenly.

F. Pests and diseases

Crops
• Fruit crop farmers should regularly scout for pests and diseases and contact the local agricultural office for advice on best control measures. Farmers should further implement phytosanitary measures.

Livestock
• Follow the vaccine routine and consult with the local veterinarian.

G. Veld fires

The provinces and farmers are advised to maintain firebreaks in all areas. An owner of the land who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, the following is taken care of in terms of installing firebreaks (Chapter 4 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998):
• It has to be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veld fire from spreading to or from neighbouring land.
• It does not cause soil erosion and
• It is reasonably free of flammable material capable of carrying a veld fire across it.
• Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent.
• Firebreaks should consist of fire-resistant vegetation, non-flammable materials, bare ground or a combination of these.
• Firebreaks must be located in such a way as to minimize risk to the resources being protected.
• Erosion control measures must be installed at the firebreak.
Firebreaks can be made through the following methods:
- Mineral earth firebreak:
  - Through ploughing, grading, other earth movement.
- Use of herbicides.
- Use animals to overgraze specifically to minimise fuel.
- Strategic placement of burned areas,
  - Not to be done on days with fire hazard (windy and dry/hot).
- Plant fire resistant plants.
- Plant species selected for vegetated firebreaks must be non-invasive and capable of retarding the spread of fire.

Maintaining firebreaks:
- Mow, disk, or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect all firebreaks for woody materials.
- Inspect firebreaks at least annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary.
- Repair erosion control measures as necessary.
- Access by vehicles or people must also be controlled.
- Bare ground firebreaks, which are no longer needed must be stabilized i.e.
  - Sow grass.
  - Mulch.

What to do when conditions favorable for veld fire are forecast:
- Prohibit fires in the open air during periods of high fire hazard and establish a fire control committee.
- To control fires, an alarm system, firefighting teams, and beaters must be organized in advance and plans prepared.
- Livestock should be moved out of grazing land to a safe place.

What to do during a veld fire:
- Water is generally not available in sufficient quantities or at adequate pressure for the control of major fires; however, sand or other loose mineral soil material can be an effective method of control.
- Tree branches can be used to beat fire.

H. Flooding

Heavy rainfall raises the water level. When the water level is higher than the river banks or the dams, water flows out from the river and flooding occurs.

Preventive measures:
- Construction of proper drainage systems. Drains must be cleaned constantly as they ensure proper water irrigation.
- Mechanical land treatment of slopes such as contour ploughing or terracing to reduce the runoff coefficient.
- Construction of small water and sediment holding areas.
- Construction of floodways (man-made channels to divert floodwater).
- Terracing hillsides to slow flow downhill.
- Water pumps in rivers likely to be affected should be lifted from the river banks when a warning for heavy rain has been issued.
What to do when flooding is forecasted:

Avoid:
- Cutting grass in the rainy season as this can result in nutrient depletion.
- Applying fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
- Applying Nitrogen fertilizer as this can burn plants. Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burnt and die.
- Irrigation, this can result in waterlogging leading to nutrient depletion.

Other measures to implement:
- Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
- Provide shelter for animals (young ones can die easily).
- Leave cultivated areas coarse.
- Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.
- Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and high temperatures may trigger these.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.
- Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is especially necessary if it is already raining.

Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of soil and rocks by the action of natural forces, for example, water and wind. The loose and dissolved materials move from one location to another. Erosion therefore may reduce agricultural production potential.

Preventative measures for erosion:
- Do not burn vegetation.
- Keep vegetation cover – e.g. shrubs, grass, small trees; a cover crop may be used to increase organic material and increase soil structure.
- Plant permanent vegetation e.g. perennial grasses where possible.
- Maintain any remaining vegetative cover, e.g. maize stubble during winter wheat sowing, as it acts as a blanket, traps eroded particles and reduces the wind speed at ground level.
- Plant evergreen trees growing densely and perpendicular to the typical wind direction during winter and spring as wind breaks.
- Increase water infiltration by correct management of soil e.g. reduce frequency of plough and use minimum tillage.
- Mulch: to increase infiltration, reduce evaporation, and reduce raindrop impact as well as wind erosion.
- Construct retaining walls around gardens.
- Avoid soil compaction by roughening the soil surface,
  - Furrows and tillage ridges can trap loose soil.
- Farm along contours as this reduces slope lengths.
- Prevent overgrazing.
- Practice conservation farming
Maximize retention of crop residues.

I. **Heat stress – bad for productivity**

- **Signs of heat stress:**
  Bunching in shade, high respiratory rates, open mouth breathing.
- **What to do:**
  - Offer shade.
  - Offer water - keep good quality water in front of animals.
  - Wet with sprinklers/fire hose.
  - Water ground.
  - Avoid overworking animals.
  - Control insects. Biting insects, such as flies can further stress livestock and interrupt their cooling. If pastures or buildings draw insects to livestock during times of extreme heat, provide proper insecticides or considering relocating your livestock.

**Poultry**

- Provide cool, clean, quality drinking water to your poultry. Water will help keep your birds cool.
- Always make sure your poultry is in a well-ventilated area in which there is nothing to obstruct the airflow.
- Provide feed during the coolest part of the day.
- Supplement drinking water with electrolytes.
- Reduce the number of birds kept in a house or in an area.
- Avoid excessive activity during the hottest part of the day.

J. **Severe thunderstorms/flash floods**

Building resilience:

- Identify resources/facilities within 50 km that can be utilized and can be of help during emergencies.
- Be sure to have legal and adequate markings to identify your livestock.
- Stay well informed about livestock in your possession and conduct an inventory after the event.
- Monitor television and local radio stations for information regarding severe storms/flash floods in your region.
- Identify natural or built areas/shelters where animals can be kept during such conditions
  - Sufficient height to be above water level,
  - Sheltered from strong winds and wetness,
- Restrict access to high-risk areas such as low lying fields close to streams.
- Store food in safe areas sheltered from wetness to be used after storms/flash floods.
- Keep pesticides and other chemicals in areas where water will not be contaminated during extreme rainfall/storm events.
- Inspect/repair farm dams before rainy season, and after each event.
Rain has been received in summer rainfall areas since the beginning of spring. Planting has commenced where sufficient rains have fallen. Reasonable veld and livestock conditions have been reported across many areas. Above-normal rainfall is expected with below-normal maximum temperatures over much of the summer rainfall areas. However, the central interior is expected to experience above-normal temperatures.

With the current conditions in mind as well as the seasonal forecast, dryland farmers who have yet to plant are advised to wait for sufficient moisture before planting. Areas that have been constantly experiencing dry conditions should prioritise drought tolerant cultivars. In regions that are in reasonable condition, farmers are advised to plant in line with the expected conditions i.e. in line with the seasonal forecast. However they should not expand planting land unnecessarily. In addition, farmers should note that rainfall distribution remains a challenge, therefore not all areas might receive the anticipated above normal rainfall that is well distributed. Farmers are also advised to put measures in place for pests and diseases particularly those associated with wet and hot conditions due to the expected above-normal rainfall in summer rainfall areas. It is also important for farmers to follow the weather forecast regularly so as to make informed decisions. Farmers using irrigation should comply with water restrictions in their areas. Farmers must continually conserve resources in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983, (Act No. 43 of 1983).

Farmers are advised to keep livestock in balance with carrying capacity of the veld, and provide additional feed such as relevant licks. They should also provide enough water points on the farms as well as shelter during bad weather conditions. Some provinces have reported veld fire damages, and the veld remains dry especially in summer rainfall areas that have yet to receive rain thereby maintaining the risk of veld fires. Winter rainfall areas will continue to dry out as their rainfall season has ended. Therefore, the creation and maintenance of fire belts should be prioritized as well as adherence to veld fire warnings. Episodes of flooding resulting from rain bearing weather systems are likely and preventative measures should be in place. Although below-normal maximum temperatures are anticipated in many areas, heat waves are likely to occur and therefore measures to combat these should be in place. Farmers are encouraged to implement strategies provided in the early warning information issued.

The users are urged to continuously monitor, evaluate, report and attend to current Disaster Risk Reduction issues. It is very important and mandatory for farming communities to always implement disaster risk measures and maintain good farming practices.

The climate advisory should be disseminated widely. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory. Information sharing groups are encouraged especially among farming communities for sustainable development. In general, effective communication among all stakeholders in the sector will enhance effective implementation of risk reduction measures/early warning services. It is the responsibility of farmers to implement disaster risk measures.

The Disaster Management Act 2002, (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information. The current advisory can be accessed from the following websites: https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/.
For more information contact:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DALRRD, Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction</th>
<th>SAWS: Institute for Soil, Climate and Water</th>
<th>ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate and Water</th>
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<td>Private Bag X250 Pretoria 0001</td>
<td>Private Bag X097 Pretoria 0001</td>
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<td>Tel: 012 319 6775/ 6794</td>
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<td>Tel: 012 310 2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:MittaA@Dalrrd.gov.za">MittaA@Dalrrd.gov.za</a></td>
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