



Persverklaring

4 Mei 2018

Agri SA Loods Water Sentrum

Agri SA het sy toegewyde Water Sentrum vandag geloods wat gaan fokus op die prioriteit om regverdigde toegang tot water vir Suid Afrikaans boere te verseker. Hierdie inisiatief is in reaksie op die verskeidenheid uitdagings wat landbou-watergebruikers in die gesig staar, wat uiterste droogte, klimaatsverandering en water-infrastruktuur wat nie behoorlik in stand gehou is nie, insluit. Die situasie is soveel meer dringend gegewe verskeie beleidsvoorstelle wat gelyktydig die koste van water kan verhoog terwyl die beskikbaarheid verlaag word.

Die Agri SA Water Sentrum sal ondermeer op water-beleid en wetgewende voorstelle soos die Nasionale Water en Sanitasie Meesterplan en die Nasionale Water Hulpbron Strategie fokus. Die huidige wysigings aan die Nasionale Waterwet sal byvoorbeeld die koste van water vir landbougebruikers bepaal, wat wys hoekom dit nodig is om met die regering en ander belanghebbendes van die begin af te skakel om na 'n regverdigde resultaat te werk. Die Agri SA Water Sentrum sal ook insette tot die Water Navorsingskommissie (WRC) op navorsingprioriteite lewer en sal as forum optree vir top waterkundiges om hul insigte in a betekenisvolle manier te deel.

Die Agri SA Water Sentrum sal gelei word deur Janse Rabie, 'n omgewingsprokureur en Hoof van Agri SA se Natuurlike Hulpbronne Sentrum van Uitnemendheid en Gregory Smith, a water-wetenskaplike. **“Die Agri SA Water Sentrum gaan 'n eenstop-sentrum vir Agri SA lede wees, waar hulle tydig informasie en advies op alles water-verwant kan kry,” het Janse Rabie gesê. “Gegewe die kompleksiteit van water-regte en die snelveranderende beleidsomgewing, glo ons dat 'n toegewyde Water Sentrum die beste manier is om landbou-watergebruikers op hede te bly op alle regsontwikkelinge wat 'n impak kan hê op die manier wat hulle boer en besigheid doen.”**

“Agri SA is op die voorpunt van wetgewende en beleidsontwikkeling rakende die water-sektor in Suid Afrika. Agri SA poog om die regering en sleutelspelers in hierdie fundamentele area in samewerking en goeie navorsing-insigte te ondersteun,” het Dan Kriek, President van Agri SA gesê.

Agri SA nooi sy lede en ander belangstellende groepe om kontak met die Agri SA Water Sentrum te maak om uit te vind hoe hulle betrokke kan raak.

Navrae

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Press Release

4 May 2018

Agri SA Launches Water Desk

On 3 May 2018 Agri SA announced that it had formally launched a dedicated Water Desk that will focus on the need to ensure equitable access to water for farmers across South Africa. This initiative is in response to a host of external challenges facing agricultural water users, including severe drought, climate change and under-maintained infrastructure. The situation is all the more urgent given several policy proposals that may simultaneously increase the cost of water while reducing the availability to agricultural users.

The Agri SA Water Desk will, amongst other things, focus on water policy and legislative proposals such as the draft National Water and Sanitation Master Plan and the National Water Resource Strategy. The current amendments to the National Water Act, for example, will determine the cost of water for agricultural users, which is why it is necessary to engage with government and other key stakeholders from the start to work towards a fair outcome. The Agri SA Water Desk will also give inputs to the Water Research Commission (WRC) on research priorities and will act as a forum for top water experts to share their insights in a meaningful way.

The Agri SA Water Desk will be led by Janse Rabie, an environmental lawyer and Head of Agri SA's Natural Resources Centre of Excellence and Gregory Smith, a water scientist. **"The Agri SA Water Desk will be a one-stop-shop for Agri SA members, where they can get up to date information and advice on all things water-related,"** said Janse Rabie. **"Given the complexity of water rights and the fast-changing policy environment, we believe that a dedicated Water Desk is the best way to enable agricultural water users to stay abreast of all legal developments which will have an impact on the way they farm and do business."**

"Agri SA is at the forefront of legislative and policy development regarding the water sector in South Africa. Agri SA strives to support government in this fundamental area through collaboration with key stakeholders and timely and well-researched inputs to policy development," said Dan Kriek, President of Agri SA.

Agri SA invites its members, and interested parties, to contact the Agri SA Water Desk to find out how they can get involved.

Queries

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