



Mediaverklaring

5 Junie 2018

## **Agri SA vol vertroue dat groeikoers sal verbeter**

Agri SA bly optimisties oor die landbousektor se bydrae tot die Suid Afrikaanse ekonomie, ten spyte van 'n noemenswaardige statistiese afname van 24,2% in die eerste kwartaal van 2018, na 'n 37,5% toename in die vierde kwartaal van 2017.

Statistieke Suid-Afrika sê in hul jongste verslag, dat die landbousektor se sterk vertoning in 2017 verseker het dat die ekonomie kop bo water kon hou. Die afname in landbouproduksie in die eerste kwartaal het egter tot die afname in die sektor se bydrae tot BBP gelei.

**“Agri SA het die afname in die eerste kwartaal verwag, veral in die konteks van die voortslepende droogte en beleidsonsekerheid,” sê Dr. Requier Wait, hoof van die Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid vir Ekonomie en Handel.**

Landbou sal na verwagting oor die komende jaar tot 'n meer gematigde groeikoers normaliseer.

**“Op die vooraand van 'n verdere brandstofprysverhoging, is Agri SA egter bekommerd oor die impak wat dit op die sektor en huishoudings kan hê,” sê Hamlet Hlomendlini, senior ekonoom by Agri SA.**

Agri SA sal voortgaan om hom vir 'n stabiele en omsigtige beleidsomgewing te beywer.

### **Navrae:**

**Dr. Requier Wait**

Hoof van die Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid vir Ekonomie  
en Handel, Agri SA  
Tel. 012 643 3432

**Hamlet Hlomendlini**

Senior ekonoom, Agri SA  
Tel. 012 643 3430



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## **Agri SA optimistic that growth rate will improve**

Agri SA remains optimistic on the agricultural sector's contribution to the South African economy, despite a notable statistical decrease of 24,2% in the first quarter of 2018, following an increase of 37,5% in the fourth quarter of 2017.

In the report Statistics South Africa said: Agriculture's relatively strong performance in 2017 is one of the positive factors that helped keep the economy afloat in 2017. This momentum failed to carry through to 2018, with decreased production contributing to the decline in the first quarter.

**“Agri SA expected this decrease in the first quarter, especially in the context of the continued drought and policy uncertainty,” said Dr. Requier Wait, head of the Centre of Excellence for Economics and Trade.**

Agriculture is expected to normalise to a more moderate growth rate in the coming year.

**“On the eve of a further fuel price hike, Agri SA is concerned about the impact it will have on the sector and households,” says Hamlet Hlomendlini, senior economist at Agri SA.**

Agri SA will continue to advocate for a stable and transparent policy environment.

### **Queries:**

**Dr. Requier Wait**  
Head of the Centre of Excellence for  
Economics and Trade  
Tel. 012 643 3432

**Hamlet Hlomendlini**  
Senior economist Agri SA  
Tel. 012 643 3430