



# Joint Media Release

## Agri SA and Senwes

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### Senwes to fund Smart Agri Risk Management Desk

Agri SA is pleased to announce that Senwes has agreed to contribute funding for the establishment of a Smart Agri Risk Management Desk.

During the last decade risk in the agricultural industry in South Africa has increased significantly. Risk in the agricultural industry includes any event that threatens or has the potential to harm agricultural processes and the production of agricultural goods in South Africa and includes natural disasters, as well as financial, political or social upheaval or changes, whether or not they may occur at a global, regional or local level.

Agri SA and Senwes deemed it necessary for the approach to risk management in the agricultural industry in South Africa to be re-evaluated. Proper inputs are needed to be able to respond with a realistic approach to managing risk and gain as much information and knowledge as possible.

Gathering information to this point has proven that:

- Conducting research on the total risk profile of agriculture as the main objective is vitally important in informing adequate responses to natural and man-made risks;
- A multi-disciplinary approach to risk management is required;
- Rising costs of drought relief in industrialised countries has resulted in a policy shift away from emergency subsidies towards more long-term self-reliance by rural communities;
- Modern thinking with respect to risk management seems to focus on integration between risk assessment, reduction, mitigation and response and recovery also with respect to the overall agricultural sector; and
- It is accepted that agricultural risk management aims to increase the likelihood that a household, community, city or any area will be able to anticipate, resist or recover from the losses sustained from a hazard or other threat.

The Smart Agri Risk Management Desk, which will initially run for a period of two years under the auspices of Agri SA, will conduct research and serve as a platform to identify and address the entire risk profile of agriculture in South Africa. The project will entail dedicated, in-depth, relevant and immediately applicable research that will lead to tangible assistance in ensuring that risk can be identified and measures can be taken well in advance of any risk alert.

Research emanating from this project will therefore aim to:

- ensure permanent protection or reduction of the intensity of any risk events;
- minimize the severity of consequences of risks;
- prepare the agricultural community, government and other stakeholders and role-players to react appropriately during and after a risk event; and
- alleviate hardship and meet basic needs.

The project will also assist in informing any strategies that may be required to assist the agricultural community, government and other stakeholders and role-players following a risk event to fully restore to pre-risk event level of functioning. To this end, the project will entail a holistic approach with collaboration between the agricultural community, government and other stakeholders and roleplayers.

**Enquiries**

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