



**Western Cape
Government**

Agriculture

FOR YOU

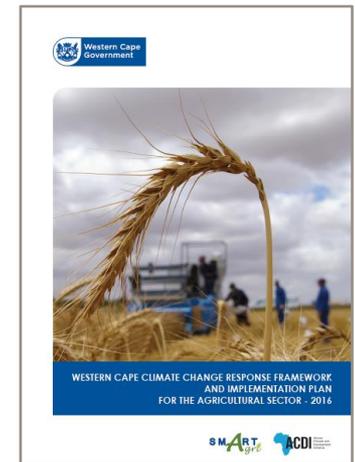
SmartAgri External Evaluation and Management Improvement Plan

SMART agri



The SmartAgri Journey: 2014 - 2021

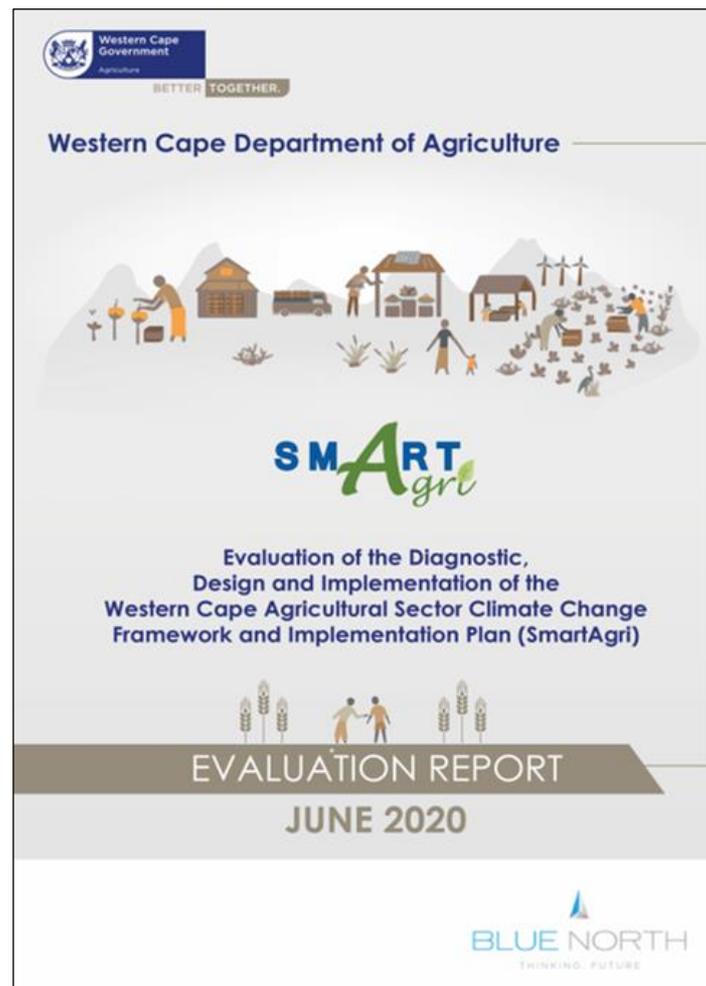
- Joint initiative between WC DoA and DEA&DP
- Development of the Western Cape Climate Change Framework and Implementation Plan for the Agricultural Sector (“SmartAgri Plan”)
- Developed in response to current and future climate change threats facing the Western Cape
- Provides a “roadmap” to ensure a low-carbon, climate-resilient agricultural sector in the Western Cape
- Goal: “To equip agriculture to respond to climate change risks and opportunities through innovation, leadership and united strategic action”
- Completed: 31 March 2016
- Launched: 17 May 2016
- Implementation commenced in August 2016



External evaluation of the SmartAgri Plan: 2019-2020

Purpose: To assess the SmartAgri Plan in terms of

- its relevance and design;
- to what extent its stated outcomes have been achieved to date;
- whether the sector is demonstrating greater resilience as a result of the plan's implementation; and
- how the plan and its implementation can be strengthened going forward.



External evaluation of the SmartAgri Plan: 2019-2020

Assessment of 3 broad areas:

- the diagnostic status quo review that informed the development and design of the SmartAgri Plan;
- the design of the response framework and implementation plan; and,
- the implementation of the SmartAgri Plan to date.

Evaluation undertaken Nov 2019 to Apr 2020.

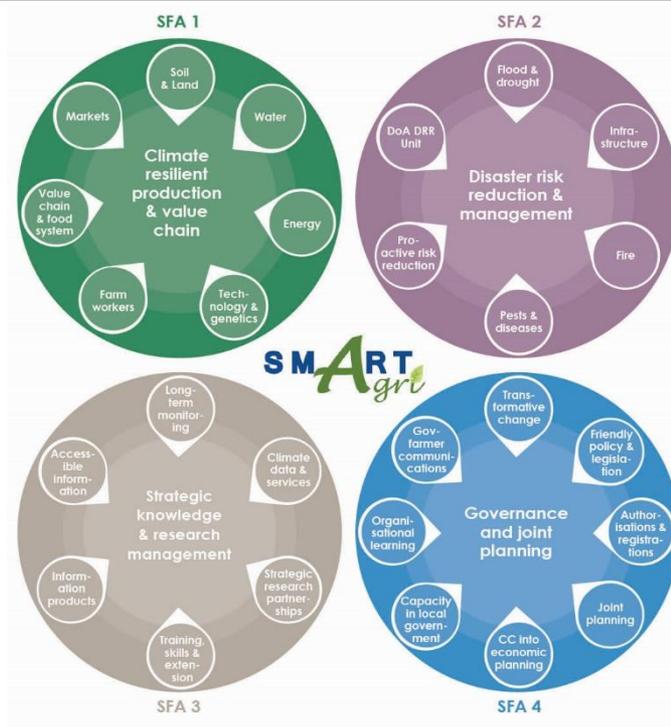
Document review; 54 interviews; six case studies and six farmer focus groups.



Progress in the Implementation of the SmartAgri Plan

Aggregated Assessment of Implementation Progress of SmartAgri SFAs

SFA	Description	Rating
SFA 1	Promote a climate-resilient low-carbon production system that is productive, competitive, equitable & ecologically sustainable	0.79
SFA 2	Strengthen effective climate-disaster risk reduction and management for agriculture	0.79
SFA 3	Strengthen monitoring & data and knowledge management and sharing, and lead strategic research regarding climate change and agriculture	0.60
SFA 4	Ensure good, co-operative governance and joint planning for effective climate change response implementation for agriculture	0.40



SmartAgri evaluation – key findings and way forward

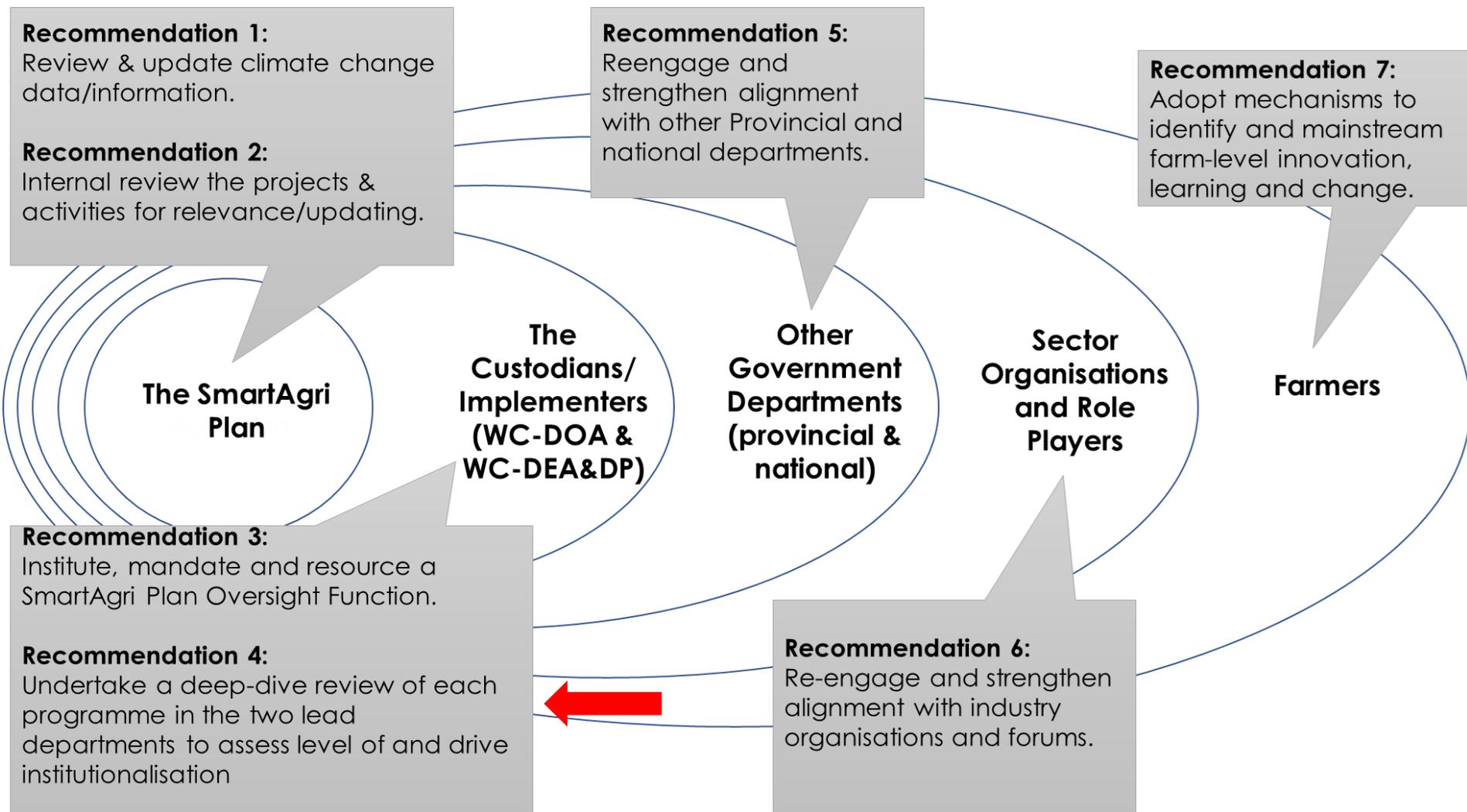
2020 – Key messages from the programme evaluation:

- Despite thorough sectoral consultation & awareness raising, lack of knowledge of the plan and its details among key stakeholder groupings
- Clear evidence of the institutionalization of the plan within WC-DOA and WC-DEA&DP, but some areas need strengthening
- Areas of greater versus lesser progress in the implementation of the plan at the level of projects, objectives and Strategic Focus Areas.
- 7 high level recommendations

● 2021 – Way forward:

- Appointment of Prof. Stephanie Midgley
- Management Improvement Plan (2021)
- Establishment of operational structure
- Institutionalization
- Re-engagement with stakeholders

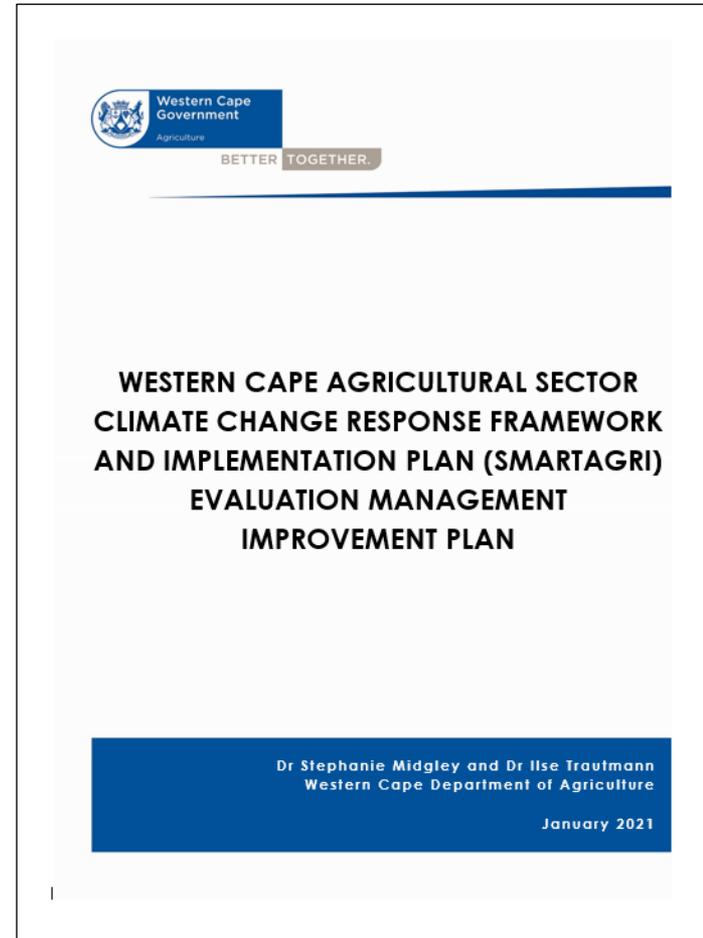
SmartAgri evaluation: seven recommendations



SmartAgri Management Improvement Plan (MIP)

Developed and approved in January 2021

3. IMPROVEMENT PLAN							
Improvement Objective 1:		Review, update and make available the latest downscaled climate change projections, with associated risks and impacts, and make recommendations for the updating of the SmartAgri Plan and supporting resources.					
Output	Priority	Activity	Deliverable	Person	Deadline	Budget available	Progress
1.1 Updated knowledge of downscaled climate change projections, and of risks and impacts across the 23 agro-climatic zones, with recommendations	Very important	1.1.1 Review the latest (post-2015) climate change projections (GCM and downscaled model outputs) to identify changes across agro-climatic zones that should be reflected in the SmartAgri Plan and supporting resources	Updated Status Quo Review Ch. 3 with recommendations for updating the SmartAgri Plan and supporting resources	Service provider (climate change climatologist)	31 July 2021	Funds to be allocated within operational budget to appoint service provider	
	Important	1.1.2 Review and assess, using the results of 1.1.1, changes in climate change risks and impacts across agro-climatic zones, including lessons from the 2015-18 drought, that should be reflected in the SmartAgri Plan and supporting resources	Updated Status Quo Review Ch. 9 with recommendations for updating the SmartAgri Plan and supporting resources	Dr S. Midgley	31 August 2021	Operational budget	



SmartAgri MIP: recommendations #1 and #2

Undertake a review and update of the climatic information and any required refinements to response strategies that underpin the SmartAgri Plan – particularly at the downscaled level

Undertake an internal review of the projects and detailed activities defined in the SmartAgri Plan to assess relevance and any needs for updating

- Review the latest (post-2015) climate change projections (GCM and downscaled model outputs) to identify changes across agro-climatic zones.
- Review and assess, using the results from above, changes in climate change risks and impacts across agro-climatic zones, including lessons from the 2015-18 drought.
- Update the SmartAgri Plan and supporting resources.
- Make the updated information widely available.

SmartAgri MIP: recommendations #3 and #4

Institute, mandate and resource a formalised SmartAgri Plan management / oversight structure

Undertake a deep-dive review of each programme in the two lead departments to assess levels of adoption of the SmartAgri Plan and drive towards institutionalisation within each department's programmes

- Prof Midgley appointed as a dedicated climate change person in DOA to drive the institutionalisation and deeper implementation of the SmartAgri Plan.
- Re-engage relevant programmes in DOA and assess activities, gaps and opportunities w.r.t SmartAgri implementation.
- Response planning for each programme.

SmartAgri MIP: recommendation #5

Re-engage and strengthen uptake by other provincial and national government departments identified in the SmartAgri Plan

- Identify relevant departments and existing channels of engagement
- Establish new channels of engagement
- Start re-engagement process

SmartAgri MIP: recommendations #6 and #7

Re-engage and strengthen uptake by Industry organisations and role players identified in the SmartAgri Plan

Adopt mechanisms to identify and mainstream farm-level innovation, learning and change

- Re-engagement with the sector on SmartAgri plan implementation.
- Begin a process of engaging with farmer forums to raise awareness of the available resources and to document the local climate change innovations / learning at farm and enterprise level, per agro-climatic zone.
- Support sectoral and farm-level information and coordination needs.

Thank you