

ARC can help you to farm better



The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) is a research institution that wants to help the country produce more food and wants to improve the quality of life of all the people of South Africa.

One of the tools developed to improve the lives of people living in small towns and farms in rural areas, is the ARC's Division for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods. The aim of this division is to promote sustainable development (to develop the land in such a way that nature is also taken care of) and to improve the quality of life of communities. It also wants to relieve poverty by helping people to find better ways of producing food, create job opportunities and share resources such as land and water more equally.

To achieve all of this, the Division for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods concentrates on seven areas, namely support to farmer settlement, integrated livestock (cattle and sheep) and crop production systems (such as maize or vegetables), support to rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, small-scale agribusiness development, natural resource management strategies, institutional support systems and urban/peri-urban agriculture.

Support for farmer settlement

Under this area, the ARC provides technical support to make sure that farmers are settled successfully on their land. This is done by providing help with planning and developing skills that will enable the beneficiaries to farm profitably within three years after settlement.



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Our promise is inside



Integrated livestock and crop production systems

The aim is to help people get more agricultural products in rural areas where people do not have, for example, enough land or water, by helping them to integrate farming systems. Other aims are to increase household income and to create job opportunities through teaching people how to add value to the resources.

Support to rehabilitation of irrigation schemes

There are many neglected irrigation schemes all over the country. The aim is to provide technical assistance to provinces to make these irrigation schemes productive and profitable.

Small-scale agribusiness development

This initiative aims to help small-scale producers add value (for example, making maas from the milk the cow produces and then selling the maas) to their products to help them earn more money. It further looks at making use of indigenous plants, animals and knowledge systems.

Natural resource management strategies

This area looks at developing strategies to manage natural resources that will specifically help farmers who have limited resources, such as grazing. In this way problems in, for example communal areas, can be solved.

Institutional support systems

This area concentrates on the development of capacity (people and information) within the ARC to provide information to the agricultural sector that does not have resources.

Urban/peri-urban agriculture

A large number of people live in urban or peri-urban areas, such as squatter camps. This area has as aim to introduce intensive agricultural initiatives, such as food gardens, that could provide job creation opportunities to unemployed people. This will help solve problems such as malnutrition, low household incomes and the lack of marketable skills (skills that help people get jobs).

How the ARC can help you

If you need assistance or information from the ARC, all you have to do is to contact them. The best way is to call their number in Pretoria, **012 427 9700**, and ask to speak to somebody about Sustainable Rural Livelihoods. **UM**

