



PO Box 74355, Lynnwood Ridge, South Africa, 0040

Grain Building, 1st Floor, 477 Witherite Road
The Willows, Pretoria, South Africa, 0184

Tel. +27 12 807 3002, Fax. +27 12 807 7092
query@agbizgrain.co.za, www.agbizgrain.co.za

Vat nr. 4920204684

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Rain for Africa

Rain for Africa (R4A) is a project that envisaged to make integrated weather and agriculture information available to a wide variety of users. It aims to make a significant contribution to empowering farmers by providing the correct information to help improve the quality and quantity of food production. It is funded by the Netherlands Space Office and ARC is the lead partner in a consortium with eight Netherland-based organisations. Central to this agreement is that ARC and SA Weather Service have at last agreed to join forces and provide access to their respective climatic databases.

Mariana Purnell of Agbiz Grain attended the technical workshop which focused on bringing together various role players who can contribute to the awareness of the project and also advise on improving participation. The [project](#) aims to meet the information needs of different users in the informal and formal sectors. Applications will be tailored to provide user specified information to diverse groups.

Information will be accessible via the web and mobile technologies (computers, cell phones and tablets) to facilitate higher crop yields and more efficient use of inputs such as seed, water, pesticides and fertiliser. R4A envisions a single central access point for all weather information for southern Africa through a unique portal which is supported by an operational data stream. The portal is able to provide straightforward connections to various types of meteorological data and other sources. The portal enables the development of various applications by integrating weather data with expert agricultural knowledge and information. Developed applications will be easily accessible at an affordable price to potential clients in southern Africa.

ENQUIRIES: Mariana Purnell (mariana.purnell@agbiz.co.za)