


Agriculture Water Management AFASA

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- How does AFASA see the future of Water in Agriculture (the next 20 years)
- The impact of Agricultural Water Management Assoc.
- What are the threats in future e.g. Climate Change
- Observation of status quo
- Challenges facing PDI farmers
- Recommendations

Status Quo

- No land reform without water reform & vice versa
- Water coupled to land and not to individuals
- Land value increases
- Land with water rights increases production capacity

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- Most high valued land (irrigation water schemes) are currently in the hands of the commercial sector
 - Water management committees and or water users associations are controlled by the commercial sector as they are in the majority
 - This scenario stifles the transformation agenda

Challenges Facing PDI Farmers

- Limited representation on management boards
- Most decisions taken in favour of majority
- Land purchased with irrigation infrastructure and no/ limited water rights

Challenges Facing PDI Farmers

- Water rights on open market not accessible due to over-pricing
e.g. 40ha WR sold for R11 million in NC
- Capacity of irrigation schemes are full
e.g. 3000ha WR in FS

Recommendations (Short term)

- That verification and validation of lawful users be concluded countrywide
- That 10% of all existing water allocations be immediately made available for PDI farmer development

Recommendations (Medium term)

- Water allocation to be increased annually to reach equitable access in 5 years time

Recommendations (Long term)

- That government increases the capacity of dams (countrywide)
- All irrigation water schemes be revitalized to increase capacity

In Closing

- Access to irrigation water is an economic enabler
- Equitable access will narrow the social economic gap between the have and the have-nots
- Climate change is a reality that we all have to plan for
- Revitalization of wet lands must be prioritized
- Pollution of our water sources must be effectively managed

Closing quote

