



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Director General, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
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Dear Colleague

PRODUCER/FARMER REGISTER: PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE PoPI ACT

Hope this correspondence finds you well.

On 12 November 2018, letters were sent out to stakeholders requesting databases on existing smallholders for the purpose of the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) National Producer/Farmer Register Survey (NPFR).

Subsequently on 5 December 2018, the first meeting of the Producer/Farmer Register Reference Group, an advisory body constituted by representatives of key constituencies at national, provincial and local spheres of Government, was held. At this meeting, some concerns were expressed on how DAFF will ensure that the farmers' personal information is protected in the process of conducting the NPFR survey.

Thus, in response to these concerns, DAFF would hereby like to assure stakeholders that their farmer information would be treated with the utmost **confidentiality** during the collection, processing and storing of information and in accordance with the "Protection of Personal Information" (PoPI) Act. The information will only be used for the purpose for which it is intended, i.e. the establishment of the Producer/Farmer Register. Furthermore, the Department undertakes to not disclose it to any third party, misuse the data or to compromise its use in any way.

For those stakeholders that have not submitted their databases as yet, the Department would strongly like to urge your Department/Institution to favourably consider making

available your database(s) on smallholder producers/farmers (i.e. contact details and/or geographical location) that have been supported or wish to be supported by your Department/Institution.

The purpose of making available your Department/Institutions' database(s), is that it will form part of the Producer/Farmer Register baseline information, which will assist, amongst other things, in identifying smallholder producers/farmers involved in agricultural activities, as well as to assist with the collection of certain number of variables about the smallholder producer/farmer. This initial step will be sufficient to build a statistical frame from which censuses and surveys on smallholder producers/farmers can be developed on a more regular basis to build trends on this category of farmers.

Please note that there is no specific list of variables required. DAFF is aware that all existing databases from stakeholders have been compiled based on various interventions with varying objectives. It should therefore not be a concern that the databases are inconsistent in form and size, as long as DAFF is able to locate the producer/farmer through contact details and/or geographical location.

The Excel or CSV/Word/Access/SQL/MySQL databases should be submitted to the Producer/Farmer Register National Project Secretariat Mrs Rona Beukes, at e-mail: RonaB@daff.gov.za or Tel: (012) 319-8032, not later than 15 February 2019.

Your cooperation in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M.M Mlengana

Director General: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Date: 14/02/19