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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FARMER INFORMATION PACKAGE AND WEB APP FOR WRC PROJECT K5/2310

KEY STRATEGIC AREA:	Water Resources Management and Ecosystems
THRUST:	Thrust 1: Governance and Institutional Arrangement
PROGRAMME:	P1: Gender and equity
TITLE:	Development of a farmer information pack and Web App

Rationale

Sustainability and *equity* are central guiding principles of the South African National Water Act (NWA 1998). The NWA provides the policy and legislative framework for water allocation. The Water Allocation Reform position paper (2006) outlined strategies and approaches for water allocations and served as the benchmark for water allocation processes and a formal basis for the implementation of the programme. The Water Allocation Reform (WAR) strategy (2008) set objectives including national targets in respect water allocation to black people

- 30% of water in the hands of previously disadvantaged by 2014
- 45% of allocable water should be allocated to black people by 2019
- 60% water should be in the hands of blacks by 2024

Catchment management agencies also developed their own water allocation strategies in line with the WAR strategy for South Africa. The Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) set up strategic priorities that included addressing water allocation reform that would ensure fair, equitable and well-controlled water allocation. However, engagement with the BGCMA in 2013 revealed that very little progress had been made in the allocation of water to historically disadvantaged individuals, a situation that is faced throughout South Africa. The reasons for the failure to progress are not clear, but among others it is thought that CMAs have failed to support uptake of water by emerging farmers, the water use license application process is slow and complicated, although there is acknowledgement that improvements to this process have been made over time, and water user associations (WUA) are slow or failing. A number of irrigation boards did not transform into WUA. The result is a continued



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disgruntlement in the smallholder and emerging farming sector, sometimes resulting in conflicts over water.

The Cape Peninsula University of Technology (Centre for Water and Sanitation Research) through the WRC Project K5/2310 set out to untangle some of the water allocation issues relating to the BGCMA:

- What methods could the BGCMA use in order to identify the real problems and challenges that the emerging farmers faced?
- How could the BGCMA create trust and a level ground for participation in water user associations?
- How could smallholder farmers, HDIs and emerging farmers be made to feel that they are active and equal partners in the water re-allocation process?

Project Objectives

The proposed project is a follow-up to the concluded research project "Approaches for Emerging Farmer Participation in Water Resource Management: The Case of the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA), Western Cape" (K5/2310). The overall aims of the project were to review progress in enabling access to water for emerging farmers in the two selected areas in BGCMA, explore challenges and opportunities for emerging farmers' participation in Water User Associations and develop an approach for such participation

In summary the results of the study were that emerging farmers issues are complex. Water is but just one challenge they face; water and land ownership are intertwined issues for emerging farmers both of which affect the scale of their productivity leading to other challenges like accessing financial assistance or support. However the major challenge expressed by farmers was lack of information; not knowing which institution to approach for what kind of support. It was because of this major challenge that the project K5/2310 developed an information package that can be accessed by emerging farmers

During the course of the project results were presented in a form of workshops to water-related institutions. In addition to BGCMA further collaboration was established with the Department of Water and Sanitation, Western Cape Department of Agriculture (DoA), Hex River Valley Water User Association (HVWUA), Department of Rural Development & Land Reform (DRDLR) and the African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA). The collaborating institutions committed to finding solutions to some of the problems identified in the project through the workshops conducted under the project. The major output of the workshops was a combined information package for emerging and smallholder farmers.



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It is for this reason that this call is aimed at enabling easier access by emerging farmers to the information package through the development of a web based app. The package needs to be translated into Afrikaans and isiXhosa, the languages spoken by some of the farmers. This package consists of a page on the BGCMA website, a cellphone app and printed copies of a booklet that contains roles and responsibilities of institutions meant to support emerging farmers, contact person and details of various processes to be followed when requesting support on different issues like water licensing etc. The study will take into account other available web-based apps already in the market and use such information to enhance this app which is specifically aimed at supporting emerging farmers in the Breede-Gouritz catchment. This would assist BGCMA to reach its set targets of availing water and providing targeted support to emerging farmers within their area of operation.

Objectives

- Develop a farmer support package webpage on the BGCMA website
- Develop a cellphone app for the farmer support package]
- Translation of farmer support package into isiXhosa and Afrikaans and printing

Outputs

- Key contact details of institutions responsible for farmer support is available on BGCMA website and regularly updated
- Ensure that farmers can access information addressing their support requirements from their cellphones
- Translated into specified languages and printed farmers support packages are availed to farmers for their use

General Methodology and Specifications:

A consultative and inclusive approach of key stakeholders involved, affected and interested in the project. Commitment to periodic update of the farmers' support package including the webpage and app as deemed necessary by the hosting organisation.

Deliverables:

Deliverables	Description	Estimated cost (Rand)
Webpage and App	Information as contained in the Farmer Support Package	80 000



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Package Translation	Afrikaans and isiXhosa translations	40 000
Printing	1000 English copies 500 Afrikaans copies 250 isiXhosa copies (calculated at 34 pages at R3 per page, colour printing)	180 000
Total		300 000

Impact Area:

Social, Environmental, Economy and Health

Access to information is guaranteed in law therefore making citizens including emerging farmers feel recognized and their rights respected. The information will contribute to emerging farmers being able to access support they require to be able to run viable productive farms that contribute to the economy of the country through job creation and improvements in the country's GDP as well as improvements in the livelihoods and wellbeing of the farmers themselves and those of their families. The web based and cellphone app and limited number of hard copies will generate less paper especially over time with the anticipated updating.

Time Frame:

Three months

Total Funds Available from the WRC

R300 000.00