



Advertorial



The ARC committed to food and nutrition security

SELLO TSHIPI, Agricultural Research Council

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation to support and develop the agricultural sector. Our strategic objective is to improve research competitiveness in South Africa and to be a leading knowledge hub to all our agricultural stakeholders.

As a public entity, the ARC confirms its commitment to the principles of transparency, integrity and accountability as advocated in the King III report on corporate governance. For success, South African agriculture relies on effective agricultural researches and innovations by scientists and interactive exchanges with producers, including large commercial producers and resource poor communities.

Food and nutrition security is an essential element of a developmental society that depends on ensuring increased agricultural production. Agricultural research endeavours to provide producers with knowledge, and supports

sustainable farming which can provide good quality food at a reasonable price. This is the mandate of the ARC.

The critical factor for sufficient food and nutrition is attaining high yield in agricultural production. However, good yield potential can be adversely affected by climatic changes, which in turn can result in low production with dire consequences for food and nutrition security. The change in climatic conditions has highlighted the risk producers experience, especially in the absence of sufficient rain. While irrigation may be a solution in the absence of sufficient rain, it has proven to be costly and therefore few can benefit.

It is against this background that the ARC provides diagnostic and analytical services for identification of good agricultural practice, as well as the elimination of bad ones. The effectiveness of the ARC's scientific, diagnostic and analytical services must continue to provide significant information to producers who in turn provide food and nutrition security.

The ARC also provides scientific services to enable income generation in the agricultural sector. Income generation among small enterprises is an important mechanism towards economic growth, poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development.

Human resources remains the most critical driver for success in and sustainable impact on the agricultural sector. To mitigate the lack of critical skills in South Africa, the ARC continues to invest sustainably in the training and development of its employees. The development of students is largely achieved through direct supervision and mentorship by the ARC research scientists in collaboration with partners at various universities.

The ARC remains committed to working with all partners in the agricultural sector to seek solutions that will improve yields and enable resistance to pests and diseases as well as adverse effects of climate change, such as extreme heat and drought for South African producers. The ARC has the capability to continue to deliver products that can enable producers to ensure food security and sustain the South African economy.

The ARC is led by its highly capable executive team and enjoys the support of its shareholders through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as well as its various partners.

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