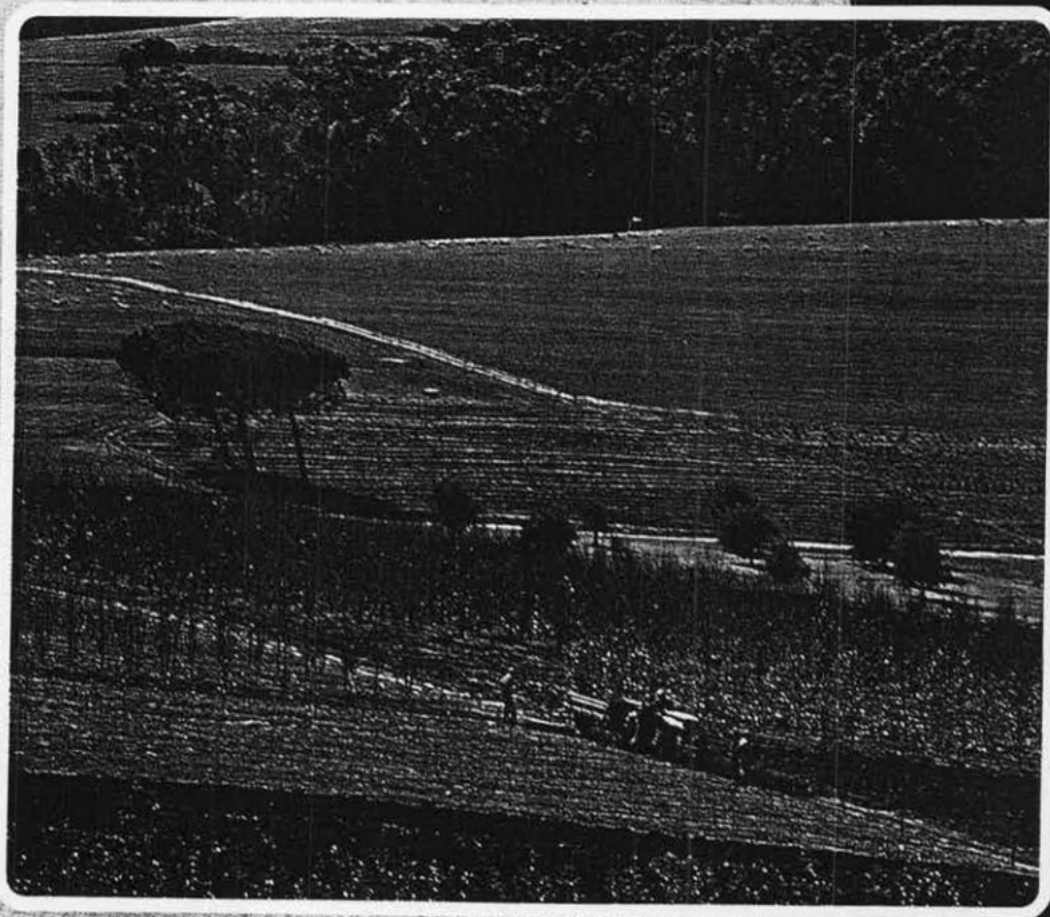


Western Cape

The Department of Agriculture

Elsenburg



Introduction

Our mission

To promote, by means of technology development, technology transfer and agricultural training, sustained agricultural production and marketing within the Western Cape economy to the best advantage of the entire community, by creating food security, improving personal income and general quality of life. Along with the rest of the agricultural role-players in the Western Cape, the Department of Agriculture: Western Cape at Elsenburg identifies itself with the vision: *global success, competitive, inclusive and in balance with nature.*



Elsenburg, situated 13 km north of Stellenbosch, is the focal point of the Department of Agriculture in the Western Cape, and renders wide-ranging development and support services to the agricultural sector. Elsenburg is known to be the first centre for agricultural development in Africa. The fruit and wine industries are serviced by the Institutes Infruitec and Nietvoorbij respectively, near Stellenbosch.

The province is divided into five agricultural regions, namely Karoo, South Coast, Swartland, Boland and the North Western Region. These regions accommodate various agricultural development centres, experimental farms, extension offices and veterinary facilities.



Historical background



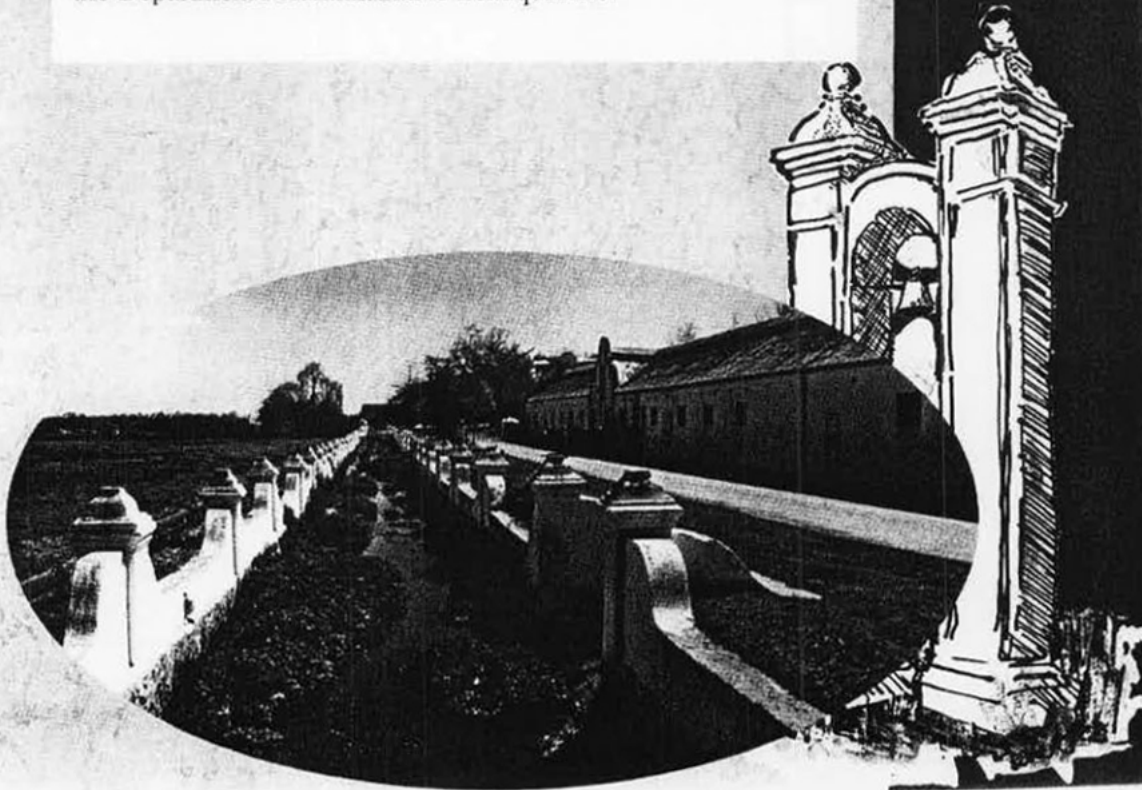
Elsenburg was named after Samuel Elsevier, the then Deputy Governor of the Cape, to whom the farm was given by Governor Simon van der Stel in 1698. Thereafter the farm flourished in the hands of a prominent businessman, Martin Melck, who built the well-known manor-house in 1761.

In 1898 the government bought Elsenburg for the use of an agricultural school for young farmers. In that year 22 students enrolled, and this was the beginning of scientific agricultural training in the country.

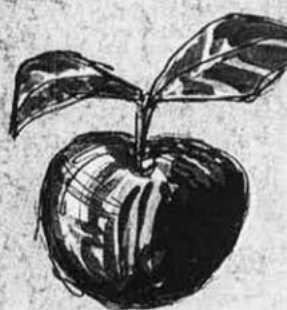
Elsenburg is the foundation from which the University of Stellenbosch's agricultural training arose in 1917. Infruitec was established in 1937 and Nietvoorbij in 1955. Elsenburg's cellar technology diploma course commenced in 1976.

The EISENBURG DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION was founded by Dr Johan Burger in the early 1990's to make available more training facilities for future agriculture students within a colourful cultural inheritance, by restoring historic buildings on the farmyard.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture was known as the Elsenburg Agricultural Institute before 1995, and currently Elsenburg accommodates the Elsenburg Agricultural College and the Department's Administrative headquarters.

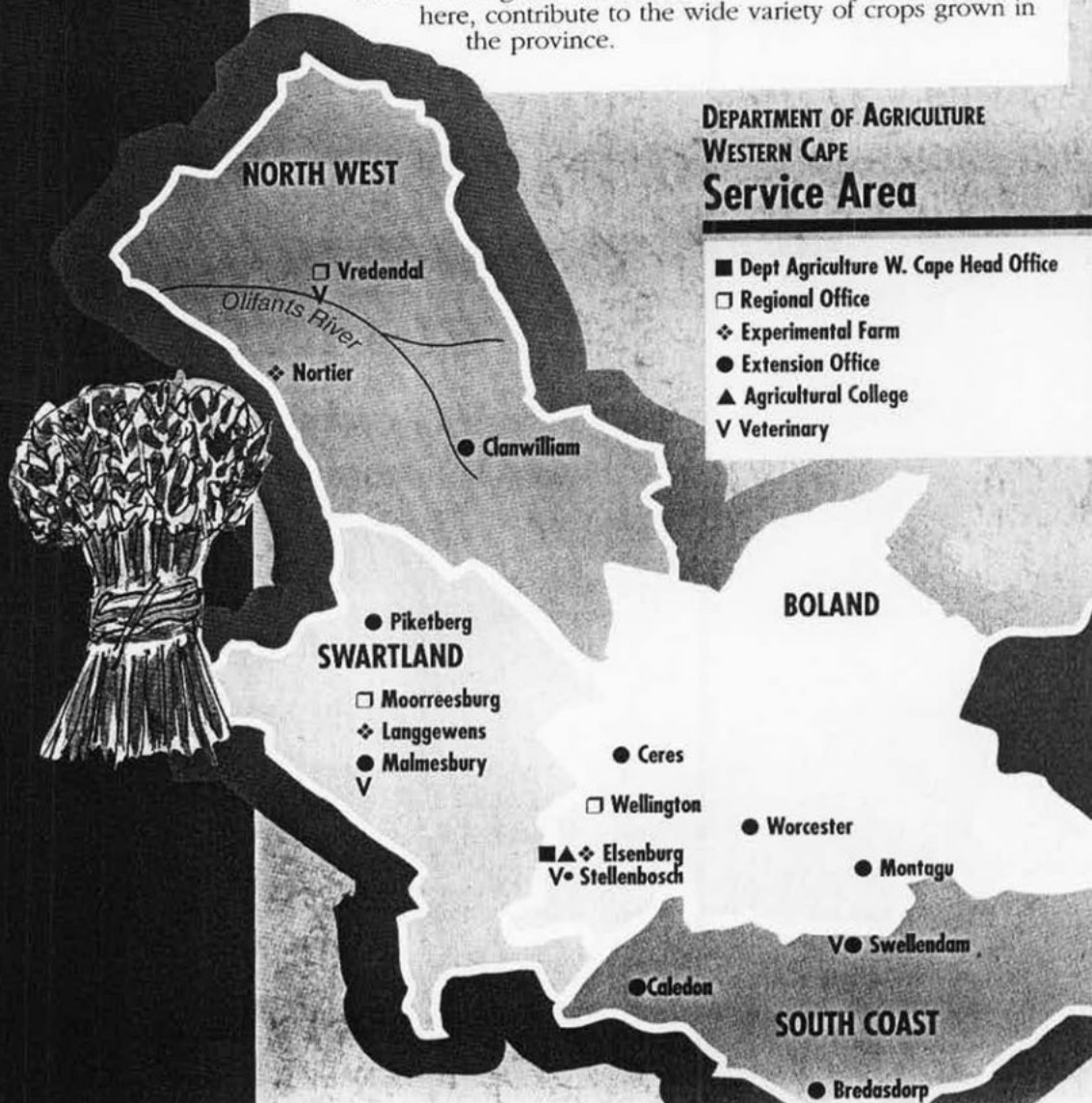


Geographic Service area



The service area stretches from an area north of the Olifants River along the coast to Plettenberg Bay. Inland the area stretches over large parts of the Karoo, the Little Karoo, Boland, Swartland and the North Western Cape region.

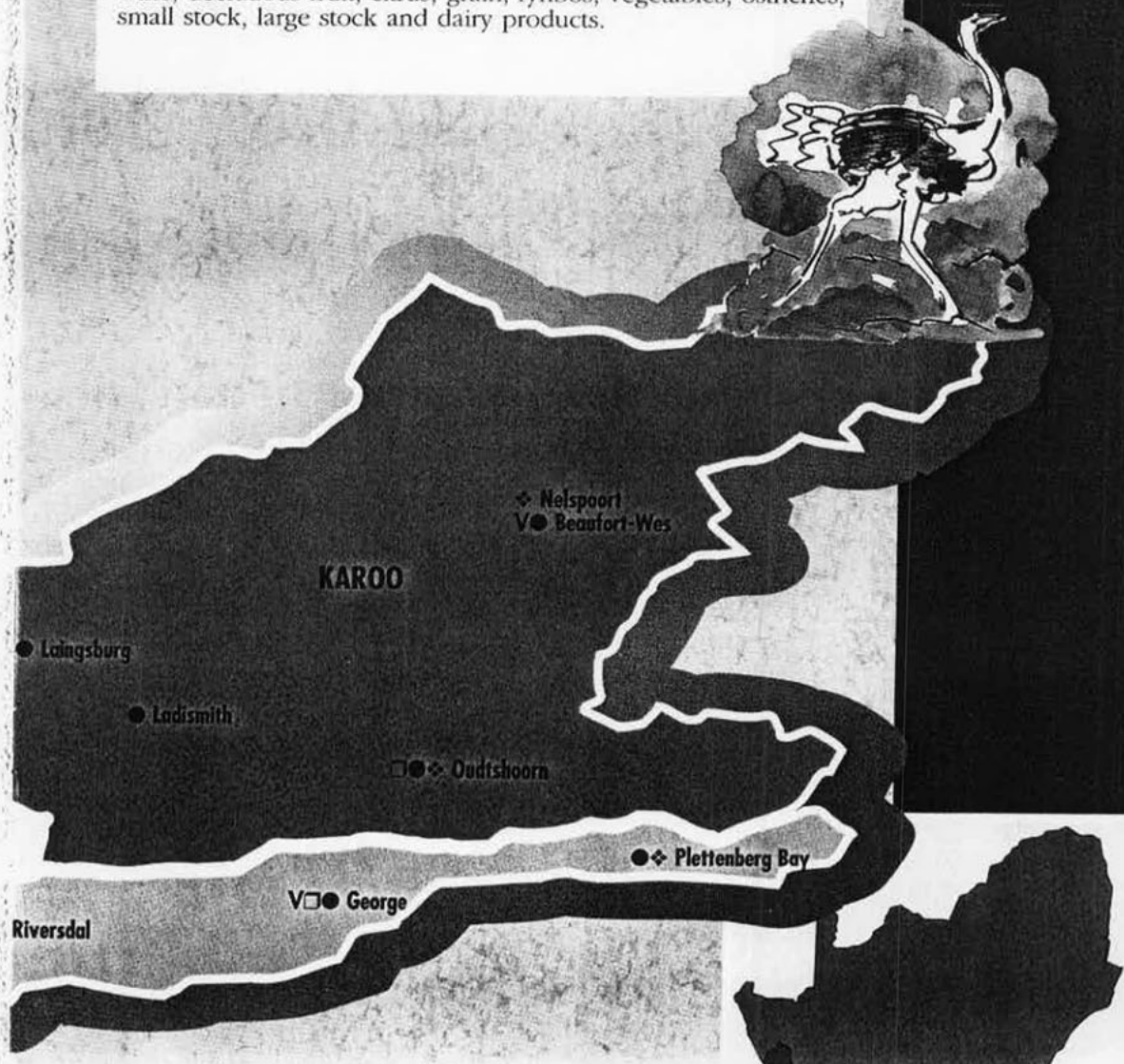
The province embraces the Mediterranean climatical zone of the RSA where the annual rainfall is more than 2 000 mm in certain areas. Certain arid areas in the Karoo and the North Western Cape region have a rainfall of less than 150 mm per annum. The great variation in rainfall and soil types found here, contribute to the wide variety of crops grown in the province.



Geographic Service area



The area occupies approximately 13 million hectares of which 3 million hectares are under cultivation and approximately 270 000 hectares are under irrigation. More than 13 000 producers contribute directly towards agriculture, which provides 13% of all formal job opportunities in the Western Cape. This percentage currently indicates a growth tendency due to better export opportunities. The Department of Agriculture in the Western Cape has a direct or indirect influence on the production of wine, deciduous fruit, citrus, grain, fynbos, vegetables, ostriches, small stock, large stock and dairy products.



Technology develop- ment and transfer



EISENBURG COLLEGE

This historical college is the oldest centre for agricultural development in Africa and accommodates 250 residential agricultural students per year. The Kromme Rhee training centre forms part of Elsenburg College. The duration of the basic certificate training programme in agriculture is 18 months.

Agronomy and pasture technology, large and small stock science, viticulture, agricultural science, farm management, vegetable production and pomology are the major subjects in the higher certificate programme which stretches over a period of two years.

A diploma in agriculture can be obtained after the completion of a further year's study. The diploma training programme in wine technology is very popular amongst prospective winemakers.

Because Elsenburg's training programmes emphasise the management aspects of practical farming, these programmes are mostly attended by prospective farmers, farm workers, farm managers and agricultural extension officers.

In order to keep abreast of scientific and technological changes in agriculture, and to ensure that agricultural role-players of the Western Cape follow the correct economic and scientific direction, this directorate undertakes continuous, timely and relevant research and extension services.

Results from processed research which emanates from the Department itself as well as from other South African and international research institutions are communicated regularly to producers through the media, publications, information and farmers' days. Extension officers regularly visit farmers to investigate problems and to provide scientific advice.

Because industrial development puts a tremendous amount of pressure on our natural resources, the Department's resource scientists and geographical information centre play a prominent role to ensure the optimum utilisation of our soil, water and natural vegetation.

Research at the Animal Production Division concentrates on the increase of income for the farmer by optimising production methods while input costs are kept as low as possible.

Crops are constantly threatened by problem organisms and pests. Entomologists





and plant pathologists from the Crop Protection Division base their research on the detection and combating of plant disease-causing micro-organisms, insects and nematodes. Research on weed control is also an important function of this section.

The Production Technology Division ensures that optimum production techniques for different soil and climate combinations are implemented.

The evaluation of new crop and pasture cultivars for pest resistance, economical viability, ecological acceptability and adaptability in various climatical and soil conditions are important functions of the Crop Development Division. Currently substantial emphasis is placed on the research of veld and planted pastures in the Western Cape.

The ability of the agricultural sector to provide affordable food for the consumer and the farmer's ability to compete in the international market are constantly evaluated by the Department's agricultural economists. Statistics are kept and suggestions on the economical direction the farmer should follow during the production process are made available to all agricultural role-players. Emphasis is placed on the upliftment of small-scale farmers. Technical advice and the creation of an agricultural infrastructure form part of the Department of Agriculture's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and land reform policy.



Veterinary Services



Veterinary Health Services has a regulatory responsibility to apply the animal disease and meat hygiene acts. State veterinary surgeons and animal health technicians are responsible for the tracing, controlling and eradication measures of notifiable and non-notifiable diseases. This entails regular visits to farms, inspection of livestock and reports of visits. Information on animal health, animal housing and disease preventative farming methods are supplied to the public.

Diseases such as tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle are transmittable to humans. These and other zoonotic diseases, such as rabies and *Salmonella enteritidis* are controlled by means of structured eradication schemes.

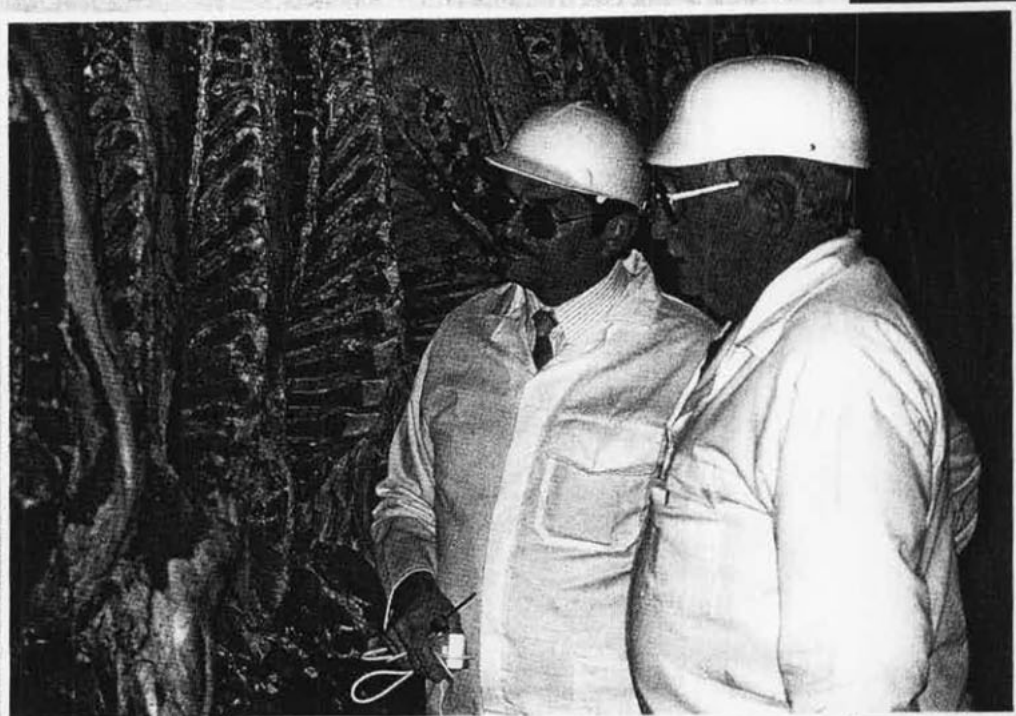
The application of hygienic procedures at abattoirs are also monitored continuously by state veterinary surgeons, meat inspectors and animal health technicians. The application of the meat hygiene act entails regular inspections at abattoirs. Hygienic slaughtering procedures, the setting of standards for new abattoirs and the grading of existing slaughtering facilities are important objectives. The handling of all animals and birds before and during slaughtering are inspected regularly.

The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (PVL) at Helderfontein, Stellenbosch renders a supporting diagnostic service to the Directorate Veterinary Services, the private veterinary sector and other departments such as National Health and Nature Conservation.

A diagnostic service is also rendered to the dairy, beef, lamb, pork and racehorse industries, as well as the poultry, ostrich and aquaculture sectors. A veterinary laboratory has also been established at the state veterinary surgeon's office in Beaufort West.



Veterinary Services



Agricultural engineering



This Directorate provides technology development and transfer in the field of irrigation, mechanisation, structures and soil conservation.

The irrigation section is responsible for improvement of effective water consumption. This includes the designing of systems for Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) projects, the subsidising of irrigation systems and dams, as well as technology transfer regarding scheduling and system operation.

The mechanisation section renders a full service regarding product processing, instrumentation and farm implements. The structure section is involved in the designing of animal housing, waste handling systems, labour accommodation and packing facilities.

The Subdirector Resource Conservation renders a full service, in conjunction with the soil conserva-

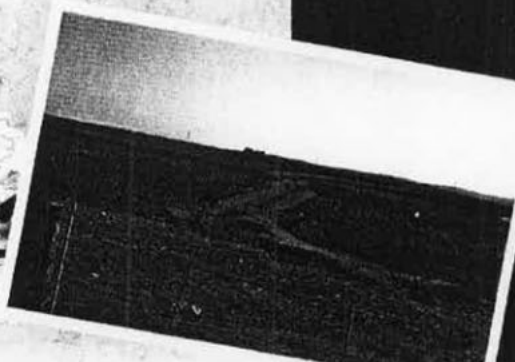


Agricultural engineering



tion section, to conserve the resources of the Western Cape. This entails the measuring and designing of water ways, contours, drinking systems for livestock and structures which prevent erosion.

The farm services section manages the nine experimental farms of the Department. Maintenance and mechanisation services to all land users on experimental farms play an important role in the daily activities of this section.



Support

The dedicated staff members who implement the functions and services of the Department of Agriculture in the Western Cape, are supported by an effective Administration component.

Close co-operation with co-operatives, breeders' societies, universities, training institutions and commercial institutions ensures that the Department facilitates a dynamic agricultural sector in the Western Cape Province.



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