



**Western Cape
Government**

Agriculture

BETTER TOGETHER.

MITIGATION OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 WESTERN CAPE

National Council of Provinces

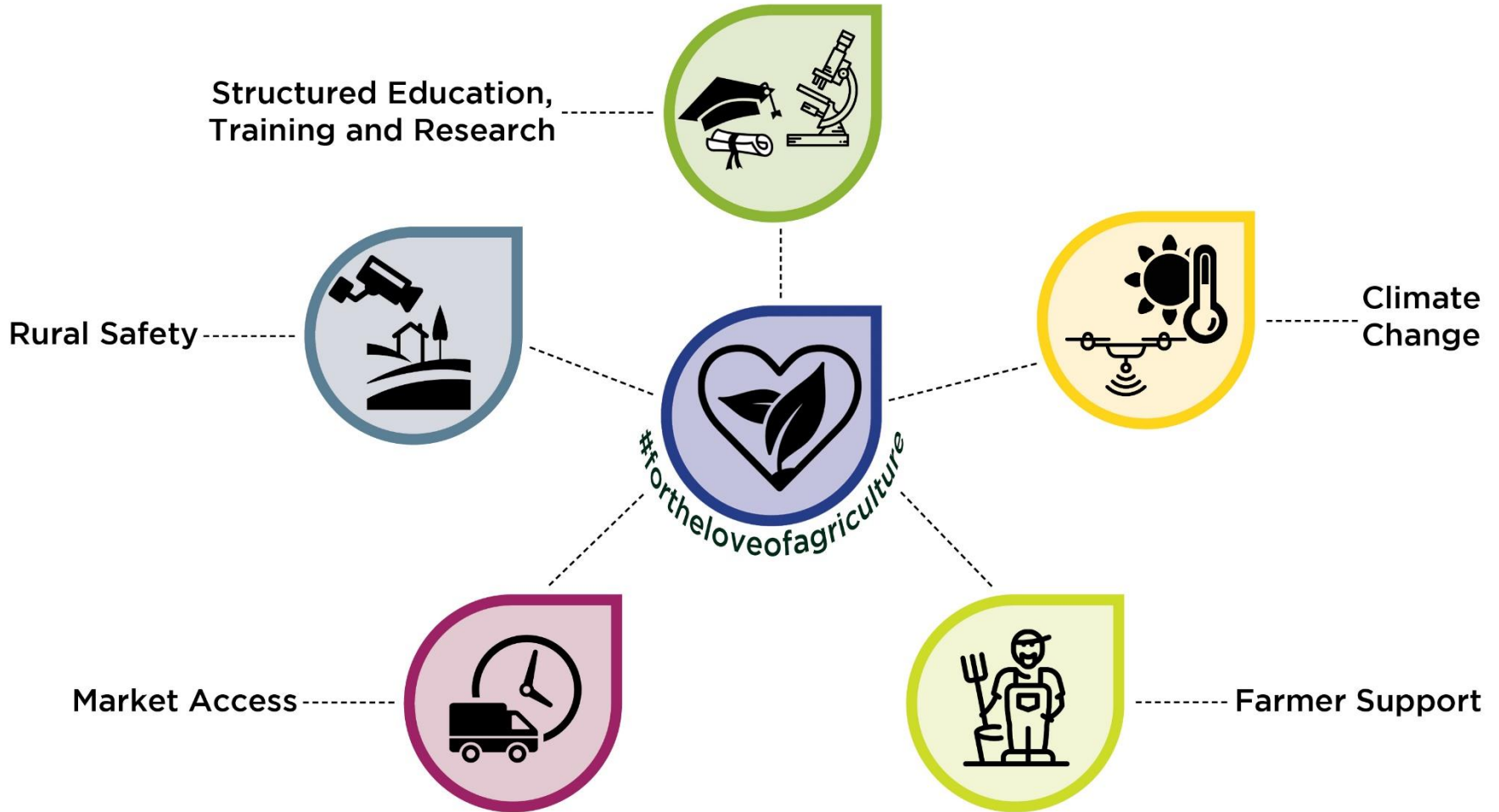
Dr Ivan Meyer

Zoom

25 August 2020



Ministerial Priorities



Covid-19 disruptors

- **Bottlenecks at, and closure of, ports**
- **Disruption of air traffic**
- **Importing countries prioritising goods**
- **Farm inefficiencies abroad**
- **Disruption of domestic value chains**
- **Social unrest**
- **On-farm outbreaks of Covid-19**
- **Inability to import key inputs**
- **Lockdown/diversion of production**
- **Inefficiencies in input supply chains**

Covid-19 disruptors

- **Lockdown leading to job losses**
- **Weakening exchange rate**
- **Slowdown in South Africa's economy**
- **Slowdown in the global economy**
- **Changing consumer patterns**
- **Government failure**
- **South African lockdown**
- **Emerging from the lockdown**
- **Inconsistent application of regulations**
- **Lockdown abroad**

Impact of Covid-19

IMPACT

- **Short-term shortage of goods on domestic markets**
- **Long-term shortage of goods on domestic markets**
- **Food insecurity in vulnerable communities**
- **Wasting of fresh produce**
- **Loss of market share abroad**
- **Shortage of farming inputs**
- **Failing farms**

WC Dept. of Agriculture's inputs during Covid-19

1. Procurement of PPE (100 000 cloth masks for agri-workers)
2. Issued permits to farmers i.t.o. regulations
3. Developed FAQ's for sector to guide producers and agri-workers
4. Representations to Minister Didiza for the revision of the regulations:
 - To allow for harvesting (in the table grape and wine industry)
 - For the export of wine
 - For the flower sub-sector; and
 - the repatriation of seasonal agri workers
5. Simplified communication material through:
 - The use of infographics for agri workers and
 - translation of communication material into other WC languages

Distribution of face masks

68 000 to agri workers at commercial farmers and 32 000 to smallholders



WC Dept. of Agriculture's inputs during Covid-9

1. Developed **transport protocol** for the movement of essential workers who works seasonally on farms.
2. Conduct **weekly virtual meetings** with stakeholders
3. Fostered, maintained and utilised already established **network of communicators within the sector** to create awareness for Covid-19
4. Provision of 1000 litres of **hand sanitisers** for our staff in the WC
5. The WC Dept. of Agric. kept the **Veterinary Export Certification Office** in Milnerton open to provide safe food that adheres to local and importing standards.
6. Regularly interaction with **Mayors and FBO's in hotspot areas**
7. Alternative interventions to ensure the continuation of the **educational programmes** at Elsenburg College

Maintain and sustain existing established exports markets



Monitoring of Hygiene Management at Abattoirs



Border post control at Violsdrift – inspecting consignments *en route* to Western Cape

WC Dept. of Agriculture's inputs during Covid -19

1. Compiled a **list of all disaster relief funds** for the sector to assist affected farmers
2. **Partnering with Distell** regarding the distribution of the alcohol sanitizers
3. DoA research farms **donated milk to MPO** for distribution among vulnerable communities with support from processors (Nestle and Lactolis)
4. Planning for a **Post Covid-19 Provincial Agriculture Recovery Plan**
5. Whole of Government response to hotspots (Appointed to work in **Cape Winelands**, which is strategic for the sector)
6. **One home one garden** initiative as a response to food insecurity in rural areas
7. WC Farmers' food relief contributions beyond expectations i.t.o. quality and quantity.

Agricultural producers' contribution during Covid-19

Received donation of hand sanitisers from Distell.



Agricultural producers' contribution during Covid-19

All milk producers in the Western Cape contribute 1% of their milk production for Covid-19 food relief. #payingmilkforward



Food gardens: Household



2020/21

- 800 Households (planned)
- **Already delivered 1 400**



Food gardens: Community



2020/21

- 62 Community gardens
- 14 School food gardens

Agricultural producers' contribution during Covid-19

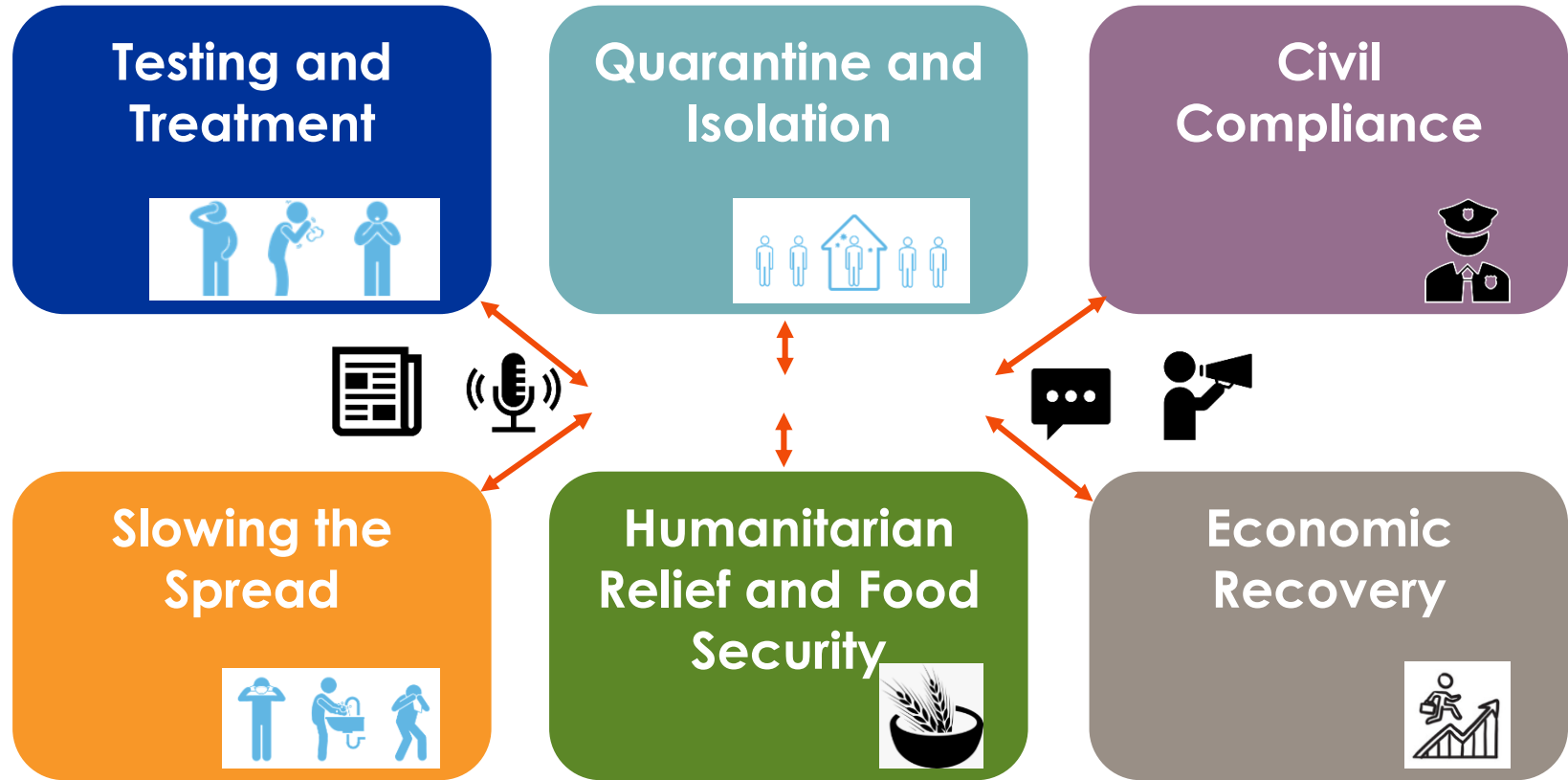
Citrus farmers donated 85 ton of citrus fruit up to date, with a promise of more until end of September.



Western Cape Cabinet Resolved to allocate a WC Cabinet Minister and Head of a Department to assist each Hotspot in the Western Cape.

**Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Agriculture
Dr Mogale Sebopetsa, HOD for Agriculture
Cape Winelands Hotspot Area**

Thematic areas for intervention



Longer term: Policy reprioritisation

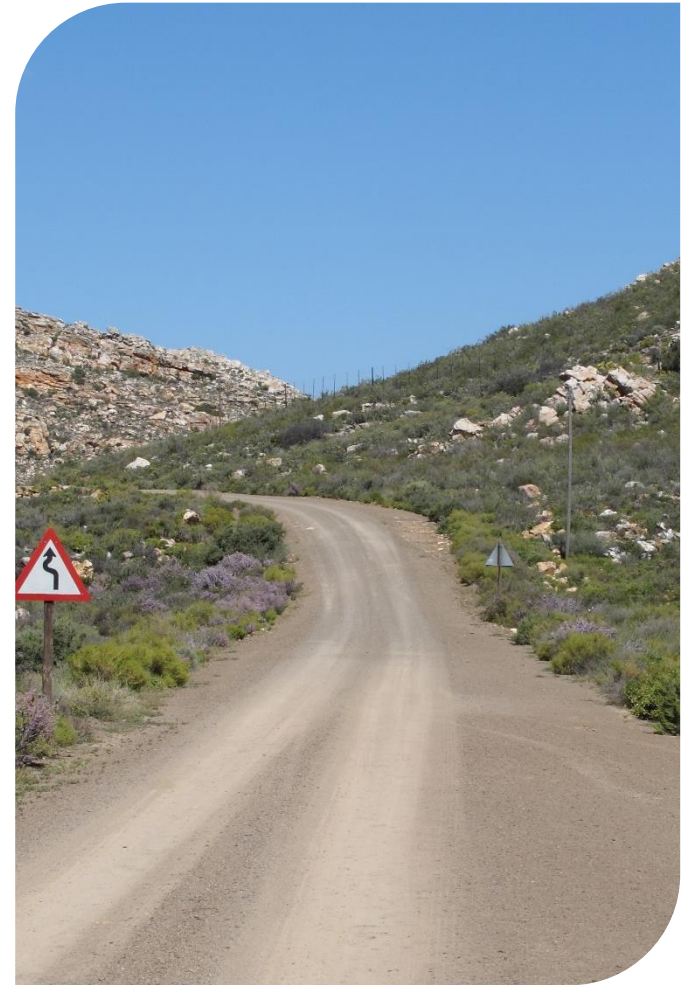
“Post Covid-19” will become a dividing line such as “After WWII” or “9/11”

● Structure of farming determined by:

- Biological nature of production
- Geology, climate and soil
- Spatially dispersed environment.

● Disruptions

- Climate (e.g. 6th year of drought, floods)
- 4th IR Technology (e.g. plant based / vat-grown meat; automation; materials, etc.)
- Social pressures
- Covid-19



Longer term: Policy reprioritisation (cont.)

Policy processes

- Future of farming in Arid Areas
- Post Covid-19 recovery plan
- Agriculture & Agri processing master plan



Post Covid-19 Agricultural Building Blocks

Safety	Jobs	Dignity & Well Being
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Enabling environment by implementing Departmental Strategic Plan

Rural safety	Market access	Farmer support	Climate change	Education, training, research
Safe & cohesive communities	Economy and jobs	Empowering people	Mobility & spatial transformation	Innovation & culture change

Enabling environment from national mandates (AAMP)

Role-players in Covid-19 fight

The decrease in infections was only possible with the help of all involved. Thank you to all, **but the fight is not over**, we will **continue to fight this virus until it is gone.**



Thank you
Dankie
Enkosi

Contact Us



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