

Agri SA Water Symposium



AGRICULTURE'S WATER CHALLENGES

DRILLING FOR SOLUTIONS

REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Agri SA is at the forefront of advancing the position of the agricultural sector when it comes to water. The resource, its governance, pricing and the legal dispensation to lawfully use (and continue using) water is a core focus area of Agri SA's Natural Resource Centre of Excellence and Water Desk. On 26 August 2019, Agri SA was proud to host its inaugural water symposium at the Lord Charles Hotel conferencing facility in Somerset West. The symposium was an opportunity for sector leaders, experts and government to discuss challenges and solutions to our country's water challenges.

The theme of the symposium was "Agriculture's Water Challenges: Drilling for Solutions". Speakers and participants included individuals from government, academia and water management institutions with extensive experience in water governance, water management, risk management and agriculture to name a few. Speakers engaged on the following topics:

- **Government's water management plan (allocation, quality, institutional implementation, allocation reform etc.),**
- **Agriculture's water challenges (climate, infrastructure, politics etc.), and**
- **A glimpse of whats to come (future scenarios).**

The symposium created a platform for Agri SA and Government to declare and discuss their respective positions and challenges concerning water for agricultural purposes. This includes issues relating to food security, economic growth, allocation reform, assurance of supply, competing uses and resource quality. More importantly the symposium initiated the collective exploration and formulation of measurable and implementable solutions. Agri SA has in the past had (and continues to maintain) a strong relationship with the Department of Water and Sanitation. What made the symposium unique was that it was agreed beforehand that the event will be used to identify and formulate a specific list of issues which will be jointly addressed and regularly consulted upon.

The declining state of South Africa's water resources is well documented, the challenges and constraints have been discussed many a time. The symposium aimed to highlight these issues, prioritise Agri SA's actions and set the plans in motion to ensure there is water for South Africa's growing agriculture sector.



Agri SA Water Desk Strategy

Integrated Agricultural Water Resource Management



VISION

Security of water for food security in South Africa

MISSION

Elevating the South African agricultural sector's water interests

Strategic Focus Areas

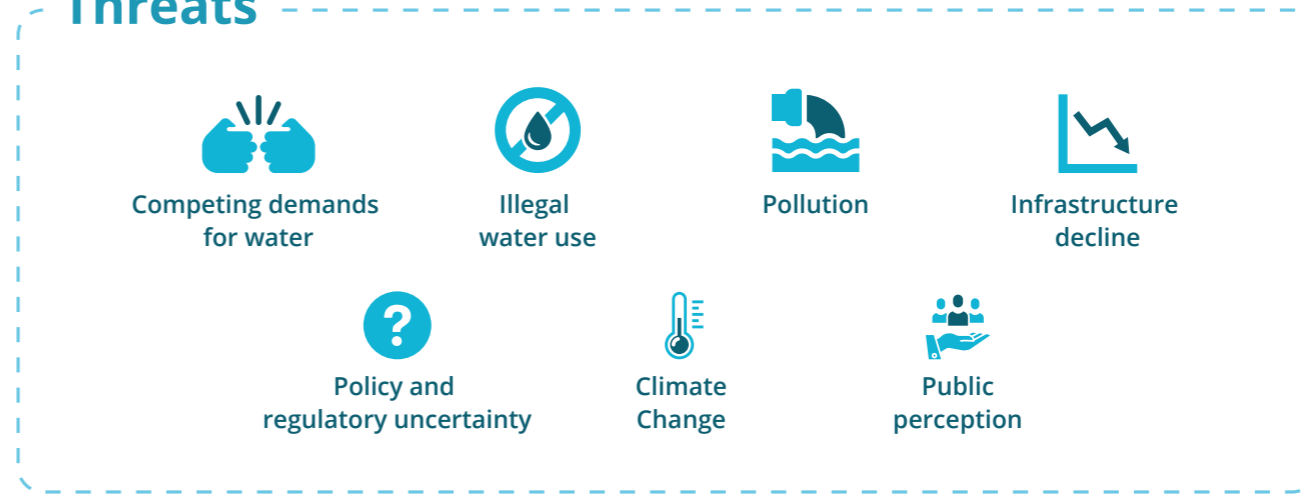
- Water policy and legislative development**
Analysis and influence (incl V&V, WAR, Transferability of WUE)
- Institutional developments**
Representation at critical platforms (incl WSLG, CCAW, CMAs, LWMI)
- Water pricing**
Negotiate affordable tariffs
- Research**
Participation in research development and dissemination
- Water allocation reform**
Participation in the inclusive transformation of the sector (in collaboration with the Transformation hub)

Activities

- Participate and contribute in all relevant platforms on water-related policies and legislation
- Forge strong partnerships with sector role players
- Play a coordination role in forging collaborative relationships concerning water
- Inform and advise members
- Advise and influence government and sector role players, collaborate and consult extensively, litigate only when needed



Threats



Key Stakeholders

- Water Research Commission
- The South African Association of Water User Associations
- Strategic Water Partners Network
- South African National Council for Irrigation and Drainage
- South African Weather Service
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
- Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
- Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development



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PROGRAMME

DATE & TIME

26 August 2019 | 09:00 - 15:00

VENUE

NH Lord Charles Hotel

Broadway Blvd (R44) and Main Rd (M9) | Somerset West | Western Cape

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER
09:00 – 09:15	Opening	<p>Dan Kriek <i>Agri SA – President</i></p> <p>Dr Ivan Meyer <i>Western Cape Provincial Minister of Agriculture</i></p>
09:15 – 09:45	Keynote address	<p>Lindiwe Sisulu <i>Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation</i></p>
09:45 – 10:30	Government's Water Use Strategy for Agriculture	<p>Mbulelo Tshangana <i>Acting Director-General Department of Water and Sanitation</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK	
11:00 – 11:45	Agriculture's predicament - managing uncertain climates (both weather and politics)	<p>Prof Mike Muller <i>Adjunct Professor University of Witwatersrand</i></p>
11:45 – 12:30	A glimpse of what's to come	<p>Prof Andries Jordaan <i>Research Fellow University of the Free State</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH	
13:30 – 14:45	Panel discussion and Q&A – Why are we struggling and what should be done? 10 questions from the floor	<p>Nic Knoetze , Mike Muller, Mbulelo Tshangana, Mary-Jean Gabriel, Andries Jordaan Facilitator: Janse Rabie</p>
14:45 – 15:00	Closing	<p>Omri van Zyl <i>Agri SA - CEO</i></p>

SPEAKER PROFILES

OPENING



DR IVAN MEYER

Minister for Agriculture:
Western Cape



DAN KRIEK

President: Agri SA



OMRI VAN ZYL

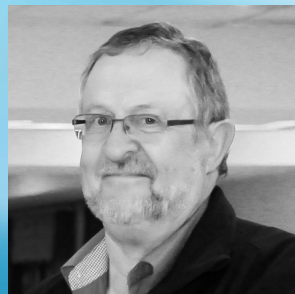
CEO: Agri SA

PANEL MEMBERS



MARY JEAN GABRIEL

Director: Water Use and Irrigation
Development at the Department of
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural
Development



NIC KNOETZE

CEO: South African Association for
Water User Associations



PROF ANDRIES JORDAAN

Research Fellow: Disaster
Management Training and
Education Centre at the University
of the Free State



PROF MIKE MULLER

Visiting Adjunct Professor:
University of the Witwatersrand
Graduate School of Governance



ANIL SINGH

Deputy Director- General:
Regulation at the Department of
Human Settlements, Water and
Sanitation



Facilitator

JANSE RABIE

Head of Natural Resources: Agri SA

SPEAKER PROFILES



DR IVAN MEYER

Dr Meyer is the Western Cape Provincial Minister for Agriculture. He holds a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Stellenbosch, as well as a number of international certificates and diplomas. His work in the fields of education, housing, local government and public administration has been published widely.

Dr Meyer was a Senior Lecturer in Public Policy and Local Governance at the University of Stellenbosch at the time of his election to the Provincial Legislature in April 2009. Before that, he served as the chief director of Provincial Training in the Corporate Services Directorate of the Western Cape Provincial Administration.

Previously, he held various ministerial posts: Western Cape Provincial Minister of Finance, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport and Provincial Minister of Social Development.

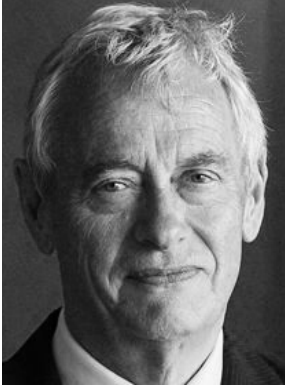


MR ANIL SINGH

Anil Singh is a Deputy Director-General responsible for regulation at the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Due to the late cancellation by the honorable Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Mr Singh addressed the symposium in his official capacity on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

SPEAKER PROFILES



PROFESSOR MIKE MULLER

Mike Muller is a Visiting Adjunct Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand Graduate School of Governance. He was a Commissioner of South Africa's first National Planning Commission (2010 – 2015) and chaired the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Water Security (2012-2014). He also advises a range of national and international organisations on water and development issues.

Mike was Director-General of South Africa's Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (1997-2005). He was responsible for the development and implementation of policy and legislative reform and initiation of a range of national water programmes.

A registered professional engineer in South Africa, he is a Fellow of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) and the Water Institute of Southern Africa and is a Chartered Engineer and a Member of the UK Institution of Civil Engineers. He holds a BSc (Hons) from the City University, London and an MSc from the University of Witwatersrand.



PROF ANDRIES JORDAAN

Prof Jordaan is an agricultural economist who distinguished himself as an expert with multi and trans-disciplinary expertise in rural and agricultural development, disaster risk and vulnerability assessment. He is currently a leading scientist on drought and drought risks in Africa. Prof Jordaan is the Director of the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre (DiMTEC) at the University of the Free State.

DiMTEC is today regarded as the largest post graduate centre in disaster risk science in Africa with a representative footprint from 17 African countries. Prof Jordaan has practical experience with drought risk assessments and implementation of drought risk reduction strategies as an agricultural extension officer and an entrepreneur with more than 20 years' experience in practical commercial farming and agri business management.

As a scientist he manages to bridge the gap between scientific theory and implementation. He completed research projects in more than fourteen African countries, either as an independent consultant or a member of multi-disciplinary research teams.

PARTICIPATION

Agri SA was proud to host an estimated 120 guests (95 signed) in total.

Participation breakdown can be summarised as follows.

Government:	24
Farmer/Farmer Organisation:	26
Water Management Institution:	11
Corporate / Agribusiness:	21
Academia:	4
Media:	9

The Symposium showcased the broad institutional support for farming and Agri SA's commitment to contributing to the future of South Africa's agricultural industry.

PRESENTATIONS

The presentations can be viewed on the Agri SA website under COE's /Natural Resources/Water Symposium at the following [link](#).

- 1. Five priorities for Agriculture - links to water:**
Dr Ivan Meyer, *Minister for Agriculture in the Western Cape*.
- 2. Government's Water Use Strategy for Agriculture:**
Anil Singh, *DDG Regulation, Department of Water and Sanitation*.
- 3. Agriculture's predicament - managing uncertain climates (both weather and politics):**
Prof Mike Muller, *Adjunct Professor, University of Witwatersrand*.
- 4. Agricultural Water Management Scenarios for South Africa:**
Prof Andries Jordaan, *Research Fellow, University of the Free State*.

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

Dr Ivan Muller

"The Western Cape contributes 45% to South Africa's agricultural exports. Reason enough to grow and protect this industry. We need to protect our resources, we need to protect agriculture, at all costs."



- The Western Cape has 5 priority areas for Agriculture including education, climate change farmer support, market access and rural safety.
- The agricultural sector is of fundamental importance and plays an integral part in the Western Cape economy.
- The Western province is home to 6 000 commercial farmers (20% of the nation's commercial farmers) and 7 000 small-scale farmers and therefore it has to have more than the three agricultural schools it boasts today.

Anil Singh

"The Department is encouraged by high levels of water use efficiency in the agricultural sector"



Departmental priorities include

- Institutional implementation and reform.
- Development of a water sector transformation charter.
- Keeping water affordable.
- Completion of Validation and Verification.
- Improvements in monitoring and enforcement to address water quality issues.
- An Informed partnership approach is vital to a thriving water sector.

Mike Muller

"The world is not running out of water, demand from agriculture will decrease everywhere"



- Competition for water resources will continue to increase.
- Challenges relating to agricultural water is less about land, water and weather and more about money markets and politics.
- Global agricultural production is running ahead of demand.
- Irrigation water use will become more efficient.

Prof Andries Jordaan

"Poor water management will harm the most vulnerable".



- There will be a shift in production systems.
- The future of water for agriculture is dependent on several factors including human, social, cultural, economic, political, technological and natural factors.
- If South Africa's water resources are poorly managed, it will not only be commercial farmers who will suffer. New farmers will end up suffering the most.

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

Panel Discussion

- **Groundwater** has the potential to play a larger role in South Africa's water mix.
- There is no substitution for **local** and **catchment level water resource management**.
- The impact of local government both on resource use and quality cannot be ignored, more efforts should be made to **increase participation and action by local government**.
- **Water quality is an increasing threat** to the agriculture sector. The impact of local government and mining on water resource quality must be addressed to ensure food security, quality and safety.
- **There is no full picture of water use in South Africa**. The WARMS system will remain incomplete until Verification is completed.
- **Water use efficiency must be promoted**, and certain benefits must be put in place to incentivize implementation, for example restriction by efficiency.



AGRI SA'S RESOLVE: DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ARISING FROM WATER SYMPOSIUM

The following draft resolution was formulated for adoption at Agri SA's National Congress.

- 1. Agri SA and its affiliated members affirm their commitment to the full and proper implementation and enforcement of South Africa's National Water Act and the values that underpin it.**
- 2. Agri SA and its affiliated members fully recognise and acknowledge that:**
 - i. Water is a scarce national resource which occurs in many different forms which is part of a unitary, inter-dependant cycle;
 - ii. The ultimate aim of water resource management is to achieve the sustainable use of water for the benefit of all users;
 - iii. National Government has the overall responsibility for and authority over the nation's water resources and their use;
 - iv. All aspects of water resources need to be managed in an integrated manner which, where appropriate, requires the delegation of management functions to a regional or catchment level in order to enable meaningful participation by all water users; and
 - v. The protection of the quality of water resources and the proper maintenance of the infrastructure which enables its use are vital to ensuring the sustainability of South Africa's agricultural sector.
- 3. Agri SA and its affiliated members therefore commit to actively support and participate in any and all initiatives aimed at:**
 - i. Ensuring that water uses by Agri SA's affiliated members are lawful in accordance with the National Water Act and that the illegal use of water is not tolerated;
 - ii. Promoting water use efficiency, including through the use of appropriate metering and other technology, in order to minimise water losses and the wastage of water;
 - iii. Preventing the pollution of water and the deterioration of the infrastructure which enables its use;
 - iv. Enabling and assisting with the rapid finalisation of the verification and validation of existing lawful water use entitlements of the agricultural sector;
 - v. Progressively advancing a fully inclusive and representative agricultural sector which contributes to a prosperous and stable State and region;
 - vi. Promoting and assisting in the identification and rapid development of unutilised water resources for transformation purposes;
 - vii. Assuming the rightful place of agricultural users in well-capacitated and fully functional catchment management agencies and local water management institutions; and
 - viii. Fostering and strengthening a relationship of responsible citizenry, accountability and mutual trust with government.

CONCLUSION

Agri SA is proud to have hosted a successful symposium dealing with agriculture's water challenges. We would again like to express our appreciation for the contribution and support of our members, the speakers and esteemed guests. The event led to the coming together of individuals from the agri-water sector and the formulation of measurable action points between government and Agri SA. Agri SA looks forward to hosting this event again in 2020.