



**rural development
& land reform**
Department:
Rural Development and Land Reform
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**
Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Agri-Hubs Identified by the Province



**agriculture and
rural development**
Department of
Agriculture and Rural Development
FREE STATE PROVINCE



FREE STATE PROVINCE

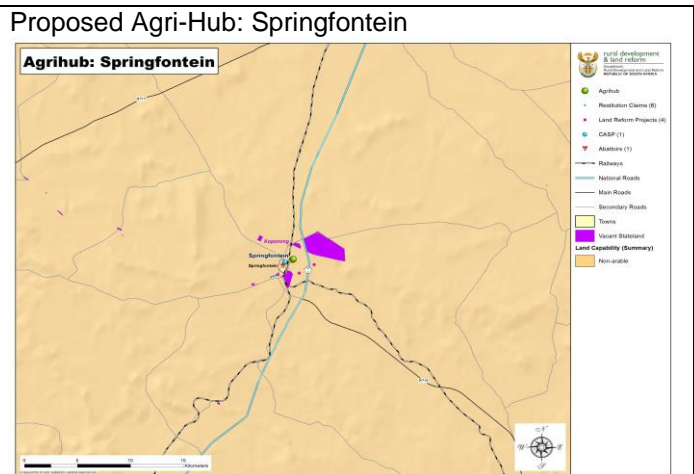
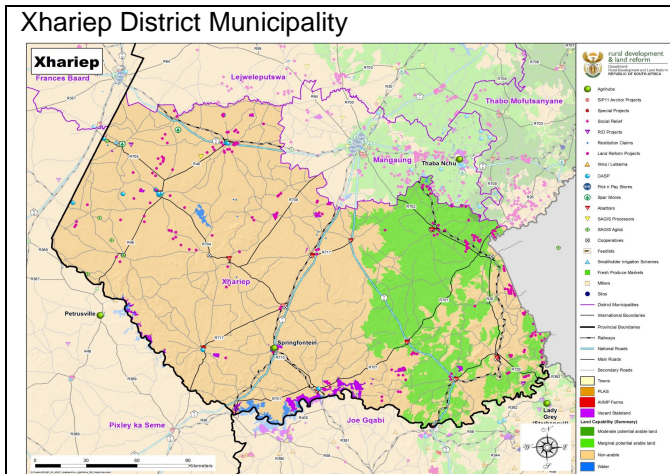
27 PRIORITY DISTRICTS		
PROVINCE	DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY	PROPOSED AGRI-HUB
Free State	Xhariep	Springfontein
17 Districts		
PROVINCE	DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY	PROPOSED AGRI-HUB
Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyane	Tshiame (Harrismith)
	Lejweleputswa	Wesselsbron
	Fezile Dabi	Parys
	Mangaung	Thaba Nchu

Springfontein Mega Agri Park



SECTION 1: 27 PRIORITY DISTRICTS

FREE STATE PROVINCE



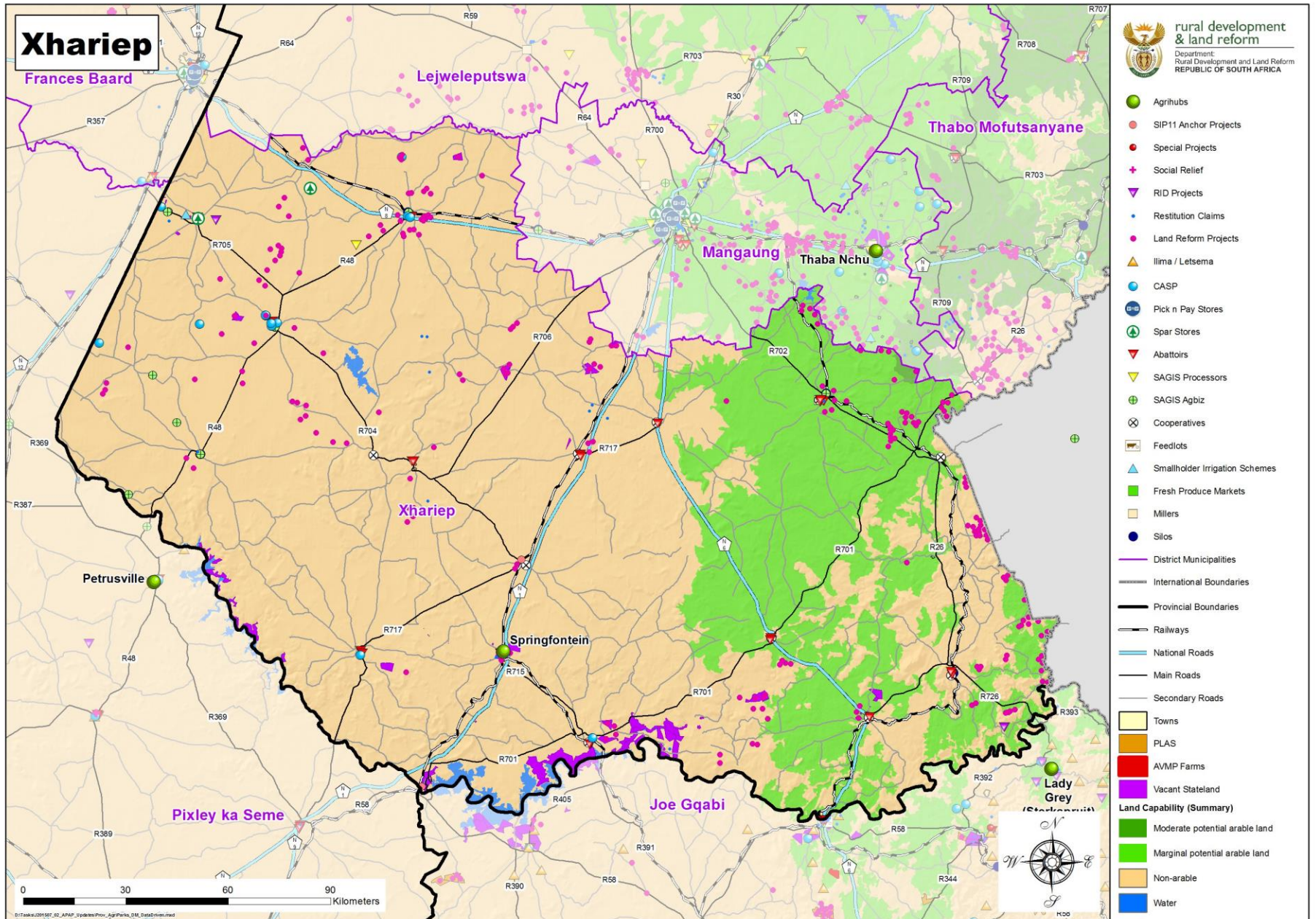
District Context

The XDM covers the largest area in the FSP, yet has the lowest population, making it the least densely populated district in the province. It borders Motheo District Municipality (Mangaung and Naledi Local Municipalities) and Lejweleputswa District Municipality (Tokologo) to the north, Letsotho to the east and the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape to the south and west respectively. The DM comprises three LMs: Letsemeng, Kopanong and Mohokare. Total Area: 37 674km². Xhariep District Municipality is a Category C municipality situated in the southern part of the Free State. It is currently made up of four local municipalities: Letsemeng, Kopanong, Mohokare and Naledi, which include 21 towns. Its administrative headquarters are in Trompsburg, which lies 125km south of Bloemfontein. The towns in this district boast abundant natural resources such as water and agricultural land. The largest dam in South Africa is situated at the southern tip of the district. Three national roads (N1 – Gauteng to Cape Town, N6 – Eastern Cape to Bloemfontein and N8 – Bloemfontein to Kimberley) pass through this area. Cities/Towns: Bethulie, Dewetsdorp, Edenburg, Fauresmith, Gariep Dam, Jacobsdal, Jagersfontein, Koffiefontein, Luckhoff, Oppermansgronde, Petrusburg, Philippolis, Reddersburg, Rouxville, Smithfield, Springfontein, Trompsburg, Van Stadensrus, Waterkloof, Wepener, Zastron. Main Economic Sectors: Agriculture, construction,

Demographics

Xhariep has an estimated population of approximately 146 259 people. Its population size has grown with a lesser average of 2.21% per annum since 1996, compared to that of province (2.6%). The district has a fairly even population distribution with most people (41%) residing in Kopanong whilst Letsemeng and Mohokare accommodate only 32% and 27% of the total population, respectively. The majority of people living in Xhariep (almost 69%) are young and not many changes have been experienced in the age distribution of the region since 1996. Only 5% of the total population is elderly people. The gender composition has also shown very little change since 1996, with 50,8% of the total population being female. The total number of households is 45368 with an average household size of 3.2 (Census 2011). Unemployment is at 26.8% with 62.9% of the population in the 15 to 64 years age group.

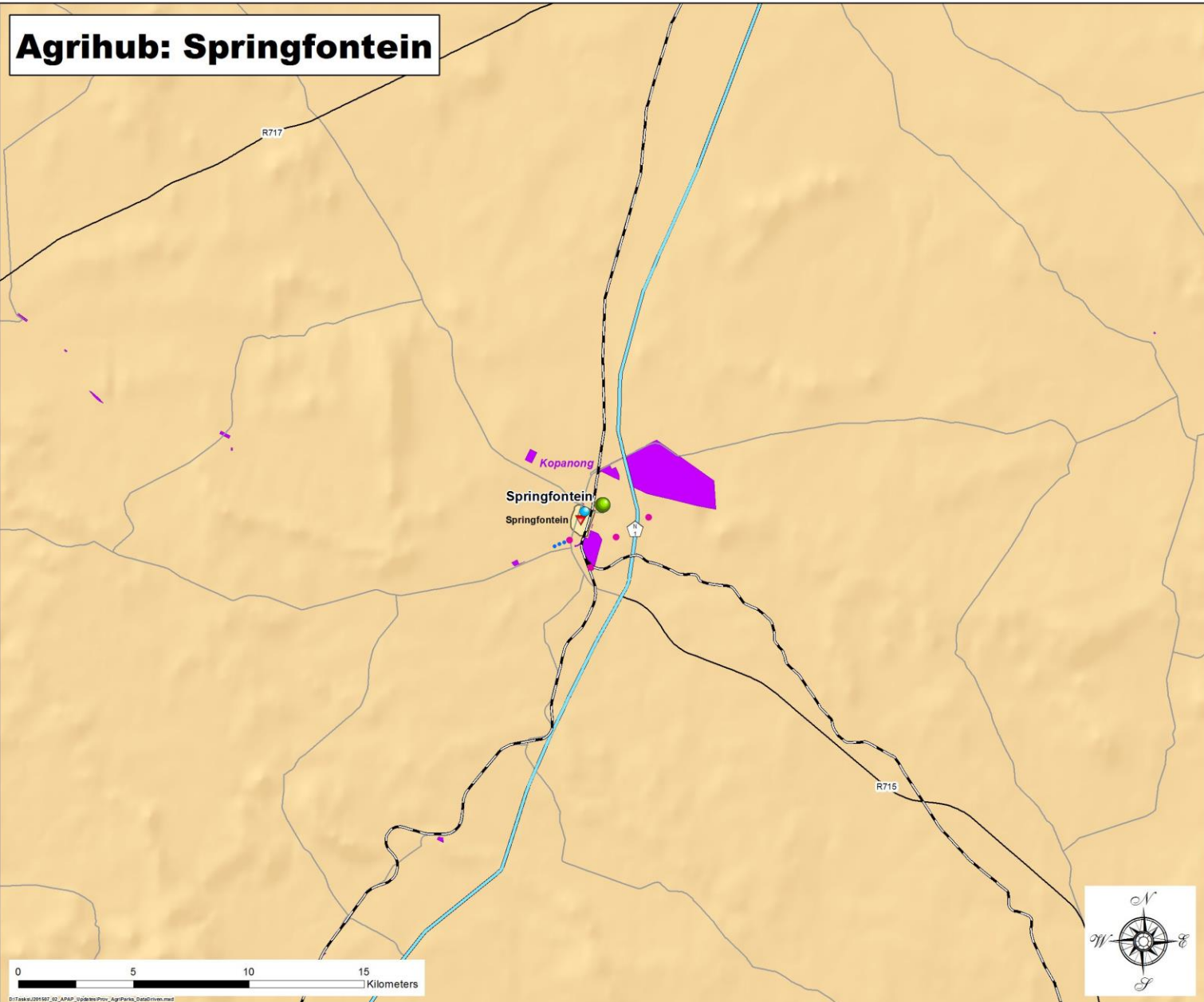
mining, transport and communication.	
<p>Agriculture</p> <p>The district of Xhariep is characterised with extensive agricultural activities. The area around Koffiefontein is suited for the production of cotton, pomegranate, olives, persimmons, watermelon, canteloupe, cactus pear, lucerne, pistachio, almonds, squash, pumpkin and potato. The areas surrounding both Zastron and Dewetsdorp are suited to the production of <i>Cenchrus Ciliaris</i>. The district is suited for the production smallstock farming, given the arid conditions of the area, especially within the Koffiefontein area. Xhariep is one of the poorest municipalities in the Free State and struggles with high levels of unemployment and poverty. There is also an existing initiative from Department of Water Affairs for the expansion of water supply in the Jagersfontein/Fauresmith area. According to them the economy of the region "...will be significantly boosted as the existing water users (domestic and agricultural) are provided with a reliable water supply that encourages economic productivity. In addition the establishment of emerging farmers (as one of the priorities of the Orange Riet and Kalkfontein Water User Associations) will be feasible and thus promoted". According to the Industrial Development Corporation the Xhariep area is also ideally suited to sustain "green energy" or biogas. There are cash crops such as maize, beans and potatoes. Maize is the main agricultural field crop in the area which emerging farmers concentrate and have a reliable market on. However, vegetable gardens are gaining momentum and have potential market growth. Potatoes are grown mainly at a subsistence level with no intention of selling or processing for income. With the main agricultural activity focusing on maize farming, consultations with the major stakeholder in maize industry, AGRI-SA, has encouraged small maize growers to have economic sustainable businesses, and small maize growers in black areas are encouraged to grow more.</p>	<p>Analysis</p> <p>After scrutinizing all available information the Province identified Springfontein as a location for the Agri-hub based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent road (N1) and railway connectivity • Potential vacant state land to the north of the location • Land Reform acquisition projects to the south of the location • CASP project to the north of the location • Good water supply from the Xhariep dam to the south • AVMP farms to the south east of the location • Cooperative to the south east and north of the location • Land care project to the south east of the location • Enterprise area : woolled sheep only • Area is not suitable for cultivation • Location is not an EDD district gateway • One CASP 15-16 Project to the north of the proposed location • Good location for a Red Meat abattoir



Agrihub: Springfontein

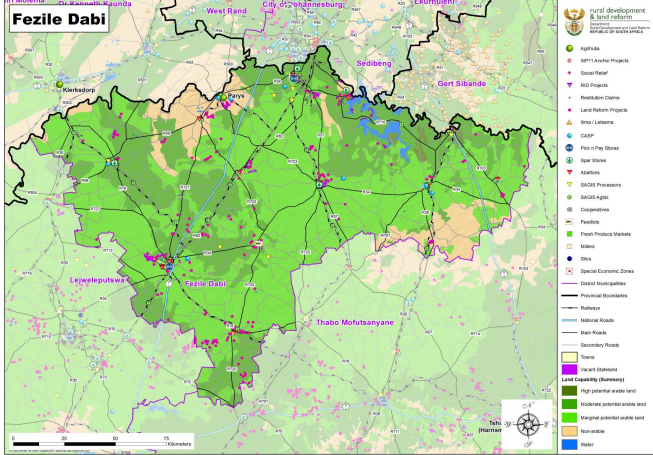
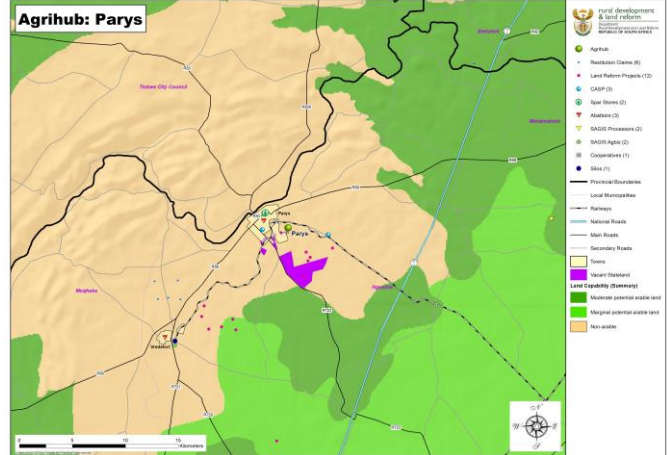


- Agrihub
- Restitution Claims (6)
- Land Reform Projects (4)
- CASP (1)
- ▼ Abattoirs (1)
- Railways
- National Roads
- Main Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Towns
- Vacant Stateland
- Land Capability (Summary)**
- Non-arable



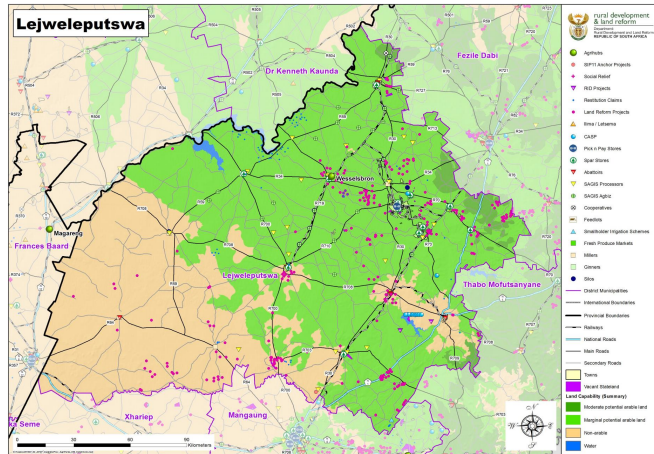
SECTION 2: 17 DISTRICTS

FREE STATE PROVINCE

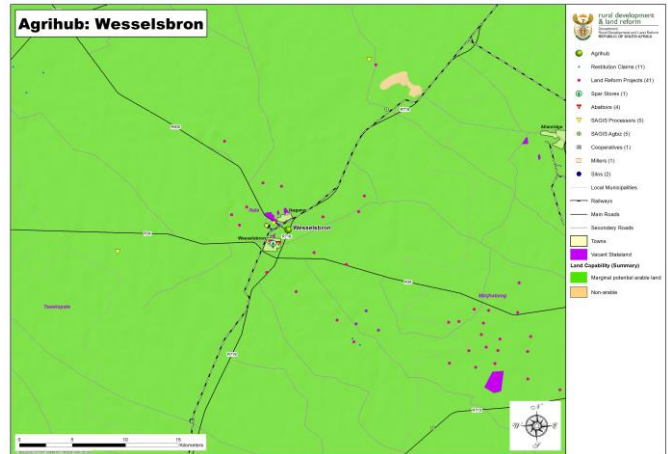
<p>Fezile Dabi District Municipality</p> 	<p>Proposed Agri-Hub: Parys</p> 
<p>District Context</p> <p>Total Area: 20 668km². The Fezile Dabi District Municipality is a Category C municipality established in terms of the Free State Provincial Notice 113 of 28 September 2000. It was formerly known as the Northern Free State District Municipality and consists of four local municipalities: Moqhaka, Metsimaholo, Ngwathe and Mafube. It is estimated that this area's population represents approximately 17% of the total population of the Free State. The extent of this district makes up about 27% of the total area of the Free State province. The main attraction site, the Vredefort Dome, being the third-largest meteorite site in the world, is located within the district. Cities/Towns: Cornelia, Deneyville, Edenville, Frankfort, Heilbron, Koppies, Kroonstad, Kroonstad, Oranjeville, Parys, Renovaal, Sasolburg, Steynsrus, Tweeling, Vierfontein, Viljoenskroon, Villiers, Vredefort</p> <p>Main Economic Sectors: Trade (22%), community services (20%), manufacturing (13%), households (13%), agriculture (12%), finance (7%), construction (6%), transport (5%).</p> <p>The Fezile-Dabi is a large municipal area stretching from the southern banks of the Vaal River to the major agricultural regions of the Free State. Although part of the Free State, its major economic centers" are closely inter-related with the Gauteng economy. The area of jurisdiction of Fezile Dabi covers four local municipalities, namely Metsimaholo, Moqhaka, Ngwathe, and Mafube and these local municipalities. This district municipality consists of an estimated total population of 474 089. The District forms the northern part of the Free State Province and borders Thabo Mofutsanyane, Lejweleputswa and shares provincial borders with 3 of the Provinces: Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West. The Vaal River and the Vaal Dam form the northern boundary of Fezile Dabi District Municipality and also serve as the boundary between Free State and Gauteng. Although Fezile Dabi contains 17% of the Free State is the second smallest District Municipality in the Free State covering 6.4% of the provincial area. A total area of approximately 20,668 square kilometers (15.92% of the Free State) and a total population of approximately 488 036 people (17% of the Free State). The 13 major towns within the district are: Deneyville, Edenville, Frankfort, Heilbron, Koppies, Kroonstad, Oranjeville, Parys, Sasolburg, Tweeling, Viljoenskroon,</p>	<p>Demographics</p> <p>The district has a population of around 488 000 people and a per capita income of around R23500. This population figure represents approximately 17% of the Free State Provincial total population of 2,706,775. The total number of households is 142 933. The majority of the population in the district is situated in Moqhaka Local Municipality (FS201), which accounts for 32,89% of the population of the district. It is followed by Metsimaholo Local Municipality (FS204), which accounts for 30,55% of the district, then followed by Ngwathe Local Municipality (FS203), which accounts for 24,69% of the district population. Mafube Local Municipality (FS205) has the smallest population percentage in the district, and makes up 11,86% of the population. Metsimaholo Local Municipality has the highest population density of (90 people/ km²) followed by Moqhaka Local Municipality (21, 5 persons /km²), Ngwathe Local Municipality (13,5 persons /km²) and Mafube Local Municipality (11.7 persons). The current population of the district area is estimated at 500994. Population growth in the District area has been slow at 0,48% since 2000, slightly higher than the Provincial growth rate of 0,39%. Unemployment rate is at 33.9% with 65.8% of the total population in the 15 to 64 year age group. There are 144980 households with an average household size of 3.2. 38.6% of all households are headed by females.</p>

<p>Villiers and Vredefort and majority of the people speak Sesotho.</p>	
<p>Agriculture</p> <p>The majority of land within Fezile Dabi District Municipality is rural of nature where the agricultural sector contributes 18.7% to the local economy. Apart from the high-tech industrialized Sasolburg area in the north, the remainder of the area has a strong agricultural base. Cattle and sheep farming provide opportunities for the processing of meat, wool and dairy products. Maize, sunflower seed, sorghum and wheat are cultivated. As a rural area, agriculture must play a key role in development. The district has a total of 327 592ha (15,4% of all agricultural land in the province) of high potential agricultural land and 59% of agricultural land has low potential. Land needs to be optimally used for agriculture and food production. Only 4 317ha of land is irrigated land in the district. Provision of irrigation systems can assist in improving the agricultural sector production. Informal agricultural activities are found on farms and small holdings and formal, commercial agricultural activities on the larger farms. Commercial farming activities take up the largest land within Fezile Dabi District Municipality and include crop and animal production. Agriculture plays an important role in the local economy and general survival of the area. All farming activities have some level of environmental impact owing to the disturbance of natural habitats (e.g. Ploughing, intensive fertilisation and groundwater extraction). It is desirable that all large existing commercial farming enterprises should formulate Environmental Management Plans which need to will be monitored by an EMO on a regular basis, ensuring that the impacts remain at a minimum. New enterprises will undergo an environmental impact assessment process in order to determine the positive and negative impacts of such an enterprise on t he greater environment. Farmers should be educated and informed of all natural habitats and those with high biodiversity values. They need to be encouraged not to disturb these habitats in any way and to conserve them at all costs and especially not to cultivate along water courses. Fragmentation of remaining pristine natural habitats should be prevented. No exotic vegetation must be introduced in to these areas. Subdivision of agricultural land, especially moderate to high potential agricultural land, should be discouraged and not supported. Extensive agricultural areas: Areas which were identified by the Department of Agriculture as high potential land include the Viljoenskroon District and the area between Koppies and Edenville. Intensive agriculture: The majority of intensive farming (irrigation) occurs in close proximity to the Koppies urban centre (Koppies Dam) and in isolated pockets along the Vaal River and its tributaries. An agricultural sector plan was developed in 2010 by the municipality.</p>	<p>Analysis</p> <p>After scrutinizing all available information the town of Parys is proposed as a location for the establishment of an Agri-hub based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Agri-Park in the vicinity of Parys will make sense as it is close to Gauteng and markets via the R59 and N1 national road • Proximity to the Vaal Dam and Vaal River as a major source of water • There are a few Land Reform Acquisition Projects to the south of the proposed location <p>There are a few Restitution Claims to the south west of the proposed location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Grain Silo at Viljoenskroon to the south west of the proposed location • There are 2 land care projects to the south west of the proposed location <p>Road connectivity is good and the road surface is good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASP Project and Ilima-Letsema project to the east of the proposed location • There are 2 SPAR food stores, Cooperative at Parys Town • Land Capability is non-arable to Marginal to Moderate • Enterprise area is maize, cattle and woolled sheep • There is a CRDP{ site at Viljoenskroon to the south west of the proposed location • Location is surrounded by the poorest wards (PIMD) • Parys town is not an EDD District or Regional gateway • There are a few CASP 15-16 Projects near the proposed location • Close to Sasolburg which is an EDD district gateway

Lejweleputswa District Municipality



Proposed Agri-Hub: Wesselsbron



District Context

The area of jurisdiction of Lejweleputswa District Municipality includes the following five municipalities: Masilonyana, Tokologo, Tswelopele, Matjhabeng, Nala. The district is predominantly known as the Free State Goldfields which forms a part of the larger Witwatersrand basin. The spatial planning for Lejweleputswa indicates that the district has 3 190 855 hectares of area which constitutes about 26.4% of the total provincial land area of approximately 12 969 028 hectares. Total Area: 31 930km² Description: Lejweleputswa District Municipality is situated in the north-western part of the Free State province and borders the North West province to the north, Fezile Dabi and Thabo Mofutsanyana to the north-east and east respectively, Mangaung and Xhariep to the south, and the Northern Cape province to the west. It is accessible from Johannesburg, Cape Town, Klerksdorp and Kimberley along the N1, one of the country's main national roads. The district has the second-largest area in the province with 24.3% of the area of the Free State. It consists of the following five local municipalities, with approximately 18 towns distributed throughout: Masilonyana, Tokologo, Tswelopele, Matjhabeng and Nala.. Cities/Towns: Allanridge, Boshof, Bothaville, Brandfort, Bultfontein, Dealesville, Hennenman, Hertzogville, Hoopstad, Odendaalsrus, Soutpan, Theunissen, Ventersburg, Verkeerdevlei, Virginia, Welkom, Wesselsbron, Winburg. Main Economic Sectors: Mining (31%), construction, transport, electricity, trade

Agriculture

+65% of agricultural output in the District comes from Tswelopele and Nala. There has been a cursory concentration in this area which practically must be considered as a substitute for the mining activity in the long run. The district is among a number of districts in the province that has better natural endowments that can provide agricultural produce and improve on the GGP of the district. There are prospects for the development of commercial agricultural zones in the district. This is made possible by the availability of water and soil type. The Vet and Sand Rivers, the Vaal and the Vals Rivers can be used for irrigation and intensive agriculture respectively. The existing water sources in the district provide opportunities for both intensive agriculture as well as expansion on intensive agriculture. It therefore suggests that existing amounts of production in products such as sunflower, wheat, and maize can be maximized. Some of the existing pieces of land throughout the district have all along been identified for stock farming and as nature conservation areas. In particular Tokologo Local Municipality has an advantage regarding the vast pieces of land that are currently being utilized for stock farming. Most of the productive pieces of land are privately owned and therefore it is then up to other government departments to assist

Demographics

The district has 639 651 people (2007) with 202 391 households. As employment figures decline and unemployment increasing, so is the picture of poverty getting much worrisome. There is a correlation among the declining numbers of employed people as well as the unemployment rate which both have affected the poverty profile. Welkom has the majority of infrastructure required for economic development. It has been the one town badly hit by unemployment as a result of slowing down of mining activities. Matjhabeng Local Municipality dominates in respect of the economic position of the District. Cumulatively, around 72% of the district's economic output is generated in Matjhabeng. Masilonyana comes second with around 10.8% of its contribution to the economy of the District. The total population is 627626 with 183163 households with an average household size of 3.2. Unemployment rate is 36.5%. 66% of the population is in the 15 to 64 years age group.

Analysis

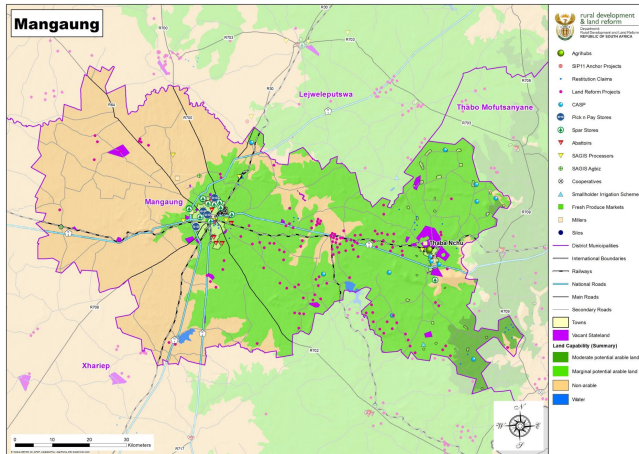
The Province has identified the town of Wesselsbron as the location for the establishment of an Agri-hub based on the following:

- An Agri-Park in the vicinity of Wesselsbron town is proposed
- There are no District level gateways in the Lejweleputswa district
- Welkom is an EDD Regional Gateway in close proximity
- There are at least 10 SPAR Food stores in the area
- There are 14 PLAS projects in the area
- Good railway connectivity
- The road conditions may vary due to actual prevailing road surface condition
- There are many Land Reform Acquisition projects in the area surrounding the proposed Agri-hub location
- There are 4 grain silos, 1 miller, and CASP and Ilima-Letsemma projects to the south and west of the proposed location
- Land capability is marginal to moderate
- Close proximity to the N1 national road
- good water supply from rivers and the dam to the south east of the proposed location
- Location surrounded by the poorest wards (PIMD)
- There are a few Land Reform implemented projects surrounding the proposed location

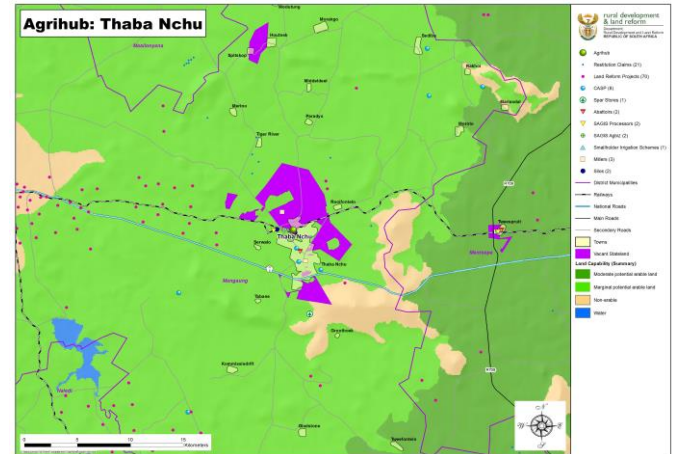
in buying out some of the contested land for redistribution purposes so that more people get involved in farming. Tswelopele and Nala local municipalities contribute 39.9% and 25.7% of the District's total agricultural production.

• There is a CASP 15-16 project to the east of Wesselsbron town

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality



Proposed Agri-Hub: Thaba Nchu



District Context

Total Area: 6 284km². Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality is a Category A municipality. It is situated in the Free State province, in the central interior of South Africa. Mangaung covers 6 863 km² and comprises three prominent urban centres, which are surrounded by an extensive rural area. It is centrally located within the Free State and is accessible via National infrastructure including the N1 (which links Gauteng with the Southern and Western Cape), the N6 (which links Bloemfontein to the Eastern Cape), and the N8 (which links Lesotho in the east with the Northern Cape in the west via Bloemfontein). Thaba Nchu is situated 12km further to the east of Botshabelo and used to be part of the Bophuthatswana “Bantustan”. As a result it exhibits a large area of rural settlements on former trusts lands. The Mangaung area comprises 3 urban centres and a surrounding rural area that accommodates both commercial and communal mixed farming. The central locality of the municipal area in relation to the rest of the country ensures that a number of major arterial and access routes transverse the area, of which the N1, N6 and N8 routes are the three national roads that link the municipal area with the rest of the country. A number of provincial, secondary and tertiary roads have also been established to complement the national road network. Cities/Towns: Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, Mangaung, Thaba Nchu. Main Economic Sectors: Community services (35.3%), finance (26.8%), trade (16%), transport (11.8%), manufacturing (3.5%).

Demographics

According to statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in 2011, there were 747 431 people of which the black population group representing 83.2% were in the majority. This figure increased by 16% over a ten year period, 534429 in 2001 to 622383 in 2011 and there were more women 385 245 than men; 362186 in 2011. At the same time, women seem to live longer than men, the population of Mangaung is fairly young. The average household size in 2001 was 3,4% and in 2011 the size has decreased to 3,2%. Although the majority of households are headed by men, female headed households are also increasing rapidly from 40,6% in 2001 to 40,8% in 2011. The creation of employment opportunities amongst semi- and unskilled persons remains a challenge. According to Stats SA unemployment rate is at 27.7% in 2011 as compared to 40,1 % in 2001. Of the 292 971 economically active (employed or unemployed but looking for work) people in Mangaung, 27,7% are unemployed. 37,2% of the 150 128 economically active youth (15 – 34 years) in the area are unemployed. Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and Mangaung township residents are the worst affected. In fact, Botshabelo is considered to be one of the most deprived areas in the district and amongst the poorest in the Free State. In addition to facing economic hardship residents of these areas continue to experience inadequate levels of services compared to well -developed suburbs in Bloemfontein. There are 231921 households in the Mangaung Metro. Unemployment rate is at 27.7%.

Agriculture

The rural area is characterised by extensive commercial farming in the west, mainly mixed crop production and cattle farming. There is intensive farming along the lower drainage area of the Modder River in the north -west and the west. The area surrounding Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo is Trust land, which is utilised by subsistence and small farmers. The area is also characterised by high unemployment rates. Most employed people are migrant workers in Bloemfontein and elsewhere, due to the limited employment opportunities in the area. Glen Agricultural College to the north of Bloemfontein is an asset to the rural area, especially in offering support to the establishment and sustenance of emerging farmers. Several dams are located in the rural area of which the Krugersdrift Tierpoort , Mockes , Rustfontein and Groothoek dams are some of the more prominent water sources. There are disturbing trends in the growth patterns of economic sectors in Mangaung Agriculture has dropped from 1,5% to 1,2 % and indications are that it will stagnate at this percent until 2016. Thaba Nchu is located 67 km east from Bloemfontein and has a more scattered development pattern with 37 villages surrounding the urban centre, some as far as 35 kilometres from the closest urban centre. 4 of these villages have

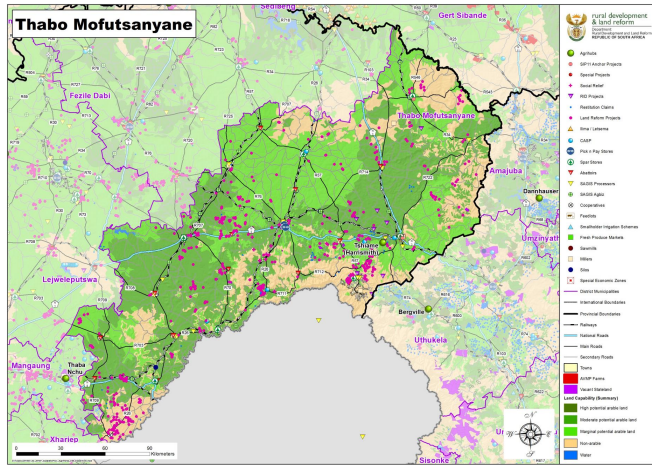
Analysis

Based on the provincial analysis it was decided that Thaba Nchu be identified as the location for the Agri-hub based on the following:

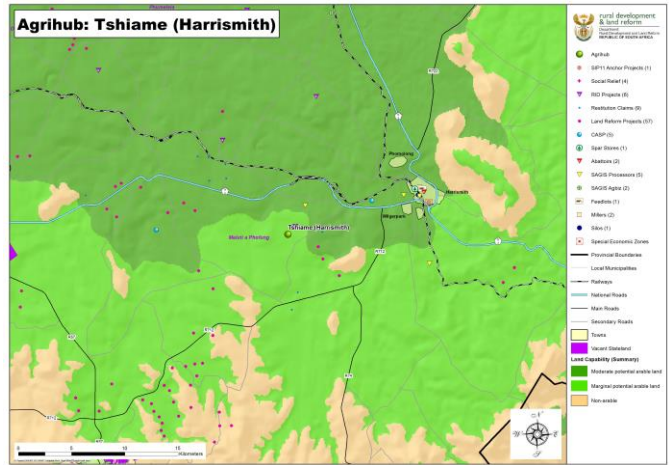
- Excellent road (N9) and railway line connectivity which links with Lesotho
- Land Capability is Marginal
- Potential vacant state land at the location
- Many Land Reform acquisition projects in the area
- Miller, Grain Silo, Spar, Land Care project in the area
- Small holder irrigation scheme to the south of the location
- Good water supply (dams and rivers in the area)
- Close to the Botshabelo CRDP site
- Surrounded by the poor wards
- Close to the Mangaung International airport
- a few CASP 15-16 projects in close proximity to the proposed location
- source of water to the south west as a dam

recently been formalised. The area is characterised by vast stretches of communal grazing areas that surround the urban centre. Many residents still keep cattle within the urban area and this creates a problem to residents. Thaba Nchu has always been a major service centre to the Eastern Free State with many government departments establishing regional offices in this area.

Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality



Proposed Agri-Hub: Tshiame (Harrismith)



District Context

The Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality (DC19) is located in the north east portion of the Free State. It contains the following local municipalities within its area of jurisdiction: Setsoto Local Municipality (FS191), Dihlabeng Local Municipality (FS192), Nketoana Local Municipality (FS193), Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality (FS194) Phumelela Local Municipality (FS195). Total Area: 33 269km². Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality is a Category C municipality located in the eastern Free State province, and borders on Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal. It is named after Edwin Thabo Mofutsanyana, a stalwart of the communist party. It comprises six local municipalities: Setsoto, Dihlabeng, Nketoana, Maluti-A-Phofung, Phumelela and Mantsopa. The N3 and N5 National Roads pass through the district, and the famous Golden Gate is found in the area on the slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains. Despite all the socio-economic challenges facing this district, the area has huge potential for tourism development because of its scenic beauty and its rich cultural heritage. Cities/Towns: Arlington, Bethlehem, Clarens, Clocolan, Excelsior, Ficksburg, Fouriesburg, Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Harrismith, Hobhouse, Kestell, Ladybrand, Lindley, Marquard, Memel, Paul Roux, Petrus Steyn, Phuthaditjhaba, Reitz, Rosendal, Senekal, Thaba Patchoa, Tweespruit, Vrede, Warden

Main Economic Sectors: Agriculture, tourism

Agriculture

The Thabo Mofutsanyana District is regarded as one of the most fertile areas in the Free State and consequently one of the most productive agricultural areas. The agricultural sector does, however, experience serious financial strain with high production costs. Natural and other disasters contribute to the poor state of the sector. Another detrimental factor is the poor state of roads and transportation with trains are not safe. The sector is still dominated by white farmers, but the government and commercial farmers are putting in an effort to build capacity with previously disadvantaged people. Funds to buy land for emerging farmers are often not enough to also fund equipment and tools. The slow pace of land reform hampers the inclusion of black farmers within the sector. Although support is available, emerging farmers experience a problem in accessing information and support from the Department of Agriculture. People need on the ground training and constant monitoring. It was felt strongly that farms should only be sold to people that are really interested in farming and strict criteria should be used to identify emerging farmers. Support programmes that will be to the mutual benefit of commercial and emerging farmers should be investigated and implemented. Recent commonage and small scale farming developments proved not to be successful due to lack of commitment, management and other skills. Commonages are

Demographics

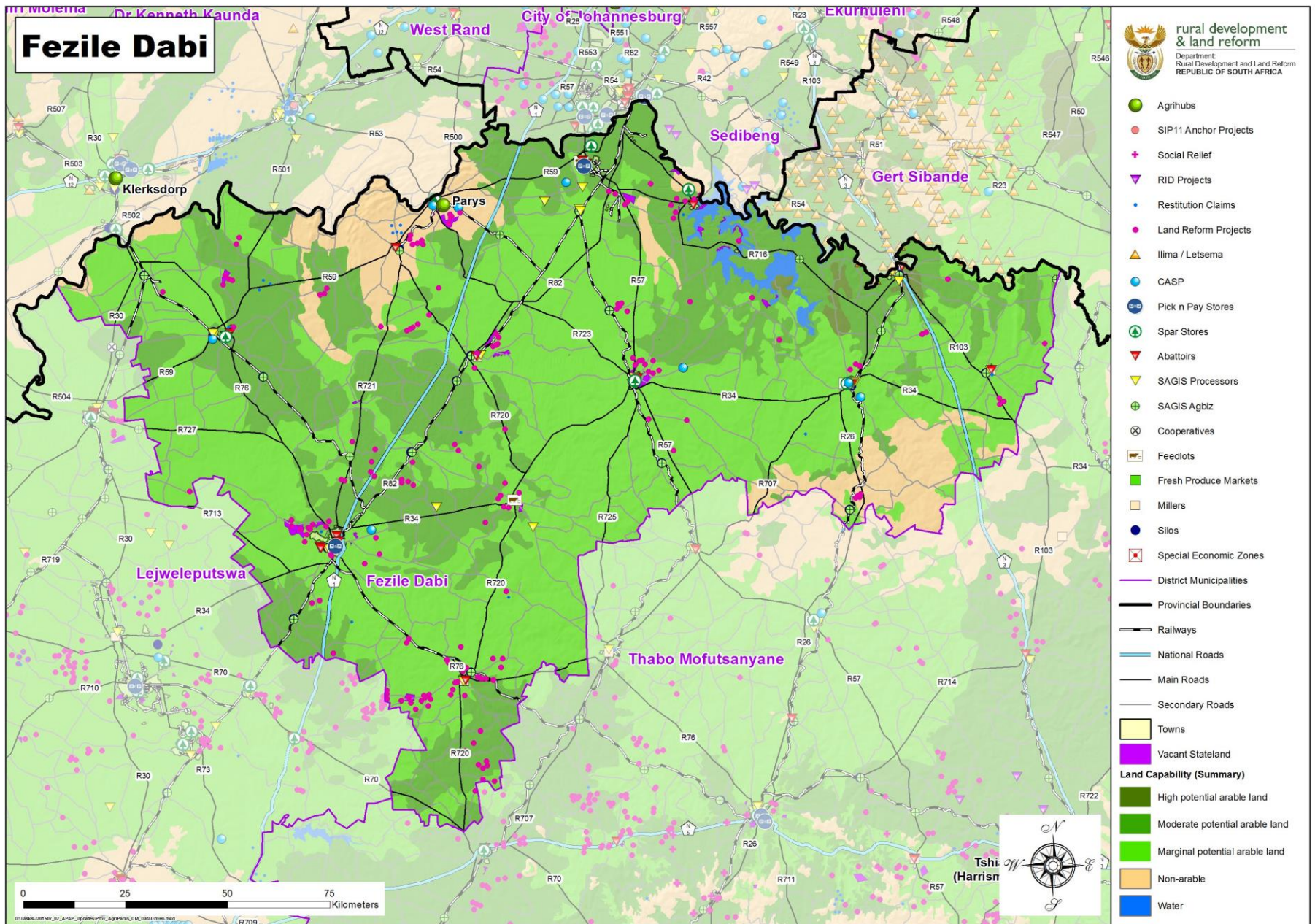
The district has a total population of 736238 with 217884 households. The population of DC19 accounts for 25% of the population of the province, with most of the population in the district situated in FS194 (55.5% of the district population and 13.8% of the provincial population). FS195 has the smallest population percentage within the district, with 5% of the district population and only 1.2% of the provincial population. There is 62.6% of the population that is in the 15 to 64 years age group. Average household size is 3.3, with an unemployment rate of 35.1%. Female headed households are at 46.5%.

Analysis

The Province has identified Tshiame town as the best location for the establishment of an Agri-hub based on the following:

- Close Proximity to Lesotho
- It is an EDD District Gateway
- Located on the N3 corridor between Gauteng and Durban and the N5 from Bethlehem
- There are at least 5 RID projects to the west of the proposed location
- Harrismith is an EDD district gateway
- There are many Land Reform acquisition projects to the west and south of the proposed location
- There are a few Restitution claims to the north of the location
- There is a CASP project to the west, SPAR food store, feedlot, miller and grain silo at the proposed location
- Agricultural potential is marginal to moderate
- Close proximity to a CRDP site to the north west of Harrismith town
- Location surrounded by the poorest wards (PIMD)
- Road network should be excellent but main roads actual surface conditions may vary
- There is one land care project to the north east of the proposed location
- Grain silo very far north of the proposed location
- There are many Restitution claims to the west and south of the

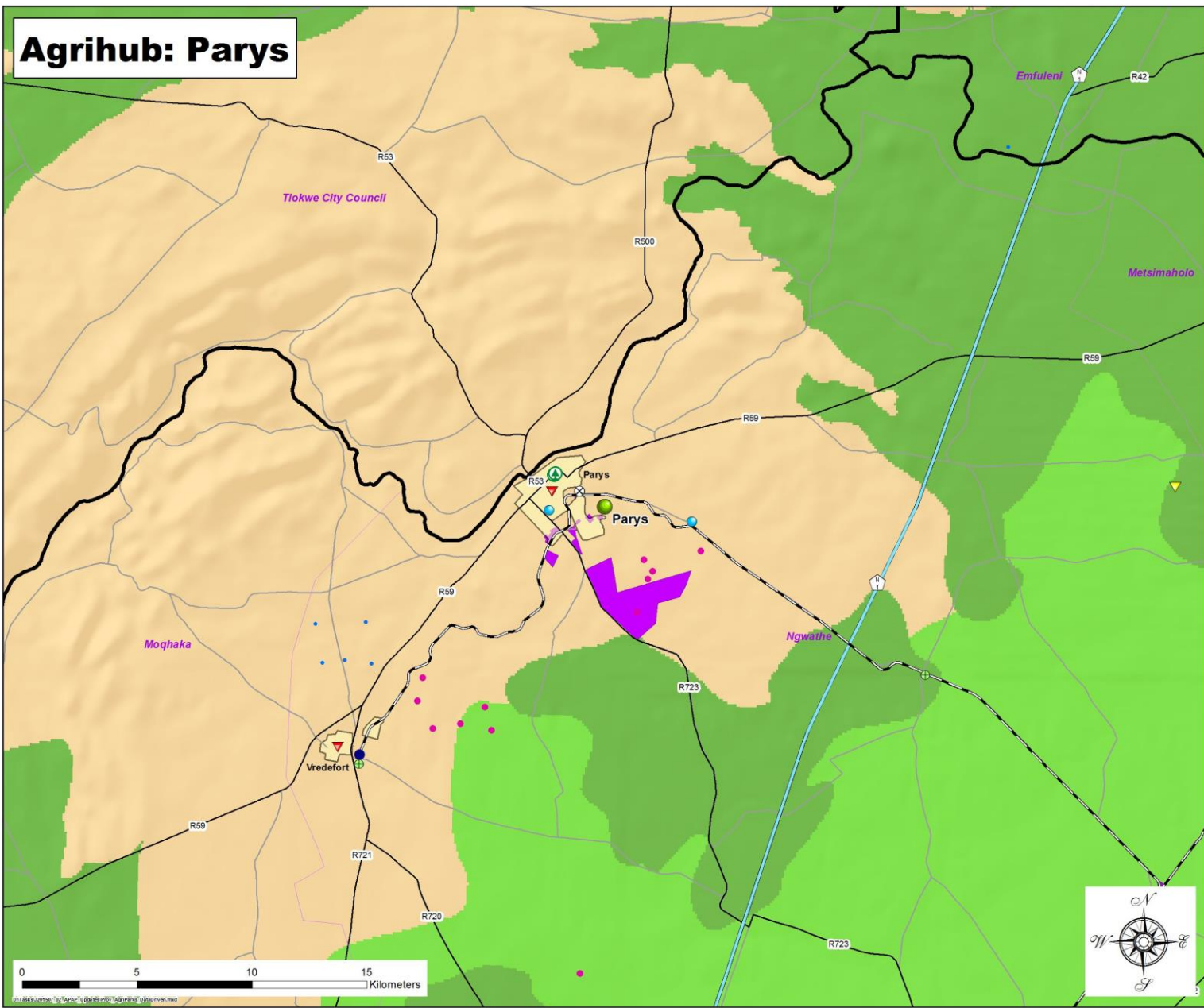
<p>in many instances to big for effective management and the management structures for commonages are not functioning properly due to a number of reasons. Agri-processing is virtually non-existent, especially on a large scale, although the region has a good potential in relation to future markets. There are very few emerging farmers in the Thabo Mofutsanyana area and they are finding it difficult to improve their positions. Commonages are not managed well and unsustainable practices have a detrimental effect on the commonages. It is felt that support in managing commonages is available, but there is no land to increase the commonages.</p> <p>Dihlabeng: Virtually, the larger part of the region that is suitable for cultivation is being utilised (48%) and only 1% could still be developed for that purpose. Stock farming (47%) is mainly extensive, focussing on grazing and specifically dairy farming in the Bethlehem area. Areas utilised for cultivation are predominantly cultivated with maize and wheat and to a lesser extent sunflower and sorghum. The production of maize and wheat within the former Bethlehem magisterial district is above the average for that of the Free State.</p> <p>Maluti A Phofung: The rural environment is characterized by diverse land uses and land practices, which presents the opportunity for different economic opportunities. The area to the south is characterized by the former QwaQwa area with communal land practices and the mountainous areas with a multitude of tourism attractions (River Systems and Golden Gate Highlands National Park). This area also forms part of the Maluti – Drakensberg Transfrontier Park.</p> <p>Nketoana: Agriculture forms the economic base of the Lindley and Petrus Steyn Districts, as it contributes a great deal to the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) of Nketoana. Maize, wheat and potatoes are by far the most important agricultural products produced in the district. Apart from the above, sheep and cattle farming also takes place on a large scale within the area.</p> <p>Setsoto: Although all types of different farming activities occur throughout the area, it appears as if livestock farming is more evident in the central and western parts of the study area, whilst crop farming is more evident in the northern and eastern parts. More specialised crop farming as well as fruit and vegetable farming are again concentrated in the southern parts of the study area, mainly around Ficksburg and Clocolan.</p>	<p>proposed location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many PLAS Projects to the far east in Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces • A few CASP 15-16 projects to the east and west of the proposed location • Good road and railway connectivity • Land capability is marginal to moderate
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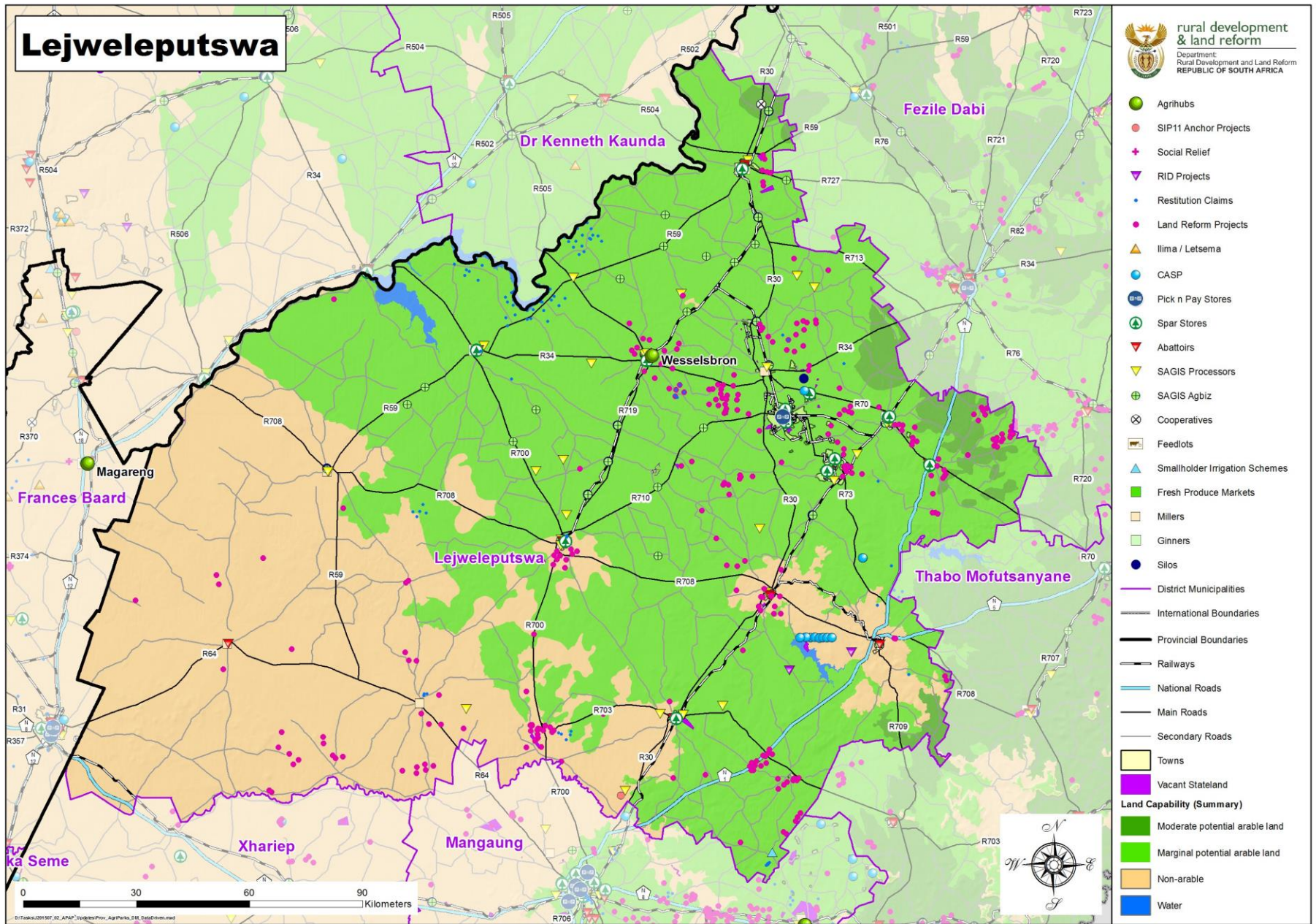


Agrihub: Parys



- Agrihub
- Restitution Claims (6)
- Land Reform Projects (12)
- CASP (3)
- ⊕ Spar Stores (2)
- ▼ Abattoirs (3)
- ▼ SAGIS Processors (2)
- ⊕ SAGIS Agbiz (2)
- ⊗ Cooperatives (1)
- Silos (1)
- Provincial Boundaries
- Local Municipalities
- Railways
- National Roads
- Main Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Towns
- Vacant Stateland
- Land Capability (Summary)**
- Moderate potential arable land
- Marginal potential arable land
- Non-arable

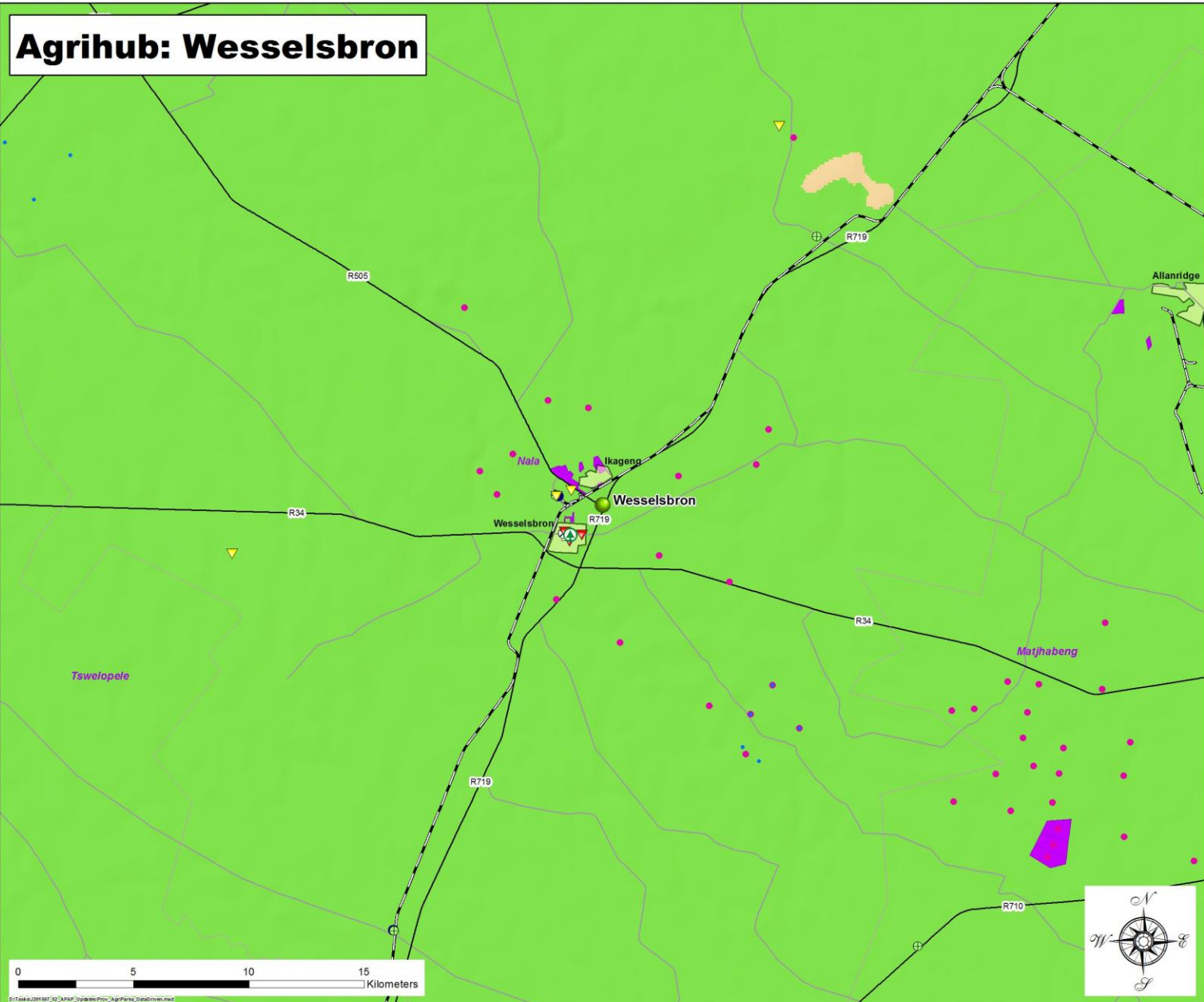


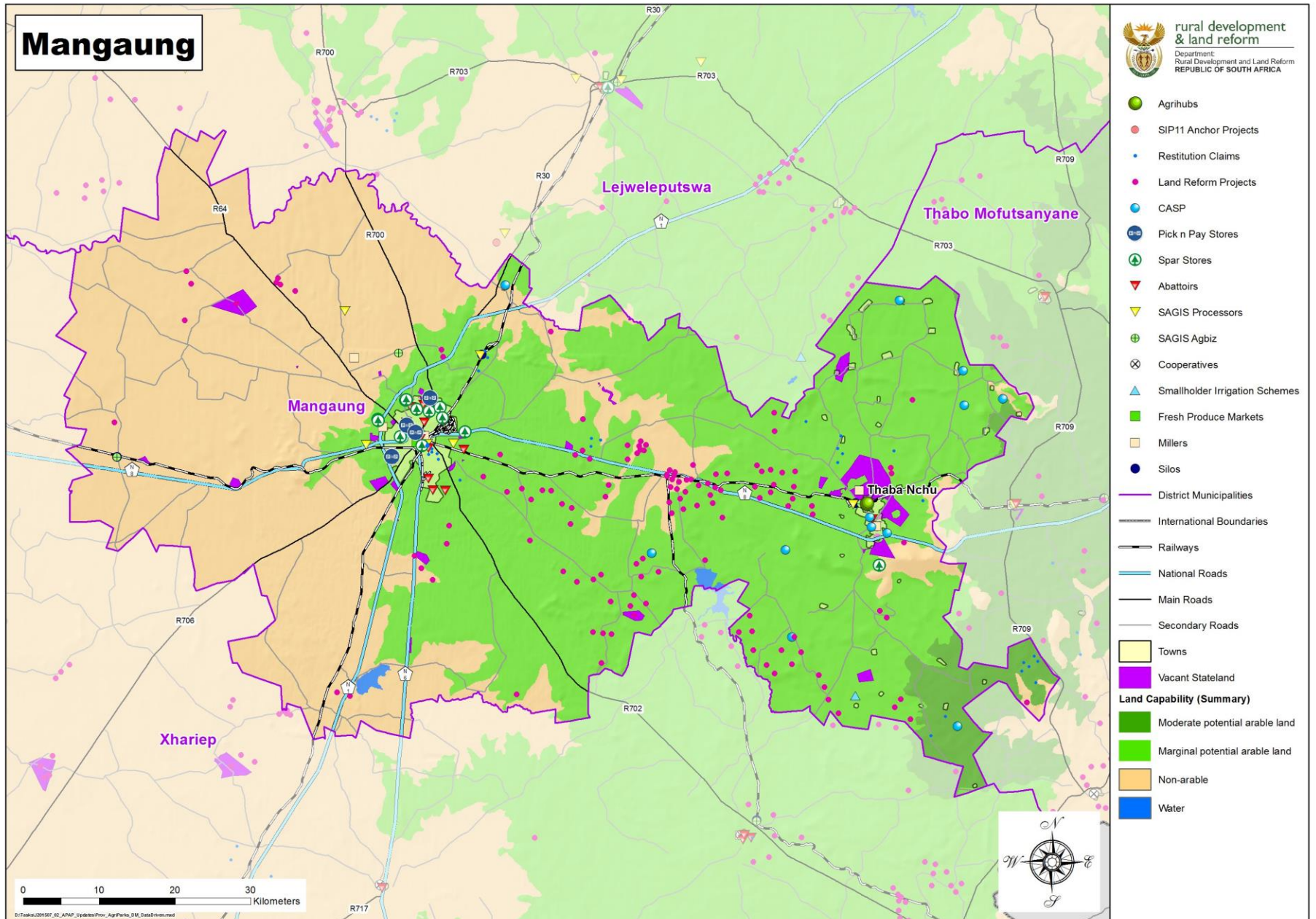


Agrihub: Wesselsbron



- Agrihub
- Restitution Claims (11)
- Land Reform Projects (41)
- Spar Stores (1)
- Abattoirs (4)
- SAGIS Processors (5)
- SAGIS Agbiz (5)
- Cooperatives (1)
- Millers (1)
- Silos (2)
- Local Municipalities
- Railways
- Main Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Towns
- Vacant Stateland
- Land Capability (Summary)**
 - Marginal potential arable land
 - Non-arable

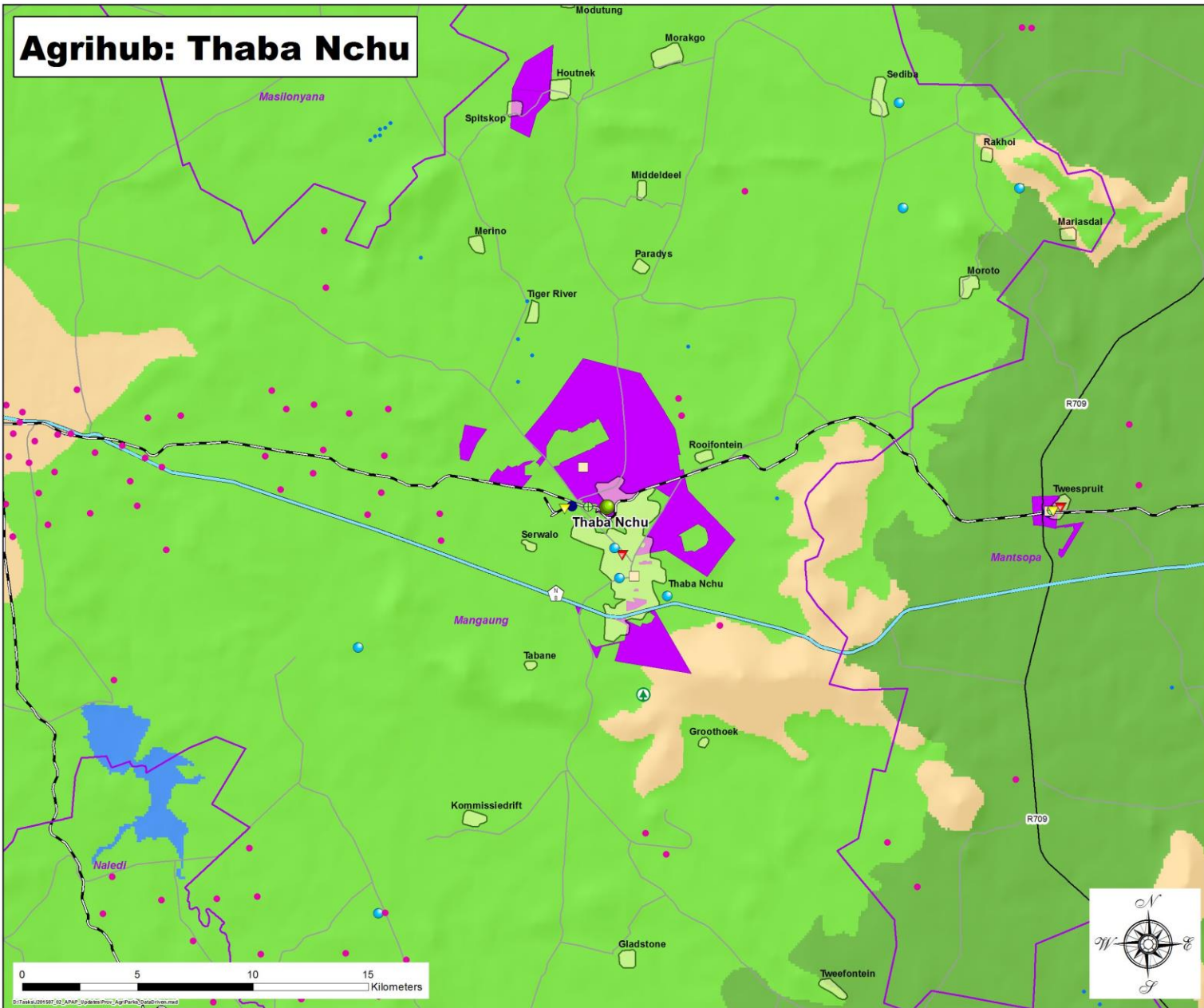




Agrihub: Thaba Nchu



- Agrihub
- Restitution Claims (21)
- Land Reform Projects (70)
- CASP (8)
- ♣ Spar Stores (1)
- ▼ Abattoirs (2)
- ▽ SAGIS Processors (2)
- ⊕ SAGIS Agbiz (2)
- ▲ Smallholder Irrigation Schemes (1)
- Millers (3)
- Silos (2)
- District Municipalities
- Railways
- National Roads
- Main Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Towns
- Vacant Stateland
- Land Capability (Summary)**
- Moderate potential arable land
- Marginal potential arable land
- Non-arable
- Water



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