

# WEBINAR

## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE ACCESS TO LAND BY WOMEN

### BENEFICIARY SELECTION AND LAND ALLOCATION POLICY

DATE: 11/08/2021

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# INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- The White Paper on South African Land Policy of 1997 states that: *The purpose of the Land Redistribution Programme is to provide the poor with land for residential and productive purposes in order to improve their livelihoods... Land redistribution is intended to assist the urban and rural poor, farmworkers, labour tenants, as well as emergent farmers.*
- However despite various land reform policy efforts initiated in the post-1994 period, more than two decades later, the inequity of land ownership has been left relatively intact. This can largely be attributed to major challenges of land reform, **foremost of which are the slow pace of land redistribution and tenure reform (in which the supply of land for farming and other purposes is still not met in areas where demand is greatest)** and the overall failure of land reform farms to sustain production as well as backlogs of land for housing in specified localities which could improve livelihoods.
- A notable number of Black South Africans, particularly women, **continue to be landless, are excluded from participating in sustainable agriculture, and live in unsustainable human settlements without sufficient livelihood resources.**



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# PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Final Report of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture (4 May 2019) has noted that **“A more systematic approach is needed to redress and correct the ills within a democratic dispensation ..... (and that) —the vast majority of South Africans are eligible for land reform, but few are provided with actual access to land.**

Therefore, **the question of who should be selected as beneficiaries, and what they are eligible to get, is of central importance.** There is a need to specify in a policy on who is to be prioritised, who is not, how scarce resources are rationed and spread across competing needs, **and how beneficiary selection from a pool of applicants is decided.”**



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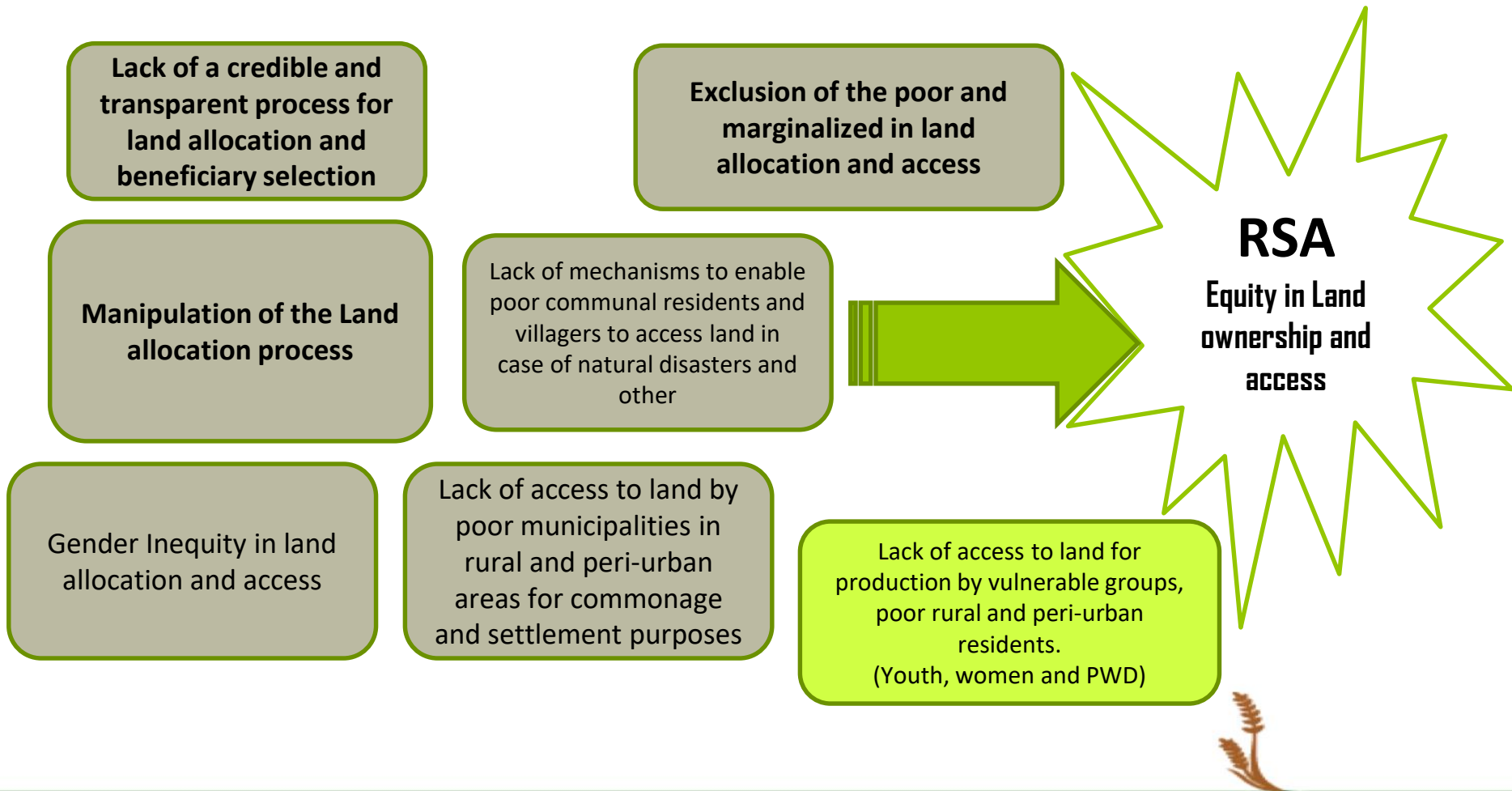


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# PROBLEM STATEMENT (Continued...)



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# PRINCIPLES FOR THE BSLA POLICY

- To promote conditions which enable the previously **disadvantaged persons** and targeted groups **to gain access to land on an equitable basis.**
- To reaching out **to women** and unemployed agricultural graduates, youth in the agricultural sector to access land and associated Agro processing value chain opportunities.
- To create a credible and transparent system of land allocation and beneficiary selection through the **creation of an online application system , National application register/database and establishment of a Land allocation and selection panels;**
- To ensure that **the diverse land needs are addressed** through the Land Redistribution programme, i.e. Agricultural production, commonage, Human settlements and other needs);
- To promote conditions which will enable a selected beneficiary to graduate and produce at the level that matches the potential of allocated land;
- To rekindle the class of black commercial farmers which were systematically destroyed by the 1913 Natives land Act,
- To ensure rural poor, landless, poor municipalities and peri-urban residents gain access to land;



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# OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

- To provide a fair , credible and transparent process and criteria for selection of beneficiaries for land allocation and leasing of State properties;
- To rekindle the class of black commercial producers who were destroyed by the 1913 Land Act,
- To support Municipalities and other local authorities establish and extend human settlements and commonages;
- To promote accountability and transparency within the Department in allocating State assets;
- To ensure qualified, suitable and deserving candidates gain access to land on an equitable basis;
- **To ensure special and targeted groups of land reform beneficiaries (youth, women, people living with disabilities and military veterans) gain access to land for production purposes;**
- To ensure that the selected beneficiaries have the skills and capacity to maintain immovable state assets;
- **To establish independent Land Allocation Panels to preside over the selection of suitable candidates for land allocation;**
- **To provide for a standardized national land application system to ensure a fair and transparent process of beneficiary selection and the rationing of resources; and**
- To provide for the creation of a Provincial and National land application register for potential beneficiaries of Land allocation.



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# SPECIAL TARGET GROUPS FOR LAND ALLOCATION

**Women** : who either have basic farming skills or demonstrate a willingness to acquire such skills; Women headed households with no or very limited access to land, even for subsistence production shall be given access to land for the advancement of women.

**Youth and Unemployed Agricultural graduates:** participants in the Department's enterprise development/incubation/apprenticeship programme and agricultural para-professionals;

**People Living with Disabilities: Persons** with no or very limited access to land, even for subsistence production. Individuals with a disability who work in an agricultural setting still face challenges of access to land will be prioritized.

**Military Veterans:** as defined in the Military Veterans Act, 2011 (Act No.18 of 2011) shall also be prioritized. This shall however exclude those who served in the Union Defense Force (prior to 1961) and the South African Defense Forces (prior to 27 April 1994), who want to venture into farming will be assessed and prioritized for access to land for production.

**Communal and stateland residents or individuals:** currently living on State owned properties and whose livelihoods depend on subsistence farming but have not form of tenure should be prioritized for land allocation by the State.

**Policy proposes 50% allocation of agricultural farming land under the Redistribution programme to smallholder farmers broken down as 50% to women, 40% to youth, 10% to people living**



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# Eligibility criteria

- Qualifying **previously disadvantaged** South African citizens
- Women, youth and persons with disabilities who meet the criteria**
- Qualifying military veterans, especially those who are unemployed;
- Natural and juristic persons who fit the description of Blacks and previously disadvantaged;
- Spouses of public servants
- Former public servants who have successfully served a cooling period of 24 months
- Politicians holding public office who have successfully served a cooling period of 12 months
- Communal farmers, township dwellers and state-land residents or individuals



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# Exclusions

- Previously advantaged citizen
- non-South African citizens
- Current and previous beneficiaries of the Land Redistribution Programme
- Farmers/ individuals/ legal entities currently leasing a State property
- Current Public Servants
- Politicians holding public office or those who have served a cooling period of 12 months



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## APPLICATION PROCESS FOR LEASING AGRICULTURAL LAND

- Land is advertised through print media and regional radio stations in order to reach as many people as possible and ensure transparency and equitable public process to eradicate any form of fraud and nepotism.
- **Provincial Selection and Allocation Panels** will:
  - Facilitate site inspections by potential applicants.
  - Shortlist potential lessees
  - Conduct interviews and verifications of farming operations
  - Recommend applicants for allocation of farms to the National Panel
- The **National Selection and Allocation Panel** shall consider recommendations from Provincial Panels and make recommendations to the departmental approving authority for a final decision.
- **As part of modernisation process, an online land offer and applications system is being finalised**, which will enable landowners willing to make land available or donate land for land reform purposes to do so. Relevant forms will be available online or in Provincial and District offices of the Department. The system will enable the Department to create a National Land Register, which will be subjected to checks for suitability in line with various government prioritisation tools such as the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) etc. Provincial and District officials shall be designated to assist those who do not have access to technology to apply.



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# PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE BSLAP

- For the past financial year 2020/21, the Department, in aligning itself to the Gender Response Planning Guidelines and the BSLAP, targeted to allocate 11 987 hectares to females across the country under the Land Redistribution programme. In the end a total of 56 869 hectares were allocated to different categories of which **34 156 hectares (translating to 60%) were allocated to 34 women** at an average of about 1 000 hectares per female.
- For Land Tenure Reform purposes, the Department managed to acquire 7 127 hectares in 2020/21, which benefited a total of 450 individuals **of which 238 were women**
- In the current Financial Year, there are 1 636 hectares already transferred to 6 labour tenant families with a total of 97 beneficiaries under the Land Tenure Reform programme. **From the 97 beneficiaries, there are 42 females.**



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## PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSLAP (Continued)

### Land Redistribution hectares Allocated 2020 - 2021

PSSC	Farms	Hectares Allocated	Hectares Allocated to Women	Number of Women
EC	2	5,692	0	0
FS	5	4,698	3,768	4
GP	5	2,573	405	4
KZN	6	8,629	4,915	7
LP	0	0	0	0
MP	7	3,375	1,234	7
NC	3	14,773	14,773	3
NW	10	9,680	3,278	3
WC	3	7,449	5,783	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>56,869</b>	<b>34,156</b>	<b>34</b>



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## PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSLAP (Continued)

- ❑ Mainstreaming of women is already part of the approved Annual Performance Plan (APP) target. 50% of land to be allocated under Land Redistribution programme in 2021/2022 is targeted for women.
- ❑ Some of the farms that are being acquired under the Land Redistribution programme are deliberately acquired for allocation to women. The adverts for allocation are explicit that only women are to apply.
- ❑ Department is in the process of calling for nominations of people who are to serve on Provincial and National Land Allocation Panels and women shall be included to serve on the Panels.



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## CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSLAP

- ❑ Limited number of applications from prioritised categories i.e women, youth and people with disability caused by limited resources (funds, equipment etc) and safety considerations.
- ❑ Invasion of farms when advertised for allocation, e.g approximately 9 farms were invaded in North West through an orchestrated plan.
- ❑ Poor quality business proposals from applicants for Category 3 (commercial farms).
- ❑ Some applicants are “uncomfortable” providing bank statements with their personal info to the department which are required as proof for capacity to utilise the farms effectively.
- ❑ Branding certificates mostly belong to men where women are married, therefore they are seen as fronts for husbands.



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# WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

- ❑ Specific farms will continue to be reserved for women applicants and farms that are located in safer areas are to be targeted.
- ❑ Women will be assisted through Provincial Departments of Agriculture to compile credible Business Plans in order to qualify for Category 3 (commercial farms).
- ❑ Beneficiary selection process will run concurrently with the land acquisition process so that farms are immediately occupied upon acquisition to avoid invasions.
- ❑ The Department is to develop a protocol that will empower women to have branding certificates issued in their names – furthermore, a section that deals with issuing of branding certificates is to be engaged in order to make provision for joint certificates where women are co-owners of livestock.



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# WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER? (Continued)

- ❑ The Department will ensure that the Branches that deal with enterprise development and cooperatives assist women to formalise their farming operations so that financial records can be in the names of the farming enterprises and not individual names – this will minimise the reluctance to disclose personal bank statements as proof of ability or capacity to operate farms when applications are submitted.



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# Thank You



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