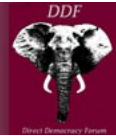


# Direct Democracy Forum Agriculture & Food Security



## Strategies:

- Expand irrigated lands where possible, particularly in the previous homeland areas, from the present 1.5 to almost 2 million hectares under irrigation.
- Develop underutilised lands in rural areas for commercial production.
- Develop marketing and distribution chains particularly in communal and land reform areas.
- Invest in agricultural research and development for crops developing shortages and for new crop development and to address needs arising from climate change.
- Invest in agricultural and entrepreneurship and extension officer training.
- Maintain a positive trade balance for primary and processed agricultural products.
- Use and expand existing public works programmes for rural infrastructure development
- Improve and develop information exchange efficiencies in the agricultural supply chain to better inform the players in the chain of market prices and conditions.
- Improve the working conditions of agricultural workers with particular emphasis on improving the health and welfare of workers and their families.
- Increase production of staples to decrease dependence on imported produce and to enable self sufficiencies in the production of those staples for times of need
- Increase the demand for fruit and vegetables and therefrom increase the production of fruit and vegetables.
- Look for creative ways to re-introduce professional farmers to the land through freehold as well as leasehold arrangements.
- Establish agricultural mentorships for new entrants into agriculture.

## Conclusion:

By application of these strategies and those outlined for transport, land reform and education, amongst other policies, the **Direct Democracy Forum** intend to strengthen the agricultural sector and its production capacity, impacting positively on:

- Land utilisation
- Food production
- Food security
- Food distribution
- Food prices
- Agricultural employment and job security