
PRESS RELEASE

**TO ALL MEDIA
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

COLLECTION OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATUTORY LEVIES CROSSES R1 BILLION MARK

The Status Report on Statutory Measures for 2023/24 financial year has recorded a historical increase from R896 million in 2022/23 financial year to R1 022 391 448 billion in 2023/24 financial year. This is an increase of approximately R126 million from the previous financial year.

The collection of statutory levies is stipulated in the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act No. 47 of 1996, and the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) is responsible for facilitating the applications of these levies, investigate and recommend the approval of the applications to the Minister of Agriculture.

The increase in collected levies is a commendable trajectory for a viable and inclusive agricultural sector. The 2023 survey shows that approximately R1.022 billion was spent on industry functions, an increase of 14.0% compared to the 2022 survey. Of the total expenditure, approximately 45.0% was spent on research, 19.8% on transformation projects, 10.0% on export promotion or market access, and 7.8% on information.

The Status Report on Statutory Measures indicates that approximately R1.0 billion of levy income was invested back into essential industry functions, a commendable 13.8% increase from the previous year.

- **Research** consumes the largest share of levy expenditure, research received approximately 45.1% (R460.1 million) of the total investment. This emphasizes the sector's commitment to innovation and development for a more sustainable and productive future.
- There was a substantial investment in Export Promotion or Market Access, with approximately 10.2% (R103.6 million) of total expenditure allocated to these activities. This strategic focus underscores the sector's dedication to expanding its global footprint and capitalizing on international market opportunities.

- Recognizing the critical role of accurate and timely **Information**, the sector invested approximately 7.8% (R79.6 million) of total expenditures on information-related functions. This investment is crucial in supporting informed decision-making across the sector.
- Underscoring a commitment to inclusivity and equitable growth, approximately 19.8% (R202.1 million) of total expenditures supported **transformation** projects. This investment aims to empower previously disadvantaged individuals and communities within the agricultural landscape.
- In addition to substantial expenditures on research, transformation, export promotion, and information dissemination, the 2023 agricultural industry survey highlighted a growing emphasis on consumer - focused initiatives, efficient administration, and enhanced production practices, with a combined expenditure of approximately R177 million (14.4% of total levy expenditure) allocated towards consumer education/local promotion, administration, quality control, plant improvement, and production development.

The report highlights the success story of the grains and oilseeds industries as a prime example of how effective information management, driven by statutory measures, contributes to industry success. The collaborative efforts within these industries have resulted in a world-class information system that provides reliable data on stock levels of essential agricultural products, contributing significantly to national food security.

The agricultural sector plays a critical role in ensuring food security, bolstering the economy, and creating desperately needed employment opportunities in rural areas. Statutory levies are a vital mechanism that enable the sector to thrive and contribute to South Africa's overall social and economic well-being.

Issued by the National Agricultural Marketing Council

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