
PRESS RELEASE

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AGRICULTURE'S R1.15 BILLION LEVY COLLECTION MILESTONE DRIVES RESEARCH, TRANSFORMATION AND GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS

South Africa's agricultural sector has reached a new milestone in statutory levy collections, with total levies rising to R1.155 billion in the 2025 survey year, reinforcing the sector's ability to invest in food security, farmer support, transformation and global competitiveness.

According to the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)'s 2025 Status of Statutory Measures Report, levy income increased from R1.149 billion in 2024 to R1.155 billion in 2025, marking sustained growth above the R1-billion benchmark first crossed in 2023/24.

Levies Working Hard for Farmers and the Economy

More importantly, levy funds are being actively reinvested back into the sector. Total levy expenditure reached R1.21 billion in 2025, reflecting strong industry confidence and the strategic use of accumulated reserves for priority programmes.

Where money mostly went in 2025:

- Research & Innovation: 46.7% (R564 million).
- Transformation initiatives: 19.7% (R237.5 million).
- Export promotion & market access: 13.0% (R157.1 million).
- Information & data systems: 6.4% (R77.6 million).
- Administration: 6.0% (R72.9 million), well below the 10% guideline.

From R1 Billion to Impact on the Ground

Since the first-time levy collections crossed the R1-billion mark in 2023/24, the sector has steadily strengthened its focus on:

- Innovation and climate-resilient farming systems
- Expanding access to export markets
- Empowering previously disadvantaged producers
- World-class agricultural data and information systems

In 2023/24 alone, R1.022 billion was already invested back into industry functions, with research accounting for nearly half of all spending.

Transformation Spending Gains Momentum

Transformation spending increased to R237.5 million in 2025, representing a 5% increase from the previous year. This aligns with the NAMC’s guidelines that at least 20% of levy income supports transformation initiatives across most industries.

Exports and Market Access in Focus

With global markets becoming more competitive, the sector allocated R157 million to export promotion and market access. This supported South Africa’s position as a reliable agricultural exporter despite logistical and geopolitical challenges.

Why This Matters for Food Security and Jobs

Statutory levies enable industries to:

- Fund critical research and innovation
- Maintain national food security
- Build high-quality data systems
- Support inclusive growth and rural employment

The success of the grains, oilseeds, citrus, deciduous fruit and wine industries demonstrates how coordinated levy investment can deliver long-term economic and social returns.

THE END

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