

22 June 2026

THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR STATUTORY MEASURES NAMELY REGISTRATION, RECORDS AND RETURNS AND THE CONTINUATION AND INCREASE OF STATUTORY LEVIES ON LUCERNE SEED AND LUCERNE HAY IN TERMS OF THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, ACT NO 47 OF 1996 (MAP ACT) AS AMENDED

INVITATION TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED GROUPS IN THE LUCERNE INDUSTRY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

The Minister of Agriculture received a request from the National Lucerne Trust (NLT), in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act), Act No 47 of 1996, for the continuation, amendment and the establishment of statutory measures (registration, records & returns and levies) in the industry. It is proposed that statutory levies be implemented for a new four-year term from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2030.

The purpose and objective of the statutory measures in the lucerne industry are as follows:

- Payment of the **statutory levy amount** for the funding of the following functions in the lucerne industry, namely:

(The current levies payable amount to R1.30 per kg on clean seed; and R140 Per analysis for lucerne hay analysed by a NIR Instrument (VAT excluded) will lapse on 30 November 2026)

LUCERNE PRODUCTS AND PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE LEVY	PROPOSED STATUTORY LEVY (VAT Excl) 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2030			
	Year 1 (1 Sep 2026 to 31 August 2027)	Year 2 (1 Sep 2027 to 31 August 2028)	Year 3 (1 Sep 2028 to 31 August 2029)	Year 4 (1 Sep 2029 to 31 August 2030)
Cleaned lucerne seed: Payable by the lucerne seed cleaner. May be recovered from the person submitting the lucerne seed concerned for cleaning.	R1.50 per kg	R1.60 per kg	R1.70 per kg	R1.80 per kg
Lucerne hay produced for commercial purposes analysed by the NIR instrument: Payable by the owner of the NIR instrument. May be recovered from the person submitting such lucerne hay sample for analysis.	R140 per analysis	R150 per analysis	R160 per analysis	R170 per analysis
Lucerne seed imported for commercial purposes: Payable by the importer. May be recovered from the person importing the seed.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The request includes that the NLT be responsible for the collection and for the administration functions associated with the proposed statutory levies. Approximately 70% of levy income will be spent on functions such as Research and Development, Information and Technology Transfer, Quality Control

and Certification Systems, not more than 10% on administration and at least 20% of total levy income on transformation. The NLT is committed in developing the long-term sustainability and profitability, as well as the local and international competitiveness of the lucerne industry of South Africa. The estimated income from the proposed levies is between R3.6 million (for 2027) and R4.4 million (2030) per annum. The proposed statutory levies will be used to fund, support and coordinate:

- Research and development - Active role in the coordination of need-driven lucerne research that supports and benefits the industry by ensuring continuous improvements and innovations regarding lucerne seed and hay.
- Information and technology transfer – Information and technology transfer by means of gathering, processing, and compiling relevant information, and disseminating the knowledge capital obtained, to ensure continuity, timeous, and accurate market and production information is available to all industry role players in the South African lucerne value chain.
- Quality control and certification systems – Quality control and certification systems by promoting and maintaining the lucerne seed cleaning, grading and/or classification standards and services, as well as the promotion, maintenance and further development of the National Lucerne Hay Grading and Quality Scheme.
- Training and skills development – Providing training and skills development through courses and workshops to lucerne hay producers, traders, processors, end-users and exporters, with specific emphasis on training near-infrared spectrophotometer operators, hay samplers, lucerne hay graders and animal feed nutritionists.
- Transformation – Transformation of previously disadvantaged individuals to ensure the development of emerging farmers and agripreneurs to grow and/or produce commercially in a sustainable way and to extend their access to marketing opportunities.
- Close Liaison – Close liaison between national, provincial and local government bodies, as well as local and international role players on industry-related issues to ensure the overall sustainability and profitability of the lucerne industry of South Africa. As the proposed statutory measures requested by the NLT are consistent with the objectives of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, the NAMC will investigate the possible implementation of the relevant statutory measures and make recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture.

The NAMC believes that the application by the NLT for the continuation of the proposed statutory measures is consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act (as set out in section 2 of the Act).

Directly affected groups in the lucerne industry are kindly requested to submit any comments or objections regarding the proposed statutory measures to the NAMC in writing to Malapane Thamaga (mthamaga@namc.co.za), on or before 17 July 2026, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.