



## Briefing Note

# Summary of South Africa's Draft Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implications for Agriculture

13 August 2025

## 1. Subject

Overview of the Draft Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) published by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 30 July 2025. The NDC outlines South Africa's climate commitments for the periods 2026–2030 and 2031–2035, with direct implications for agriculture, rural development, and AgriSA's strategic positioning.

## 2. Key adaptation goals relevant to agriculture

Adaptation is a novel feature of the NDC, which previously focused almost entirely on mitigation. South Africa has identified eight national adaptation goals. The following are particularly pertinent to the agricultural sector:

1. Water and sanitation resilience.
2. Food security and livelihoods.
3. Climate services and early warning systems.
4. Ecosystem-based adaptation.
5. Government capacity and local implementation.

### 3. Mitigation Commitments

South Africa's updated mitigation targets are:

- Commitment to net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 – **Key Question: What does this mean for agriculture?**
- Renewable energy expansion: 36 GW by 2035.
- Implications for agriculture: carbon tax trajectory, emissions tracking, and sequestration opportunities.

### 4. Considerations

- Climate impacts are already reducing productivity in crops, livestock, and fisheries.
- Increased rural migration, infrastructure strain, and biodiversity loss.
- South Africa calls for scaled-up international support to address irreversible damages.

## 5. Next Steps

AgriSA previously provided input to the Presidential Climate Commission on the NDC and will prepare a formal submission to DFFE for submission by the due date.

### AgriSA to

- Engage with government and funders on clearly defined, realistic implementation frameworks that do not create unnecessary additional burdens or barriers for farming.
- Monitor developments in carbon pricing and emissions reporting.

## 6. Due date for submissions

29 August 2025

### Download

[Draft Nationally Determined Contribution \(Climate Change Act and Paris Agreement\)](#)