

Stellenbosch Climate-Smart Farming Support Programme

Digital tools and training to support emerging and smallholder farmers

Agriculture plays a central role in the Stellenbosch region's economy and landscape. The municipality forms part of one of South Africa's most productive agricultural areas, with the Western Cape contributing **over 50% of the country's agricultural export value** and the Stellenbosch district recognised internationally for crops such as **wine grapes, fruit, vegetables and diversified mixed farming systems**. At the same time, many smallholder farmers, cooperatives and land development initiatives are working to strengthen production and unlock the agricultural potential of available land.

However, farming in the region increasingly requires navigating **complex climate and environmental conditions**, including **drought cycles, heat events and shifting rainfall patterns**. Access to reliable environmental information can play a critical role in helping farmers make informed decisions about crop suitability, land development and long-term farm resilience.

Through a collaboration between **Stellenbosch Municipality, the Stellenbosch Network and TerraClim**, a group of local farmers will receive access to climate and environmental analysis tools designed to support agricultural planning and farm development. By combining climate data, environmental insights and practical guidance, the programme aims to help participating farmers better understand the potential of their land and support the development of sustainable farming enterprises.

What participating farmers will receive

Ten selected farmers from the Stellenbosch region will receive **12 months of access to the TerraClim Web App**, including:

- A **personalised farm profile and secure login**
- **Assistance with farm boundary setup** and platform onboarding
- Access to **climate and environmental data layers** relevant to farm locations
- Tools to explore **crop suitability and environmental conditions**
- Insights into **climate risks such as drought, heat and extreme weather**
- A **training guide and introductory workshop**
- The ability to generate **reports and insights** to support farm planning and development

The opportunity is open to **smallholder and emerging farmers, farming initiatives, cooperatives and local producers across crop types and farm sizes**. Both farmers currently producing and individuals or groups seeking to develop land for agricultural use are encouraged to participate.

From Land to Opportunity

Land that is not yet fully farmed can still hold significant agricultural potential. By analysing the climate and environmental characteristics of a property, TerraClim enables farmers to explore key considerations such as:

- Crop types that may be suitable for the land
- Climate risks that may influence production
- Approaches for developing farming systems that remain **resilient and sustainable over time**

These insights can assist farmers in developing a clearer understanding of land potential and can support discussions with **agricultural advisors, training programmes, financial institutions, input suppliers and insurance providers** as farming operations develop.

Programme Outcomes

This **12-month pilot initiative** aims to support participating farmers in:

- Understanding the **climate and environmental characteristics of agricultural land**
- Improving **farm planning and crop selection decisions**
- Strengthening **climate resilience in agricultural production**
- Supporting the development of **sustainable and informed farming enterprises**

Programme Partnership

This initiative is made possible through collaboration between:

- **Stellenbosch Municipality**, supporting access to the programme
- **Stellenbosch Network**, assisting, alongside TerraClim, with farmer outreach and engagement
- **TerraClim**, providing the technology platform, training and technical support

Selection of Farmers

Up to **10 farmers from the Stellenbosch region** will be selected to participate in the programme. Selection will be coordinated through the Stellenbosch Network and local partners, with the aim of supporting motivated farmers interested in strengthening and developing their agricultural activities.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Applicants must provide:

- A completed application
- Copy of South African ID or valid identification
- Proof of land access e.g. lease agreement, title deed or letter from Stellenbosch Municipality
- Farm and company profile: Size and location of land; current farming activities; crops/ livestock produced, proof of any offtake agreements
- Basic farming experience (formal or informal)

- A short motivation statement outlining why they want to participate in the programme, challenges currently experienced (e.g. climate variability, water scarcity, pests etc.) and
- Their willingness to adopt to climate/ soil – smart and sustainable practices.