



**ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NEEDS IN
AFRICAN CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC (ACP) STATES**

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Country Study: Lesotho

Final Report

Prepared by

Matšelis M. Moshoeshe-Chadzingwa

On behalf of the

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

Project: 4-7-41-209-6/c

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List of Acronyms

a/c	-	Account(s)
ACP	-	Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific
ADB	-	African Development Bank
AFRACA	-	African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association
Agric.	-	Agriculture/Agricultural
AGOA	-	African Growth Opportunity Act
AJOL	-	African Journal Online
AIMS	-	Agricultural Information Management Systems
AIS	-	Agricultural Information Services
Audio Visual	-	AV
AusAID	-	Australian Agency for International Development
BAPOFA	-	Basotho Poultry Farmers Association
BAVS	-	Bishop Allard Vocational School
BFVC	-	Basotho Fruit and Vegetable Cannery
BKB	-	Boer Korporasie Beperk (Brokering Agency)
BOS	-	Bureau of Statistics
CBL	-	Central Bank of Lesotho
CCSD	-	Communication Channels and Services Department
CEDAMA	-	Committee on Environmental Data Management
CFC	-	Commonwealth Fund for Commodities (UN)
CMW	-	Cape Mohair and Wool (Brokering Agency)
Cnt	-	Centre
CWIG	-	Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire
CTA	-	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU
\$	-	US dollar
DAI	-	Dorcas Aid International
DAO	-	District Agricultural Office
DB	-	Dairy Board
DEAT	-	Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism (RSA)
Dept.	-	Department
DFID	-	UK Department for International Development
DORA	-	Distribution of Reference Books on Agriculture
DLN	-	Denmark Lesotho Network
DSL	-	Digital Subscriber Line
€	-	Euro
EU	-	European Union
FAO	-	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GART	-	Golden Valley Research Trust
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
GIS	-	Geographical Information System
Govt.	-	Government
GNI	-	Gross National Index
ICM	-	Information & Communication Management
ICMSSD	-	Information & Communication Management Skills & Systems Dept
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technologies
IDM	-	Institute of Development Management
IEMS	-	Institute of Extra Mural Studies, (Extension arm of NUL)

IPSD	-	Information Products and Services Department
ISP	-	Internet Service Provider(s)
Ha.	-	Hectares
HIV/AIDS	-	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
KFF	-	Katse Fish Farms
Kg.	-	Kilograms
LCN	-	Lesotho Council of NGOs
LEHOFA	-	Lesotho Horticultural Farmers Association
LHDA	-	Lesotho Highlands Development Authority
LIAD	-	Lesotho Institute of Agricultural Development
LNWMGA	-	Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Grower Association
LTA	-	Lesotho Telecommunication Authority
M.	-	Maloti
MAFS	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MFTC	-	Matela Farmers Training Centre
MDTP	-	Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project
MTICM	-	Ministry of Trade, Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing
Mt	-	Metric Tonnes
Na	-	Not applicable
NES	-	National Environmental Secretariat
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organisation
NUL	-	National University of Lesotho
pa	-	per annum
PELUM	-	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PEPFAR	-	(US) President's Emergency Plan for AIDs Relief
PRAIS	-	Programme for Agricultural Information Services
Programme	-	Prog
QAS	-	Question and Answer Service
R+D	-	Research and Development
RSA	-	Republic of South Africa
RSCGs	-	Rural Savings and Credit Groups (CBL)
RSDA	-	Rural Self-Help Development Association
SAC	-	Send a Cow
SACU	-	Southern African Customs Union
SAGIS	-	South African Grain Information Service
SADC	-	Southern African Development Community
SAJA	-	Southern African Journalists Association
SARPAN	-	Southern African Regional Poverty Network
SAWTB	-	South African Wool Testing Bureau
SDI	-	Selective Dissemination of Information
SIDA	-	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMEC	-	Snowy Mountains Engineering Cooperation Ltd. Australia
SPGRC	-	SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre
SS	-	Sub-Saharan
SSSN	-	SADC Seed Security Network
Tel.	-	Telephone
TL	-	Telecom Lesotho
TRIPS	-	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
WTO - World Trade Organisation
ZAR - South African Rand

List of Exchange Rates

Exchange rates reflecting South African Rand that Lesotho Maloti is on parity with, as well as highlighting the American Dollar and Euro that appear in the text.

South African Rand		
	1 ZAR	in ZAR
American Dollar	0.141223	7.400
British Pound	0.0713103	14.0232
Euro	0.105077	9.41686

using values from Friday, March,26, 2007

Source: <http://www.x-rates.com/d/ZAR/table.html> : downloaded on 26 March, 2007

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	ii
List of Acronyms	iii
List of Exchange Rates.....	v
Executive Summary.....	viii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. COUNTRY PROFILE	2
2.1 Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Livestock	5
2.1.1 Agriculture.....	5
2.1.2 Fisheries	6
2.1.3 Forestry.....	7
2.1.4 Livestock / Pastoralism	7
2.2 ICT Infrastructure and Recent Developments.....	8
3. STATUS OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	10
3.1 Institutional, Regulatory and Policy Framework.....	10
3.2 Operational Aspects.....	11
3.2.1 Description of Agricultural Information Services.....	11
3.2.2 Major Information Products and Services Provided	11
3.2.3 Information and Communication Management Capacity.....	12
3.3 Interventions Supporting Information and Communication for Agriculture and Rural Development.....	13
4. INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS ANALYSIS	15
4.1 Information Needs (Technical, Socio-economic, Marketing, Regulations, Agreements)	15
4.2 Capacity-building Needs (Policies, Strategies, Sensitization, Networking, Media, Training, ICT and Equipment).....	21
5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	24
5.1 Conclusions	24
5.1.1 Information Needs.....	24
5.1.2 Capacity Building Needs.....	25
5.1.3 Potential Strategic Partners	26
5.2 Recommendations	29
5.2.1 Capacity-building Needs.....	29
5.2.2 Information Needs.....	30
5.2.3 Potential Partners and Beneficiaries.....	30
6. PROPOSED CTA INTERVENTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.....	32
ANNEXES.....	34
Annex 1. Terms of reference	35
Annex 2. Country Profile.....	42
2.1 General Agricultural Profile	42
2.1.1 Size of Agricultural Population (male/female/youth).....	42
2.1.2 Farmed Land.....	43
2.1.2 Fishing Areas	44
2.1.3 Agricultural Systems	45
2.1.4 Agriculture in the Economy	45
2.1.5 Main Agricultural Produce and Secondary Products	46
2.1.6 Main Export Markets.....	46
2.1.8 Sectoral Policy Related to Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests	48

2.2 Socio-economic Profile	48
2.2.1 Total Active Population, Demographic Breakdown	48
2.2.2 Literacy Level and Languages.....	49
2.2.3 Access to Social Services.....	51
2.2.3 Access to Schools.....	51
2.2.3 Access to Electricity	52
2.2.4 Rural-Urban Drift.....	53
2.3 Media and Telecommunications	53
2.3.1 Newspapers/letters, magazines, journals, radio stations, television channels.....	53
2.3.2 Telecommunications Services (fixed, mobile, etc.)	57
2.3.3 Computers and Internet Access	59
Annex 3. Profile of Institutions	61
3.1 List of all Key Institutions Involved in Agriculture and Rural Development.....	61
3.2 List of Selected Key Institutions	73
Annex 4. List of Institutions/Persons Interviewed.....	115
Annex 5. List of participants at the end-of-survey workshop on agricultural information needs assessment: 26 March 2007	117
Annex 6. Bibliography.....	124

Executive Summary

Introduction

The present study forms part of the fourth series of needs assessment studies being conducted by The Technical centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region since 2003. This study was carried out in Lesotho from February to May 2007. CTA works primarily through intermediary public and private partners such as research centres, NGOs, farmers associations and regional bodies that are involved in the area of agricultural and rural development, agricultural information related products, systems and services. Under this strategic plan, target institutions will be extended to include print media, editors, radio, TV and journalist networks in order to further maximize outreach. Through these partnerships, CTA hopes to increase the number of ACP organizations capable of accessing and combining modern and conventional ICTs, generating and managing information and developing their own Information and Communication (ICM) strategies. The identification of appropriate partners is therefore of fundamental importance, whilst bearing in mind issues such as geographical coverage, decentralisation, regionalization, thematic orientation and transparent and objective criteria and procedures for partner selection. These are key issues.

Objectives of the study

The *overall objective* of the study was consequently to determine collaborative strategies with relevant and potential partners in a given country, and in this case Lesotho, through the assessment of institutional agricultural information needs. The aim was to align findings with the CTA's latest agenda. Within the Centre's new strategic plan spanning the 2007-2010 period, the focus is on improving the CTA's efficiency, increasing its outreach, identifying bottlenecks if any and devising ways and means of taking an advantage of information and communication management (ICM) and information and communication technologies (ICT) to strengthen its networks in Africa.

Methodology

This report presents information that was gathered basically from fifteen (15) key institutions (cf. Annex 3.1), as well as complementary data sought from 27 interviewees as listed in Annex 4, and finally views aired at the end of the survey workshop by 60 participants (cf. Annex 4.1). A triangulated method of assessment was used. The first step was the literature review of the state-of-the-art of agriculture and rural development in Lesotho. An inventory was made of institutions involved in agriculture and rural development in Lesotho, from which the mentioned list of institutions to be contacted for detailed interviews was drawn up. These institutions were subsequently followed up by telephoning, further enquiries, appointments with, and visits to as many institutions as possible, to assess the situation as a whole.

The second step was administering a comprehensive questionnaire to the selected institutions. Data was collected on their profiles, finances, human resources, structures, capacity in terms of ICM and ICT, and finally their information needs, where, how they get information, and their partners. Elaborate notes were taken in this field work,

whereby respondents also mentioned other relevant centres that would not have been known otherwise.

The final source of information was through the reporting workshop for respondents and relevant institutions, especially contacts already established at the official launch of the *Question and Answer Service* in October, 2005. More data was sourced and then cleaned. Close contact was kept with the regional consultant for guidance, especially where there was serious paucity of information from respondents. Efforts to fill the gaps delayed some final write up and the analysis.

Expected Results

It was expected that through this methodology, the following would be found out:

- The status of infrastructure, information services and ICM capacity of institutions involved in agriculture and rural development, be described and analysed;
- Information and capacity building needs in the area of ICM identified for key institutions, potential CTA partners involved in agriculture and rural development;
- baseline data on the status of ICM and ICT in agriculture and rural development compiled for monitoring purposes and improved outreach.

Findings

Chapter 2 maps out the Lesotho's agricultural-based economy that is supported by livestock and crop yields, while fisheries and commercial forestry are only emerging. Literature review portrays positive growth as well as sluggish development in the sector. For instance, it is under pastoralism that wool and mohair growers would export more if their information needs were met. The Katse Fish Farm is hardly two years but already showing prospects of boosting the fisheries industry. Although a factor in agricultural and rural development, ICM and ICT facilities are skewed to a few of the fifteen selected institutions, whose needs in this regard are then enumerated.

Tables 1 and 2 (Annex 2) as well as Annex 4 illustrate that there are high percentages of population and institutions involved in agricultural and rural development. People comprise casual farm workers and heads of households. Institutions include government departments, development partners that work with civil societies, NGOs, academic bodies, farmers associations, church organizations, and all such types based at rural, national or regional levels.

Despite significant assistance from the external and inputs from individual groupings, agriculture as a sector continues to weaken. There are incidences of unsteady size of land harvested in the four ecological zones of the country. Although the sector's contribution to the GDP has also been erratic, while generally shrinking, at 17% (cf. Figure 3.C.), it is significant. Findings further indicate a poor agricultural performance, apparently because of diverse factors. One major factor is the feeble institutional, regulatory as well as policy framework (cf. Chapter 3.1 parag. 27), which neither embraces all categories of stakeholders like youth, or stresses the need to apply ICTs. Other factors are range from the readily available food aid programmes provided either during emergencies such as drought, or as poverty relief, or for school feeding schemes. These interventions tend to promote dependency syndrome that thwarts agricultural development. Weak agricultural policies (cf. Appendix 1) that fail to address information needs of both small holder farmers as well as well-organised farmers unions such as LEHOFA, also account for non provision of adequate ICM and ICT facilities by national

structures. Farmers and rural communities are not as yet, in the mainstream clientele of the comparatively resourceful academic or private libraries, but strategies to open up such library services are underway.

Information needs of surveyed institutions and units (cf. Chapter 3.2 - Operation Aspects) depict a wide range of information requirements, from expressed to implicit needs. They encompass funding for, and access to printed journals to posters; to means of sophisticated broad bandwidth or internet connectivity to simple radio signals and radio programmes. There are special and specific ICT training needs, general desires for networking at institutional, national and regional levels. Fundamentally, of all the respondents interviewed, only about 20% have formal information services, or know and use the CTA and related services, whilst about 80% lack adequate information services, products, systems and the entire ICM and ICT facilities. Some of these disadvantaged are not even aware that information could be available for their undertakings. Lesotho's proximity to RSA which is technologically advanced is an advantage to institutions and NGOs that can afford to tap on those technologies. Several associations require key technical know-how and are struggling on their own to acquire the needed hardware, be trained on their use, be self-sufficient and sustain their business. The examples are LWMFA and BAVS - Thulare Farm. All the types of farmers, academic, women and other groups which were introduced to the prospects of the CTA's Questions and Answer Service (QAS), especially at the end of survey workshop (cf. List of Participants 4.4) are eager to have it operational. A few institutions that extend a hand to rural information seekers, need to build up their capacity to do so efficiently, and without compromising services to target groups.

Conclusions and recommendations

The report recommends five potential partners that CTA would like have direct links with, and others called associate, which CTA would may not necessarily have linkages with, but which are recommended for fostering links of collaboration with direct partners .

There are rural and urban-based institutions involved in agriculture whose impact may be felt if they are assisted in capacity building. It is recommended that CTA CCSD, ICMSSD AND IPSD strengthen them through radio programmes, one Sesotho bulletin and scholarly journal publication, information resources centres established within reach, rotating agricultural librarian for a year; providing credit points and/or vouchers long and short term training within Lesotho and beyond, provision of appropriate technology, putting QAS node to function, and negotiating with media houses and internet providers for affordable packages; and linking up with other development partners that have been mentioned as operating in the area of agricultural and rural development in Lesotho.

Conclusions and recommendations (cf. Chapter 5 -) are drawn in detail regarding the need for a baseline study, stakeholders workshops at the national, regional levels, and

- i) information needs: simple response to farmers' queries, timely scholarly research dissemination, libraries, ICM
- ii) capacity building, rotating librarian, office space, hardware and software, formalizing NGOs, ICT equipment that is shared by relevant centres
- iii) potential strategic partners ranging from five direct partners, to associates that would benefit from their linkage with the selected five.

- iv) It is finally proposed that a similar kind of assessment be conducted after five years, to gauge changes after the recommended interventions have been made.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. In fulfilling its mandate as spelt out in the Lomé Convention between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) has supported the development of agricultural and rural sector by the provision of and facilitating access to agricultural information in the ACP countries (cf. Annex 1 – Terms of Reference).

2. CTA also strives to enhance the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and use information for the development of this sector. The Centre's activities are presently distributed among three operational programme areas and departments, namely:

- Information Products and Services
- Communication Channels and services
- Information and Communication Management (ICM) Skills and Systems

3. In this regard, CTA primarily works through intermediaries such as farmers associations, non-governmental organizations, regional bodies, in order to promote agriculture and rural development, to deliver its various information products and capacity building services. In collaborating with this myriad number of partners, CTA seeks to increase the number of ACP organizations that will be able to manage information, as well as develop their own ICM strategies. Crucial at this juncture therefore, is for CTA to identify such appropriate partners.

4. As part of the ACP states, Lesotho has also benefited from a wide range of CTA's assistance comprising direct grants for local institutions and collaborative ventures with governmental and non-governmental organisations. As elaborately stipulated in the Terms of Reference (cf. Annex 1), the objective was to assess the impact of CTA's assistance, in the form of products and services, as well as to identify new potential partners.

5. This enquiry should assist CTA improve and align its interventions with agricultural and rural development needs of the potential partners and beneficiaries, comprising, women and youth associations, farmers unions, NGOs and such target groups. The study should serve as an update to CTA, and enable it to have a more informed picture of each of the southern African states that underwent the assessment.

2. COUNTRY PROFILE

6. Lesotho is a landlocked country covering a total area of 30 350 km², that is surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. Lesotho is a kingdom, with the King as head of State and a prime minister is elected every five years serves as head of government. There are two houses of Parliament, namely, the upper house for Lords or Senators, and the lower house for elected members. The people of Lesotho are called the Basotho and they speak one and the same language, Sesotho, while English is a second official language.

7. Lesotho's altitude ranges from 1,500 m to 3,482 m. It is said to be the only country in the world that is completely situated above the 1000 m in altitude (Land and Water, 2005:1), a phenomenon that is determinant to the country's type of agricultural activities.

8. There are four distinct agro-ecological zones of the country, namely, the highlands region occupying 59% of the total area, with rocky, bare mountains and deep river valleys; the foothills, covering 15% that lie between the lowlands and what are known as the Maluti mountains; the lowlands, comprising 17% of the total area, and fourth, the Senqu river valley, only 9%, forming a narrow strip of land that flanks the banks of the Senqu (Orange) river, and penetrating deep into the Maluti mountains.

9. Administratively, the country has ten districts, namely, Berea, Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Mafeteng, Maseru, Mohale's hoek, Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, Quthing and Thaba Tseka (See Figure 1: Map of Lesotho).

Large portions of the eastern part encapsulating Mokhotlong, Qacha's nek, Thaba Tseka and Quthing are located in the highlands, commonly known as the Maloti areas. Agricultural activities and their output in terms of crops and livestock consequently relate to the potential of the four above-mentioned zones. The country lies largely around the temperate zone with mid-year short but cold, freezing winters that experience freezing point, as well as long, hot and wet summers. Natural hazards include periodic droughts that affect rain-fed agriculture, as well as snow that is a threat to livestock.

10. By August, 2007, the Bureau of Statistics released preliminary results of the 2006 census that estimate the population to stand at 1.8 million. The Bureau's estimates of 2003 put the Lesotho population at 2.2 million, and growing at the rate of between 1.9 to 2.1% annually. More than 40% are below 15 years, and three quarters of the population live in the rural and mainly agricultural areas. Tables 1 and 2 (cf. Annex 2 – Country Profile) indicate that there are more female casual agricultural workers. There are also more agricultural households in the age brackets from 40-49 to 60-69; with the age group 50-59 as the biggest across the ten districts.

Figure 1: Map of Lesotho Depicting the 10 Districts



Source: <http://www.mapsofworld> (19/03/2007)

11. Each of the ten districts has a town that acts as the growth centre for local governance and for the decentralization of ministerial, sectoral and essential services. Population distribution is therefore comparatively dense in the urban areas into which white-collar job-seekers continue to migrate. Population is sparse in the rural areas although that is where about three quarters of Basotho still live and where means of livelihood is largely dependent upon agriculture. Yet, as Table 2 (cf. Annex 2 – Country Profile) indicates, a large percentage of workers, especially women who are engaged in agricultural jobs are not paid. The role of agriculture in economic development is thus dwindling, a concern to many.

12. Prior to 1966 when it became independent from Britain, Lesotho had had a fledgling nation built by King Moshoeshe 1 from the different clans that were dispersed by the 17th century wars. It was ruled as Basutoland, and together with Bechuanaland and Swaziland, the three were the British Protectorates of Southern Africa. The British colonial rulers administered the three as peripheries of the then Union of South Africa whose industrialization and urbanization grew rapidly due to the discovery of gold and diamonds. The gold and diamond mining industries continued to recruit migrant workers

from Lesotho, and other neighbours of South Africa, a phenomenon which until the 1980's had a direct relationship with the decline of the Lesotho's agricultural sector (Wisner, 2000).

13. Whereas by 2007 therefore, the economy of Lesotho comprises a number of sectors that significantly contribute to the GDP such as textile, natural resources that include mining, quarrying, and water, notably agricultural products comprising wool and mohair, grazing land, and crops continue to add some millions of Maloti. And despite the fact that the contribution of agriculture to GDP over the years is shrinking and is not steady, as illustrated in Figure 3, (cf. Chapter 2.1.4 - Agriculture in the economy) in real terms it is an indispensable share that has the potential too.

Agriculture and Recent Developments in the Sector

14. On account of its difficult topography, Lesotho's cultivable land is on the whole confined to the lowlands and foothills. Of the total area, about 25% has agricultural potential, of which less than half of the land, being 10%, is arable while the rest of the area is suitable to the livestock farming and range. In varying degrees the following crops are produced, maize, sorghum, peas, beans, wheat, oil seeds, nuts, soya, fodder, potatoes and vegetable. Although illegal, cannabis is also grown in Lesotho especially in Berea, around Ha 'Makhoroana (Mokitimi, 2006:29).

15. In the mid-1980s, asparagus was tested and grown for export successfully. But the association that got into that business has experienced significant financial constraints to continue with the asparagus production, cannery and exports. In terms of crop farming, literature is replete with evidence that, historically, Lesotho produced grains in excess, and so much so that Taylor (1932:333) reported:

“Basutoland is the only country in south and east Africa in which natives produce any considerable quantity of wheat .. [they] produce about ... as much wheat as corn”.

16. Crops were grown in high yields, to an extent of exporting the surplus to the thriving mines in South Africa (Poverty Reduction Strategy 2006:35, Lesaoana-Tshabalala, 2003). That is why, even in the early decades of Lesotho's independence, agriculture was regarded the “backbone of the country”, and the source of livelihood for majority of rural livelihoods. By the early 2000s such claims that livelihoods for the majority rely on agriculture were being challenged, due to the seemingly diminishing role that traditional agriculture was playing in the livelihoods of most households (Turner, 2001: 53).

17. Since maize/corn is the staple food, its yields are crucial in food security. By 2005, out of 128,404 hectares planted of Maize, 67,371 were from the Lowlands and over 25, 000 came respectively from the Mountains and the Foothills. On the contrary, a poor harvest of maize leads to famine or heavy tons of imports of maize meal, mainly from RSA, the reverse of the historical situation described in 15 above. Such factors as drought, soil erosion, soil infertility, stock theft, are high risks that lower productivity as shown by fluctuations between 1980/81 to 2003/04 (See Table 6A - Annex 2). Import

regulations are then imposed as necessary, to protect and give incentives to local farmers.

2.1 Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Livestock

2.1.1 Agriculture

18. Agriculture is in the hands of numerous formal and informal bodies. Table 1 (Annex 2 – Country Profile) illustrates that by 1999/2000, there are more (6200) female occasional farm workers than the male (6001). The largest age group of agricultural households from the total of all ten districts is that of 50 to 59 years with 65,817 (cf. Table 1, Annex 2) people active in the sector. Demographics indicate that household heads are more in the rural than the urban areas. Land, crops, livestock and human resources have culturally, traditionally and to a certain extent, to date, been key and interdependent resources in the type of indigenous farming system that is practiced in Lesotho. Dairy industry is practiced at low ebb, hence dairy imports are high. Crops like maize is grown through a single owner approach or through communal type called block farming which is encouraged on the basis of economies of scale to maximize resources.

19. Thus, the Lowlands steadily outgrow the other three agro-ecological zones with maize harvest that depend on suitability of soils and climate, availability of inputs such as fertilizers, and often, access to factors such as presumably radios and appropriate agricultural information. Harvest are however not steady even from the Lowlands, where they drop to 28,976 in 1994/95, and rise to 118,586 in 2000/1. Decline in maize yields, especially from the Lowlands that would feed the country give rise to food insecurity that demand innovative farming strategies and approaches (cf. Table 3 Annex 2). Agricultural Research Division of MAFS, the Faculty of Agriculture at NUL, plus several other locally-based as well as regional and international schemes time and again contact farming systems research to inform this sector.

20. The Machobane farming system is a local method that was developed in the 1970s. It moves away from a three months crop farming to crop-rotation, inter-cropping, planting the same crop at different times so as to harvest at different times. The system promotes organic fertilizers. It urges each household to own at least one animal for manure and for income, for food (milk, egg, meat). The system is being entrenched. Subsistence farming is predominant, and it comprises home gardens where a variety of vegetables are grown as listed in Table 6 (Annex 2). Mechanisms of constructing land-saving and drought resistant vegetable plots called “horse-shoe” are supported by such donors as CARE, RSHVP, CRS as well the government, all which are sorts of key institutional players in the Lesotho farming systems.

21. In collaboration with the aid agencies, regional partners and the civil society, the Government is continuously re-affirming its commitment to boosting the agricultural system through various strategies. By 2005 the following were key steps in developing agriculture (Lesotho Review, 2007:48).

- adopting appropriate farming practices, mainly the block farming, that facilitates economies of scale, rather than predominantly often underutilized field of less than 1 ha. per small scale farmer;
- developing proper irrigation schemes that also depend on the development of the lowland water supply since drought negatively affects farming;
- strengthening and decentralizing the extension and field services that emphasize reaching out to both commercial and small holder farmers;
- guaranteeing an efficient and standardized land tenure system, especially legislation that promotes equity in ownership;
- improving and intensifying livestock, from traditional breeds to, eg. dairy goats;
- diversifying horticulture systems such as crops that may be exported, e.g. mushrooms, asparagus;
- incorporating agricultural curriculum in schools, colleges up to university
- taking advantage of liberal regional and international markets through Southern African Customs Union (SACU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), European Union (EU) and United States of America (USA) through African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA);
- reducing the scourge of HIV/AIDS;
- incorporating agriculture in the National Vision 2020 and Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- addressing the existing weak agricultural national information systems by creating a sound database to cushion the sector against climatic and other disasters;
- increasing productivity in crops such as maize that is by far a popular crop accounting for about 60% of farmed land every year, with the aim of ensuring food security, reduction of famine and poverty; and reducing crop imports;
- through Central Bank and Rural Savings and Credit Groups (RSCGs) devise strategies for improving financial services for the poor and vulnerable groups such as farmers

2.1.2 Fisheries

22. Fishing areas are historically restricted to rivers that are used for various ways (cf Table 6 Annex 2). Thereby, freshwater fish is governed by Proclamation No.45 of 1951. Whereas animal production in the Livestock Department also includes fisheries, an arrangement that has existed for decades, fisheries have remained an underdeveloped sector, with capture fish as the main practice. For, as an example, the Agricultural Situation Report (2000/01-2003/04) outlines performance of major or traditional agriculture but excludes statistics regarding fisheries. This omission clearly indicates a long time marginalization of fisheries in agricultural development in Lesotho. The main reason for this situation is that geographically, water reservoirs for fish were limited to large rivers, while research mainly focused on aquaculture.

23. The Lesotho Highlands Water Authority (LHDA)'s environmental impact assessment studies recommended among other things the protection of indigenous flora and fauna, as well as further feasibility studies on fish production. The Maloti minnow has found sanctuaries in Mohale's hoek, Quthing, Semonkong and Mohale areas. Promotion of fish industry has consequently just started in Lesotho. These dams have transformed fisheries in the country. Responding from the government's perspective, by March 2007, an interviewee stipulated that their target for this sector includes

commercial fish farmers, small scale fish and duck producers, as well as subsistence fishermen that probably include tourist fishing. That widening cross-section is confirmed by the establishment of Katse Fish Farms in 2004, a company which by 2007 is exporting about 20 tons every 2 months and aims at 300 tons per year. Data analysis shows that there is need for coordination among relevant government ministries. For both young fish being imported so as to be grown, and for packed fish to be exported, customs tedious procedures are ill-prepared and seemingly a discouragement to this trade with high potential. Although the company does business in Lesotho its source of expert information and research base are located in South Africa where, not only contract market has been opened, but also reports are deposited. Strategies are to be put in place to ease business and to facilitate collection of statistics on fisheries in Lesotho. Table 5 (Annex 2 – parag. 2.1.2) provides the 2002 data as the latest, and from FAO.

2.1.3 Forestry

24. Table 7 (cf. Annex 2) demonstrates that Lesotho is covered with shrubs that make 74%, than forests that take 14 ha. There has however been a drastic change in forest are between 1990 and 2000, whereby the percentage to forest areas of Sub-Saharan Africa to that of the world has increased from 0% to 20% and 29% respectively. In 2002, similar to fisheries, forestry is recorded as not as yet contributing to the official revenue figures in the national economy of Lesotho. In March 2003, the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation was thus established possibly to revamp and formalize national tree-planting plans and campaigns that started with the colonial rule, became dormant in the early 1980s. In 1994, the National Environmental Action Plan made attempts to implement world-adopted Agenda 21, as the Declaration on Environment and Development. The revised Forestry Act 1998 provides the basis for the sustainable management of Lesotho's forestry resources. Tree planting is therefore increasing, mainly for fruit harvests and wood, yet, as compared to the World's data, Lesotho's are small. General purpose wood is imported.

25. Lesotho has around 874 hectares of planted forest trees, mainly eucalyptus, which accounts for 0.2 percent of the total area under arable production. Most plantings have been initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture for woodlot development. The Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation has introduced a tree planting programme which aims to provide fuel and building materials. The project also involves the development of a forest policy suitable for Lesotho as well as the establishment of a forest service and the provision of plants for conservation purposes (FAO Statistical Yearbook- Country Profile: Lesotho, 2005).

2.1.4 Livestock / Pastoralism

26. Under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) Livestock Department, there are two Divisions, namely, one for the Animal health and another for Animal Production. It is under the latter that improved and enhanced production of poultry, piggery, sheep, goats and fisheries, are taken care of in their respective sections. Innovative schemes have been introduced towards genetic diversification. There is evidence that the highlands and foothills are suitable for sheep and goats that are contributing to significant exports of wool and mohair. Traditional livestock such as

indigenous cattle, dairy cattle, horses, donkeys and small stock, accounts for 30% of all livestock. Traditional livestock such as cattle, sheep and goats contribute to both commercial and subsistence farming. However free and overgrazing has led to environmental degradation and impoverished arable land; one of the main factors for the decline in crop productivity. Range management as advocated by the Lesotho and South Africa's Maluti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Project promotes conservation of globally significant biodiversity (MDTP interviewee:2007).

27. Although not well recorded by the Bureau of Statistics, poultry and piggery are becoming attractive to many small and medium holder farmers in the lowlands, and contributing to revenue and food security, according to respondents. The existence of the Basotho Poultry Farmers Association (BAPOFA) and '*Send a Cow Stock Aid*' are the examples. According to FAO¹ livestock accounts for 66% of ownership compared to machinery and land where ownership is less. Sheep flock per head is high in the highlands where Wool and Mohair Growers concurrently increase.

2.2 ICT Infrastructure and Recent Developments

28. Since the formulation of the Lesotho Telecommunications Policy of 1999 that liberalized information, telecommunications and communication, this sector has been formalized and brought under the supervision of the Lesotho Telecommunications Authority (LTA) that was established through the LTA Act of 2000. The ICT policy was also put in place through the impetus of global preparations for the World Information Society Summit in Tunis in 2005. The LTA is the communications regulator that facilitates service delivery, manages resources such as the radio frequency spectrum, rights of way, fair competition, protecting consumer interests and promoting universal service and access. As reflected in Table - 22 (Annex 2), significant developments in ICT infrastructure have been made by 2007. They include issuing of licenses to six Internet service providers, seven radio stations and two mobile phone operators. Use of mobile phones is however growing rapidly in the lowlands where signals are said to be available. After getting approval from LTA, Telecom Lesotho (TL) has just introduced Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) a new service which is meant to improve Internet service. By May 2007, the coverage is only in Maseru, and the tariffs are as shown in Table 29.

29. By April 2007, LTA has also received on the one hand an application for international gateway to provide international voice and data communication services. Until February 2007, such services were supplied exclusively by Telecom Lesotho. More liberalisation and competition and a fair trade are expected. On the other hand, LTA also received an application from a semi-private externally funded Health Centre in Maseru, to set up a VSAT communication network². In the southern African sub-region VSAT is known to have been applied by the Malawi Library Consortium. Once applied in Lesotho, VSATs may also be tried in the agricultural and rural sector, especially in the mountains.

30. The existence of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), which has a chapter in Lesotho, is of great significance in promoting developmental reporting. It is

¹ FAO Statistical Yearbook, 2005: p.

² (Public Eye 30 March 2007:WP4).

also a factor in boosting the communication sector where a professional journalistic voice is added. Moreover, the Lesotho Journalists' Association which is an affiliate of SAJA (Southern Africa Journalists Association) has been established. An interviewee admits that they should train more on developmental sectors such as for agriculture. Nevertheless, in Lesotho, radio broadcasting has not yet been anchored on any law as advocated by the Windhoek Declaration that stresses no state control or interference.

3. STATUS OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Institutional, Regulatory and Policy Framework

31. There is no national regulatory policy framework on information and communication for agricultural and rural development *per se*. At the official launch of Agricultural Question and Answer Service held in Maseru in November, 2005 the Principal Secretary indicated that MAFS was yet to establish the Lesotho Institute of Agricultural Development (LIAD) which aims at housing the “national agricultural information service” (Malie, 2005:43). LIAD has not yet been established, and it does not seem as if it will operate soon. Consequently, the status of information and communication for agriculture and rural development varies at institutional levels throughout the country.

32. Under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Agricultural Information Services (AIS) has been in the forefront in processing agricultural information in the form of leaflets, posters, radio programmes for farmers and extensionists. NUL, Agricultural College and vocational centres store books and journals for their own library users. Coordination is minimal. That at the mentioned CTA workshop farmers and other participants opted to have a university library as the host of the CTA-supported Question and Answer Service shows that AIS is seeming losing popularity with its target group and needs to improve. As well, it indicates that formerly aloof academic centres are being called upon to open up their services to other sections of the population like agricultural information seekers.

33. One exemplary intervention in the ICT sector is the need for VSAT as stated on paragraph 29. As emergency and stop-gap, these milieus of external assistance are indispensable. But in the long run, they entrench the practice of feeding the nation through “hand outs”, and pose a threat towards a sound national Nutrition Policy and food security. Management of information arising out of these interventions is due.

34. Lesotho’s proximity to South Africa, presumably easy movement of people and goods across the two countries, as well as their membership to SACU where only Lesotho is the Least Developed country as shown in Annex 2.1.7, in a way all blurs the difference between the two while in essence, the situation may perpetuate Lesotho over-dependence on RSA, and a factor against agricultural and rural development. On the other hand, nearness to South Africa offers a number of opportunities. Technological developments in that country rapidly flow into Lesotho. Cases of availability and affordability of mobile telephones to the rural women of Thulare farm, prospects of competitive radio stations and Internet connectivity for domestic use as shown on Table 29, to a large extent are an influence and assimilation of technological advancement from the neighbouring environment. Some of the listed key institutions (Annex 3.1) involved in agriculture have a regional outlook because they operate in RSA too. The examples are CARE, the MDTP and RHVP. Their best practices may be emulated.

3.2 Operational Aspects

3.2.1 Description of Agricultural Information Services

35. Conventional and traditional library and information services exist for major institutions such as government departments and academic institutions. Civil societies, NGOs, donor agencies and private enterprises are also increasing in great numbers in the agricultural sector. But the nature of their information services is unclear due to high incidences of passivity in information, or non-response to related questions.

36. There are more invisible, passive or prospective agricultural and rural information users throughout the country than the visible and active ones. The passive comprise institutions and people whose information needs are highly marginalized from the formal information services even when the latter's agricultural efforts deserve some recognition. The majority of those are listed in 3.2 of the Annexes. The list of the interviewed institutions which form a wide spectrum of active and passive, below depict both their expressed as well as perceived needs. It is not in all cases that they indicate where they go meet their information needs.

3.2.2 Major Information Products and Services Provided

These products may be categorized into three, namely:

- comprehensive and integrated products offered by large library services such as the NUL systems, comprising electronic databases (see: www.library.nul.ls);
- specialized medium and almost integrated products managed by AIS as an example whose radio programmes target farmers;
- Non-structured, non-conventional specialized or non-specialized products such as oral advices from various institutions.

37. The main types of information products used and provided by surveyed and prospective partner institutions stand as follows:

List 1. LIST OF MAIN TYPES OF USED AND/OR PRODUCED BY SURVEYED INSTITUTIONS

Organisation	Products used and/or produced
AIS	Books, poster, bulletins, newsletters, AV, radio & TV programmes
BAPOFA	Oral advice from DAOs, trade fairs, MTICM
BAVS/Thulare	Briefs, oral, PRAIS, guidelines for proposals, donors' reports
Faculty of Agriculture NUL	Lesotho Agricultural Sciences journal
NUL Library	Produces Current awareness lists, printed and electronically on the web; and there is use of NUL own library-related items, books, AVs, website, journals, oral
BFVC	briefs, magazines, periodic reports, oral data from trade fairs
BOS	Statistical bulletins, reports

Organisation	Products used and/or produced
CARE	Conventional library materials, briefs
CBL	Own library materials, oral discussions, briefs, advises on site
CR	own resources, radio programmes, pictorial materials, AVs
KFF	LHDA resource centre, technical reports from a partner in RSA
LEHOFA	NUL& AIS/ PRAIS technical oral responses, donors reports
LHDA	Own resources at 3 centres, magazines, AV's, oral in Sesotho
LNWMGA	None, trade fairs, radio, oral
MISA	Internet, radio programmes
Radio Lesotho	Own library of AVs, radio and TV programmes
RHVP	unclear, but consultants produce technical reports that are not systematically collected through depository or other mean

38. It is of concern that reference materials such as directories, lists, indexes, bibliographies were not mentioned. Only DB and MAFS Fisheries Department required relevant printed materials such as reference works. However, with online services, both electronic and printed materials may be accessed.

3.2.3 Information and Communication Management Capacity

39. Interest to develop human resources is common to the rich, poor, small, big, rural and urban based institutions in the study. Notably, institutions have got some relatively qualified personnel in their respective fields of specialization. But over and above that, an urgent need for training, especially in ICTs is highly audible from all these institutions. Understandably, in the information society era, all business is ICT-driven and each profession has to be supplemented by ICM skills. The need for librarians, information specialists and journalistic approach was underlined as imperative. The required updating of skills extends to library systems that become almost redundant without realignment in the new ICM strategies.

40. Resources are a hindrance to most of key institutions. Capacity will have been created if the following were available at the shown institutions, or increased to a level where they may have impact to clients to be served:

List 2. LIST OF ICT RESOURCED NEEDED BY SURVEYED INSTITUTIONS

Resource	Where needed	To be increased
Fax	DAOs, BAVS, MFTC, LNWMGA	AIS, NUL/IEMS
Internet/Email	DAOs, BAVS, MFTC, LNWMGA	MAFS
Photocopier(s)	DAOs, BAVs, MFTC, LNWMGA	AIS, NUL/IEMS
Printers	DAOs, BAVs, MFTC, LNWMGA	AIS, NUL/IEMS

41. Agricultural research as needed by BFVC, and it has been conducted on KFF is to be encouraged and its results published in specialized local channels, especially a new journal of NUL/FOA (See Annexes, 2.3.1), and be supported by all activists in the agricultural and rural development in the country.

3.3 Interventions Supporting Information and Communication for Agriculture and Rural Development

42. Physical infrastructure as well as relevant and sound national and institutional policies is fundamental in creating an enabling environment for agricultural and rural development. In this regard, there are five interventions worth describing, namely:

- i) Agricultural developmental efforts will conveniently follow the direction that is given by the National Vision 2020
- ii) Free Primary Education policy that is due to incorporate Comprehensive Education has a direct relationship with learning and information acquisition in all disciplines by all.
- iii) The ICT policy is a national statement of intent and commitment to remove barriers against technology application across sectors including agriculture.
- iv) Customs Union and levies are yet to be reviewed to be in line with presumed principles.
- v) As the mother of all libraries, the National (State) Library building has just resumed in the purpose-built structure. The draft National library Bill is in the pipeline to ensure that a public library service is accessed nation-wide
- vi) The national HIV/AIDs “Know your status” campaign receives financial and technical interventions from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, World Health Organisation and such donors as the Clinton Foundation’s HIV/AIDs Initiative. These interventions aim at groups that need, among other things, nutritional and psychosocial support. They reduce abject poverty that puts pressure against address other agricultural and rural development issues
- vii) Several sectoral and strategic policies existing at national or institutional levels tend to bear both the positive and negative impact on the general agricultural and rural development. During drought that reduced agricultural yields for instance in 2002, a state of emergency was declared and food aid was distributed in large quantities. The school feeding system that also encourages the Food Management Unit to secure aid often from abroad, and abundantly store donations of cereal and other food stuff seems to be an on-going feature. The scourge of the HIV/AIDs pandemic in Lesotho has been met with donors’ positive response, not only in terms of drugs, but other substantial interventions such as the provision of food packages or nutritional supplementation to the affected, infected and other vulnerable groups.
- viii) As LHDA attends to the Katse water that is sold for revenue to RSA, the new World, Bank supported Water Schemes will cover rural water supply that is indispensable in irrigation. Roads rehabilitation project which has followed on the 2006 feasibility study, addresses rural roads and transportation of agricultural produce intra-Lesotho and beyond. The establishment of Lesotho Electricity Authority in 2006 is one milestone towards regulating energy, and ensuring demand and supply, fair tariffs in urban, rural areas as well as for commercial and domestic use.
- ix) In line with the NUL strategic plan of reconnecting with the nation, the Faculty of Agriculture outreaches for the communities such BAVS/Thulare Farmers Motanyane block farming and LEHOFA. Its library coordinates the network of Lesotho Library Consortium. It has also demonstrated leadership by hosting training workshops for application of ICT agricultural information in Lesotho

and Swaziland. So it does generally cooperate with the neighbouring UOFS Library whose experience in agricultural information management is on record.

4. INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

4.1 Information Needs (Technical, Socio-economic, Marketing, Regulations, Agreements)

43 The findings illustrate that with varying degrees of strength, agricultural information is formally provided by government sections, academic bodies, private businesses, including NGOs, civil societies, cooperatives and associations and finally donor agencies. Although about 50% of respondents are aware of CTA, its products and services do not reach them or seemingly are inadequate and need to be reviewed.

LIST 3. LIST OF THE ANALYSED INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS

Institution	Needs	Matching service(s)	CTA awareness?
<u>BAPOFA</u>	<u>No</u>		
	- import permits	MTICM brochures, radio	
	- strengthen association	None	
	- business plan		
	- avian flu	informal media	
	- credit and macro-credit		
	- grading, packaging	None	
	- markets/ fairs	MAFS, MTICM media	
<u>BAFVC</u>			<u>Yes</u>
	- food processing technology	RSA food manufacturers	
	- local & global market data	None	
	- post harvest data & technology		
	- Full transportation details		
	- identifying export markets		
	- Info. management within		
<u>BAVS</u>			<u>Yes</u>
	- Sustaining business	CTA-PRAIS/NUL	
	- Irrigation schemes		
	- ICT communication	RHVP, GERNADIS	
	- Agribusiness advise	NUL/FOA etc	
	- Develop communication	None	

Institution	Needs	Matching service(s)	CTA awareness?
<u>CARE</u>			<u>No</u>
	- outreach needy communities	radio, media ICT	
	- partners for material distribution	None	
	- organizing own collection	None	
<u>DB</u>			Yes by <u>respondent not to DB</u>
	- regulations and dissemination	own limited facilities	
	- industrial profiles	limited directories	
	- farmers' guides on regulations	- packaging	
	- market data		
<u>KFF</u>			<u>No</u>
	- import and export data	None	
	- post harvest technology	None	
	- networking locally	None	
	- grading and packaging	None	
	- biodiversity & protected minnow		
	- table market & statistical data	None	
<u>LEHOFA</u>	- coordinating horticultural products Kellogg Funds		<u>Yes</u>
	- strengthening LEHOFA at all levels	Limited	
	- ICT and communication facilities	None	
	- farm problems	PRAIS / NUL/ AIS	
	- pest control		
	- credit and Micro-credit		
	- Market data		
	- Agricultural shows/fairs		
<u>LHDA</u>	- Community profiles	own resources	<u>No</u>
	- Resettlement practices & reporting	LHDA library	
	- Biodiversity and participative methods	limited, bulletins	

Institution	Needs	Matching service(s)	CTA awareness?
	- AV production, editing, radio	limited	
	- mass distribution	Limited	
	- developing own collection on sites	Limited	
	- management of information	within LHDA	
	- comprehensive dissemination methods	Limited	
	- ICT communication in the field	also use Internet	
<u>LNWMGA</u>	- strengthen association, own sheds	MAFS	<u>some</u>
	- animal husbandry, merino sheep	limited fairs, MAFS/MTICM	
	- training on records keeping	None	
	- increase skills in shearing	Limited	
	- local skills in grading, packaging	none,	
	- fibre marketing	foreign broker- BKB, SAWTB	
	- networking, national and regional fairs	limited +	
	- management of information within Assoc.	None	
	- development of funding programmes	None	
<u>MAFS</u>	- consolidate AIS, ARD, LAC resources		<u>Yes</u>
	- help public and farmers take over private		
	- business such as one run	by LNWMGA	
	- ICT capacity building at DAOs		
	- collaborative measures		
	- Fisheries: broad rural development information		
	- Commercial fish production		
	- ICT training		
	- management of information within unit		
	- needs met or failed by	AIS, LAC, ARD, NUL, CTA, LHDA, FAO, SADC,	

Institution	Needs	Matching service(s)	CTA awareness?
		NES	
	AIS		
	Training in ICT application in extension		
	- Training in ICT application in extension		
	- Training in ICT application in extension		
	- Visual and pictorial information, trade fairs		
	- Studio production of radio & TV programmes		
	- Technical queries from users	MTICM, ARD,CTA, NUL,	
		SADC, FAO, etc	
	- ARD		
	- Government and global regulations		
	- Post harvest technology		
	- Patents and innovations		
	- Journal articles		
	- Material suitable for mass distribution		
	- Management of information	within ARD, ARD & clients get sources, as in AIS above, bought or free	
MDTP			No
	- GIS – spatial data	own resources, NES	
	- Bio-diversity and environmental management		
	- Sesotho language for public		
	- Cross border rules eg anti-stock theft		
	- On-site resource bureaus		
	- ICT training and broadband		
		Also use Internet, CEDAMA & DEAT	
MFTC			No
	- Agricultural materials, books, reports, posters		
	- Video presentations, booklets, flyers, bulletins	own limited resources	
	- Management of	None	

Institution	Needs	Matching service(s)	CTA awareness?
	information at the centre		
	- Practical visits & lessons from like institutions	None	
	- Funding programmes	None	
<u>MTICM</u>			<u>Few, Yes</u>
	- Regional & global trade promotion information		
	- Standards, auctions & fairs for farmers & traders		
	- Management of information within Department		
	- Information resources centres at district/local levels		
<u>NUL</u>			<u>Yes</u>
	- Teaching, research, learning library materials	own library, Internet	
	- Lib. : technical queries on agriculture	CTA/PRAIS, AGORA	
	- More skilled staff	TEEAL databases	
	- Briefings/summaries/ CAS for clients on & off campus		
	- ICT training		
	- Developing wireless connectivity to rural branches		
	- Networking locally and beyond		
	- Compilation of statistics		
	- Management of projects		
	- Faculty : strengthening new journal, editorial,		
	- Jointly with Library, digitized institutional repository		
	- ICT training		
	- Modalities of contributing experts advises to all as through QAS concept		
<u>RSDA</u>	- Credit and micro-credit		<u>Yes</u>
	- Management of projects		
	- Material suitable for mass production	Own/AIS/NUL	

44 There are no sustainable information services that target, for example BAPOFA, GROW, Kopanang Ma-zebras, LWMGA, Malatsa Youth Group, SAC, despite the fact that most of them are sponsored in agricultural income-generating activities by such partners as CBL, CRS, CARE, RSDA.

45 Numerous income-generation grants exist for several agricultural and rural development NGOs, Associations. They entail coaching members in such activities as writing project proposal; adherence to sponsor's guidelines, accounting for funds and report back. Grants hardly ever entail an information component that facilitates reporting by beneficiaries, through local media, to peer groups, on success stories, unique experiences that may be documented and kept within reach for the same and relevant communities, even for the future.

46. Responding on how MDTP interacts with the target group interviewee states that by "public gatherings" where clearly communities are wrongly becoming the audience and project officers "informants". Ideally, interaction should allow farmers to inform and be informed and advised at the same time, because they have unique experiences to share. Even from the classroom setting for instance from NUL and LAC where students and learners are instructed by lecturers, finally learners have reports to write on their own research as evidence of knowledge they have gathered. In the same manner that farmers may learn from extension workers of LHDA, AIS and MTICM, their own practical lessons can be documented and help other farmers. It is this respect that well structured local information resource centres could be developed for the interaction of communities, not only as grant recipients, but also as information and knowledge recipients, also to tell their stories, become empowered, self-reliant informers, as institutions and as individuals. There is a need for such centres.

47. The study reflected a number of agricultural groups such as LWMGA having the potential yet lacking any form of formal information or capacity to get off the ground. There is a gap in special technical information such as classifying wool and mohair by this body. Reliance on a foreign broker in packaging and exporting products has left the Association ignorant in matters that it should be expert in. There are records showing individual members making losses due to incorrect calculations on who has exported how much and what kind of sales sharing formula is used. The group and its members are in dire need of training on appropriate arithmetic, in bookkeeping.

48 There are also members who make a loss by depending on a few skilled shearers because the Association and government have no means of training more farmers in the said field. MAFS as parent institution is too overstretched to be effective in servicing as complex demands for agricultural and rural development information as those of LWMGA. In this regard, information supply is to be provided *in situ*. Even this report that articulates the LWMGA needs would be a treasure to be owned, kept and availed to them. Otherwise information gap prevails to the detriment of business opportunities. Farmers need to own their own details regarding 'partnerships' with the Government and relevant clearing agencies in RSA, and know for what purposes such details would benefit them.

49 Although they are still scattered and barely coordinated, agricultural information units that were frequently quoted by interviewees as their reference points are AIS and NUL with more than 35% while ARD, BAVS, CARE, Fisheries collection, LAC, and LHDA, LNLS, MDTP, NES, PRAIS, FAO, SADC are used by not more than 3 (20) out of the 15 interviewees.

50 From these centres, the shown insignificant percentages of enquirers consult books, reports, databases, maps, GIS, magazines, abstracts, proposal formats, newsletters, journals, records of radio programmes, charts, brochures, newspapers and pictorial posters. As demonstrated by the highest usage of only 20%, the majority, (about 80%) of agricultural activists do not access any of the formal and institutionalized or conventional libraries. There was hardly any mention of statistical information, and notably, MAFS' statistical data is compiled by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) which is placed in another Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. BOS has its own Library. A systematic compilation of accurate statistical data would enhance the profile of KFF, BAPOFA, BAVS, BFVC as examples, and such data be announced periodically by media and researchers. Such figures are presently so scanty they jeopardize proper planning. These institutions need the capacity to statistically indicate their strengths, weaknesses or achievements from time to time.

51 Information pertaining to "marketing" and cooperatives is scattered since the two aspects previously belonged to MAFS. The new premises of MTICM still house the dormant collection of seemingly defunct Trade Promotion Unit. Marketing officers do travel on scheduled trips to associations, cooperatives, and other sites throughout the country, for meetings or workshops with farmers and traders, on agricultural inputs/outputs and livestock products. Respondents were unclear about this form of oral dissemination.

52 Newsletters and bulletins are produced by four (27%) out 15 institutions, but, as indicated by the example of AIS (cf. Chapter 3.2.1) bulletin, none of the users confirm that as a channel of information, it matches user needs. Reasons for these bottlenecks are seeming levels of duplication and proliferation from partners targeting almost similar agricultural groups, limited editing skills, poor reading culture, resulting in weak or no impact to the target audience, and finally limited resources for sustainability. Such bottlenecks in ICM are noteworthy.

4.2 Capacity-building Needs (Policies, Strategies, Sensitization, Networking, Media, Training, ICT and Equipment)

53 The gap between the haves and have-nots in ICT is apparently narrowing, if offered to communities that group together in associations such as BAVS and LEHOFA. The situation also obtains within systems that are already aware of their information needs, and already operating conventional libraries and know where to go get information. Nevertheless, MDTP and NUL as the example have stressed low bandwidth as the major problem. The emerging trends make literature that was previously library-confined available virtually, an opportunity that helps rural-based prospective and passive DB is the exemplary that established its own, implying that each agricultural group would require its own special type of resource centre established within reach.

54 Regarding communication, out of 15 interviewed institutions, only three (20%) again have fully fledged ICM facilities including electronic mail, electronic databases, Internet connected for users. Eight (53.3%) organizations or respondents however recognize the need for ICM, and either have fledgling facilities or none while to the rest (26.7%), the interview mainly served as a sensitization exercise, raising awareness that, ICM is not a luxury but a necessity for their organizations or business. Affordable acquisition and use of cellular telephones for rural development has been piloted by BAVS Thulare women farmers who have positive stories to tell.

55 Liberalized as it may be, the media is still focusing on topical subjects such as politics and sports. This was proved by a sheer coincidence of holding the CTA Report-back Workshop on the 26 March, 2007, at the same time and in the same hotel when and where the Lesotho Council on NGOs held a seminar on a follow-up to the General Elections. None of the invited media agencies attended the CTA event because they were all at the latter's. Only *Public Eye* newspaper had however announced the CTA Workshop.

56 Over 70% of the interviewed organizations have some sort of newsletters, magazines or bulletins whose currency is unreliable, hence not listed in 2.3.1 of Annexes. Their publication frequency relies, among other things, on technical expertise to write and edit articles; funding for reprographic services, distribution and sustainability. Findings also correspond to figures in Table 19 that in the urban areas about 10% versus 2% of rural areas have access to the three types of media. The need for use and production of material that are distributed for mass production was also highlighted by 3 out of 15. There is one scholarly as well. Support should go to titles that may be sustained since duplication may also confuse the target audience.

57 Budgets are meager for agricultural information services, especially within the government units. Nevertheless, AIS "*Mahlaseli*" still serves the purpose of communicating advice from extensionists. These are conveyed mainly by post. A number of organizations have either invested in resourceful projects or underlined their plans that aim at connecting internet or subscribing to fax lines. The examples are AIS, DB, Catholic Radio, RVHP.

58 It is not only availability of radio station that matters, and that has developed significantly since the LTA Act 2000. According to Table of 27, what also matters is the number of radios/thousand population, and this seems to be a marginalized consideration. Moreover, the broadcasting signals are a deterrent to the prospective users in the highlands and where the agricultural population dominates. Equally important, reporting on agricultural and rural development that is seen not to be easily or freely sponsored by either the national radio station or the private ones. AIS has reduced the frequency and length of broadcasting agricultural programmes on account of heavy fees to be paid to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As the only government station too, Radio Lesotho's scope is too wide to accommodate every institution wishing to air developmental programmes.

59 Long distances do not deter information seekers who are aware of their needs. From the Bishop Allard Vocational School (BAVS)/Thulare, a farmer who telephones to

access NUL Library and PRAIS in UOFS, Katse Fish Farms (KFF) that values research by the RSA scholars, as well as Basotho Fruit and Vegetable Cannery (BFVC) that rely on a partner is RSA, all are typical. As stated above, the 20% that operate printed and digital information services are heavily overstretched to meet special needs for audio-visual materials, especially for any busy farmer. This category of information services that operate printed and digital information resources too, has limited knowledge of publishing electronic information for the clientele falling outside their scope, unless assisted. Farmers that do not actively seek nor use information, yet possessing the potential of seeking agricultural information, and whom we may refer to as passive and prospective users, need to be made aware of adequate formal information services, be assisted and empowered to contribute to content and management of such systems, and be enabled to access them.

60 At the report-back workshop held in March, 2007, LEHOFA representatives outlined their survival strategy as that of utilizing the already existing facilities such as expert advice and agricultural information from NUL; as well as the MAFS's extension services and district Agricultural Offices. This proved to be some of the best practices of linking those in the highlands utilizing the existing structures, more so if fax lines and internet connectivity can be made available to link organisations and institutions with country-wide people involved in agriculture. Sporadic and imperfect as they may be in some cases, various communication channels are operational in several libraries. Within the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing (MTICM) lay an unusable collection which in the 1980s qualified as the Trade Promotion Unit documentation. Oral word of advice that is frequently given by the Marketing officers, make up for the deficiencies in written information. The mushrooming radio stations provide a window of opportunity for communicating agricultural information. Media houses have increased in numbers too, although they need to focus on all sectors of development fairly.

61 Ideally, communication should take place between parties that convey messages and receive feedback, and vice versa. Yet findings indicate that there is one side from which information flows, and this is the side of experts, central offices, researchers, administrators, advisors, extension workers, donor agencies to the rural communities that are ironically called "beneficiaries". The latter rarely ever get opportunity either to initiate communication or to give feedback. PRAIS *Agri-outreach* contains success stories or pictorial lessons for similar groups. Although AIS bulletins are commended for their Sesotho medium, its messages are generally following a top-down approach too.

62 The imbalance of communicating mostly in the English language is exemplified in simple pictorial briefs such as those of *LIRAPA* which respondents would wish to have in the vernacular and kept in a village resource centre if there were any operating. CBL responded positively to such concerns by issuing the Sesotho version of its *Blueprint for Rural Savings and credit Groups* (RSCGs). There is still a vacuum of a readily available spot.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 Information Needs

63 At the national level, there is no agricultural information policy or a clear framework for agricultural information services that would ensure equity in distribution of agricultural information resources, rationalization and usage. That policy vacuum ought to have been filled by LIAD as affirmed by the former MAFS Principal Secretary (Chapter 3.1). There is need for such a policy and framework.

64 Consequently, at the institutional levels, there is an imbalance of those who have access to resources and those who have a little or nothing. It is the range of 35 - 45% of usage of AIS and NUL, on agricultural information in the country. The rest comprise government department and non-government organizations whose access and usage could make a difference in agricultural and rural development. The needs analysis (Chapter 4 above) indicate all types of technical, socio-economic and human resource needs of sorts of institutions representing the agricultural sector. Youth groups seem to come and go, leaving no significant impact on needs.

65 There is a correlation between those who use various types of sources and who are aware of CTA's service, as illustrated by BAVS/Thulare and LEHOFA members. It may therefore be concluded that about 60% of non-use is a function of unawareness and, or passiveness by majority of agricultural groups. Hence the need for sensitization processes on availability, through all media.

66 Use of below 20% by other centres comes, in the first instance, from the owners of those information services. MTICM which used to have its own trade promotion unit (TPU) library makes a poor use of agricultural information because of the dysfunctional TPU unit. DB is the exemplary that established its own library, implying that each agricultural group would require its own special type of resource centre established within reach, or, formalize cooperation such that specialized information is provided in the already well established libraries.

67 There are significant gaps with the currently available services even though they attempt to extend a hand beyond their own jurisdiction. The situation is illustrated by two scenarios. The first is of lack of services, coded "none" that can match the needs of 10 out of 15 surveyed institutions (Chapter 4). The second scenario is of the very same five institutions that have shortcomings in offering agricultural information to users coming from beyond their set scope. There is thus a need for CTA to establish and or strengthen links primarily with the mentioned five institutions such that they may get close to satisfying agricultural and rural development demands in the country. They already have the potential of accelerating ICM for the next five years.

68 Timely and comprehensive provision of rural development, technical, economic, printed and electronic information to institutions identified as key, is needed.

Institutions that require such information will be registered with the QAS Lesotho that is commencing by 2007. It is concluded that of CTA's efforts should be seen to complement immediate past endeavours of CTA's own best practices, and of other partners in development. In this regard, it is desirable to continue with the provision of information in the form of credit points or vouchers, subscriptions, relevant serials and databases. Priority is to be placed on expert individuals that are based in key and emerging institutions (cf. Annex 3). For some of these bodies such as BAPOFA, structures and are still fluid and budgets not available, but a lot of goodwill and collaborative work by members is commendable.

69 There is no channel within the country through which agricultural research results may be published. For such scholarly dissemination, and communication with global peers, academics need to support the Faculty of Agriculture's Lesotho Agricultural Sciences Journal, which is new and the only peer reviewed journal in the discipline, in the country.

70 For queries that have until now been sporadically scattered around a number of uncoordinated libraries, or sent to PRAIS in South Africa, one centre should be supported as the hub within Lesotho, with other information services forming the anchor. The QAS Lesotho should launch that work. Farmers need one sustainable bulletin, to be written in Sesotho. Media houses should be invited to supporting that bulletin, its hub and its work by promoting it through their newsletters, radio programmes and editorial skills. Unlike at present when the study shows that there are topics such as governance and party politics are given more reporting than issues such agriculture.

71 Skills in ICM are limited at personal, institutional and national levels, but libraries focusing on and involved in agriculture need to network, pool resources together. To that end, there will be harmony in jointly acquiring ICM skills, and in providing a seamless and systematic service to clients who require agricultural information on, from and within Lesotho. CTA strategic plan has a niche in this area, and through key and formal potential partnerships.

72 There is a host of niche areas that CTA's attention is drawn to and justified by this assessment study, they include supplementing acquisitions and subscription budgets of providers; sensitizing potential and actual users to resources managed by providers.

5.1.2 Capacity Building Needs

73 Similar to information needs, capacity is weak or non-existent for majority of the surveyed institutions even though their scope and mission statements fit well with the CTA strategic plan and Framework of Action (cf. Annex 1). Livestock Department of MAFS is the example of key government's units that are responsible for indispensable duties to develop fish farming, not only a problematic but new and specialized industry for a landlocked country like Lesotho; but have no library, personnel, ICT equipment for communicating with speed with fisherfolk in the remote Katse and Mohale Dams.

Funding for acquisition of software and hardware for all the 15 listed (cf. Annex 3) is required although in varying degrees. Accessing affordable and efficient ICT devices such as cell phones to communicate development information and as the CTA supported GenARDIS scheme did with Thulare farmers, is to be emulated, and as also envisaged within QAS framework. This approach will build the capacity of individual farmers as well as their associations. Advantages of attracting CTA assistance with associations, unions and institutions is to ensure continuity foster networking among networks that also promote learning by many.

77 Except for very informal open meetings (traditionally called Pitso's) that were cited by such respondents as MDTP, as are known to be practices by MTICM, the rural communities that are predominately permanent farmers as found out by this enquiry, do not have the capacity to tell their own stories, experiences, voice their demands. It is thus generally unknown if even newsletters, bulletins, posters, speeches at public meetings, actually channel information that is required in development. It is about time there is a deliberate strategy to remove that marginalization of rural groups which is caused by two factors. One is the already weak voices that need to be strengthened by adequate channels. Another is the weak institutional structures of the media that favour those who have the purchasing power. Radio programmes are paid for. A test case may be made for the rural radio which Lesotho has not got. The LWMGA members as an example, would be well served to have such a medium.

78 Lack of physical facilities and infrastructure for a number of key institutions is a major bottleneck for them to discharge their duties efficiently and effectively. The factor is illustrated by these association reporting as having none of faxes, telephones, non-availability of personnel, budgets and the like. Yet missions statements, objectives they have. This inability to own and manage own offices by groups such as LEHOFA and LMWGA, to strengthen their associations even to contain donors assistance is further stressed by the former which has to negotiate a desk within the DAO's offices in all the nine districts of Lesotho, while in Maseru they occupied until September 2007, the rented University accommodation. Admittedly, CTA may not build offices, but if it should assist in rentals for a short period, it should be on condition that after a given period, the beneficiary institution is able to raise its own rentals.

5.1.3 Potential Strategic Partners

79. Cooperation with CTA with all the potential partners cannot be at the same intensity. For, even prior to formalizing any linkages, some institutions are already known to or cooperation with the CTA. It is therefore, a matter of continuing, accelerating or keeping the same pace. With others, it is mandatory that relationships be established, nurtured before they can be tightened. Moreover, in some cases, it is necessary that some institutions are at the second layer of cooperation, whereby they are linked to the hubs, or major ones which are direct partners (DP) with CTA. It is in this respect that a list of potential strategic partners may appear to be long, yet actually, there will be direct partners or partners by association with DP. These layers are crucial and need to be known by CTA so that they are not left out our by DP's whose success also depend on those second layer or associate partners, so to say. The list starts with five DP's.

PARTNER	TYPE	JUSTIFICATION AND MODALITIES
i) Agricultural information Service (AIS)	DP	<p>AIS has historically been the country's major agricultural information service provider, through printed posters, bulletin, radio programmes and extension workers. It has been in the specialized agricultural field longest. It has enjoyed this monopoly as also government department, to an extent of taking things for granted and becoming redundant.</p> <p>But since it has certainly reached high fatigue levels, it requires to be boosted through partnership with comparatively advanced libraries and other collaborators. It already has links with CTA and may conveniently strengthen them. Collaborating with AIS will involve Government as one the crucial partner in the country. Thus, AIS will should also modernize its methods of delivery and involve NGO's, and not to focus mainly on areas that re likely to be dictated by government.</p>
ii) National University of Lesotho (NUL) – Library and Faculty of Agriculture	DP	<p>Previously NUL had a narrow focus on academic clientele to whom Information was provided. As well, concentrated on academic research with little attention on the communities around. The Faculty of Agriculture was the youngest in the SADC region when it was in 1990. NUL Strategic Plan has since opened up to be part of the communities. It ploughs fields with farmers in the neighbourhood. It offered its premises at reduced rentals to LEHOFA. It Library followed suit. It won a bid to host the CTA QAS project.</p> <p>NUL may host a librarian that rotates to CTA QAS-registered partners and associates</p>
LEHOFA	DP	<p>LEHOFA is the major unifying body in horticulture which provides subsistence vegetables and a source of income. This is an Institution that needs to supported. It has already demonstrated the ability to attract donor's funding such as that of Kellogg. It has gathered the experience in uniting members, setting an example and expressing its wish to get timely and relevant information in its business. Its collaboration with CTA can link up</p>
MTICM	DP	<p>MTICM is the second government department that is being recommended for partnership with CTA at direct levels.</p>

PARTNER	TYPE	JUSTIFICATION AND MODALITIES
LMWGA	DP	<p>This is an important association that represents wool and mohair growers who not only contribute significantly to the export earnings. Membership requirements range from numeracy and shedding skills. The association's office and other management requirements will start from a shoestring, albeit government's support that should be supplemented. More so because, members come mainly from the remote and disadvantaged mountain areas where sheep and goats are reared; and where access to communication facilities, libraries and roads are difficult or not available. These are people to be empowered, whose voices should be heard by external traders, customs officials and 'companies they interact with in RSA. LWMGA needs to support members who come to the national trade fairs, and have QAS telling their stories, or radio programmes linking them with experts from NUL, LAC and elsewhere. Through a direct partnership for some technical and financial support, they have a potential of running a lucrative business</p>

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

80 Associate partners refer to all those are at secondary levels of linkage with CTA, and not directly, yet being recognized as important as the factor of success.

- BAFVC - To be a beneficiary of a rotating librarian/information specialist; It will link up with LEHOFA for the supply of fruit and vegetables For canning and exporting It will collaborate with NUL for research to conducting in food technology. DP's that should link with it will also require proportional CTA's support
- BAVS/Thulare - Already boasts the best practice as not only the CTA partner, but is an attractive centre with integrated formal and informal training of women and farmers groups, on cell phone use, need to be elevate with facilities such as faxes. Their reports from where others may learn, may be deposited in QAS designated centres (NUL and AIS).
- BAPOFA Poultry is popular among small holder farmers. It is the beneficiary of advisory services from MTCIM which attempts to consolidate members for a profitable poultry business. The association is still

loosely run but a proponent of QAS Lesotho. For the next three to four years, it qualifies for the associate's status.

LHDA/KFF
MAFS

An agreement is proposed to allow a symbiotic relationship between DP's such as AIS to get statistical information from KFF, while in return it is provided with technical information. There is paucity of data on fish industry in Lesotho. QAS can collect and serve such information.

MAFS & RHVP/CARE-

There exists a labyrinth of donors/partners and private bodies that are active in agricultural and rural development, not only in Lesotho, but regionally as their role is shown in Annex 3. Yet, each may provide assistance independently. Duplication is likely, and confusion may be caused on beneficiaries. CARE and RHVP interact largely and effectively with NGO's, civil society systems and village level forms of governance.

Vodacom/Econet-ezi-cell

These two Internet and mobile telephone service providers may not necessarily be associates to CTA, but rather be partners to one major user like NUL or radio stations that should negotiate concessions and non commercial rates for offering the ICT services to the agricultural community.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Capacity-building Needs

81 First and foremost, CTA will need to be informed more in-depth by making a baseline study comprising a team of experts from key institutions that inform strategic actions in agriculture and rural development in general. The results will confirm the current findings, fill the gaps and update the facts. Based on the current findings, it is recommended that CTA does the following

- a. Trains members of BAPOFA, BAFVC, BAVS, KFF, LEHOFA, LMWGA, in record keeping towards accurate statistical data compilation for business viability. Training should be done within Faculty of Agriculture as an established Direct partner
- b. Attaches for familiarization tours, some members of the above-mentioned groups, to more experienced systems in the region such as the direct partners in South Africa or Namibia where QAS will be operational by 2008.
- c. Through the so called direct partners, namely, NUL and AIS and a rotating librarian, it revamps resource centres at AIS, Dairy Board, MTICM's Trade Promotion Unit, and LAC; as well provide use of basic equipment such as faxes, photocopiers, printers, PCs, and the Internet connectivity that is often already available in offices of the executives.

The same principle may be applied to other centres that were not necessarily surveyed in-depth, but may, within five years learn the lesson from the piloted users.

- d. Launches radio programmes with at least one selected station willing to pilot agricultural and rural radio programmes for clients for an agreed period; with identification of agricultural journalists being enthused into the field in order to sustain the scheme beyond the CTA's partnership
- e. Provide support for Internet connectivity for BAVS, DAOs and NUL Outreach centres at Thaba Tseka, Mahobong and Mohale's Hoek (See Map 1), from where DPs that are not yet connected such LWMGA and associates access the facility for communication, retrieval of information, and conducting business on time.

5.2.2 Information Needs

- 82 The first activity to start with, is bringing potential partners and key institutions to
- Sensitization workshops where a cross-section of researchers, extensionists, MISA, and policy makers, librarians own up to the proposed involvement
 - Operationalization of CTA support to information management and use thereof, and so that there is a plan for succession from associate to DP in the next phase

5.2.3 Potential Partners and Beneficiaries

83 As indicated in 5.1.3 above, potential partners, as institutions and individuals are first and foremost, the beneficiaries of the agricultural business that they run, whose objectives overlap with the CTA. It is therefore the disadvantaged farmers who stand to benefit. In the second instance, it the people for whom the business is run. The beneficiaries encompass the whole nation which depends on agriculture. It is the Economy of the country which will be enhanced by through profits. At the final stage, it is the SADC region that benefits from exports emanating from a member country.

84 However, most of those in 5.1.3 still apply here.

Associate partners in Lesotho

- Policy makers, planners, administrators of institutions involved development
- MISA whose expertise and professionalism will be put to optimum use
- Radio stations to be selected will acquire more skills serving a wider market from the rural communities
- Internet service providers too will mark growth of subscribers, and once the CTA partners and the served communities taste the benefits having the Internet, they will more likely aim at getting connected continuously and on their own
- Computer-selling companies

85 Associate partners beyond Lesotho

- CTA partners in the SADC region where complementarity should be encouraged
- BKB for LWMGA
- SMEC
- Fish industry in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia etc
- Institutions offering specialized training such as in Food Technology, or Digital Librarianship (International Master in Digital Library Learning³).

³ (dill.hio.no).

6. PROPOSED CTA INTERVENTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

86 It is here proposed that, for Lesotho, within its three Departments, CTA should consider the following as its strategy for long term being the last six year of a ten-year plan; for medium being between the 3rd to 5th year of the plan and short term basis of within two years after implementation.

CTA's intervention strategy and action plan are allocated to the relevant three responsible Departments and where they are put to action in the short (S), medium (M) or long (L) term basis.

87

i) Information Products and services

As already indicated, these comprise radio programmes by two stations so that they are competitive, bulletin whose coverage in the vernacular and improved within AIS, advertising posters for national trade fair by MTICM, library services by NUL, all need to be produced professionally by direct partners liaising with associates. The first action is of informing stakeholders about the services and the expectation of the programme. CTA will have to fund such a stakeholders' sensitization workshop as a point of departure:

- Agreements and signing of contracts with partnering institutions = S
- Sensitization workshop for direct partners, key institutions and associates = S
- Sensitization workshop for more countrywide groups = S
- Sensitization workshop at the regional levels for cooperation = S
- Subscriptions, voucher system and credit points = S-M

ii) ICM

- While ICT equipment is needed and expensive, skills in using ICT is lacking among the respondents, therefore, vigilant programmes of providing ICM and ICT training and use is crucial, because it can be a loss to invest in what is not profitably used.
- Subsequent training of all agricultural and rural development groups in applying ICT in libraries, extension, edition, broadcasting, report writing, use of cell phones, faxing, = S-L

iii) Communication Channels and services

- ICT is in great demand to majority of institutions, but is not easily available because it is expensive. It is thus important that CTA funding be sourced for acquisition of equipment that is placed where it may be shared by all. Equipment will be placed in the centres of DP's and later to be later = S-M
- Replicating the type of joint acquisition, promotion and use of cell phones for acquiring developmental information in rural areas. The type was introduced in Lesotho by the CTA's supported GenARDIS project for BAV-Thulare farmers as stated in Chapter 4 above.

- Promoting intra-country networking of groups involved in the mentioned activities of agriculture = S-M
 - Engaging the revolving librarian that will ensure information and Communication services are channeled with equity to partners (eg. KFF needs regulations) from MTICM, LNWMGA needs researchers on prospects of wool sales, librarian needs statisticians and coordinators of projects to deposit reports. = S-L
- One of two Internet service providers may bid for connecting Selected rural development partners at a reduced rate = S
- Agreements with two Radio Lesotho and CR to airing weekly rural radio programmes, engaging an experienced consultant that revolves in southern African countries that have not yet established such services = S-L
 - To avoid duplication but reinforce work for efficiency and Effectiveness, considering twinning/pairing of institutions that provide information with those that focus on other developmental issues, at national and regional even international levels. = L
This may maximize resources, while an information aspect is supported as an indispensable dedicated scheme, not a rival.

The training Department

- To embark on ICT training at all levels across all disciplines, comprising library personnel, managers of projects, farmers, especially for the entire southern African sub-region = M-L
- To identify centres that already offer specialized training in skills that of high demand and arrange for attachment of short courses, or diploma awarding programs⁴

As a way of maintaining a tight cooperation among key and direct partners, CTA would be advised to set up a national coordinating committee made up of contact persons from these institutions. This strategy will be implemented at the beginning. = S-L

⁴ (dill@jbi.hio.no).

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Terms of reference

1. Introduction

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lome Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. Since 2000, it has operated within the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement.

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilize information in this area. CTA's programmes are organized around three principal activities: providing an increasing range and quantity of information products and services and enhancing awareness of relevant information sources; supporting the integrated use of appropriate communication channels and intensifying contacts and information exchange (particularly intra-ACP); and developing ACP capacity to generate and manage agricultural information and to formulate information and communication management (ICM) strategies, including those relevant to science and technology. These activities take account of methodological developments in cross-cutting issues (gender, youth, information & communication technologies – ICTs, and social capital), findings from impact assessments and evaluations of ongoing programmes as well as priority information themes for ACP agriculture.

CTA's activities are currently distributed among three operational programme areas/departments:

- Information Products and Services;
- Communication Channels and Services;
- Information and Communication Management Skills and Systems.

These operational departments are supported by Planning Corporate Services (P&CS) which is charged with the methodological underpinning of their work and monitoring the ACP environment in order to identify emerging issues and trends and make proposals for their translation into programmes and activities. This current exercise, therefore, falls within the mandate of P&CS.

2. Background

Since 2003, CTA has been systematically conducting needs assessment studies across the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa regions – the regions it has been mandated to serve. These studies have been in direct response to calls for CTA, in various evaluations of its products, services and programmes, to be more strategic in its choice regarding the setting of its own agenda and reacting to demand. In putting together its Strategic Plan and Framework for Action 2001 – 2005, CTA took a pragmatic view and opted to develop a strategy combining the benefits of both approaches, whereby the need to

address the expressed demands of its stakeholders and the potential long-term advantages of developing programmes that address future needs were combined.

The Centre's new strategic plan covering the 2007 – 2010 period places emphasis on: improving CTA's efficiency and increasing the Centre's outreach by addressing the major bottleneck of difficult or insufficient access to information in ACP countries; (ii) honing CTA's profile and further defining the niche where the Centre has a comparative advantage. Consequently, reaching more beneficiaries and further strengthening CTA's partnership networks is key as well as the thrust to make ICTs and ICM strategies more widely available.

3. Main Issues

CTA works primarily through intermediary public and private partners (research centres, extension services, libraries, NGOs, farmers' organizations, regional organizations and networks, ...) to promote agriculture and rural development. Under the new strategic plan, the organizations targeted will be extended to include print media, editors, radio, TV and journalist networks in order to further maximize outreach. Through these partnerships, CTA hopes to increase the number of ACP organizations capable of accessing and combining modern and conventional ICTs, generating and managing information and developing their own ICM strategies. The identification of appropriate partners is therefore of primordial importance, whilst bearing in mind issues such as geographical coverage, decentralization, regionalization, thematic orientation and transparent and objective criteria and procedures for partner selection.

4. Overall Objective

Collaboration strategies with ACP agricultural organizations and relevance of CTA's support to African ACP countries improved.

5. Scope of the study

The study will focus on:

- Providing an overview of main agricultural services and actors existing in the country (information supply side) in terms of their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for collaboration with CTA;
- Identifying agricultural information and ICM capacity building needs of key actors/key strategic partners for CTA products and services;
- Identifying potential strategic partners for CTA activities and services (paying special attention to e.g. print media, editors, radio, TV and journalist networks);
- To develop some baseline data on the status of ICM and ICTs in the country to facilitate subsequent monitoring and updating activities.

The study should assist CTA to improve and better target interventions and activities aimed at potential partners and beneficiaries (including women, youth, private sector and civil society organizations) to have a more informed picture of their needs and aid in the elaboration of a strategy and framework of action. The study should also highlight where

there are specific needs for CTA's products and services thereby enabling improvement in the delivery of the same.

6. Expected results

The expected results of the study are as follows:

- Status of infrastructure, information services and ICM capacity of institutions involved in agriculture and rural development described and analysed;
- Information and capacity building needs in the area of ICM identified for key institutions and potential CTA partners involved in agriculture and rural development;
- Baseline data on the status of ICM and ICT in agriculture and rural development compiled for monitoring purposes and improved outreach.

The study should therefore also provide updated country profiles on the status of agricultural information services, the status of ICM/T in the country, which will allow CTA to make informed decisions re type and mode of intervention as well as partner selection. This will be summarized in one (1) main report per country not exceeding 30 pages excluding annexes (cf. section 8 below).

7. Methodology

The consultant will use a combination of qualitative and quantitative rapid appraisal method including:

- The desk review of available literature and information sources including the findings of programme evaluations;
- The conduct of face-to-face interviews with relevant stakeholders/concerned parties;
- The limited use of questionnaires.

The rapid appraisal approach will allow a general overview of the key issues and company/organizational profiles on a per country basis and may give rise to more in-depth studies as and when needed in the future.

8. Reporting

The country reports will not exceed 30 pages (excluding annexes) and is broken down as follows:

Main report

Acknowledgements

List of Acronyms

Executive summary

1. Introduction

2. Country profile

2.1. Brief description of agriculture and recent developments in the sector:

2.1.1. Agriculture

- 2.1.2. Fisheries
- 2.1.3. Forestry
- 2.1.4. Pasture/Livestock (where applicable)
- 2.2. Brief description of the status of ICT infrastructure and recent developments in the sector
- 3. Status of information and communication for agriculture and rural development**
 - 3.1. *Institutional, regulatory and policy framework*
Status of national and/or other sectoral policies on information and communication for agriculture and rural development; definition of main strategic focus and principal characteristics; opportunities and threats posed by the political, institutional and regulatory environment
 - 3.2. Operational aspects
 - 3.2.1. Description of agricultural information and services (main actors in the area of information and communication for agriculture and rural development)
 - 3.2.2. Information products and services provided
 - 3.2.3. Information and communication management capacity
 - 3.3. *Interventions supporting information and communication for agriculture and rural development*
Examine the main intervention undertaken, planned or foreseen by the State, donor agencies, private sector (e.g. telecommunications sector) to respond to identified needs paying particular attention to the priorities and means mobilized. Lessons learnt should also be addressed in this section.
 - 3.4. Needs analysis (Main bottlenecks and shortcomings)
 - 3.4.1 Information Needs
 - 3.4.2 Capacity building needs (IC policies & strategies, sensitization, networking, skills, training, media, ICT, equipment)
- 4. Conclusions and recommendations**
 - 4.1. Conclusions
 - 4.1.1. Information Needs
 - 4.1.2. Capacity Building Needs
 - 4.1.3. Potential Strategic Partners
 - 4.2. Recommendations
 - 4.2.1. Capacity Building Needs
 - 4.2.2. Information Needs
 - 4.2.3. Potential Strategic Partner Institutions
- 5. Proposed CTA Intervention strategy and Action Plan**
From the above analysis, establish a link between the needs which are not currently met or for which complementary actions are needed and CTA's supply (products and services). This should lead to an overall and coherent strategy for CTA and an action plan in priorities are identified and an implementation schedule defined.

Annexes

- 1. Terms of reference**
- 2. Country profile**

- 2.1 *General agricultural profile (from available documentation)*
 - 2.1.1 Size of agricultural population (male/female/youth)
 - 2.1.2 Farmed land, forests, fishing areas

- 2.1.3 Agricultural systems
- 2.1.4 Agriculture in the economy (percentage GDP)
- 2.1.5 Main agricultural produce and secondary products
- 2.1.6 Main export markets
- 2.1.7 Trade agreements that include agriculture
- 2.1.8 Sectoral policy related to agriculture, fisheries and forests
- 2.2 Socio-economic profile (from available documentation)
 - 2.2.1 Total active population, demographic breakdown
 - 2.2.2 Literacy level and languages
 - 2.2.3 Access to services (health, schools, electricity)
 - 2.2.4 Rural urban drift
- 2.2 Media and telecommunications (update/check)
 - 2.2.1 Newspapers, periodicals, magazines, radio stations, television channels.
 - 2.2.2 Telecommunication services (fixed, mobile, etc.)
 - 2.2.3 Computers and Internet access
- 3 Profile of institutions**
 - 3.1 List of all main institutions involved in agriculture and rural development activities, including private sector and civil society organizations, with name, contact details, type and role of institution.
 - 3.2 Select list of key institutions involved in agriculture and rural development, with extensive data and information on the institution, the problems faced and why it is considered a key actor.
- 4 List of institutions/persons interviewed (to include full contact details)**
- 5 Bibliography**
- 6 Timing**

The draft final report is to be submitted within three months after contract signature by CTA; the final report is due two weeks after receipt of comments from CTA.

7 Expertise needed

The **national consultant** should have a university degree or equivalent by experience. In addition, he/she should have at least 10 years experience in field of agriculture, rural development or social/economic sciences. He/she must have in-depth knowledge of the agricultural sector in his/her country and be able to identify key players and institutions/organizations active in this area. Some knowledge of information sciences would be an added advantage. The ability to communicate and write clearly in English is essential, while knowledge of at least one of the local languages for communication/interview purposes is an added advantage.

In addition to the skills above, the **overall coordinator** is expected to be fluent in English, have some knowledge of the 9 countries forming the object of this study, and have demonstrated experience in coordinating studies with several consultants and in producing synthesis reports.

The overall coordination of the exercise will be carried out by Ms Christine Webster, Deputy Head, Planning and Corporate Services CTA.

8 Implementation schedule (CTA)

- Preparation/Finalization of ToR; Identification/short-listing of (potential) consultants; Call for offers: July – October 2006;
- Selection of consultants & contractual arrangements: October – November 2006
- Briefing: January 2007
- Start date of contract: 11 December 2006
- Contract implementation period: 11 December 2006 – 31 July 2007
- End date of contract: 31 July 2007

9 Key documents to be made available to consultants

Documents include:

- Cotonou Framework Agreement
- Executive Summaries of previous evaluation reports including ITAD, OPM, etc.
- CTA's Strategic Plan (2007-2010)
- Annual Reports
- Examples of reports of previous needs assessment studies
- Documents on products & services provided by CTA

10 Definition of roles and responsibilities

Overall Coordinator

- Respect the timeframe regarding submission of reports and deadlines
- Help identify/vet country consultants
- Attend pre-briefing and briefing meetings
- Review the terms of reference
- Finalize questionnaires⁵ and methodological approach after due consultation with CTA Team
- Finalize the briefing notes and guidelines² for local consultants to ensure accurate and consistent application of the agreed methodology in data collection
- Answer queries (technical & otherwise) of local consultants
- During the studies, monitor and provide technical assistance/information to the local consultants
- Review preliminary country reports and findings and send comments back to local consultants
- Send edited draft final country reports to CTA for feedback
- Coordinate and ensure consistency of country reports.

⁵ The documents used in previous needs assessment studies are available and will need some slight modifications.

- Prepare the overall report taking into account the findings and recommendations of all the country reports (table of contents to be agreed).

Local Consultants

- Respect the timeframe regarding submission of reports and deadlines
- Attend briefing meeting
- Familiarize themselves with background documents received from CTA; including the Terms of Reference
- Undertake desk study and prepare country profile, list of institutions involved in agriculture as well as preliminary list of select institutions.
- Conduct interviews and gather information in the country specified in the contract
- Draft preliminary country reports and send to Overall Coordinator for initial comments
- Based on comments received from Overall Coordinator, revise country reports and send draft final report to CTA within the specified timeframe
- Finalize country reports based on comments and observations received from CTA and send final report back to CTA

Role of CTA

- Draw up initial Terms of Reference and prepare relevant background documents
- Appoint the Overall Coordinator and the AACP Local Consultants
- Prepare and attend briefing meeting of consultants
- Invite the Overall Coordinator and Local Consultants for Briefing Meeting
- Provide input to the Overall Coordinator with regard to fine-tuning terms of reference, questionnaires, interview guide and reporting guidelines for the consultants
- Provide relevant background documents to the Local Consultants & Overall Coordinator
- Elaborate budget and discuss contractual obligations with the Team of consultants & Overall Coordinator
- Liaise with Overall Coordinator throughout the study
- Pay invoices for services rendered in a timely manner on condition that all payment conditions are fulfilled.
- Overall responsibility for the supervision and implementation of the studies
- Bear the agreed costs of expenditure in respect of the study (economy class return tickets, hotel accommodation and subsistence allowances during briefing meeting, or during agreed and specified field visits)
- Provide feedback and comments on draft country reports to the Local Consultants
- Give feedback to the Overall Coordinator on the Overview Report.

Annex 2. Country Profile

2.1. General Agricultural Profile

2.1.1 Size of Agricultural Population (male/female/youth)

By 1999/2000, farm workers that are considered as permanent are 14,101 in total and 47% of them are male. Female farm workers are found in large numbers in the district of Thaba Tseka at 97%, while in Leribe male workers are in majority at 90%. This illustrates the high size of agricultural population. Districts with zero (0) have no records of farm workers. Occasional female workers are engaged for seasonal labour intensive activities such as weeding and harvesting which attract more female than male workers.

Table 1. Number of occasional versus permanent farm workers by district and sex

	Occasional			Permanent		
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	workers	Male	Female	workers
Butha-Buthe	100	0	100	700	0	700
Leribe	501	800	2301	1 901	200	2 101
Berea	900	0	900	1 300	100	1 400
Maseru	200	0	200	1 200	0	1 200
Mafeteng	700	0	700	300	0	300
Mohale's H'k	300	300	600	700	300	1 000
Quthing	100	0	100	0	0	0
Qacha's Nek	0	100	100	100	100	200
Mokhotlong	0	1 000	1 000	300	700	1 000
Thaba-Tseka	2 200	4 000	6 200	200	6 000	6 200
Total Rural	6 001	6 200	12 201	6 701	7 400	14 101

Source: *The Agricultural Census in Lesotho 1999/2000: p.108-109*

Table 3 shows percent distribution of women employed in the 12 months preceding the 2004 Lesotho demographic and health survey by type of earnings, continuity of employment, according to type of agricultural or non-agricultural.

Table 2. Type of earnings against %age distribution of agricultural employment by sex in 2004

Employment characteristics	Agricultural work		Non-agricultural Work	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Type of earnings				
Cash only	6.4	24.8	84.7	88.9
Cash & in kind	1.3	2.8	3.5	2.5
In-kind only	9.1	18.3	2.4	1.5
Not paid	83.2	54.1	7.9	4.5

Source: *Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, 2004: p.36-37*

2.1.2 Farmed Land

Whilst crops such as sorghum, wheat, beans, and peas are grown significantly, harvests of maize as a staple food are of great importance in determining farmed land. The lowlands zone has the largest portion of arable land and that is farmed from 1980 to 2004. That same zone is planted of vegetables more than the highlands as depicted in Table 6. However, it is only 142.46 Ha, which is even less than a quarter of the total of land lying fallow.

Table 3. Area harvested of maize by zones by hectares

Year	Z o n e s				Lesotho
	Lowlands	Foothills	Mountains	Senqu river Val.	
1980/81	66,700	29,200	18,600	10,400	124,900
1981/82	56,000	24,000	21,500	12,600	114,100
1982/83	46,200	27,700	20,200	9,400	103,500
1983/84	56,700	27,600	14,000	12,300	116,700
1984/85	67,600	26,000	19,200	10,600	118,200
1985/86	66,800	25,100	22,200	10,900	122,000
1986/87	75,600	33,100	26,800	11,700	142,600
1987/88	91,700	40,300	19,100	14,300	173,100
1988/89	64,800	28,500	22,200	10,100	122,500
1989/90	74,600	37,200	26,800	15,600	156,000
1990/91	41,500	19,800	19,100	9,700	90,400
1991/92	53,100	24,100	28,600	9,800	105,500
1992/93	42,453	28,745	19,400	10,513	103,437
1993/94	79,111	47,836	18,500	21,973	172,743
1994/95	28,976	17,367	21,726	6,233	76,954
1995/96	70,612	35,095	23,823	12,749	150,908
1996/97	75,058	33,800	24,378	12,993	144,116
1997/98	36,034	11,245	32,452	3,827	82,829
1998/99	70,662	15,974	22,265	7,869	132,360
1999/00	93,435	23,040	31,723	4,512	157,995
2000/01	118,586	17,351	37,855	5,783	177,503
2000/02	87,677	21,196	35,783	7,869	138,256
2002/03	77,807	15,832	26,626	4,512	127,470
2003/04	75,190	13,360	34,374	4,704	127,628
AGV	67,371	25,977	25,261	9,795	128,404

Source: Lesotho Agricultural Situation Report, 2005 ed: p.20

Table 4. Area planted (Ha) to vegetables by district, 1st quarter of 2004/05

Crop/veg.	BB	Ler	Ber	MSU	Maf	M'hk	Qut	Qac	Mok	TT
Cabbage	2.64	2.32	0	9.39	0.32	1.84	0.5	0	0	0.02
Tomato	0	0	0	0	0.38	0	0	0	0	0
Spinach	3.67	3.08	0	20.98	5.1	10.35	0.31	0	0	0
Carrot	0	0	0	0	0.21	0.25	0	0	0	0
Sepaile	0	2.98	0	1.15	0	0	0.89	0	0	0
Rapa	0	4.47	0	3.5	1.37	0.07	0.65	0	0	0
Beetroot	0	0.18	0	0.31	0.58	1.25	0.37	0	0	0
Pumpkin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.69	0	0	0
Potatoes	0.24	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.88	0	0	0

greenpeas	12.24	5.58	0	17.88	0	1.86	0.62	0	0	0
Onion	1.74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lettuce	0	0.76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	3.55	0	1.15	0.68	0.45	1.05	0	0	0
Mixtures	6.12	0.22	0	6.37	0	0.33	0.18	0	0	0
Green beans	0	0	0	0	0.17	0	0	0	0	0
Radish	0.33	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barley	0.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area										
Planted	26.98	23.38	0	6.73	8.81	16.15	6.39	0	0	0.02
Total planted	=	142.46 Ha	Total Fallow	=	846.83 Ha					

Source: First & Second quarter, 2004/05 Urban: crops and livestock statistics: p.10

Table 5: Number of trees added by 2003 – 2006 fiscal years

Type	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Total
Forest trees	632,802	943,000	1,800,000	940,317	4,575,802
Fruit trees	31,000	45,000	308,462	21,792	407,254
each trees	-	-	-	154,000	15,400
rape trees	-	-	094,623	14,605	324,067

Source: Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation Report 2003-2006: p.2

2.1.2 Fishing Areas

The Lesotho water resources are mainly in the form of rivers. There are however, a few medium-sized reservoirs, although the largest, Katse reservoir, is only 36 km. The total length of the main rivers and their main tributaries is about 2 160 km. The rivers have a total drainage area of about 31 000 km with an estimated total runoff of 4.4109 m³ per annum. The main uses of the mentioned reservoirs includes fishing at the rate shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Percentage of Main use (including fishing) of the Lesotho Dams

Use	Percentage
Livestock watering	80%
Domestic uses	64%
Irrigation	25%
Fish stocking	10%
Municipal water supply	10%

Sources:

<http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:fB7rfT0GgIJ:www.fao.org/docrep/005/AC997E/a>
Source: FAO Country Profile, FID/CP/LSO - April 2002: pp1-2

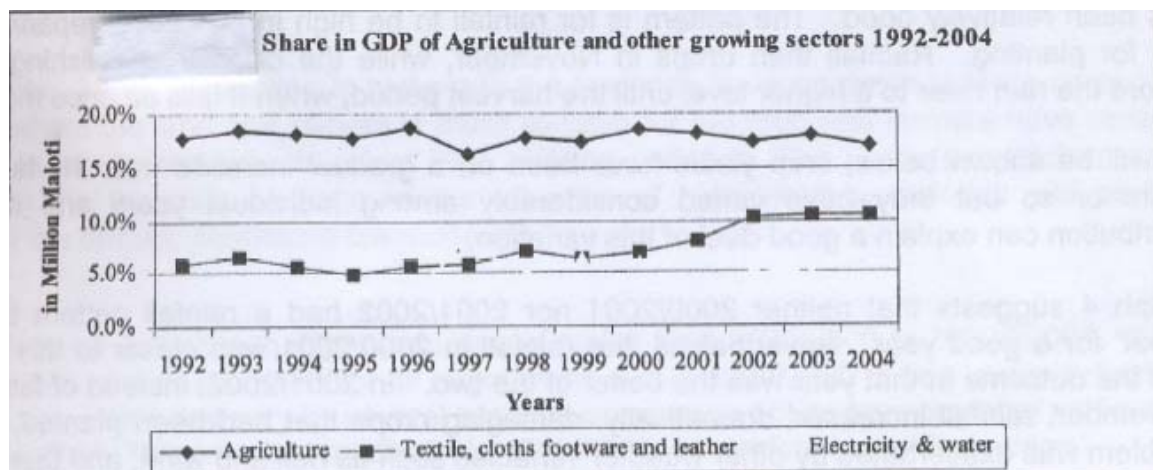
2.1.3 Agricultural Systems

Land and livestock have historically and culturally been central to the Lesotho indigenous farming systems. According to Land Tenure Act 1979, it belongs to the king, but is allotted in trust to the nationals for such developmental activities like crop production in the agricultural sector. Rangeland too is managed communally for rearing and feeding cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and donkeys. Agricultural systems comprise animal husbandry, crop production, home gardens for subsistence farming and income generation. Forestry and fishing are gathering a new ground in the agricultural sector. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security dominates as in control of the sector, but a number of stakeholders from within and outside the country contribute in technical and financial support to this field that involves over 40% of the population.

2.1.4 Agriculture in the Economy

As figure 3 C. below shows, the GDP is hovering roughly around 17% as the contribution of Agriculture to the Lesotho economy from 1992 to 2003. The share of Agriculture is in the form of export earnings from, among other resources, wool and mohair as illustrated in Table 14 below. Agriculture employs full time and occasional workers in majority of districts of Lesotho (cf. Table 1 – Annex 2).

Figure 2: Agricultural contribution in GDP 1992 – 2004



Source: Lesotho Agricultural Situation Report 2000/01 – 2003/04, p.5

Table 7: GDP by Agriculture (2001-2005 in '000 in mil. Maloti)

Year	Earnings in '000 Mil Maloti
2001	693.3
2002	661.0
2003	648.8
2004	650.1
2005	661.1

Source: Central Bank of Lesotho, Annual Report, 2004 p.63

2.1.5 Main Agricultural Produce and Secondary Products

Table: 8 Agricultural Activity by main and secondary products by zones

	<u>LOWLANDS</u>	<u>FOOTHILLS</u>	<u>HIGHLANDS</u>	<u>SENQU VALLEY</u>
<u>Activity/Product</u>				
Maize	*** North * South	**	*	***
Sorghum	***	**	*	***
Peas	**	**		
Beans	***	**	**/*	***
Wheat	***	**	*	
Oil seeds, nuts soya	***	*	*	
Fodder (2)	***	***	***	
Potatoes	*** North * South	***	*** North * South	***
Fruits	*** North * South	***	***	***
Vegetable (3)	*** North ** South	***	***	***

Key : *** High ** medium * low

Source: Lesotho Agricultural Situation Report 2000/01 – 2003/04: p. p.73

2.1.6 Main Export Markets

Through the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Industry, as well as its parastatal body Lesotho National Development Corporation, Lesotho has established trade partners worldwide. The nearest market is of South Africa, for human resources that range from casual farm workers to white-collar food processing industries, as well as a market for water from the Katse Dam. The next destination is of the SACU members, then to North America for textile and clothing, quarrying, agricultural products and diamonds to EU. Table 13 below indicates regions of major markets and total earnings from 2000 to 2004.

Table 9: Main Trading partners and export earnings in Mil Maloti (M m) 2000-4

Export to	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
North America	736.5	1522.5	2874.6	2849.1	3168.1
SACU	727.3	897.0	856.0	689.7	389.1
European Union	1.2	3.5	7.8	3.7	692.0
Asia	0.7	0.9	0.8	8.9	12.2

Source: Central Bank of Lesotho Annual Report 2006
The Official Trade, Industry and Investment Review 2006

As the principal market for major Lesotho, the Republic of South Africa is the first or last stop for Wool and Mohair. This commodity contributes 30% of agricultural exports and the largest portion of cash incomes from export sales. Through groupings such as the Lesotho Wool and Mohair Grower Associations (LWMGA), farmers jointly shear and sell wool, mohair, hides, skins Table 14 below indicates that, the volume in tones has been fluctuating from 857,50 in 1991, to 121,21 in 1997, as well as the peak of 1057.22 in 2003. Nevertheless, the value of mass per tonne is increasing by about 10% per year (Lesotho Agricultural Situation Report 2000/01-2003/04:p.4).

Table 10: Mohair Export Sales

Year	Mass (Tonnes)	Value/Tonne (Maloti)	Sales value (Maloti=M)	Euro €1=M9.4
1990	590.88	5,649.77	3,338,359.10	[355,144.59]
1991	857.50	7,068.74	6,061,455.38	[644,835.68]
1992	463.51	6,403.52	2,968,069.79	[315,752.11]
1993	879.38	4,613.82	4,057,306.00	[431,628.30]
1994	407.14	22,982.53	9,357,108.94	[995,437.12]
1995	545.47	10,223.79	5,576,792.50	[593,275.80]
1996	373.73	17,009.04	6,356,770.56	[676,252.19]
1997	121.25	11,540.93	1,399,349.54	[148,866.97]
1998	172.00	10,578.90	1,819,570.80	[193,571.36]
1999	212.20	14,301.00	3,034,672.20	[322,837.47]
2000	262.04	18,073.64	4,736,016.63	[503,831.56]
2002	na	na	Na	-
2001	na	na	Na	-
2003	1057.22	12,851.93	13,587,313.56	[1,445,458.89]
2004	305.08	17,442.84	5,321,461.54	[566,112.93]

Source: Lesotho Agricultural Situation Report 2000/01 – 2003/04: p.61

2.1.7 Trade Agreements that Include Agriculture

Lesotho is a member of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) allowing easy movement of agricultural imports and exports in member states, Lesotho is however the only LDC in the SACU. Relevant agreements are within:

- Africa Growth and Opportunity Act with duty-free access to markets in the USA
- SADC Protocol on Fisheries with Article 16 on Trade and Investment
- SADC Seed Security Network (SSSN)
- SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) that facilitated discussions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights TRIPS of the WTO”
- FAO, World Food Programme, African Development Bank (ADB),
- ACP, as signatory of the Lomé convention and Cotonou Agreement which is being negotiated with the aim of creating Free Trade Areas (FTA)s
- WTO advocating liberalized trade even in agriculture
- SADC protocol on Productivity incorporating commitment to trading at institutional, enterprise and macro levels of member states

2.1.8 Sectoral Policy Related to Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests

- In agricultural terms, fisheries and forests, are affected by the 1979 Land Tenure system that has been revised by the Ramolibeli Commission on the new policy which recommends, *inter alia*, the right for citizens to own land on leasehold, protection of wetlands, control over fallow and underutilized land, range management, taxation on livestock in escalating numbers
- The three sectors feature prominently in the main national policies that are encapsulated in the Vision 2020, Poverty Reduction Strategy and HIV/AIDS plans
- Irrigation prospects planned in the Lowlands Water Supply Programme
- There are Agricultural Marketing Regulations for products such as wheat, dairy products, and eggs, Price control for Agricultural commodities, laws that govern imports and exports of items such as maize, sorghum, beans, peas and controls on how to trade with a number of agricultural produce/products; all of which are aimed at protecting the local agricultural systems and to support or subsidize local farmers.
- Cooperatives such as those promoting block farming, and associations such that of Wool and Mohair Growers are becoming a policy and practice
- A deliberate policy is to diversify sheep flock, improve fish production, and with the potential in recently constructed Katse and Mohale dams; enhance an integrated poultry industry and other agro-industries
- The Water Resources Act 1978 has been revised into Water Resources 2006/07 for a more integrated approach of managing water and its resources.
- Adhere to regional and international protocols such as Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Kyoto Protocol, Convention of Biological Diversity.

2.2 Socio-economic Profile

2.2.1 Total Active Population, Demographic Breakdown

In Lesotho, women are more educated than men. Culturally as future heads of families, boys leave schooling early in order to shoulder such responsibilities as wage earners. Again, traditionally as herd boys their primary schooling may be so disrupted they finally drop out.

Table 11: Employment status: percentage by age groups by 2004

Age	Employed women	Employed men
15-19	15.3	13.5
20-24	33.9	30.3
25-29	50.0	39.4
30-34	30-34	42.4
35-39	50.2	52.4
40-44	49.8	41.1
45-59	52.5	47.9
50-54	- -	32.0
55-59	- -	32.4

Source: Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, 2004:p.32

2.2.2 Literacy Level and Languages

There are two official languages, namely, Sesotho, the mother tongue, and English. Sesotho is spoken by 100% of the Basotho. To a large extent English is taught in schools, implying that it is those who have gone through secondary school that are literate and conversant in the language. Full literacy may thus be directly linked to ability to speaking English as shown in Table 16 below. The average is 72.6% for up to 49 year old. The rate of English-speaking population decreases to 30% with the aged, illiterate and rural dwellers.

Literacy levels are shown by age, sex and ability to read, that related to level of secondary schooling.

Table 12: Literacy levels by men

Age	% that can read a whole sentence	% that cannot read@ all	% literate
15 – 19	8.9	13.6	85.8
20 – 24	6.8	21.0	77.7
25 – 29	5.2	26.6	73.4
30 – 34	8.1	31.4	68.4
35 – 39	11.5	25.4	74.6
40 – 44	6.8	26.7	65.1
45 – 49	10.3	34.9	63.3

Source: Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, 2004:p.28

Table 13: Literacy levels by women

Age	Can read a whole sentence	Cannot read at all	% literate
15 – 19	51.0	2.5	96.6
20 – 24	45.3	3.9	95.5
25 – 29	45.2	3.5	96.1
30 – 34	51.1	4.2	95.4
35 – 39	50.7	4.3	95.3
40 - 44	58.4	7.9	91.7

Source: Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, 2004: p.27

Table 14: Literacy by gender by district

<i>District</i>	<i>Can read whole sentence</i>		<i>Cannot read at all</i>		<i>% literate</i>	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Butha – Buthe	47.8	41.0	17.9	3.6	82.1	96.1
Leribe	38.5	41.0	16.4	2.3	82.6	97.1
Berea	47.1	32.4	24.2	4.5	75.7	94.4
Maseru	32.2	51.2	17.7	3.0	81.9	96.7
Mafeteng	44.2	42.6	25.3	3.2	73.9	96.8
Mohale's Hoek	47.3	34.4	25.4	4.3	74.6	94.7
Quthing	40.9	28.7	34.3	7.0	65.1	91.9
Qacha's Nek	32.5	27.3	35.2	8.8	64.1	90.0
Mokhotlong	33.4	22.4	43.1	9.7	56.3	89.7
Thaba-Tseka	39.8	18.1	46.7	10.9	53.3	88.6

Source: Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, 2004:27-28

Table 15: Exposure to media as determining levels of literacy – women

Percentage of women who usually read a newspaper at least once a week, watch television at least once a week, and listen to the radio at least once a week, by background characteristics, Lesotho 2004

Background characteristic	Reads a newspaper at least once a week	Watches television at least once a week	Listens to the radio at least once a week	All three media	No media	Number of women
Age						
15-19	15.3	16.3	52.0	5.6	43.1	1,710
20-24	13.9	12.0	51.2	3.3	45.1	1,463
25-29	13.5	16.0	56.3	5.3	40.0	1,044
30-34	13.6	14.7	62.0	3.4	34.9	816
35-39	13.5	13.4	58.8	3.9	37.4	728
40-44	11.5	13.8	54.4	3.1	43.6	741
45-49	10.0	10.4	49.0	2.8	48.6	592
Residence						
Urban	22.2	34.6	74.1	10.8	20.2	1,682
Rural	10.8	7.8	48.2	2.1	48.8	5,413
Ecological zone						
Lowlands	17.3	21.3	66.3	6.1	29.3	4,299
Foothills	9.2	5.4	48.0	1.7	49.9	787
Mountains	6.5	1.8	28.1	0.8	69.4	1,572
Senqu River Valley	9.3	4.2	41.6	1.3	55.1	437
District						
Butha-Buthe	15.9	8.8	57.0	3.3	38.8	458
Leribe	14.1	16.1	58.1	4.7	38.4	1,065
Berea	18.3	13.4	59.7	4.0	35.0	776
Maseru	17.6	26.1	67.8	7.7	28.0	1,868
Mafeteng	12.7	11.7	59.3	3.6	38.0	755
Mohale's Hoek	8.2	11.3	52.1	2.2	45.0	684
Quthing	8.9	3.1	37.9	1.1	59.1	461
Qacha's Nek	8.1	3.7	33.4	1.2	63.8	233
Mokhotlong	10.4	2.0	31.9	1.2	65.1	360
Thaba-Tseka	3.7	0.9	16.7	0.3	81.0	435

Source: Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey, 2004:p. 29

2.2.3 Access to Social Services

By comparison, the rural areas lag behind the urban areas with access to most service. Agricultural development depends on availability of such infrastructural services such as roads, health clinics, water and other amenities. Yet there is generally lack and a huge discrepancy between the rural and urban in terms of access, use and satisfaction to most service. Yet again, the need for such services is almost equally felt by all the people, and regardless of whether they are in urban or rural areas. More so, they are needed most by the rural people who depend on agriculture.

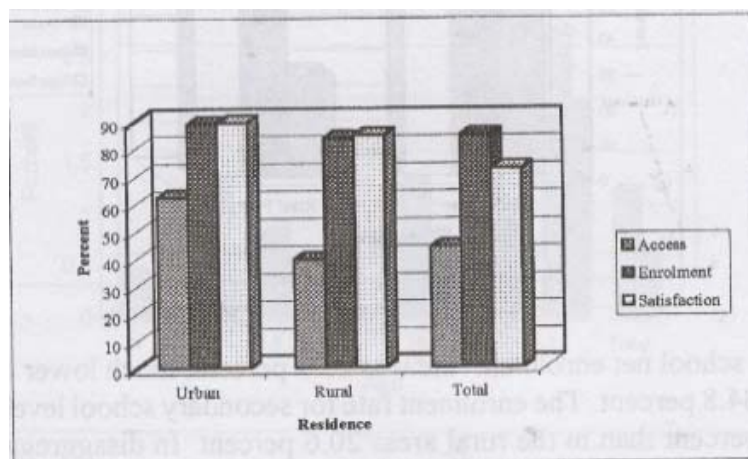
2.2.3 Access to Schools

Both the Education Statistics for Lesotho from the Ministry of Education and Training, and UNICEF provide data according to enrolment by district, gender, and according to levels of study; but not by the actual access to educational facilities. Factors such as short distance and easy terrain to school, ability of parents to pay school fees, availability of classrooms for all, are just a few of the examples that would determine access. The level that is looked at is secondary school.

Access to schools relates to Education. Education offers opportunities to individuals to invest in themselves which leads to an improved quality of life. Hence, information on educational access and satisfaction determine prospects for wealth and good life.

As illustrated in Table 21 (Annex 2), since it depends on low accessibility of less than 50%, enrolment into Secondary schools is thus lower in the rural than urban areas. This implies that services such as agricultural facilities that have been found to be located in rural areas, in the same way are still inaccessible and a hindrance to the development and quality of life to those remote communities.

Table 16 Access, usage enrolment and satisfaction with Secondary education by rural/urban residence



Source: Lesotho core welfare indicators Questionnaire CWIQ survey, 2002:p.22

2.2.3 Access to Electricity

Electricity features as one of the types of fuel for lighting, together with paraffin, gas, generator/battery, candles and others. Only three types including electricity are shown. As a whole, electricity is used by 12.9% of the urban households as opposed to 1.4% of the rural areas. Candles feature among a few (28.8%) in the urban but more (44.5%) in the rural areas. The total figures show the percentage of people with access to a type of lighting, and where the rural areas largely depend on other forms other than electricity.

Table 17: Distribution of households by type of fuel used and district

	Electricity	Paraffin	Candles	Other
Butha-Buthe	2.7	47.2	47.2	1.2
Leribe	4.6	47.2	46.9	0.4
Berea	2.9	50.5	45.7	0.6
Maseru	11.9	54.5	33.0	0.3
Mafeteng	0.8	58.3	39.5	0.4
Mohale's Hoek	4.1	70.0	24.5	1.9
Quthing	1.5	70.1	25.7	1.2
Qacha's Nek	2.0	64.2	31.7	1.1
Mokhotlong	3.2	55.9	38.1	0.6
Thaba-Tseka	8.4	67.5	22.3	1.2
Rural	1.4	52.6	44.5	0.6
Urban	12.9	56.8	28.6	0.4

	Electricity	Paraffin	Candles	Other
Total	4.4%	58.2%	35.5%	0.8%

Source: Lesotho core welfare indicators Questionnaire CWIQ Survey, 2002:p.68

2.2.4 Rural-Urban Drift

Whilst historically Basotho miners migrated to South Africa and left agricultural activities to unprepared female hands, the late 1980's saw the retrenchment of large numbers of such miners. Furthermore, the post-apartheid South Africa has created a favourable climate to attract white-collar job seekers that gives rise to Lesotho outward skill migration. As depicted in Tables 12 and 13, there are high literacy levels among young to middle age groups of males and females who are attracted to urban conditions and prospects of employment. Figures are however unavailable on the proportion on rural-urban drift.

2.3 Media and Telecommunications

2.3.1 Newspapers/letters, magazines, journals, radio stations, television channels

Newspaper/bulletins/magazines

Title : Public Eye Newspaper
Ownership : Private
Circulation : 20,000 copies per week
Agric & R+D focus : Medium
Website : www.publiceye.co.ls
Delivery modes : subscription, post, shops, streets

Title : Leseli la Temo Bulletin
Ownership : Govt – Ministry of Agriculture and Food security: Agric Info.
Circulation : 10,000 copies per quarter
Agric & R+D focus : Agric focused
Website : none
Delivery modes : Post, collected by target groups

Title : MoAfrika Newspaper
Ownership : Private
Circulation : 3,500 copies per weekly
Agric & R+D focus : Irregular
Website : www.moAfrika.co.ls
Delivery modes : subscribers, shops, streets

Title : Moeletsi oa Basotho Newspaper
Ownership : Church-owned
Circulation : 20,000 copies per weekly
Agric & R+D focus : Medium
Website : None

Delivery modes	:	subscribers, shops, streets
Title	:	Leselinyana newspaper
Ownership	:	Church-owned
Circulation	:	1000 – 2500 copies per fortnight
Agric & R+D focus	:	Low
Website	:	None
Delivery modes	:	subscribers, shops, streets
Title	:	Mohahlaula Newspaper
Ownership	:	Private
Circulation	:	3500 or less per fortnight
Agric & R+D focus	:	Low
Website	:	None
Delivery modes	:	subscribers, shops, streets
Title	:	Moithuti Newsletter
Ownership	:	Govt. Ministry of Education & Training: Distance Center
Circulation	:	10,000 ± month (irregular_
Agric & R+D focus	:	School notes
Website	:	None
Delivery modes	:	Free as supplement in newspapers
Title	:	Litsoakotleng Magazine
Ownership	:	Christian Council
Circulation	:	± 1000 per month
Agric & R+D focus	:	Irregular
Website	:	Not available
Delivery modes	:	Mailed to target groups, available from offices of owner
Title	:	Mopheme Newspaper
Ownership	:	Private
Circulation	:	3000 or less per month
Agric & R+D focus	:	Irregular
Website	:	None
Delivery modes	:	Subscriptions, streets, shops
Title	:	Mololi Newspaper
Ownership	:	Private
Circulation	:	3000 per fortnight
Agric & R+D focus	:	Irregular
Website	:	None
Delivery modes	:	Shops, subscription, streets
Journals		
Title	:	Lesotho Journal of Agricultural Sciences
Ownership	:	NUL Faculty of Agriculture
Circulation	:	± 250 per issue x2 p.a. (only the maiden one with printers)

Agric & R+D focus : Full
 Website : Not yet
 Delivery modes : Subscriptions, electronic institutional repository with Library

Title : Lesotho Social Science Review
 Ownership : NUL, Faculty of Social Sciences
 Circulation : varies biannual
 Agric & R+D focus : Irregular
 Website : Not available
 Delivery modes : Subscriptions, electronic institutional repository with Library

Title : Review of Southern African Studies
 -Ownership : NUL, Institute of Southern African Studies
 Circulation : varies, biannual, plus on African Journals Online (AJOL)
 Agric & R+D focus : Irregular
 Website : None
 Delivery modes : Subscriptions, exchange, African Journals Online (AJOL)

Title : Tsebo
 Ownership : NUL, Faculty of Humanities
 Circulation : varies, biannual
 Agric & R+D focus : Low
 Website : None
 Delivery modes : Subscriptions, electronic institutional repository with Library

Title : Light in the Night
 Ownership : NUL Institute of Extra Mural Studies
 Circulation : ± 1000 copies per issue (about once per academic year)
 Agric & R+D focus : Narrow
 Website : None
 Delivery mode : Sales, Gratis for Graduation ceremonies

Radio stations

Name : Radio Lesotho
 Ownership : Government of Lesotho
 Broadcast hours : 24 hours
 Agric & R+D focus : AIS pays for 6 x 15minutes per week
 Website : www.radioles.co.ls
 Penetration level : 100 % of the country?

Name : MoAfrika
 Ownership : Private
 Broadcast hours : 24 hours
 Agric & R+D focus : Agricultural & rural development programmes sometimes
 Website : www.moAfrika.co.ls
 Penetration level : Mainly lowlands districts

Name : Catholic Radio
Ownership : Church-owned
Broadcast hours : 7 hours
Agric & R+D focus : Agricultural programmes feature weekly
Website : In progress
Penetration level : Mainly lowlands districts

Name : Harvest
Ownership : Private
Broadcast hours : ±10 hours
Agric & R+D focus : Limited
Website : In process
Penetration level : Mainly lowlands districts

Name : People's Choice (PC)
Ownership : Private
Broadcast hours : 24 hours
Agric & R+D focus : None
Website : www.pcfm.co.ls
Penetration level : Mainly lowlands districts

Name : Joy
Ownership : Private
Broadcast hours : ± 15
Agric & R+D focus : None
Website : None
Penetration level : Mainly lowlands districts

Name : Khotso
Ownership : Academic (NUL, Dept. of Physics & Electronics- DOPE)
Broadcast hours : 5½ hours and when NUL is open
Agric & R+D focus : None
Website : None of its own
Penetration level : ±15 Km radius around Roma campus

Television stations

Name : TV Lesotho
Ownership : Government
Broadcast hours : 3½ hours
Agric & R+D focus : Limited
Website : None
Penetration level : Around Maseru town

Name : Trinity Broadcast Network
Ownership : Private
Broadcast hours : Unavailable

Agric & R+D focus : None
 Website : None
 Penetration level : Narrow

2.3.2 Telecommunications Services (fixed, mobile, etc.)

Through the Lesotho Telecommunication Authority (LTA), telecommunications have transformed from a government monopoly to a competitive business in the hands of private and transnational bodies. Three network operators, namely Telecom Lesotho, (TL) provides fixed services while Vodacom Lesotho and Econet Ezi-Cel Lesotho provide mobiles services. ICT is also well regulated by LTS Act of 2000.

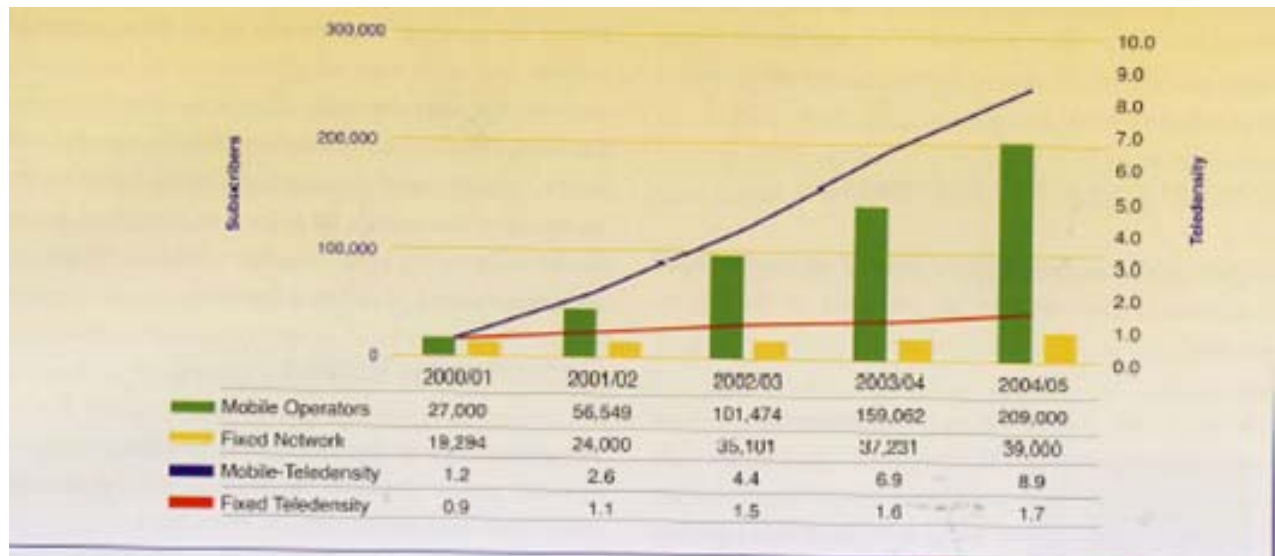
Table 18: Telecommunication Companies by services, subscribers & coverage, 2007

Company	Ownership	Subscribers	Coverage
1. Mobile operators			
• Vodacom Lesotho	Private	}21,000	both mobiles covered 8.9% in 5 years in Lesotho*
• Econet Ezi-cel Lesotho	Private		
2. Fixed Line operator	Joint venture	53,136	1.7% of the country
• Telecom			

Source: Lesotho Telecommunications Annual Reports 2005-07, 2006-07

* Mobile operators and subscribers are increasing yearly and have within five years of market liberalization attained 8.9% coverage of population, mainly urban, unlike the fixed network density which is staggering at coverage of 1.7% of the country's population.

Figure 3 Network operators subscribers and teledensity 2000-2005



Source: Lesotho Telecommunications Authority 2004-05 Annual Report: p.7

Table 19: Data on subscribers & penetration of telecommunication, TVs and radio sets

			<u>Source</u>
Radio sets	-	53 per 1000 (2004)	afrobarom ⁶
TV sets	-	16 per 1000 (2004)	afrobarom
No. of subscribers, Fixed line	-	53,136	LTA 2006-07
No. of subscribers, Mobiles	-	357,913	LTA 2006-07
Mobile penetration	-	12.9% of country coverage (2006)	Lesotho Review
A local mobile telephone per 3 minutes	-	average of M1.90 [€0.20]	

Table 20: Licenses/regulation certificates issued 2000 – 2007

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Fixed line network	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mobile network	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Data Communications	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Electronic Messaging Services	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Television Broadcasters	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sound Broadcasters	6	6	7	7	8	9	10
ISPs	3	3	3	4	5	6	6
Customer Premises Equipment Providers	10	17	8	11	11	12	13
Telebureaus	112	465	628	1 213	2 605	2 543	3 081
Two-way radios	-	-	-	8	14	16	20

Source: Lesotho Telecommunications Authority 2006-07 Annual Report: p.8

Asymmetric Digital Subscriber line (ADSL)

With the introduction of the ADSL facility in October, 2007 Telecom hopes to improve the upload and download speed for Internet users, and will commence in the Maseru area. Prices are shown in Table 21 below.

⁶ www.afrobarometer.org/papers/AfrobriefNo7.pdf

Table 21: Telecom Lesotho ADSL packages and their prices

(1Euro- Maloti 9.4): M 600 = €63.82, M300 = €31.90

CAPPED

Product	ADSL Rental M/€	Internet Rental M	Internet Download	E-mail a/c	Installation in M. / €	Modems M / €	Initial installation charge: M	Monthly charge M / €
ADSL 192	300/31.90	85	1GB	2	450/42.30	600/63.8	1 435	385/40.9
						1 200/127.7	2 035	
ADSL	300/31.90	200	4GB	2	450/42.30	6 00/63.8	1 550	500/53.1
						1 200/127.7	2 150	
ADSL 384	370/39.36	250	7GB	4	450/42.30	6 00/63.8	1 670	620/63.8
						1 200/127.7	2 270	
ADSL 512	450/42.30	350	10GB	6	450/42.30	600/63.8	1 850	800/85.1
						1 200/127.7	2 450	
ADSL 1024	600/63.82	500	15GB	12	450/42.30	600/63.8	2 150	1100/117
						1 200/127.7	2 750	

A cap on ADSL line is simply a limit on how much memory one can download per month. It is usually measured in GB (Gigabytes) and once depleted your ADSL Internet connection stops working.

Table 22: *UNCAPPED (shown in Maloti or Maloti/Euro) M = Maloti : € = Euro : M9.4 = €1*

Product	ADSL Rental M	Internet Rental M	Internet Download	E-mail accounts	Installation M	Modems in M/€	Initial installation charge M	Total monthly charge: M/€
ADSL 192	300	550	Unlimited	4	450	600/63.8	1900	850/90.4
						1 200/ 127.7	2 500	
ADSL 384	370	1 030	Unlimited	8	450	600/63.8	2 450	1400/148.9
						1 200/ 127.7	3050	
ADSL 512	450	1 350	Unlimited	12	450	600/63.8	2850	1800/191.4
						1200/127.7	3450	
ADSL 1024	600	31 50	Unlimited	24	450	600/63.8	4800	3750/39.8
						1200/127.7	5400	

Uncapped ADSL enables the customers to download and upload as much as they require.

Source: Telecom Lesotho, 2007 (Views on the rates invited till 30 June, 2007)

2.3.3 Computers and Internet Access

According to the UN *Human Development Report* (2000), by the year 2000 telecommunications coverage stood as 50,000 persons to 1 Internet Service provider. Growth has since been realized as follows:

Table 22: Access to Computers and Internet by subscribers and growth

ACCESS	NO. OF SUBSCRIBERS	SOURCE	GROWTH
Internet users	21000 (2002)	ITU	
Internet users	43,000 (2007)	Internetworldstats	975.0
Personal computers	5 per 1000 (2001)	World Bank	
Personal computers	NA per 1000 (2003)	ITU	

Exponential growth in coverage and use are related and demonstrated by Table 18, 19, 20 and Figure 3 above, while Table 21 indicate rates for home use. However, developments also depend on general physical infrastructure such as roads that are skewed towards the lowlands.

Annex 3. Profile of Institutions

3.1 List of all Key Institutions Involved in Agriculture and Rural Development

Name and contacts:	Type	Role
ORG. : Bobete Women's Home Gardening Cooperative Name: Messrs 'Makatiso M. Maanela and 'Maabisi Motsomi ADD: P.O. Box 181, Thaba-Tseka, 550 Tel: 58123738 and 63163947 Fax: None E-mail: None Website: None	AS-W	RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
Org.: Gardening for rural organizations and wellbeing (GROW) Name: Makalo Segoete + Tumisang Leduma ADD: P.O. Box 74, Mokhotlong Tel: 63030109/22920205/22920326 Fax: None E-mail: lengolo@grow.org.ls Website: None	AS-F	RU
Name and contacts :	Type	Role
Org: LEHOFA Name : Ralichelete Khomonngoe, Mafeteng/ Molise Mokete, Makhaleng/Phamola Ntšekhe, or Mrs Sehalahala ADD: C/O IEMS, NUL - Leribe, Tel: 63177346/58587046/ 58494013/58479614 / 22431382 / 62775077/ 58866416 Fax: None E-mail: None Website: None	AS-F	PS-S
Name and contacts:	Type	Role
Org: Caritas Lesotho Name: Tsielo Mpeqa ADD: P.O. Box 200, Maseru Tel: 22323092 Fax: 22313284 E-mail: tjmpeqa@caritas.org.ls Website: http://www.caritas.org	CHU	RU TR FS OT

Name & Contacts	Type	Role
Org: Ministry of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives and Marketing (MITCM) Name: Abisi Alotsi ADD: Dept of Marketing, P.O. Box 1371, Maseru – 100 Tel: 58467347/22322064 Fax: +266 310148/22310327 E-mail: alotsi-52@hotmail.com Website: cekwanehang@hotmail.com	GOV	TM PP RG
Name & Contacts Org: Lentsoe La Lihoi Name: 'Matšepo Ntsoele, David T. Mashapha ADD: P/B A14 Mazenod - 160 Tel: 58853515/22350504, 63209852 Fax: Not available E-mail: matsepontsoele@yahoo.co.uk Website: Not available	PRV	PS-M
Name & Contacts Org: Agric Information Name: Shoeshoe Kholopo/ Maqalika Matsepe ADD: Box 14934, Maseru, or P/B 14934, Maseru. Tel: 22312330 Fax: None E-mail: shoe2kholopo@yahoo.co.uk mymatsepe@yahoo.com Website: Not available	GOV	IN
Name & Contacts:	Type	Role
Org: Marketing (Information) Name: Teele Moshe ADD: P.O. Box 1575, Maseru. Tel: 22324094 Fax: Not available E-mail: moshet@webmail Website : Not available	GOV	TM PP RG IN

Name & Contacts:	Type	Role
Org. (Agric.) Livestock Services Name: Nthoto Mosoeunyane ADD: P/B A82, Maseru Tel: 63115146/22317284 Fax: Not available E-mail: Not available Website : Not available	GOV	PP TR FS RG
Name & Contacts	Type	Role
Org: Livestock Services – Fisheries Name: Seipati G. Mofolo ADD: P/B A82, Maseru Tel: 22317284, 63096840 Fax: +266 22311500 E-mail: seipatimalintle@yahoo.coo.uk Website: Not available	GOV	PP RG IN RD EX
Name & Contacts:	Type	Role
Org: MAFS Agricultural Planning Name: Liteboho Moshe Address: P.O. Box 24, Maseru – 100 Tel: 58511148/22326235 Fax: Not available E-mail: moshel@agric.gov.ls Website: Not available	GOV	PP TM
Name & Contacts	Type	Role
Org: BWA – Boiteko Women Association (Lesotho) NAME: 'Makananelo Masilo ADD: P.O. Box 840, Maseru – 100/ Sefikeng 224, Teyateyaneng Tel: 22316427/22310412 Fax: 266-22310412 E-mail: Not available Website: Not available	AS-W	EX RU OT

Name & Contacts:	Type	Role
Org. DAI – Dorcas Aid International (Lesotho) Name: Sechaba Mokhameleli, Coordinator ADD: LI/296 E.K. House, 296 Bowker Road, Old Europa Maseru – 100 Tel: Not available , Fax: Not available E-mail: Not available Website : http://www.dorcas.net/	REG	RU FS OT
Name & Contacts	Type	Role
Org. : Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organization - LCN (Lesotho) Name: Seabata Motsamai ADD: P/B A445 Maseru – 100 Tel: + 266 22317205 Fax: + 266 22310412 E-mail: lecongo@lecongo.org.ls Website: http://www.lecongo.org.ls/	REG	FS RU IN TR
Name & Contacts:	Type	Role
Org. : World Vision International – Lesotho Names : Martin Silutongwe, or Hugh Greathead, or Hape 'Matli ADD: P/Bag A256 Maseru, Freeway Motors Building, 1 st Floor, Main North 1 Maseru East. Tel: +266 22317371 Fax: + 266 22 310255 Email: hape_matli@wvi.org Website : www.wvi.org	REG	FS RU TR EX OT IN
Name & Contacts:	Type	Role
Org: Catholic Relief Services Name: John Shumlansky ADD: Box 11471, Maseru Tel: 22312751/2, 22312118, Fax: 22312157 Email: Not available Website : Not available	CHU REG	EX FS RU OT
Name & Contacts:	Type	Role
Org: Send A Cow Name: Khotso Mapepesa ADD: P.O. Box 386, Morija 180 Tel: +266 22360398/58850226 Fax: 22360263 Email: Info@stlesotho.org.ls Website : Not available	NGO	AS-F

Name & contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Adventist Development & Relief Agency International Name: Maketekete Thotolo ADD: P.O. Box 714, Maseru 100 Tel: 22 31 2664/63027197 Email: alfthotolo@yahoo.com Website: http://www/adra.org	CHU	OT PS-E
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Basotho Fruit and Vegetable Cannery Name: Phallang Mokhesi ADD: P.O. Box 596, Maseru 160. Tel: 22350373/ 58855933 Fax: 22350373 Email: basothocannery@ilesotho.com Website: Not available	PRV	PS-M
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Basotho Poultry Farmers Association (BAPOFA) Name: Mrs B.M. Mofolo ADD: C/O P.O. Box 7444, Maseru Tel: 22333887/ 58856732 Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-F	PS-P
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Lesotho National Dairy Board Name: S. Montši and Liphō Sopeng ADD: P.O. 12663, Maseru. Tel: 22311743 Fax: 22310333 Email: lndb@email.co.ls Website: Not available	STA	RG
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Grower Association Name: P. Ramashamole/Litšoanelo Chaka/M.Molomo/ Motšoane Lechela (Bobete, Thaba Tseka) ADD: C/O Livestock Department, Box A82, Maseru 100 Tel: 22322414/ 58436428/ 58434894/ 58071131 Fax: 22317284 Email: molomo@yahoo.com Website: Not available	AS-F	PS-E

Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Matela Farmers Training Centre (MFTC) Name: Tšepang Damane ADD: C/O District Agricultural Officer (DAO), Ha Matela Tel: 22350836/7 Fax: 22350260 Email: Not available Website: Not available	EDU	TR
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Justice and Peace Name: Booi Mohapi ADD: P.O. Box 200, Maseru Tel: 22322741 Fax: 22310186 Email: ccjp@ccjp.org.ls Website : Not available	CHU	RU TR
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Bureau of Statistics – Ministry of Finance & Development Planning Name: Mrs Lefosa ADD: P.O. Box 455, Maseru 100 Email: agric@bos.gov.ls Website: www.bos.gov.ls	GOV	IN PP
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Maloti Drakensberg Transfronteir Project Name: Tšepo Lepono, C. Mokuku ADD: P.O. Box 7271, Maseru 100, Tel: 22312662 Fax: 22312725 Email: info@maloti.org.ls Website: www.maloti.org	REG	RD EX PP FS RG RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: St Elisabeth's Training Institute Name: M. Mothae ADD: P.O. Box 134, Mohale's hoek, Tel: 22785288 / 22780288 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	EDU	TR

Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Lesotho Highlands Water Authority Name: M. Phakoe (Acting Executive Managing Director) ADD: P.O. Box 7332, Maseru Tel: 22311280/ 62008642 Fax: 22310665 Email: lhwp@lhda.org.ls	STE	PP TM IM
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Media Institute of Southern Africa – Lesotho Name: Mr Mapesela ADD: P.O. Box 14130, Maseru Tel: 22320941 Fax: 22330941 Email: medinles@lesoff.co.za Website: http://www.misa.org	REG	IN RG TR
Name and contacts	Type	Role
Name: Julie Aphane (Acting) ORG: Food and Agriculture Organisation – (FAO) - Lesotho ADD: P.O. Box 301, Maseru Email: +266 22315585 Fax: 266 22310196 Website: Not available	REG	IN FS RU PP OT
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Rural Self-Help Development Association (Lesotho) Name: 'Mampho Thulo ADD: P.O. Box 0523, Maseru West 105 Tel: 22311279, Fax: 22310458 Email: rsda@lesoff.co.za Website: http://www.wcts.int/partners/rsda/index.html	PRV	RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Transformation Resource Centre Name: Matšelisio Ntsoelikane, Director ADD: P.O. Box 1388, Maseru 100. Tel: 22314463, Fax: 22322791 Email: coordinator@trc.org.ls Website: http://www.trc.org.ls	NGO	IN, RD

Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: World Food Programme (Lesotho) Name: T. Zergaber ADD: P.O. Box 301, Maseru 100 Tel: 22323989 Fax: 22314587 Email: WFP.Maseru@wfp.org Website: http://www.wfp.org	REG	PP
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Ministry of Natural Resources ADD: P.O. Box 772, Maseru 100 Tel: 22323163 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website : http://www.lesotho.gov.ls	GOV	PP
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: CARE International Lesotho Name: K. Storen ADD: P.O. Box 682, Maseru 100, Tel: 22314398 Fax: 22310195 Email: info@care.org.ls / kstoren@care.org.ls Website: http://www.caresa-lesotho.org.za	REG	FS RU IN RD
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Lesotho Agricultural College (LAC) Name: N. Mofubetsoana/ M. Keta ADD: PB A4. Box 747, Maseru 100, Tel: 22322484/63051473 Fax: 22310644/58930137 Email: manthatiketa@yahoo.co.uk Website: Not available	EDU	TR RD EX IN
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: National University of Lesotho Library Names: Willie Mokotjo & MM Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa & N. Lephoto ADD: P.O. Roma, 180 Tel: 27006024/ 63055446 Fax: 22340000/22213414 Website: library.nul.ls Email: mamahlape@gmail.ls / wmokotjo@yahoo.com Website:	EDU	IN RD

Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: 'Maletsunyane Coop Names: Messrs Malebelle and Lebelo or Mrs Matseletsele ADD: c/o Semonkong Resource Centre, Ha Khanyetsi Tel: Not available Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-F	TM
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Hatooa Mose Mosali ADD: C/O 'Matanki Lintsi, T.Y. Tel: 22 500772 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-W	TM RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Setšabi Farmers Cooperative Society Name: Fako, Neko Jankie ADD: Ha Setšabi, Little Flower Mission, P.O. Kolonyama 206 Tel: 58059079/ 58456936 / 58494133 / 63143372/ 27001270 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-F	RU OT
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Young Farmers Club Name: Refiloe Makhakhe ADD: C/O Ministry of Education, Box 23, Qacha, & C/o District Agricultural Officer, P.O. Box 9, Qacha's Nek Tel: 22950226 Fax: Not available Email : Website: Not available	AS-Y	TR OT
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Bishop Allard Vocational School + Thulare Farm Name: M. Motsomi ADD: St. Michael's, P.O. Boinyatso 180 Tel: 58864406/58866274 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	CHU AS-F	TR PS-P

Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Kopanang Ma-zebras (Layers) Name: Paul Khofa ADD: Ha Rapholo, Berea Tel: 58789045/5875901/58993137 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-F	RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Cololeka Mfasi Name: Attn: 'Maphomolo Ranthamane ADD: Mt Moorosi Layers, Quthing Tel: 58003277 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-F	RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Likila tsa Boritsa (Potato Growers) Name: c/o M. Molefi (CBL) ADD: Butha-Buthe, Via Ha Lejone, Tel: 22323130/22314281 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-F	RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Project (RHVP) Name: Chaka Ntsane ADD: Oblate House Kingsway, P.O. Box 252, Maseru 100 Tel: +266 580683 59 /+27 22 311135 Fax: Not available Email: chaka@rhvp.org.ls Website: Not available	REG	FS RU TR RD
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) ADD: Cnr Aiport & Moshoeshoe Rd, P.O Box 1184, Maseru Tel: +266 22314281/ 22232130/22314281/62006330 Fax: +266 22310051/22310557 Email: cbl@centralbank.org.ls Website: www.centralbank.org.ls	BNK	FS RU TR RD

Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Food Management Unit ADD: P.O. Box 998, Maseru 100. Tel: + 266 22317267/22323988 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	GOV	OT
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Youth Affairs, ADD: Ministry of Gender, Youth Affairs, Sports and Recreation, P.O. Box 729, Maseru Tel: 266 22314763 Fax: 266 22310506 Email: Not available Website: Not available	GOV	PP EX IN TR RU
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Matsibolo Dairy Farmers Association Name: Mr Tšeliselo Tšenoli ADD: C/O Lesotho Dairy Products, P.O. Box 2151, Maseru. Tel: 22313875 Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-Y	PS-M
Name and contacts	Type	Role
ORG: Malatsa Youth Association Name: 'Malineo Nchepe ADD: C/O District Agricultural Officer, P.O. Box 58, Maseru's hoek Tel: 22780863 Fax: Not available Email: Not available Website: Not available	AS-Y	TR OT

Key:

Type		Role	
AS-F	Farmers' association (includes cooperatives)	EX	Extension outreach
AS-W	Women's association	IN	Information services
AS-Y	Youth association	FS	Financial services
BK	Bank or credit institution	PP	Policy and planning
CCI	Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E	Private sector – Exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce
CHU	Church-based group	PS-M	Private sector – Manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU	Educational institution	PS-P	Private sector – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV	Government department/ministry	PS-S	Private sector – Supplier (e.g. Chemicals, equipment, seeds)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation	RD	Research and development
PRV	Private enterprise, company	RG	Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG	Regional organisation, project or network	TR	Training (at secondary, tertiary and vocational level)
STA	Statutory body	TM	Trade and marketing (include market development)
STE	State enterprise	RU	Rural development
OTH	Other	OT	Other

3.2 List of Selected Key Institutions

It will be noted that some respondents do not disclose their budgets. Those who mention their budgets give the figures in Maloti or in dollars, and such figures are then shown also in Euro.

Name of institution 1: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (MAFS) = 3 Departments
1 a) Agricultural Information Service
Objective/mission statement:
The main objective of Agricultural Information Service is to facilitate and provide information and innovation to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders.
Fields of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To disseminate agricultural based information to the farming communities • To promote the involvement of farmers and private sector in agricultural extension service delivery • To improve knowledge and skills of stakeholders to optimize agricultural production • To capacitate farmers to identify and find solutions to their farming problems.
Departments within the organization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Farm Broadcasts • Publications • Library • Television • Campaigns • Administration
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Professionals • 10 Technical • 4 Clerical • 20 Support staff
All the staff is permanent.
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Annual Budget:
M 3,367,890.00 : €358,286.17
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
Government

Name of institution 1: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (MAFS) = 3 Departments
Programme/Projects undertaken:
<p>i) Through Lesotho Library Consortium (LELICO) and ITOCA, AIS and NUL library were recipients of TEEAL databases from CTA/ITOCA, as well as access to training on use of AGORA and TEEAL resources</p> <p>ii) Initiative to connect the Internet in the offices of the Librarian, with the aim of extending to the library and other sections; although limited funding negatively affect the project.</p>
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming communities • Cooperative societies and associations involved in agricultural production • Agribusiness • NGOs
Extent of interaction with CTA – DORA,SDI, QAS, Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore magazine • CTA Publications • QAS
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National University of Lesotho • Lesotho Agricultural College • Agricultural Research Department • FAO • CTA • Lesotho National Library • University of Free State • The nature of collaboration is mainly on information exchange, advice and joint projects
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with institution:
<p>1) ICT National Policy exists but its impact cannot be confirmed in this case</p> <p>2) As indicated in the Agricultural Policy (cf. Annex 7) ICM and ICT do not feature in the aims of MAFS. It is on its own that AIS attempts to apply modern technology in information delivery.</p>

Name of institution 1: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (MAFS) = 3 Departments
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: The organization interacts with other ministries during formal meetings. It disseminates information derived from Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security technical departments. The organization liaises with NGOs involved in agricultural production services.
Main information needs not satisfied:
Main information needs for programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on agriculture production techniques. • Research and development • Policy and planning Resource needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed publishing software for production of publications • Photocopying and scanning equipment • ICT equipment Training needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff training on website management. • Training in communication techniques and strategies • Training on extension methodologies
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of trained staff • Lack of capacity within in-house library services • Reprographic and managing modern Audio Visual (AV) materials
Why institution selected as a key: Other observations: AIS has the potential of becoming national agricultural library, if only if could get a boost in ICT. The service is suffering from outdated modes of delivery and stagnancy.

1 b) Department of Livestock Services - Fisheries
Objective/mission statement:
The main objective of the Fisheries division is to promote fish production through development of capture fisheries and aquaculture.
Fields of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries management • Duck farming • Fish management
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Annual Budget:
M150,000.00 : €15,957.44
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
Government of Lesotho
Programme / Projects undertaken:
None
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial fish farmers • Small scale fish and duck producers • Subsistence fisherfolk
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
None
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
FAO – Information exchange
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agricultural Research Library • Lesotho Agricultural College Library • Lesotho National Library • National Environment Secretariat Library

1 b) Department of Livestock Services - Fisheries

- National University of Lesotho

Main information needs not satisfied:

Main information needs for programme:

- Technical information on fisheries
- Resource needs:
 - Computers and internet
 - Photocopying and scanning equipment
 - Audio visual aids equipment
- Training needs:
 - ICT training programme in use of database such as TEEAL, AGORA; and in compilation of statistics and their spreadsheet presentation on performance of fish farms, report writing, and such activities.

Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:

- Lack of ICM facilities
- Shortage of staff
- Management of information

Why institution selected as a key:

In charge of,

- livestock that include fisheries,
- fisheries are an emerging industry in the agricultural sector;
- for wool and mohair growers who are responsible to the same Department that is inundated with requests for support of, for instance, LWMGA.

Other observations:

Clearly, the Livestock Department as responsible for as wide a range as large and small animals such as horses, poultry, piggery, milk goats, is too large and unwieldy. Other types of livestock presently not fully attended to with the examples of rabbits and ducks appear marginalized. These types could play a key role in agriculture and rural development in general, and in nutrition and income generation in specific terms

1 c) Department of Agricultural Research Division (ARD)
Objective/mission statement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote and adoption of improved and appropriate farming methods. • To promote quality of service delivery • To promote diversification of agricultural production • To promote and have output based on sustainable efficient and competitive production
Field of Specialization:
Departments within the institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Protection • Agronomy • Horticulture • Herbarium • Gene Bank • Engineering • Farming Systems Research and Extension • Soil Fertility • Animal Science • Administration and Information Management
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical staff 33 • Clerical staff 7 • Support staff
Branches, other sites:
Berea, Leribe x2, Mokhotlong, Siloe, Thaba Tseka.
Annual Budget:
M 7,958,980.00 : €846,700.00
Source of funding, including main sponsors
Lesotho Government
Programme / Projects undertaken:
Respondents do not spontaneously indicate any projects

1 c) Department of Agricultural Research Division (ARD)
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers • Researchers
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore magazine • CTA publications • CD-ROM • SDI
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO – Joint projects • CTA – Information Exchange
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with institution:
It is only now ICT is spreading evenly from senior managers to all units
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Fairs – assess situation nationwide • Conferences and Meetings – nationally and globally • Government and International regulations – circulated or bought • CTA – free information • Regional Research Institutions – SADC protocols • MAFS
Main information needs not satisfied:
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and International regulations • Patents • Post-harvest technology • Commodity profiles / abstracts • Journal articles • Materials suitable for mass distribution <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department has no formal library of its own, and will improvised with credit points allocated to senior staff so that they acquire specialized documents, especially those unavailable from LAC, ARD and AIS.

1 c) Department of Agricultural Research Division (ARD)
<p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for training on ICM
<p>Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of qualified staff. • Lack of capacity within in-house library services
<p>Why institution selected as a key:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only department in the country responsible for agricultural research programmes and activities.
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on agriculture • Health • How to read and write • Shows and market days • Packaging <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds • Transport <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for long-term higher education programmes • Training on extension
<p>Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:</p> <p>Inadequate financial provisions to attract high caliber staff, and ineffective impact</p>
<p>Why institution selected as a key:</p> <p>The oldest and main government research station</p>
<p>Other observations:</p> <p>ARD has over years received CTA assistance but has experienced heavy brain drain both from the Library and the Research sections.</p>

Name of institution 2: Lesotho Horticultural Farmers Association (LEHOFA)
Objective/mission statement:
The main objective of LEHOFA is to promote horticultural production in all districts of Lesotho through well coordinated efforts.
Fields of Specialization:
Horticultural production
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 part-time Professional • 1 part-time technician
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites in all ten districts of Lesotho, especially those located at DAO's offices, the headquarters was hosted for the past two years at rented University premises in Maseru where they are expected to move when funds for rentals expire in 2007 • The institution has representatives in all the ten districts of Lesotho
Annual Budget:
M882,000.00 / €93,829.78
Source of funding, including main sponsors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA Kellogg Foundation • Membership subscriptions
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho horticultural farmers
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore magazine • No other interaction known by respondent
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Name of institution 2: Lesotho Horticultural Farmers Association (LEHOFA)
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution.
N/A
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS distributes to DAO's who have agreed to provide such facilities for the LEHOFA members as they lack office accommodation of their own in all the districts • AIS brief radio programmes announcements on policies, regulations, embargoes • ARD findings, if in the AIS bulletins, both have newsletters • NUL-based coordinator of Kellogg-funded Phase of developing LEHOFA
Main information needs not satisfied:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market data, and beyond Lesotho, • Global trends, e.g. organically-produced vegetables, • post harvest technology eg. storage, seeds; grading for agricultural/trade fairs at Ha Foso (National Fair)
Main information needs for programme:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on vegetable production. • Marketing information <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers • Network capacity <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kellogg provided basic needs of tables, chairs, a few computers with the hope that the Association will continue to train members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) in ICT usage, for word-processing reports, 2) for connecting by emails through the DAO's office, but 3) there is need to have a trainer for all members, and 4) there no volunteer to install Internet for members 5) Kellogg funding has come to an end LEHOFA is yet to find even an office in which to train <p>Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capacity at branch levels

Name of institution 2: Lesotho Horticultural Farmers Association (LEHOFA)
Why institution selected as a key:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEHOFA is exemplary in networking at national level, attracting attention of such donors as Kellogg, and continuing to serve as an umbrella body for vegetable production farmers with regional desks or offices.
Other observations:

LEHOFA is aware of CTA support and eager to have QAS Lesotho operational.

Name of institution 3: Basotho Poultry Farmers Association (BAPOFA)
Objective/mission statement:
<p>The main objective BAPOFA is to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate income through poultry farming Cooperate in acquisition of chicks Become pressure group for policies that promote and protect poultry business in Lesotho, such as was the case with prohibiting chickens during the scare of bird flu
Fields of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization specializes in egg and poultry meat production
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not known
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization is nationwide
Annual Budget:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None (indeed no budget as in formally organized companies. Here, members have a loosely run togetherness. They, for instance bring in pool in their own funds to share costs when buying, and selling in order to raise profits through economies of scale and sharing ideas among other things. They intended paying membership fees in order to start a fund, but have not yet started.
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
Membership subscription
Programme / Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

Name of institution 3: Basotho Poultry Farmers Association (BAPOFA)
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poultry Farmers although the numbers are not known • Buyers
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
Lentsoe la Lihoi, MITCIM for licenses, import of chicks and feeds.
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information an communication with institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Agricultural Information policy
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Livestock Services • Agricultural Information Services through radio programmes, magazine and publications
Main information needs not satisfied:
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on poultry production. • Technical information on handling, processing and marketing of poultry products. <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office infrastructure • Computers and appropriate software. <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for in-service training on poultry production • Conflict management • Marketing procedures • Management and leadership skills
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack information and dissemination equipment

Name of institution 3: Basotho Poultry Farmers Association (BAPOFA)
Why institution selected as a key:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poultry is one of the popular agricultural businesses for both the male and females, as well as for small and medium entrepreneurs. BAPOFA is the overall umbrella organization responsible for poultry production in the country
Other observations:
BAPOFA is yet to consolidate its membership

Name of institution 4: Katse Fish Farms (KFF)
Objective/mission statement:
To produce fish for export marketing as well as table market. Katse fish farms are expected to export 300 tons of fish per annum.
Fields of Specialization:
Fish production
Departments within the organization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Locals 2 Experts
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Annual Budget:
M12,000,000 / €1,276,595.70
Source of funding, including main sponsors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commercial company with own sources, support by LHDA, and links to South African markets
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

Name of institution 4: Katse Fish Farms (KFF)
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of South Africa for smoked fillet • Local communities
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National University of Lesotho • University of Stellenbosch - research on fish nutrition. • Department of Science and Technology - Ministry of Communications
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs and Excise that require traders to be conversant with laws, figures, and eg. be able to communicate by cell or by fax across the distance between Maseru and Katse so that exports may be checked conveniently and timeously at the Maseru Border.
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LHDA Library
Main information needs not satisfied:
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on fish farming and raising sales locally and export marketing. <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural development databank • Fisheries research infrastructure <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds for training staff on fisheries management.
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:
<p>Compared to several institutions, LHDA has not faced many ICM problems at its own headquarters in Maseru and two stations in Katse and Mohale. Rather, its challenges relate to rural communities that it LHDA has to interact with but should be trained in use of information and communication channels.</p>

Name of institution 4: Katse Fish Farms (KFF)

Why institution selected as a key:

- Embarking on fish industry at commercial scale
- Trains local people on the fishing
- produces fish
- Export fish
- Experienced in interacting with remote local communities that include farmers that were relocated to give way to the Katse and Mohale Dams developments
- Involved in agricultural and rural development schemes in the mentioned areas

Other observations:

- KFF is in touch with research in the field. This industry may develop for packing within the country and in this respect, KFF can cooperate with BFVC.

Name of institution 5: Lesotho National Dairy Board (DB)

Objective/mission statement:

The Lesotho National Dairy Board is a regulatory body charged with the responsibility of developing dairying in Lesotho.

Fields of Specialization:

- The board prescribes standards of production, storage, packaging, processing and distribution of dairy products

Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:

- 9 Board members
- 6 Permanent staff

Branches, other sites:

- None

Annual Budget:

- Not known by respondent

Source of funding, including main sponsors:

- Semi-private, raising funds through levies, and semi-governmental getting subvention from government
- Sales of dairy products
- Distribution levy
- Sale of inputs- milk cans and milk strainers and farming literature

Name of institution 5: Lesotho National Dairy Board (DB)
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing own library
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traders – Local and Republic of South Africa who distribute dairy products • Dairy products Consumers • Lesotho Dairy products, milk processing company • Farmers
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interaction known by respondent
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho Dairy Products, milk processing company • Dairy section of Livestock department Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security- dairy policy and information exchange • Marketing section Ministry of Industry, Trade and Marketing – Permits to distribute dairy products • Public health of Ministry of Health and Social Welfare –Field inspections • Customs • Traders – Local and Republic of South Africa – joint projects
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very little impact from ICT policy that would encourage among other things, timely online transactions
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own just developed DB's library
Main information needs not satisfied:
Main information needs for programme:
Resource needs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional staff
Training needs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time training in library/documentation studies for an assistant that may be engaged fully in the newly established library • Coaching staff in techniques of retrieving relevant information from the internet and/or

Name of institution 5: Lesotho National Dairy Board (DB)
other digital sources
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited funds to engage own information professionals, and a specialized field that is barely catered for in most of local information centres
Why institution selected as a key:
The Lesotho National Dairy Board is the specialized and regulatory statutory body mandated to oversee the processing of dairy products. It is a regulatory body charged with the responsibility of developing dairying in the country.
Other observations:
To be empowered in order to guide in more and more of dairy products such as cheese by Thulare Farm at BAVS.

Name of institution 6: Marketing Department: Ministry of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives & Marketing
Objective/mission statement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorption of local produce into markets and development of efficient marketing systems and agribusiness. To provide a marketing policy environment that encourages private sector participation Diversified output to the country's comparative/competitive advantages and facilitates the development of efficient input and output marketing systems.
Fields of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing section that develops and promotes markets, such that producers can service to increase their out/incomes Equip and/or improve producers agric business management & marketing skills Industry section which facilitates investment in agri-business developments Send market signals to government technical production departments to be transmitted into production programmes Trade promotion which includes information for liaising and coordinating activities of relevant international organizations committees to improve bargaining power.
Departments within the organization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration Livestock division (Wool and Mohair, hides and skins, Poultry and piggery) Crops division (Field crops, horticulture, Agric-inputs marketing)

Name of institution 6: Marketing Department: Ministry of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives & Marketing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension (Marketing information, Research, statistics, and controls)
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Professionals • 69 Technical • 40 clerical • 121 total staff
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost all districts of Lesotho • Also visit traders/farmers on site where there is need
Annual Budget:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 201,600.00 (€21, 446)
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO supported translations and publishing of manuals on market-oriented production (with step-by-step guide on do's and don'ts)
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers at all levels • Agric-inputs distributors/traders
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore magazine • CTA publications
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BKB – Boer brokering agent • CWM • SAGIS • South African Wool Grower Association • South African Future Exchange) (SAFEX) • National Department of Agriculture – Republic of South Africa • FAO • Australian Wool Innovation
Collaboration with the above institutions is mainly on information exchange.

Name of institution 6: Marketing Department: Ministry of Industry, Trade, Cooperatives & Marketing
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior executives have access to internet from which to search • From middle and others, it is difficult to have access to adequate information
Main information needs not satisfied:
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on marketing (advertising, exports, imports) agricultural products • Translations and production of posters, manuals <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers and appropriate software <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer driving license – courses such as those offered by Institute of Development Management (IDM) • Website design, courses offered by IDM
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor facilities for research work • Shortage of professional library staff to resuscitate and manage the trade promotion unit library • Limited skills among staff and facilities to produce promotional materials for both the district fairs and one annual national agricultural show • Lack of funds to sponsor traders' participation in national trade fair • Lack of funding to support staff attendance in international exhibitions/expeditions • No capacity to collect, analyse, generate and publish the Ministry's own statistics
Why institution selected as a key:
<p>The mission of the organization is to provide a marketing policy environment that encourages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • private sector participation • diversified output to the country's comparative/competitive advantages • and facilitates the development of efficient input and output marketing systems.
Other observations:
Noteworthy MITCM has statistics unit, but not much is forthcoming

Name of institution 7: Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA)

Objective/mission statement:

"RSDA strives for self-organised community organisations that are able to run their own affairs so they can work towards improving the standard of living and contribute to poverty reduction in Lesotho. In order to achieve this, RSDA assists small-scale farmers to improve their quality of life using sustainable agricultural practices. This is achieved through food security activities with a focus on agriculture production practices which use low external inputs and restore soil and natural resources."

Fields of Specialization:

- Strengthening HIV/AIDS and Food Security mitigating mechanisms amongst smallholder farmers
- HIV/AIDS prevention and behaviour change amongst community members
- Capacity building of self-help groups and water harvesting
- Promotion of homestead food production amongst small scale farmers, home gardens, drip irrigation, and dual purpose chickens
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children Livelihood project
- Secure the Child Project – school gardens
- Voluntary savings and loans
- Dairy project

Departments within the organization:

- None

Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:

- Management
- 7 Technical
- 1 Development worker - temporary
- 10 Support staff
- 20 Total staff

Branches, other sites:

- Previously handled project at Mafeteng

Annual Budget:

M 2 Million : (€212,765.95)

Source of funding, including main sponsors:

- Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN)
- PACT – USAID
- SIDA through Golden Valley Research Trust (GART)

Name of institution 7: Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care International – Care Lesotho/South Africa • Uncommon Fund for Commodities (CFC) through GART • FAO – Lesotho
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigns on HIV/AIDS, gardening, conservation farming and raising rural incomes.
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale farmers • Women • Schools • Youth out of schools
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore magazine
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Ecological Land use Management (Pellum) • SARDNPANOS • Joint project and information exchange with CARE and RHVP
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSDA work is in line with the local government policy on rural development and self sufficiency
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTA / CTA booklets • Regional and International Research institutions • Newspapers • Internet
Main information needs not satisfied:

Name of institution 7: Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA)

Main information needs for programme:

Credit & micro credit

- Available agricultural development networks
- Farm problems and non-farm livelihoods
- Social development issues

Technical information

- Post-harvest technology and crop varieties
- Packaging
- Integrated pest management

Resource needs:

- 2 Computers and Internet access.

Training needs:

- Management of Information systems.
- Editing reports
- Application of communication technologies in research

Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:

- Lack of professional staff
- Shortage of human resource capacity
- Shortage of funds for organizational information. An ICM strategy needs to be finalized, finalize, resource mobilization and resource mobilization and implementation.

Why was the institution chosen:

With coverage of three southern districts of Lesotho. Rural Self-help Development Association is at the heart of rural development, and locally-driven as the name denotes

Name of institution 8: Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)
Objective/mission statement:
To efficiently and effectively implement the Lesotho Highlands Water Project in environmentally and socially friendly manner. To resettle communities affected by the Katse and Mohale Dams in such a manner that their living conditions may be better improved.
Fields of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering • Social Development • Natural Resource Management <p>Departments within the institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Systems Branch • Human Resource • Financial Management • Public Relations • Integrated Planning Branch • Water quality / Dam safety
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 professionals; the rest not known by the respondent
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katse Field Operations Branch • Mohale Field Operations Branch • 'Muela Field Operations Branch
Annual Budget:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not known by respondent
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho Highlands Development Authority
Programme/Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community sensitization in sanitation • Training farmers in agriculture and range management

Name of institution 8: Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households that lost land during Phase 1A, and are to be registered and be compensated/resettled • Communities living in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project catchments • Means of contact; Individual + group meetings/ Public gatherings and through mass media
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD-ROM; no other interaction known by respondent
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMEC International • IMAGIS (RSA) • Agric Research Council (RSA) • Sechaba Consultants (Lesotho) • Lesotho Government ministries • National University of Lesotho <p>Information exchange.</p>
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution:
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LHDA library • Local libraries • Personal books
Main information needs not satisfied:
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on agricultural techniques. <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers and network infrastructure • Licensed publishing software for production of publications • Photocopying and scanning equipment • Video conferencing equipment. <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff training on basic computers • Advanced training in various areas of ICT technologies

Name of institution 8: Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict management
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent resignation from the branch • The budget is very much limited resulting in some activities being compromised.
Why institution selected as a key:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LHDA is a well established intergovernmental body with a linkage to the communities being relocated or still within the catchment of the Katse Dam. It is an externally-funded body that reaches rural communities to better their livelihoods, and one of the oldest operating in the country, with presumably a unique experience in the study.
Other observations:
Publishes a newsletter and a magazine

Name of institution 9: National University of Lesotho Faculty of Agriculture with information support from the NUL Library)
Objective/mission statement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach • Train • Research • Publish/Disseminate own information and from elsewhere • Outreach • Consultancy
Fields of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Economics • Agricultural Extension • Crop Science • Soil Science • Natural Resource Conservation <p>Departments within the institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Economics & Extension • Crop Science • Animal Science • Soil Science • Administration
Number of staff; professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Professionals • 5 Technical staff • 4 Clerical staff • 15 Support staff
Branches, other sites:
Through IEMS, the Distance learning arm, NUL has a branch in Maseru where it is housing an office of LEHOFA, as well as other IEMS branches in Leribe, Thaba Tseka and Mohale's hoek.
Annual Budget:
Faculty's and Library's budgets range respectively from 3 to 4 Million Maloti per year, excluding salaries.

Name of institution 9: National University of Lesotho Faculty of Agriculture with information support from the NUL Library)
Source of funding, including main sponsors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho Government • Tuition fees • Consultancies
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community's block farming around NUL • Abattoir feasibility study • Jointly with Library supported AGORA/TEEAL training & acquisition of databases • The Library piloted the wireless connectivity to the Internet; may be replicated
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students • Farmers/communities • Policy makers
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore magazine • CTA publications • Question and Answer Service
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho Agricultural College • Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security • SADC • Faculties of Agriculture and Libraries in other Universities <p>Joint projects and Information Exchange</p>
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT policy that has liberalized since 2000 is favourable to ICT acquisition and use • Taxation on educational materials except if a waiver is given • Membership to SACU and Rand monetary area removes trade barriers, availability of imported ICT goods, easy collaboration with partners who use foreign currency
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other higher learning institutions

Name of institution 9: National University of Lesotho Faculty of Agriculture with information support from the NUL Library)
Main information needs not satisfied:
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm problems • Available agricultural networks (Regional & International) • Post- harvest technology • Crop varieties • Integrated pest management • Participative methodologies • Application of communication technologies in extension services • Watershed management and soil Conservation methodologies • Agricultural organizational development and management • Economical analysis of agricultural systems. <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers and network infrastructure • Licensed publishing software for production of publications • Photocopying and scanning equipment • Video conferencing equipment. <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for long-term higher education programmes • Training in communication techniques and strategies • Training on extension methodologies
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet access is too slow • Lack of capacity within in-house library services • Little sharing of important information
Why institution selected as a key:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only institution specializing in Agriculture at the university level – cooperating with rural communities and entrepreneurial by approach, to represent presumably the advantaged group, with comparatively endowed library services
Other observations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot more of research is to be carried out for such organization like KFF and BFVC.

Name of institution 10: Matela Farmers Training Centre (MFTC)
Objective/mission statement:
<p>Matela FTC provides training for young farmers and facilitates training for farmers in different agricultural disciplines at affordable costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain a model farm where farmers can see new techniques • To serve as a demonstration farm for applied research institution • To host in-service training courses for extension agents • To provide agriculture – related 2 year certificate course for young farmers • To provide income-generation activities
Field of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock production • Nutrition and home economics • Horticulture and crops <p>Departments within the organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock division • Nutrition and Home economics • Horticulture • Crops
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical staff • clerical staff • 6 Support staff
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Annual Budget:
M400,000.00 (€42,553.19)
Source of funding, including main sponsors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho Government
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young • Farmers at different levels
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Information Services for information exchange
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAFS branch of AIS • Input suppliers • National Agricultural Research Institution
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Main information needs not satisfied:
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on agricultural techniques. • Business management • Development and funding programmes <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers • Photocopying equipment • Audio visual aids training equipment. <p>Training needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for long-term training on agriculture • Training on extension methodologies
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of staff

Why institution selected as a key:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institution provides training for young farmers and facilitates training for farmers in different agricultural disciplines at affordable costs. Represents youth.
Other observations:
The main institutionalised and agricultural youth training centre

Name of institution 11: Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Grower Association (LNWMGA)
Objective/mission statement:
Train farmers in livestock, management and entrepreneurship, local, national and regional networking, lobbying, political support in favour of wool and mohair industry.
Field of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal husbandry Range management Marketing and business management
Departments within the organization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by the MAFS Livestock Department
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98 wool sheds in the country Each shed sends 2 representatives to a national conference, where they have powers to elect the Executive Committee Executive Committee that manages the association
Branches, other sites:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98 wool sheds (shearing centres) spread throughout the country Affiliate of RSA National Wool Grower Association
Annual Budget:
Unspecified
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
Almost none of its own, except for individual members, gets government support

Name of institution 11: Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Grower Association (LNWMGA)
Programme/Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to jointly shear, classify, package, and export together • Injectable acaricide drug was administered to small stock • Drafted project proposal for a construction of office complex, STABEX closed in Lesotho before it could provide expected funding • Hold national conferences in August
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable households
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAFS: substantial support, 98 sheds, residents advisors, transporting some animals to Ha Foso Agricultural show • South African National Wool Growers' Association
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with institution:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak marketing strategies at national levels negatively impact on LNWMGA
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solely rely on livestock expertise, support, affiliates
Main information needs not satisfied:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal writing for grants to take over ownership and management of sheds
Main information needs for programme:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical information on livestock, merino sheep development • Marketing skills that include negotiating beyond the broker's level
Resource needs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic communication and overheads facilities at wool sheds levels , • Improved access to veterinary services • Skills to lobby communities on range management (grazing fees)? • Own office/store capacity building in Maseru and at least four national zones
Training needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal fibre production and marketing – handling,

Name of institution 11: Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Grower Association (LNWMGA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More skilled shearing teams • Preparations for exhibitions (e.g. MAFS Ha Foso), auctions • Knowledge on standards e.g. SABS ISO 9002
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional lack of capacity to communicate • Over-reliance on government's support in terms of advisory services, office accommodation, financial resources
Why institution selected as a key:
LNWMGA seems to be the only major farmers Association, with a wide scope that has no external technical support towards self-reliance. By outreaching for LNWMGA, CTA would have reached the country-wide needy farmers of their particular type, all at the same time.
Other observations:
In 1993, after it had lobbied that grazing fees be introduced, the system was abandoned, apparently due to complexity of control.

Name of institution 12: CARE Lesotho – South Africa
Objective/mission statement:
<p>As part of CARE International, a global relief and development organization we the Lesotho chapter assist individuals to eradicate poverty.</p> <p>Drawing strength for our global diversity, resources and experience, we provide innovative solutions and are advocates for global responsibility. We facilitate lasting change by: strengthening capacity for self help; providing economic opportunity; delivering relief in emergencies, influencing policy decisions at all levels; and addressing dissemination in all its forms.</p>
Field of Specialization:
<p>Four programmatic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive & Democratic Governance • Economic Empowerment • HIV/AIDS (Prevention, Care & Support)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Security & Natural Resource Management
<p>Departments within</p> <p>(Since the headquarters are in South Africa, the Maseru office was unclear about full details, only Priority Support Programme was known)</p>
<p>Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58
<p>Branches, other sites:</p>
<p>South Africa</p>
<p>Annual Budget:</p>
<p>\$8 Million = ±M59.2 mil : €6.2 mil</p>
<p>Source of funding, including main sponsors:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEPFAR, DFID, USAID
<p>Programme /Projects undertaken:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livelihoods Recovery through Agriculture Programme (LRAP) which is popularly referred to as <i>Lirapa</i>, the Sesotho word for “homestead gardens”. The programme was designed as one way of responding rapidly to the Lesotho food crisis in 2002.
<p>Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households and the community Government & non-government agencies – Facilitating agents Central government
<p>Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<p>Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):</p>
<p>Mainly donor funding:</p>
<p>DFID, USAID , MAFS</p>
<p>National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/information and communication with institution:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

<p>How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:</p> <p>LRAP produces Monthly Briefs in text and pictures, and occasional Discussion Papers (in English) and used by communities. It is not known if these respond fully to needs.. There is also an attempt from :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief web • SARPAN
<p>Main information needs not satisfied:</p> <p>Sesotho literature</p>
<p>Main information needs for programme:</p> <p>Resource needs:</p> <p>Training needs:</p>
<p>Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:</p> <p>English language literature is understood by a few of the target groups</p> <p>Why institution selected as a key:</p> <p>Other observations: It was difficult to source information subsequent to the departure of an official who had started responding to the questionnaire and had to see us later.</p>
<p>Name of institution 13: Bishop Allard Vocational School (BAVS) + Thulare Farm</p>
<p>Objective/mission statement:</p> <p>To train semi-literate and illiterate groups of boys and girls, as well as men and women at the main centre at Boinyatso as well as beyond, in technical training that skill all in means of cooperating for income-generation and food production.</p>
<p>Field of Specialization:</p> <p>Poultry, milk cows, piggery, vegetables, irrigation schemes, and formal education up to school level.</p>
<p>Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varies between 20 to 40 depending on groups and overlaps.
<p>Branches, other sites:</p> <p>Currently has branches at Machache in Maseru District, Semonkong in Thaba Tseka, Matlameng Leribe, and one emerging in at Hermitage in Qacha's nek</p>
<p>Annual Budget:</p> <p>Varies according to donor agencies' involvement, from some tens to hundreds thousands Maloti.</p>
<p>Source of funding, including main sponsors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Own funds, Kellogg Foundation, DFID, the CTA's GenARDIS The Dutch
<p>Programme /Projects undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thulare Dairy Farming – milk and cheese production Widening the Wellhead: creating and using a dedicated cellular phone network to add information, value and dignity to the work of women in Lesotho's agricultural sector Irrigation dams Many more
<p>Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):</p> <p>Rural Communities: currently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 active members of Thulare, Age between 40 and 67 targeting 150 households in the catchment of the project home at St. Michael's largely female farmers
<p>Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been directing their queries to PRAIS in Bloemfontein, South Africa, Have own resources. Have also just started interacting with NUL library for literature on how to write proposals for funding; and for cheese making manuals
<p>National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability and affordability of communication tools such as cellular phones enabled the project to realize some of its objectives and to improve the lives of ordinary people

Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFID – project funds • CBL – project grants • Dutch funds – training • USA – training • NUL – outreach, research testing site, technical advice 	
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enquiries – sent to <i>Prais</i>, translations sought from some members or volunteers • Telephone to NUL emerging QAS centre – travel, deliver or collect • Reference to own collection • Orally 	
Main information needs not satisfied:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm problems, trade fairs, development and funding schemes • Credit and micro-credit, • Conference and meetings • Radio facility to communicate with Hermitage (Qacha's Nek) emerging centre 	
Main information needs for programme:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons to be learnt from counterpart organizations; expert advice on various farm problems. <p>Resource needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet, Telefax, email, a well managed library/documentation centre. <p>Training needs: how to write project proposals and how to account for funds</p>	
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:	
<p>When they relied on PRAIS in Bloemfontein, traveling or telephoning that far was expensive. It will be easy to contact QAS centres in Lesotho where hopefully, Sesotho language will be used more than English.</p>	
Why institution selected as a key:	
<p>An outstanding church-based establishment, that has combined formal vocation training with practical farming, for both pupils and the community, and with ability so far, despite a seemingly small capacity, to attract donor funding, recognize the need for information, apply modern technology, and sustain development.</p>	
Other observations:	

Name of institution 14: Basotho Fruit and Vegetable Canners (BFVC)
Objective/mission statement:
The mission of Basotho Canners is to strive to produce processed fruits and vegetables of the highest quality, at below competitive costs, marketed at competitive prices, well received in the targeted markets; to play a leading role in the economic development of the country with specific focus on agriculture.
Field of Specialization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basotho Canners focus on peach and asparagus production. • Producers of agricultural products • Buyers of processed products
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Professionals • 2 Technicians • 1 Clerical <p>25 permanent staff</p>
Branches, other sites:
None
Annual Budget:
M 4.5 million (€0.47 mil)
Varies according to donor agencies' involvement, from some tens to hundreds thousands Maloti.
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
Own revenue and Government
Programme/Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just revamped the company which had gone to a lull for some time
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local peach and asparagus farmers as suppliers • Consumers of processed products

Name of institution 14: Basotho Fruit and Vegetable Cannery (BFVC)	
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications:	
A little as they are referred to by formal information centres serving them e.g. GenARDIS project coordinators.	
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with Institution	
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing industries in South Africa, few in Lesotho 	
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of South Africa • Some information from National University of Lesotho • Member of South African Food Manufacturers Association (SAFMA) 	
Main information needs not satisfied:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research needs on market, new food processing technology, where to get fresh fruit and vegetables, especially Basotho Cling peaches in Autumn 	
Main information needs for programme:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking • Contact experts • Seeds source 	
Resource needs:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet, a well managed library/documentation centre. 	
Training needs:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resource training, packaging, transportation, commodity profiles, Markets 	
Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected literature lay unattended, no assistance 	
Why institution selected as a key:	
A needy company that once exported asparagus, but collapsed, and still has a huge plant for food processing, and lacks technical information to survive. Strategically near airport.	
Other observations:	
A unique institution in the manufacturing, exporting sector.	

Name of institution 15: Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Project
Objective/mission statement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of globally significant biodiversity • Community development through nature-based tourism and community participation, • Promotion of cultural heritage
Field of Specialization:
Public information on rural development
Number of staff professional, clerical, technical, etc; permanent/temporary:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 professionals • 9 technical • 11 clerical = 29 Specialized in Conservation, Ecology, Sociology, GIS, tourism, procurement, Accounting
Branches, other sites/divisions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity, • Community involvement, • Security, • Cultural heritage, • Tourism
Annual Budget:
\$7.32 mil = M54,168 mil (€5.76 mil)
Source of funding, including main sponsors:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Environment Facility, Governments of Lesotho and South Africa.
Programme /Projects undertaken:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training government departments • Website construction with regular updates, spatial and non-spatial data • Land use zoning • Mapping resources
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities living in the catchment area, through public gatherings

Name of institution 15: Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Project	
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore magazine, seminars, consultants publications:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
National/sectoral policies impacting on ICT use/Information and communication with:	
Currently it is still very expensive to access high speed Internet, ordinary people are not enabled to access comprehensive information, hence not empowered to manage natural resources effectively.	
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSA Environment Department- partners in the project, joint acquisition of skills: have a Committee on Environmental Data Management (CEDAMA) • Lesotho Government National Environmental Secretariat and use of its Library • Private sector using spatial information 	
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From communities, through public gatherings • Engaging various consultants for expert knowledge • Accessing own MDTP Internet and related facilities • Previous studies 	
Main information needs not satisfied:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal articles in the Environmental and biodiversity field • Materials written in the Sesotho Language, even if quoted by scholars 	
Main information needs for programme:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is promoting and monitoring socio-economic status of communities affected by the project such as range management, and is systematically gathering data on the topic, linking with partners focusing on the subject • Capacity to create awareness to policy makers and communities about the abundance of information and the need of their full participation in flora and fauna 	
Resource needs:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet bandwidth, appropriate technology while in the field – away from office, a well managed library/documentation centre. 	
Training needs:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry staff on web design and maintenance, ability to sustain the project when its duration and external funding ends 	

Name of institution 15: Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Project

Main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:

- The project is relatively well-resourced

Why institution selected as a key:

- Could be exemplary for a successful regional project beyond the national boundaries, interdisciplinary and affecting communities.

Other observations:

- A well-resourced scheme, yet, at official level, not interacting with local bodies as much as it would be expected.

Annex 4. List of Institutions/Persons Interviewed

- Alotsi, A. - Marketing Information Officer, MTCIM, Box 1371, Maseru, Tel. 58467347/22310327
- Croome, David - Consultant RHVP, C/O NUL, Roma 180, Tel 222134601
- Damane, Tšepang - Area Technical Officer Matela Farmers Training Cnt., DAO Matela,
- Khabele, Mabela - Consultant, GERNADIS (NUL – IEMS)
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- Lerotholi, P.J. - Country Director, CARE, Box 682, Maseru, Tel 22314398
- Letšela, Taelo - Head of Department, NUL, Biology, NUL. Tel. 22340601.
- Likhang, Mpho - Librarian, MAFS, Research, Box 829, Maseru, Tel. 22310362
- Maanela, 'Makatiso - Member, Bobete Women's Gardens, Box 181, Thaba Tseka, Tel.58123738/63163947
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- Mofolo, M.S. - Chief Fish Production Officer, MAFS, Fisheries, Box 7444, Maseru, Tel. 22333887
- Mokhesi, Phallang - Managing Director, Basotho Fruit&Vegetable Cannery, Box Tel. 22350373, 596, Maseru 160
- Molefi, 'Mammuso - Coordinator, Central Bank, Box 1184, Maseru, 22314281
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- Mokone, Gerard - Community Consultation Officer, LHDA, Box 7332, Maseru, Tel. 22311280
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- Seqoete, M. - Director, GROW, Box 74, Mokhotlong, Tel: 22920326 / 22920205/
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