

**LESOTHO STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (APPSA)**



The Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) held a one-day workshop in Maseru Lesotho on the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) and the Environmental and Social Monitoring Framework (ESMF) papers. These documents were submitted in compliance with the Environmental Act of 2008 for application of environmental clearance for DAR's research project under APPSA. The objective of the workshop was to validate and review these two documents. The Director of the Department of Agricultural Research, Dr. Lefulesele Lebesa welcomed the participants and thanked them for putting aside their busy schedules to attend this one-day workshop.

The participants were from the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security, Environment, Water Affairs, Forestry, Academia and the NGO's. The officer from the Ministry of Environment indicated that it is imperative that projects as big as the one anticipated by the DAR should have in place these two documents as required by the law. Moreover, the presence of these documents enables the DAR to be issued an environmental clearance, which will

indicate that the environmental safe guards have been taken into consideration to ensure sustainable development.

To kick-start the workshop, an overview of APPSA was given as a reminder of what it entails and how ESMF and IPMP fit into this program.



The next presentations were on the overview of both ESMF and IPM as well as on the potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures. In terms of the Environmental and Social Safeguards, the consultant mentioned the tools that are needed when a project of this magnitude is undertaken. These are Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

IPM on the other hand is considered important because of the need to maintain the pest population at levels below those causing economic injury. The presentation outlined how APPSA will manage pests in an environmentally friendly manner with the aim of reducing reliance on chemical use.