

NOTICE 409 OF 2013**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF)****DRAFT PLANT IMPROVEMENT POLICY****INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby invite all interested institutions, organizations and individuals to submit written comments on the draft Plant Improvement Policy.

The Plant Improvement Policy has the purpose of creating a broad framework for supporting and regulating the production and trade of propagation material and related matters in order to support government's commitment to food security, job creation and economic development and to guide amendment of the Plant Improvement Act, 1976 (Act no. 53 of 1976).

The following strategic objectives form the basis of the plant improvement policy:

- Guide the content, meaning and intent of all provisions of the legislation that relate to propagation material.
- Support the development and use of improved varieties.
- Support and promote breeding programmes.
- Promote fair trade in propagation materials.
- Promote and support the identification, evaluation, breeding and use of genetically superior propagation material to improve the production and performance of crops used for food, shelter, fibre and raw material for the manufacturing sector.
- Broaden participation by a broad range of stakeholders in the plant improvement sector.

Copies of the document may be obtained from the office of the Director: Plant Production, Thabo.Ramashala@daff.gov.za and from the DAFF website (www.daff.gov.za)

Comments must be submitted in writing **within 30 days** from date of publication of this notice to:

The Director, Directorate Plant Production, DAFF, Private Bag X250, PRETORIA 0001
or

Physical address: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Room 356 Harvest House, 30 Hamilton Street, Arcadia, PRETORIA

E-mail: Thabo.Ramashala@daff.gov.za

Fax: 012 319 6372