

# Energy-Water-Agri Nexus: Dutch-South African Partnerships for Resilient Agri-Value Chains

18th of June, 10:00-11:30 AM CEST, Webinar

South Africa's agricultural sector is a critical economic driver, contributing 2.4% to GDP and directly employing millions across the value chain. Yet the sector faces deeply interlinked challenges: agriculture consumes 61% of the country's freshwater resources and 2% of its total energy, while 10% of all solar energy generated in South Africa is already deployed in the sector. Post-harvest losses, regulatory complexity, and the continued exclusion of smallholder farmers remain stubborn barriers to equitable and sustainable growth.

At the same time, South Africa's Just Energy Transition charts an ambitious course to shift from coal dependency to 22% renewable energy by 2030, with solar and wind playing a central role not only in energy security but also in unlocking new possibilities for agricultural productivity and value chain resilience.

The Netherlands, a global front-runner in sustainable agriculture,

integrated water management, and renewable energy innovation, brings complementary expertise in precision farming, circular economy practices, water-efficient technology, and inclusive value chain development. This expertise directly aligns with South Africa's priorities for climate-smart agriculture and food security. The partnership between the two countries is already bearing fruit: the Netherlands is South Africa's largest EU investor (17.7% of FDI) and a major market for South African agricultural exports, with active collaboration underway in public-private partnerships, green hydrogen, and agri-voltaics.

This webinar will bring together Dutch and South African stakeholders to explore how the energy-water-agriculture nexus can unlock sustainable, resilient agri-value chains, and where Dutch companies and knowledge institutions can meaningfully engage.

## Lineup of Speakers



**Núria Vlonk-Cunha Soares**  
Managing Director  
NABC  
(Moderator)



**H.E. Mr. Vusi Madonsela**  
Ambassador,  
Embassy of South Africa in  
the Netherlands



**Masooma Yousufzai**  
First Secretary Economic  
Affairs,  
Embassy of the Netherlands  
in South Africa



**Bernard Likalimba**  
Agricultural Advisor,  
Embassy of the Netherlands  
in South Africa



**Auke Boere**  
Senior Business Developer  
Africa,  
Netherlands-Enterprise Agency  
(RVO)



**Daniel Viviers-Rasmussen**  
Domain Lead: Sustainable  
Sourcing & Value Chains,  
New Foresight



**Jan-Willem Kruijt**  
Business Developer,  
OPUS Cactus



**Maud Vievermans**  
General Manager,  
BusinessNL

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# Programme

TIME	PROGRAMME ELEMENT	SPEAKER
10:00-10:05	Word of Welcome	<b>Núria Vlonk-Cunha Soares,</b> Managing Director, NABC (Moderator)
10:05-10:10	Opening Remarks	<b>H.E. Mr. Vusi Madonsela</b> Ambassador, Embassy of South Africa in the Netherlands
10:10-10:20	Dutch-South African Collaboration in Focus: Embassy Strategy on Water Management and Agri-Innovation and how Dutch businesses can contribute to South Africa's food security	<b>Masooma Yousufzai,</b> First Secretary Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Netherlands in South Africa  <b>Bernard Likalimba,</b> Agricultural Advisor, Embassy of the Netherlands in South Africa
10:20-10:30	Ongoing Projects & Available Instruments: Relevant project examples, key regulations, available financial instruments, and announcement of the Trade Mission to South Africa on Water-Agri Nexus (16-20 November 2026)	<b>Auke Boere,</b> Senior Business Developer Africa, Netherlands-Enterprise Agency (RVO)
10:30-10:45	From Nexus to Practice: Forging Water- Agriculture Partnerships in the Limpopo Region	<b>Daniel Viviers-Rasmussen,</b> Domain Lead: Sustainable Sourcing & Value Chains, New Foresight
10:45-11:20	Panel Discussion: Energy-Water-Agri Nexus in Action	<b>Jan-Willem Kruijt,</b> Business Developer, OPUS Cactus  <b>Teresa Le Roux,</b> Senior Investment Officer, FMO - Dutch entrepreneurial development bank  <b>Frank de Villiers,</b> Account Manager, Sales ROW, Priva
11:20-11:30	Closure	<b>Maud Vievermans,</b> General Manager, BusinessNL  <b>Núria Vlonk-Cunha Soares,</b> Managing Director, NABC (Moderator)