

- The unit will assess the feasibility of referred applications and associated business plan aspects pertaining to financial viability, sustainability, production, member capacity, training needs, security and social aspects.
- The unit will support agricultural enterprises with expertise and compliance requirements to access markets.

**The selections of projects are to be considered according to the following criteria:**

- It has to be a land or agrarian reform project;
- It has to contribute to food security;
- The project must have the potential to create and sustain jobs;
- The enterprise must have the potential to become economically viable and sustainable;
- The prioritisation of projects will be based on the consideration of the following:

**Priorities:**

1. Zero Hunger Approach
2. Increased growth in production,
3. Increase growth in agri-business,
4. Contribute to Land reform,
5. Increased Services & Infrastructure
6. Increase Export.



**Requests for assistance can be made to the unit by:**

- (i) Official letter of request from the CPAC for designated commodities and from the PDA district manager for non-designated commodities.
- (ii) Minutes of the DPAC requesting assistance for a project planning.
- (iii) Request from a PDA district manager on the condition that it has followed the tiers of elimination process. (Tiers of elimination refers to an initial screening by the extension officer and assistance from the commodity, recommendation by the district subject matter specialist, recommended by PDA district manager)
- (iv) Request from FSD Senior Programme Managers
- (v) Requests should be directed to UTA Administration Officer

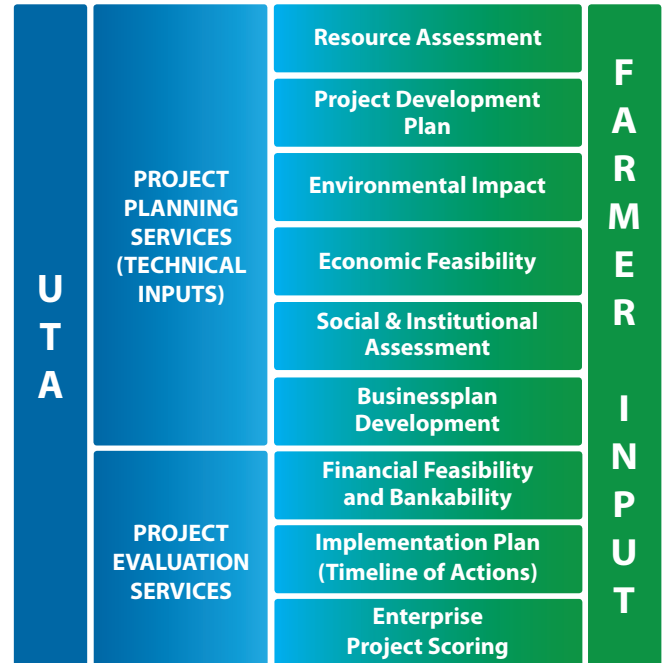


Unit for  
Technical  
Assistance



Western Cape  
Government  
Agriculture

An initiative of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture  
Administered by: Casidra SOC Ltd



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## UTA VISION

Collaborative centre of knowledge in the agricultural sector promoting improved enterprise planning and appraisal towards increased sustainability of government supported farming enterprises.

## MISSION OF UTA

Coordinate internal and external expertise needed for farm enterprise appraisal and planning processes at various stages of programme and project life cycles for effective decision making and service delivery.

## UTA OBJECTIVES

- To leverage and co-ordinate Departmental and external technical expertise to inform project planning and assessment.
- To develop knowledge to inform Departmental management and client decisions.
- To ensure timeous delivery of credible farm development plans towards sustainable rural development.
- To ensure standardised norms for evaluation of projects by the UTA.
- To enable access to and update to information on an existing agricultural database within the PDA and at commodity level.
- To identify knowledge gaps for referral as research projects.
- To source technical and legal expertise to assist PDA clients in statutory matters.
- To assist agricultural enterprises with expertise to comply with requirements to access markets.



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**Definition** – Technical assistance (advice/support) can be described as all initial business planning elements needed to develop a farm business plan that a farmer can use to leverage further support and investment for the implementation of the plan. The UTA will not provide support for implementation elements following approval and financing of the business plan.

## PURPOSE

The Unit for Technical Assistance (hereafter referred to as the Unit) is a support facility for the client of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture to co-ordinate internal and external expertise for project appraisal and enterprise planning at various stages of the programme and project management life cycles requiring technical input. The Unit is a formally established structure hosted by Casidra. The Western Cape Department of Agriculture will establish this unit within the Farmer Support and Development Programme under the auspices of Casidra, as an implementing agent which will be responsible for the:

- co- ordination,
- management and
- Secretariat functions related to the unit.

Through a network of service providers, the unit will strategically consider, consult and make recommendations in terms of the business plan development, project implementation plans, business / farm evaluations and to inform allocation of project funds to enable new and existing farming enterprises to achieve sustainability. Emphasis will be on delivering quality services in line with the Batho Pele principles using Departmental and external expertise from the private sector to deliver an effective service.

## GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UNIT

### The responsibilities of the unit are set out as follows:

- The unit will ensure that the planning of recommended projects comply with the applicable selection criteria and that the allocations are prioritised in terms of the key deliverables of the Department.