

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF FARMER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES IN GAUTENG PROVINCE, 2015/16 – 2018/19

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CONTEXT: Are emerging farmers in Gauteng being adequately supported?

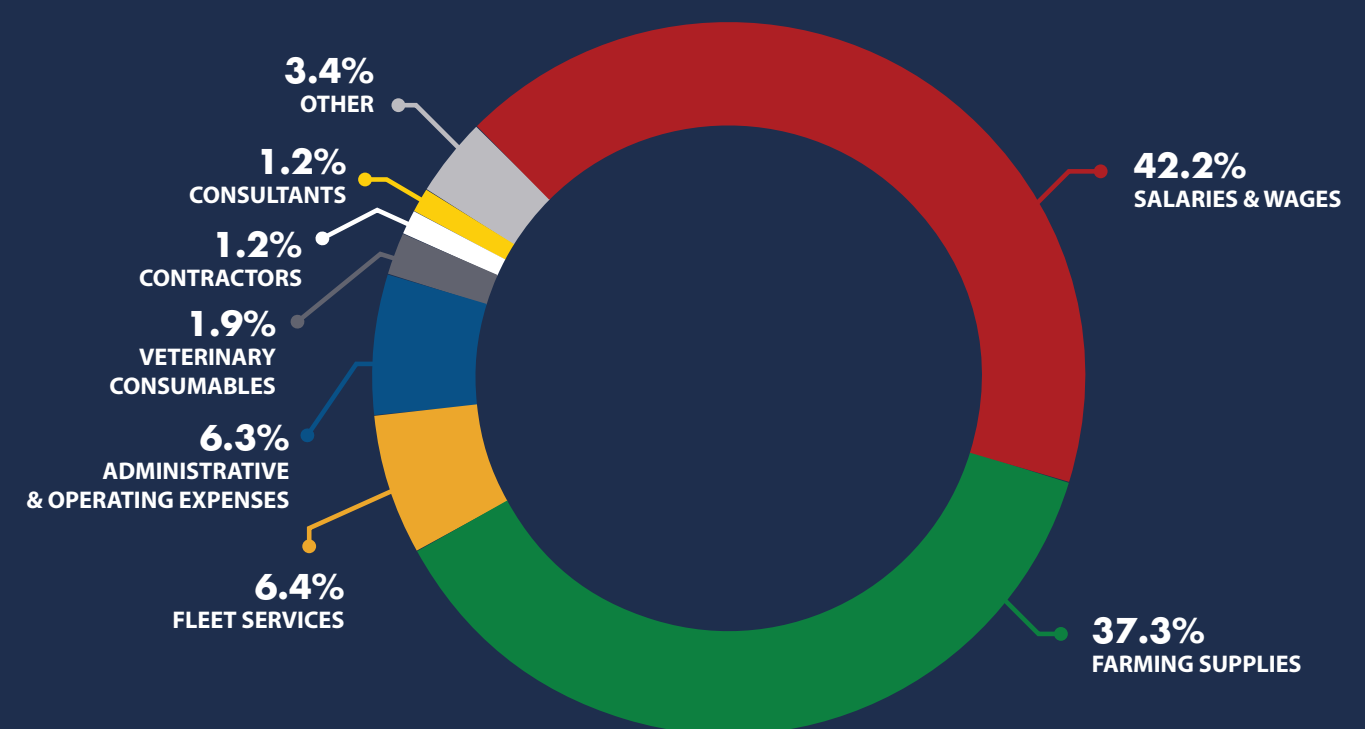
BACKGROUND

- The **Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)** is of the view that the budget of approximately **R319 million** per year is insufficient to meet the objectives of set out by the **Transformation, Modernization and Re-Industrialization (TMR)** agenda of the **Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG)**, as well as its aim to lift subsistence farmers out of poverty and into commercial sustainability
- The Gauteng Agricultural sector accounts for just **0.5%** of the province's **Gross Geographical Product (GDP-R)**, its importance in enhancing food security in an otherwise urban province cannot be overemphasized.

EXPENDITURE

IN THE PERIOD 2014/15 TO 2018/19
THE GDARD SPENT **R1.319 BILLION**
AT A CAGR OF 3.2% OVER THE 5 YEARS

THE MAIN SPENDING POINTS TOWARDS FARMER SUPPORT ARE
SALARIES AND WAGES AT **42%** AND FARMING SUPPLIES AT **37%**



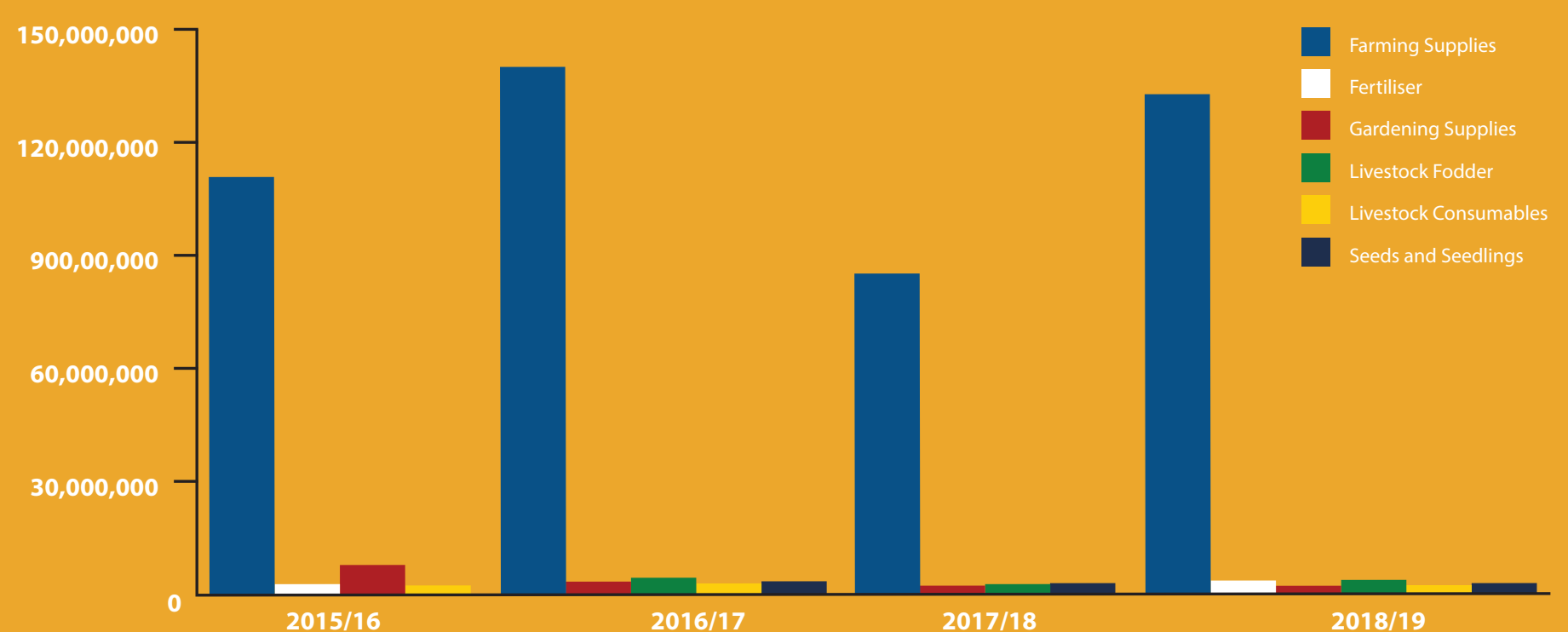
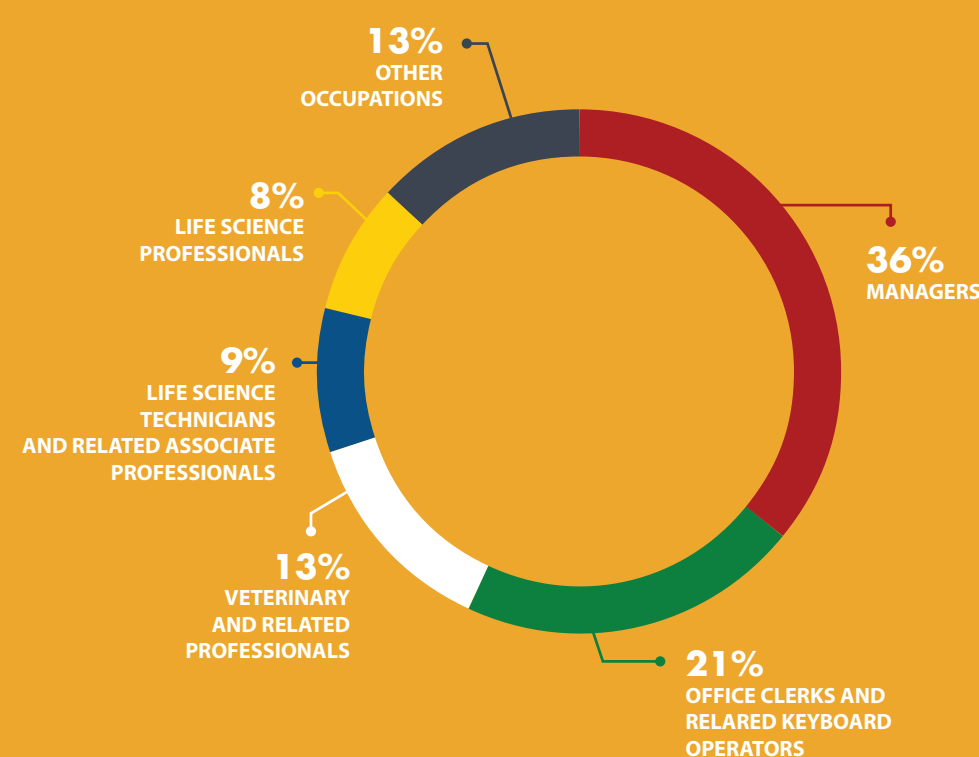
PERSONNEL ANALYSIS (HEAD COUNT ANALYSIS)

While the Farmer Support Services Programme is supposed to do just that, support farmers, it appears to be quite management- and administrative-heavy, as outlined below

Management and administration comprise over **57%** of the headcount associated with this programme, and the relevant professionals (veterinary, life science) make up the balance.

Farming Supplies covers everything from hydroponic structures to JoJo tanks to the drilling of boreholes and erection of piggery and poultry structures

The yearly spending does not go past **50%** of the average yearly budget of **R319 million**



RECOMMENDATIONS

The outlay for Farmer Support Programme is skewed towards personnel and inefficient in procurement of goods and services, which negates the objectives of the programme therefore:

- Reduce the number of managers and administrators in favor of frontline personnel
- Manage wasteful procurement practices that allow for obscene mark-ups of goods and services
- Scrutinize unit prices and costs, in conjunction with the Provincial Supply Chain Unit