

AGRICULTURAL R&D at a glance, 2013/14 – 2017/18

Agricultural research and experimental development (R&D) investments unlock new opportunities for productivity, food security and sustainable development in developing countries. This fact sheet illustrates trends in the allocation of resources and personnel for R&D activities in agriculture and agribusinesses in South Africa, based on survey data from 2013/14 to 2017/18.

FACT SHEET NO. 33



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council



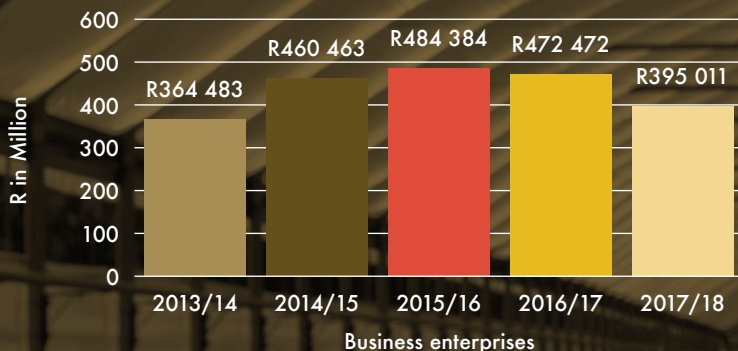
stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EXPENDITURE



Expenditure on R&D in agriculture grew from R364 423 million in 2013/2014 to R472 472 million in 2016/2017.
The highest growth point in the five-year period was in 2015/16.



The **value** of the **South African business sector R&D (BERD) spend** in 2017/2018 was

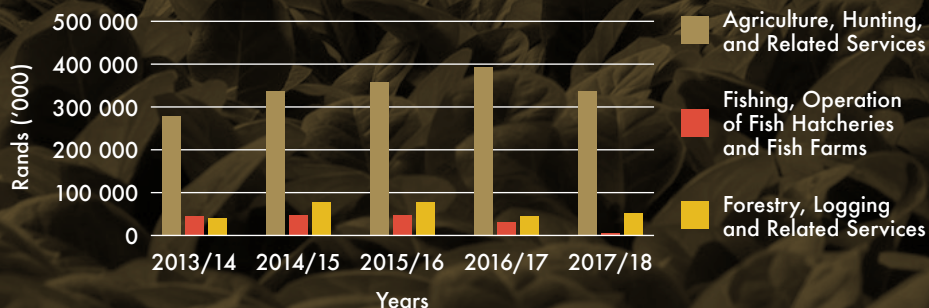


**R15 859 185
BILLION**

The **share of agricultural R&D as a percentage of BERD** in 2017/18 was



R&D expenditure by sector divisions 2013/2014 to 2017/18



Share of R&D expenditure by sector divisions in 2017/18



Agriculture,
Hunting, and
Related Services
85.7%



Forestry,
Logging and
Related Services
13.4%



Fishing,
Operation of Fish
Hatcheries
and Fish Farms
0.9%

SOURCES OF FUNDS

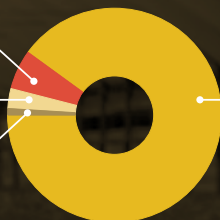


Most agricultural R&D spend came from the internal resources of agricultural businesses in 2017/18, with both government and foreign funders contributing just 10.5% of agricultural R&D funding.

Foreign Sources **6.4%**

Other South African Sources **2.9%**

Government **1.2%**



Own Funds **89.4%**

Other Local Businesses **0.1%**

PERSONNEL



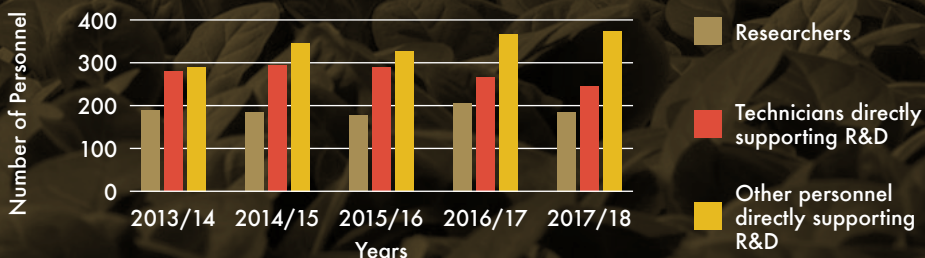
In full-time equivalent terms, R&D personnel in the agriculture sector grew

from **737** FTE
in 2013/14



to **803** FTE
in 2017/18

The number of researchers fell only marginally from 188 in 2013/2014 to 185 in 2017/2018



BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The annual South African National Survey of Research and Experimental Development and the Business Innovation Survey are conducted by the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). R&D and innovation statistics are collected in terms of the Statistics Act No. 6 of 1999, and are quality assured by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).

Data collected through the surveys, and their historic data series, inform decision-makers on investment planning, policy making, advocacy, and research in South Africa. Data streams also add to benchmarking and performance comparisons with our international counterparts.

Access previous R&D and Innovation Survey reports:
<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/CeSTii/reports-cestii>

This fact sheet was produced by CeSTII in August 2021.

Copy editing: Katharine McKenzie

Design and layout: Tracey Watson

CONTACT US

Viwe Sigenu | *Master's Intern*

Anele Slater | *Junior Researcher*

Sibusiso Ziqubu | *Data Analyst*

Dr Kgabo Ramoroka | *Research Specialist*

✉ vsigenu@hsrc.ac.za

✉ aslater@hsrc.ac.za

✉ sziqubu@hsrc.ac.za

✉ khramoroka@hsrc.ac.za

CONNECT WITH US

ENGAGE WITH US ON TWITTER @HSRC_CeSTII

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

FIND US ON LINKEDIN

SEE US ON INSTAGRAM