

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Organisation des  
Nations Unies pour  
l'alimentation et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Agricultura y la  
Alimentación

## AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

### Twenty-eighth Session

Johannesburg, South Africa, 4 – 8 December 2023

### Information note



AFRICAN  
COMMISSION ON  
**AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS**

**Information Note to Participants**

**28<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Commission on  
Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS)**

4-8 December 2023

Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre,  
Gauteng, South Africa

Hosted by the Government of South Africa



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Agriculture, Land Reform  
& Rural Development  
Statistics South Africa

## **1. Introduction**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and Statistics South Africa, is organising the 28th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS).

## **2. Theme**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Session of AFCAS (AFCAS28) will take place under the theme: “***Leveraging data and statistics for agrifood systems transformation in Africa***”.

## **3. Date and Place**

The meeting will be hosted physically from 4–8 December 2023 at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in the Gauteng Province, South Africa.

## **4. Registration**

Registration of delegates and issuing of meeting materials will be done at the venue starting on 3 December at 14:00 and continuing on 4 December.

## **5. Technical documents**

The technical documents are available at the AFCAS28 website: <https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-statistics/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1651946/>

## **6. Language and simultaneous interpretation**

Simultaneous interpretation for English, French and Portuguese will be available during the meeting.

## **7. Delegations**

All participants are kindly requested to complete the form in Annex 2 and return it to the organizers by the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The form contains all the details required for appropriate arrangements to be made to welcome and lodge delegates..

## **8. Visa**

Requirements for visitor visas differ from country to country and the requirements are subject to change. Each application is treated as an individual case. Delegates should make enquiries at their nearest South African embassy, consulate or mission in their country to ascertain whether or not they are required to apply for a visa. South Africa does not issue visas at ports of entry and airlines are obliged to insist on a visa before allowing passengers to board. Holders of the United Nations laissez-passer are allowed to visit South Africa without a visa. For more information on visa requirements, please visits: <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/applying-for-sa-visa>

A list of South African Embassies, Consulates and Diplomatic Missions, please visit the following website: <https://www.dirco.gov.za/>

## **9. Yellow Fever**

There is no risk of yellow fever in South Africa. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is mandatory in order to enter South Africa for delegates from yellow fever-endemic areas, any country where yellow fever is being transmitted, or for those who have passed through these areas in the last 72 hours. Delegates are required to be vaccinated at least ten (10) days prior to entry into South Africa. Any traveller not meeting this requirement can be refused entry to South Africa. Unvaccinated travellers presenting a medical waiver signed by a licensed health care provider are generally allowed entry.

Countries for which a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for entry into South Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo and Uganda.

See more information here: <https://www.southafrica.net/gl/en/travel/article/yellow-fever-entry-requirements>

## **10. COVID-19 restrictions**

On 22 June 2022, the Government of South Africa announced that all remaining COVID-19 regulations have been removed. Therefore, you no longer need to show proof that you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

## **11. Delegation welcome and transportation**

Birchwood Hotel will offer transportation to collect delegates to and from the airport. In addition, the Department will also offer transportation to and from the airport. Participants are requested to send their itinerary details including arrival and departure times and accommodations in advance (see Annex 2).

This is essential to facilitate airport pick-up process.

There will be vehicles available to transport participants from the airport to their hotels, from the hotels to the meeting place and vice versa, **in the morning, during the day and afternoon**. Participants are requested to send their flight itinerary (flight number, arrival time and date) before 24 November 2023 in order to allow for airport pickups (see Annex 2).

### **Directions are as follows to the shuttle bus:**

#### **From International / Domestic Arrival Terminal to Shuttle:**

As you exit the Terminal turn left. The Intercontinental Hotel will be on your right hand side across the drop off lanes.

At the first pedestrian crossing you will see a sign - "public transport". Continue going through the Car Hire Foyer.

Upon exiting the building you will enter the shuttle pick up area where all the hotel shuttles will be. Look out for the Birchwood branded shuttle bus or sedan.

## **From Domestic Arrival Terminal to Shuttle:**

As you exit the terminal turn right and start walking towards the International Arrival Terminal. The airport parking will be on your left hand side. Continue until you get a pedestrian crossing with a sign - "public transport". Continue over the pedestrian crossing entering the Car Hire Foyer. Upon exiting the building you will enter the shuttle pick up area where all the hotel shuttles will be. Look out for the Birchwood branded shuttle bus or sedan.

All vehicles are clearly marked with the Birchwood logo and all drivers are in possession of public driving permits.

## **12. Flight and hotel reservations**

Please be advised that it will be the delegates' responsibility or that of your organisation to make arrangements for the participant's flight and accommodation. We have taken the liberty to identify a few hotels that are conveniently located within a kilometre radius of the conference venue, which we hope the delegates will find helpful in making booking arrangements. Participants may choose from the list of hotels that are proposed in Annex 1 and communicate to both the AFCAS Secretariat and the National Organization Committee Coordinator, via the form at Annex 2.

## **13. Electricity and Power**

In South Africa, the power sockets are of type C, M and N. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. For more information, please refer to the following link:

<https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plug-voltage-by-country/south-africa/>

## **14. Climate and Weather**

December in South Africa is summertime. In Johannesburg, the average high temperature in December is 25.6°C. The city enjoys a dry, sunny climate with late afternoon thundershowers in the summer. Temperatures in Johannesburg are usually fairly mild due to the city's high altitude.

## 15. Internet Access

Wireless connectivity will be available in the rooms and conference hall throughout the event. Delegates will be provided with a password upon check-in.

## 16. Shopping

Johannesburg provides opportunities and possibilities for buying basic products. The area has multiple small and medium markets where delegates can shop for essential items. The area is closer to medium supermarkets and retail malls where you can access services such as banks, international retail stores and restaurants for dining.

## 17. Currency

The South African currency is the Rand (ZAR). Bank notes are available in denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200. All major credits cards (Visa, Master card, American Express and Diners Club) and travel cheques are widely accepted in and around South Africa. South African Rand (ZAR) US\$1 = ZAR 19.2 (average, changes daily).

## 18. Safety

South Africa is a diverse and beautiful country with a lot to offer tourists, including stunning landscape, wildlife and cultural experiences. However, it is important to note that like any other destination, there are safety considerations that travellers should be aware of. There will be noticeable presence of law enforcement officers in the vicinity of the venue throughout the duration of the event.

## 19. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

In case of emergency, participants can make use of any of the numbers below to report an incident depending on the nature of the emergency:

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Emergency Response (National)</b>	10111	Use this number if you require assistance from the flying squad or the South African police service.

<b>Emergency Response (National) – from a cell phone</b>	112	Use this number if you are calling from a cell phone.
<b>Ambulance (National)</b>	10177	Use this number for any medical emergency.

## 20. Water

Water in Johannesburg has been treated to be free from harmful micro-organisms and chemical contaminants making it safe to drink straight from the tap.

## 21. Time Zone

The time zone in South Africa is GMT +2

## 22. Contacts

<b>Host Country</b>	<b>FAO Secretariat</b>
Ms Ellen Matsei	Ms Ami Kumapley
Tel: +27 84 695 5489	WhatsApp: +233 266735544
E-mail: <a href="mailto:DSEA@Dalrrd.gov.za">DSEA@Dalrrd.gov.za</a>	E-mail: AmiMassan.Kumapley@fao.org



## Annex 1

### Information on the Hotels

Name of the Hotel	Rating (Star)	Price Room	Website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Birchwood Hotel &amp; OR Tambo Conference Centre</b></li> <li>• Block ID for Accommodation – # 2614675</li> <li>• 80 Accommodation Rooms that the hotel will be holding until the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</li> </ul>	3 & 4	Single B&B R1300  Single DBB R1400	<a href="https://www.birchwoodhotel.co.za/">https://www.birchwoodhotel.co.za/</a>
Premier Hotel O.R. Tambo	4	Single B&B R1480  Single DBB R1700	<a href="https://www.premierhotels.co.za/hotels/gauteng/johannesburg/or-tambo-airport/">https://www.premierhotels.co.za/hotels/gauteng/johannesburg/or-tambo-airport/</a>
Protea by Marriott Hotel Transit O.R. Tambo Airport	4	Single B&B R1460  Single DBB R1685	<a href="https://www.marriott.com/enus/hotels/jnbtrprotea-hotel-transit-or-tamboairport">https://www.marriott.com/enus/hotels/jnbtrprotea-hotel-transit-or-tamboairport</a>

City Lodge Hotel At OR Tambo International Airport	3	Single B&B R1470 Single DBB R1700	<a href="https://citylodgehotels.com/hotels/152/city-lodge-hotel--or-tambo-international-airport">https://citylodgehotels.com/hotels/152/city-lodge-hotel--or-tambo-international-airport</a>
Holiday Inn O R Tambo International  Southern Sun O R Tambo	3  4	Single B&B R1350 Single DBB R1530  Single B&B R1470 Single DBB R1700	<a href="https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/johannesburg/jnbja/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--HI--ZA--JNBJA">https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/johannesburg/jnbja/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--HI--ZA--JNBJA</a>  <a href="https://www.southernsun.com/southern-sun-or-tambo-international-airport">https://www.southernsun.com/southern-sun-or-tambo-international-airport</a>



## Annex 3

### About South Africa



South Africa is located in the southernmost region of Africa, with a coastline that stretches more than 2,500 km (1,553 mi) and along two oceans (Atlantic and Indian). South Africa's surface area covers 1,221,037 square kilometres. The country shares common boundaries with Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Eswatini, while the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho is landlocked by South African territory in the south-east.

Known for its dynamic mix of cultures, people and nature, South Africa is one of the most appealing holiday destinations in the world. She became a democratic state on April 27th, 1994, after centuries of Colonialism and Apartheid, and has a constitutional democracy with a three-tier system of government; the legislature, an executive and an independent judiciary. The President is both head of state and head of government. The country's administrative capital is Pretoria (Tshwane), legislative capital is Cape Town and judicial capital is Bloemfontein (Mangaung). The largest city is Johannesburg.

The country's population is estimated at 60, 6 million, as per the mid-year population estimates for 2022. The country is multilingual with 12 official languages, each of which

is guaranteed equal status. Most South Africans are multilingual and able to speak at least two or more of the official languages.

### **Overview of Johannesburg**



The City of Johannesburg is a Category A Metropolitan Municipality which is one of the three Metros of the Gauteng Province and the 8<sup>th</sup> in South Africa. Johannesburg is the most advanced commercial city in Africa and the engine room of the South African and regional economy. It is a city with a unique, African character, world-class infrastructure in the fields of telecommunications, transportation, water and power, and with globally competitive health care and educational facilities. However, the city is also one of contrasts – home to both wealthy and poor, residents and refugees, global corporations, and emerging enterprises.

The municipality shares boundaries with two other metropolitan municipalities: to its north the City of Tshwane and to its east the City of Ekurhuleni. To its west, it shares boundaries with Mogale City and other parts of the West Rand District Municipality. To its south, are Emfuleni and Midvaal Local Municipalities, which form part of the Sedibeng District Municipality.

According to Stats SA, in 2019 Johannesburg's population was 5.7 million people. By 2040, the population is forecast to reach between 7 million and 10 million. It is a young and highly mobile population with nearly half of the city's residents having migrated into the city from elsewhere.