

## **ABSTRACT**

The objectives of this study were to assess whether the livestock fodder drought relief scheme was implemented according to the predetermined criteria, and to recommend action to be taken for the improvement of the scheme. The study focused on communal farmers who bought fodder from three departmental depots under Polokwane Municipality Department of Agriculture as an organ of the state. The cluster sampling was drawn from the database of livestock farmers who applied for a fodder drought relief scheme in four service centres of Polokwane Municipality.

Polokwane Municipality Clusters were Maja/Chuene; Molepo, Mojabelo, Mothapo; Mothiba, Makotopong, Mamabolo, Dikagle and Moletjie/Maraba. The agricultural extension technicians, animal health officers and natural resource management technicians who implemented the drought relief scheme were interviewed regarding the implementation process.

The advisory forums consisting of all stakeholders and technical advisory team participating at the district municipality, local municipality and service centres of the department of agriculture dealing with disaster risk management had not been established. There were no formal structures dealing with disaster risk management at the district, municipality and service centres.

Capacity building on drought risk assessment, drought risk reduction, drought response and recovery, information and communication and funding arrangements were done by national and provincial disaster management staff. These individuals were assigned the responsibility of disaster risk management planning and operations.

The Disaster Management Act should be successfully implemented at Polokwane Municipality Department of Agriculture as part of the organ of the State. Both farmers and responsible officials in disaster management should be trained and empowered. Disaster prevention strategies should be working, the implementation of drought relief scheme should be efficient and cost effective to the government and the beneficiaries. Polokwane residents should be able to recognize the benefits of disaster management in their lives.