

With maize crop decimated by drought, South Africa looks to genetically modified varieties

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

Grain SA said South African farmers must make use of more Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) during farming to protect themselves against droughts in the future.

This year's maize harvest has been almost completely decimated by a drought gripping the Free State, the North West and Mpumalanga.

Agriculture Minister Senzeni Zokwana said genetically modified farming techniques are being developed by his department and should be adopted by the industry.

"We are working with the department of technology in finding new methods by which we can improve new cultivars, the new seeds that are 20 percent resistant to drought."

Grain SA CEO Jannie De Villiers said climate change will only worsen in the future and farmers must adapt.

"What will the new technology bring to us is that mainly the plants will be able to hang in there until the end of February, so if we get rain, they will recover and then we will have a full crop again. So this is what farmers are looking for."

Agri SA said nearly R10-million has been lost by farmers due to the drought.

Read full, original post: SA farmers to use more GM crops?