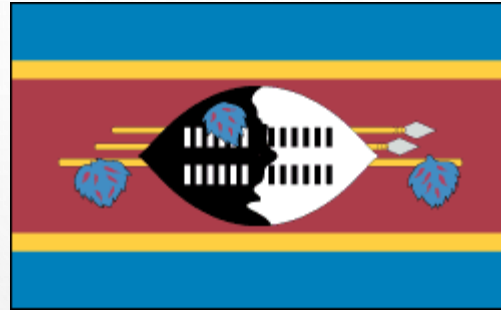


# ENHANCED COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN SWAZILAND



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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Swaziland is a land-locked country
- Area 17 200 km<sup>2</sup> and population estimated at 1 419 623 (2014) with a growth rate of 1.4%.
- The country is divided into four administrative regions
- There are also four agro climatic zones which run longitudinally from north to south.
- The climatic conditions of the zones have specific characteristics that are peculiar to each zone

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONT..

- 33% of Swaziland's income comes from agricultural exports, mainly sugar and citrus
- 80 % of the vegetables consumed in Swaziland are imported from South Africa
- About 20% vegetables are grown commercially
- Vegetables compete with the staple crop i.e. maize


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## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Pests and diseases are a limiting factor in vegetable production. Both soil borne and foliar diseases are a serious in some vegetable crops especially during the summer season. This leads to high yield loss and possible rejection of produce by the intended markets. Poor knowledge of pest, diseases and the use of pesticides causing health problems to farmers and residues on vegetables. Lack of vegetable seedling producers also lead to late planting making vegetables more susceptible to diseases.



## OBJECTIVES

- Reduce yield loss caused by pest and diseases
  - Reduce imports of vegetables at least by 50 and increase commercial vegetable production.
  - Increase vegetable summer production
  - Equip extension personnel with new innovations on pest identification, disease diagnosis and safe use of pesticides
  - Train farmers about GAP
  - Reduce pesticide residues on vegetables
- 



## SOME PESTS AND DISEASES IN VEGETABLE CROPS



## ACTION PLAN

| Activity                                  | Target audience             | Topics   | Time     | Resources                    |
|---|-----------------------------|--|----------|------------------------------|
| Training subject matter specialists (SMS) | SMS                         | 1.Pest ID<br>2.Diagnosis of major Diseases and their symptoms.<br>3.Developing IPM packages<br>4. Use of chemicals properly and safely<br>5. Management of nematodes | 1 week   | SMS                          |
| Training extension officers               | Extension officers          | Same   | 1 month  | SMS, Namboard                |
| Message Dissemination                     | Vegetable schemes (Farmers) | same   | 2 months | E.O. SMS, Namboard           |
| Demonstration                             | Vegetable schemes (Farmers) | same   | 2 months | E.O, A.E.O, SMS and Namboard |



# LIMITATIONS

- Financial constraints
- Drought
- Lack of transport
- Conflict of events
- Season
- Rejection by target audience
- Lack of support from stakeholders



THANK YOU

