FORESTRY: A WISE USE OF WATER

1. ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY 4.6% OF AGRICULTURE’S WATER USAGE

Of the 65% of South Africa’s water resources the Agri-Forestry Sector use, only 4.6% goes to rain-fed forestry. The rest is used by irrigated agriculture and this figure excludes the additional water used by other dryland agriculture.

2. 100% RELIANT ON RAIN

Unlike other water users, the State incurs no costs for the building of dams, purification plants, pipelines and irrigation schemes for the provision of water to forestry, as plantations rely solely on rainfall, which the Industry pays for in the form of the streamflow reduction levy.

3. PROVIDES 17.9% OF JOBS IN AGRO-FORESTRY SECTOR

For its 4.6% water use (relative to the rest of agriculture), forestry provides 17.9% (149 100) of the 835 000 jobs in the Forestry and Agricultural Sectors.

4. RESPONSIBLE FOR 19% OF TOTAL AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY GDP

For its 4.6% water use, the gross value of forestry production in 2017 was R62bn (19%) of the total output of R325bn for Forestry and Agriculture.

5. MAXIMISING PRODUCTIVITY WHILE MINIMISING ITS ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

The area under plantations has grown by just 2.8% over last 30 years while production from this area has increased by 57.3%.


Visit these websites for more information
www.forestrysouthafrica.co.za
www.forestryexplained.co.za

Images sourced from FAVPNG.com, Vecteezy.com and the Noun Project (Irrigation by Chanut is Industries Reduce Carbon Footprint by Kelcey Hurst).