

## **Western Cape farmers strongly affected by heavy rains and flooding**

Heavy rains have left many Western Cape farmers destitute and at least one without a year's income. The provincial government estimated that the cost of the damages caused by the floods could mount to R1 billion (€49 mln).

According to Elton Jephtas, owner of Defynne Nursery & Farm in Paarl, the floods have left some of his orchards underwater and the soil saturated, making it difficult for trees to grow. "This means I have lost a year's salary and will have to start planning all over again. My one hectare of land is still under water, and the fynbos that are planted will all be damaged. It will take another two or three years for the protea to be at a good harvesting level," said Jefthas.

Sue Fry from Fijnveld Farm, a citrus farm outside Worcester, said she lost 20 tons of mandarins after the fruits fell off the trees due to strong winds. She said she lost about a third of her produce. Instead of dumping the "non-marketworthy fruit", Fry donated the fruit to a number of charity organisations.

The effects of the heavy rainfalls in the Western Cape were felt across the board, from two people losing their lives, to the destruction of infrastructure, the impact on the environment and agriculture, and animals left distressed.

Source: [iol.co.za](http://iol.co.za)

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