Rain for Africa (R4A) project developed

**AgriCloud = a mobile phone ‘Planting App’**

- Addresses gaps in info relating weather to crop production
- AgriCloud App provides:
  - Planting advice
  - Spraying advice against pests and diseases
  - Collect current weather conditions by crowdsourcing.
- Farmers only need info for their own farm
  - Register with precise location on map
- Based on scientific information and weather forecasts from ECMWF using climate grid data from ARC-ISCW & SAWS & rainfall from NASA.
- Delivered via cellular telephone:
  - For smart phone – use “AgriCloud” from Google Play Store
  - For simple phone – use interactive “USSD” *134*8383#
• Download from Google App Store
• Search and install:
• “AgriCloud”
AgriCloud USSD to get Planting and Spraying info

Use **134*8383#**

- Press call button
- Wait for reply
- Register with Tel# & town
- Follow instructions
- Choose advisory & send
  - 1=planting
  - 2=spraying
    1=disease control
    2=weed control
- Wait for sms to receive information for your area

**Example of output for info about spraying for weeds**

*134*8383#

What info would you like?
1. Planting Advisory
2. Spraying Advisory

Mobile phone information services

- **Coverage**
  Large numbers of South African farmers have access to a phone & signal

- **Localised**
  Information is provided precisely for farm location

- **Timely**
  Information reaches farmer immediately

- **Local language**
  User chooses own language
New Additions

**Wheat cultivar choice advisory** (for seed purchase available Nov 2019)
- According to farm location using last 5 years information from ARC-SG cultivar trials to group cultivars according to yield potential.
- Details of yields, protein content, hectolitre mass, Thousand kernel mass, Disease resistance or susceptibility etc

**Heat Stress for cattle & poultry**
- Use temperature & humidity

**Bee hive management**
- According to maximum temperature in forecast

**Heat units for crops**
- According to daily average temperature and planting dates
Upscaling to Africa via NMHSs

- Success story for SAWS & ARC
- Co-design business case for weather and climate services with NMHS
- Make Water - Energy - Food Nexus calculations possible
- Dove-tails with other projects in West Africa

Unique aspects of “AgriCloud” mobile App

- For both Smart and Simple phones
- Available in 11 South African languages
  - English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, SiSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Afrikaans
- Advice updated everyday
- Crop specific information – expanding each season
- Crowd-sourcing collection of weather observations
- Modular system to easily add new advisories

For further information or possible combined projects from other countries or regions contact:

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Other Useful NEW Apps – from Google Play Store

• ARC-Hub: agricultural production info for South Africa

• WeatherSmart: SAWS weather forecasts for South Africa

• “AgriCloud” for farm specific advisories

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