



Decision Making Matrix

Steps to set up your matrix:

1. Find out which climate drivers affect rainfall in your area, and when.
2. Make a spreadsheet with columns:
 - Months
 - Decisions **to be** made
 - Consensus of forecasts
 - Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)
 - Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) (tracking the SOI & IOD are useful in SA)
 - Considerations (sub-soil moisture, commodity prices, fertilizer/diesel costs, debt level etc)
 - Decisions **made**
 - Outcome /attitude (include extreme events like unseasonal heat & heavy rain)
3. Mark the months when you should track drivers (eg IOD from May – Nov)
4. Set up a favourites folder with web address' to monitor these drivers, and forecast models.
5. Monitor several seasonal climate forecast models every month (the more the better).
 - Coupled Global Climate Models:
 - POAMA2 (BOM), JAMSTEC (Japan), ECMWF (Europe), NCEP (USA), ECPC (USA)
 - Ensemble models:
 - APEC (Korea), UKMO (UK), IRI (USA)
6. Every month look at the latest seasonal forecasts and get a consensus.
7. Update likely outcomes and tweak decisions and plans if necessary.



Decision Making Matrix template

Months 2012	Decisions to be made	Consensus of forecasts	SOI (Southern Oscillation Index)	IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole)	Considerations	Decisions we made	Outcome / Attitude
	All your decisions through the year eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of year will it be? • Should we sow? • How much? • When should we join/lamb? 	Use the Weather Watch Cheat Sheet to determine the consensus of forecasts.	Useful to show La Nina and its development or demise.	Good to watch from June to November.	Your other business considerations such as sub-soil moisture, commodity prices, fertilizer/diesel costs, debt level etc.	What you decide to do.	What's the outcome?
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							

June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							