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Lesotho launches National Farmers Portal to put countryâ??s farmers on One Digital Registry

31 August 2026 | News

New system brings farmer, land, livestock and household information together across all 10 districts, giving the government a single database to plan agricultural programmes and deliver support



Lesotho has launched a national digital registry for farmers, bringing together information on farmers, land parcels, households, livestock and agricultural activities across all 10 districts in what the government says is a major step towards improving how agricultural services are planned and delivered.

The Lesotho Farmers Portal was officially launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN), under Minister Selibe Mochoboroane, in partnership with Vodacom Lesotho. The platform will be used by field officers across the country to register farmers and record details ranging from national identity numbers and household information to farming activities, livestock, assets and land parcels.

The importance of the system lies in replacing a fragmented record-keeping process. Before the portal was introduced, farmer information was spread across paper files, spreadsheets and separate district-level records. Those records were not connected, making it difficult for the Ministry to develop a complete picture of the country's farming population.

The new registry is designed to bring that information into one place.

Field officers can register farmers against their national identity numbers and record information about their households, farms, livestock and assets. Land parcels can also be recorded using GPS boundaries. Ministry officials can then search and review the information centrally, giving the government a national view of farmers and agricultural activity that was previously difficult to obtain.

For a country where agricultural programmes can depend heavily on knowing who is farming, where they are farming and what they produce, the shift has practical implications. A reliable farmer registry can make it easier to identify eligible beneficiaries, plan programmes and determine where agricultural inputs and other forms of assistance are needed.

The system also creates the basis for moving away from broad, one-size-fits-all support towards programmes that can be directed at specific farmers or groups based on verified information.

For farmers, registration creates a formal record of their involvement in agriculture and their land and production activities. That could eventually support services such as targeted subsidies and input distribution as the platform develops beyond its initial registration function.

For the Ministry, the value is equally direct: a single source of information can provide a stronger basis for policy decisions, programme design and budget planning.

The portal was developed by FiscalAdmin Ltd using the Joget DX Enterprise platform. MAFSN retains ownership of the registry, data and processes, while the International Telecommunication Union provided the programme framework and digital-government methodology. GovStack contributed the Registration Building Block specification and reference architecture, while the World Food Programme supported implementation, including the Joget DX Enterprise licence. Vodacom Lesotho partnered on the launch and efforts to reach field officers.

The project has been designed around the practical constraints of a small government technology team.

Instead of requiring developers to make every routine change, Ministry staff can manage many elements of the system through configuration. Information such as districts, villages, crops, livestock categories and document types can be maintained within the platform itself.

That matters because agricultural programmes rarely remain static. Eligibility rules change, new crops or livestock categories may need to be added, administrative structures can evolve and new government schemes may be introduced. A system that allows ministry staff to make routine adjustments themselves can reduce the dependence on outside developers for every modification.

Aare Lapõnin, Founder and CEO of FiscalAdmin Ltd, the technical delivery partner, said the objective was to create a national service that remained practical for the people using it every day.

He said the Farmers Portal brings together processes that would otherwise remain separate while giving the Ministry greater control over its own data. According to Lapõnin, the system was built as a live implementation of the GovStack Registration Building Block and had to work under actual field conditions rather than simply satisfy a technical specification.

The project was delivered over a two-year period, with Joget's enterprise application platform allowing a small team to develop the prototype into a national service that the Ministry can operate and maintain itself.

The development process also incorporated LLM-assisted, specification-led development, according to FiscalAdmin. The approach involved having an LLM assistant work from a written specification rather than directly modifying the live system. Outputs were then passed through the platform's API and tested automatically before being released.

When problems were identified, the correction was incorporated into the written specification rather than being made directly to the live system.

The technology is ultimately a means to an administrative end. The more important question for Lesotho will be what the government does with the information once the registry reaches meaningful coverage.

The portal already has capabilities for programme applications, eligibility assessment, decision management and entitlement issuance. These functions can be introduced as the system moves beyond farmer registration.

That could allow the registry to become a common entry point for agricultural assistance, rather than simply serving as a database.

Raveesh Dewan, President and CEO of Joget Inc., said the project's importance lies in addressing a practical problem faced by the Ministry: obtaining reliable information about farmers and using it to support agricultural services across the country.

He said the portal was designed to remain adaptable as the Ministry's requirements change, allowing additional services to be built on the same foundation.

The national rollout also comes at a time when governments are increasingly looking to digital registries to improve the delivery of public services. In agriculture, the quality of such systems depends heavily on the quality of the information collected at farm level.

That makes the work of field officers particularly important. The registry can only provide an accurate picture of Lesotho's farming population if registrations are complete, land information is correctly captured and farmer records are kept up to date.

The use of national identity numbers and GPS-based land boundaries gives the system a more structured basis for identifying farmers and connecting them with their production areas. Over time, maintaining accurate records will be just as important as establishing the database itself.

The immediate goal is to achieve national coverage across all 10 districts. Once that foundation is established, the Ministry expects to build additional services around the registry, including programme applications and input distribution.

That could change the role of the Farmers Portal from a registration exercise into a core piece of agricultural administration.

For farmers, the potential benefit is easier access to government support. For policymakers, it is better information about the people and land underpinning the country's agricultural sector. And for the Ministry, the long-term value will depend on whether a single, continuously maintained registry can replace the fragmented records that previously made it difficult to see the country's agricultural sector as one connected system.

Lesotho has now built the database. The next test will be whether it can turn that information into better-targeted programmes, more efficient distribution of support and a clearer understanding of the country's farmers.