SIZA NEWS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Membership

SIZA membership is growing with the total currently at 621 members.

The breakdown of membership is as follows:

Producer: 494
Packhouses: 47
Exporters: 22
Importer: 1
Commercial bodies: 2
Multisites: 48
Retailers / Industry associations: 6

Siza Helpline

For general enquiries including registrations, SAQs and SEDEX, contact Mariessa Erasmus on the new SIZA Helpline: 0861 111 568 or email her at info@siza.co.za

To register on SIZA, log onto the SIZA website www.siza.co.za , click on “Registration” and you will be guided to the Registration form to complete.

Siza / Sedex Update

If SIZA members are required to be visible on SEDEX to their retailer customers, they need to do the following:

- Send SEDEX a letter of permission to transfer the account to the FSA AB Account (contact info@siza.co.za for a copy of this letter)
- Correct and close off all outstanding non-compliances from the previous audit and request the audit body who did the audit to sign these NCs off on Sedex
- Inform SIZA which customers they need to be linked to

NOTE:
Producers who are registered as an employment site under the FSA AB account, can use the same SEDEX log-on details to view their accounts on SEDEX. The audit body will be able to have direct access to the account in order to sign off non-compliances and will not have to go through the FSA AB account in order to have visibility.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLOSE OFF ALL NON-COMPLIANCES FROM A PREVIOUS AUDIT.

Siza Capacity Building Programme Roll Out

SIZA has received funding of EUROS 500,000 from the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) for the roll out of its capacity-building programme throughout provinces in South Africa in 2014 and 2015. The funding will be used to facilitate over 70 workshops for its members at no additional cost to the member. Recognised training service providers who work in the field, have already received training to implement the training which is already being rolled out.

Please email info@siza.co.za if you or your representative would like to participate in this programme. We are looking to have between 15 and 20 participants per workshop in order to make this cost-effective and to meet our commitments to the funders.

SOME GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME

What is its aim?
The broad aim of the programme is to develop capacities and support for SIZA members with implementation of the SIZA Standard and continuous improvement of labour conditions on farms.

Who can receive training?
The training is available to SIZA members and/or their representatives such as HR representatives, administrators who are responsible for ethical compliance on a farm, or people who provide support to producers, for example, labour consultants, government extension officers, etc. Workshops are also available to supervisors, workers and their representatives, and representatives of retailers, exporters, importers and industry associations. People who receive training will be called Ethical Trade Facilitators.

What will the training cost?
There is no cost for the training for SIZA members.

What will the training cover?
- Understanding the SIZA programme
- Responsibilities of the Ethical Trade Facilitator in the SIZA programme
- Benefits of the SIZA programme
- Understanding the 8 principles of the SIZA standard (includes policies and procedures, etc)
- Corrective actions and Improvement plans
- Self-assessments
- Audit preparation and process
- Identifying and quantifying risk
- Root cause analysis
- Closing off non-compliances
- Awareness raising and Capacity-building programmes on-site
- How to use the SIZA toolkits

Course content can be tailored to the needs of producers and participants at all levels.

How long is the workshop?
Duration of each course is 2 days which can be run consecutively or spread out over time.

What materials will be available?
SIZA course materials will be available to course participants. They will also have access to the range of SIZA resources that have been developed and will continue to be developed, including "How to" Guides to developing policies; a memory stick with all relevant resources (templates, examples of payslips, contracts); SIZA poster; Accommodation Guide; Transport Guide; Workplace Communication Guide.

Agreement with WIETA

SIZA has reached an agreement with WIETA which will allow SIZA members who have done a SIZA audit to be recognised by WIETA for purposes of obtaining the WIETA certification. WIETA will still need to do a spot-check on the site to ensure corrective actions have been completed before certifying the site. The cost of the spot-check can be recovered from Vinpro if they are Vinpro members.

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