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SIZA PROGRAM TO BENEFIT FROM PERMANENT STAFFING

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Fruit South Africa (FSA), the umbrella organization of the South African fruit industry, was formed in June 2001. For many years FSA did not have staff, relying on the member organisations (Citrus Growers' Association, SA Table Grape Industry, HORTGRO, Fresh Produce Exporters Forum and Subtropical Growers' Association) to supply resources to undertake projects identified as common to all FSA members. In order to deliver on the many issues dealt with by FSA, Dr Konanani Liphadzi was appointed as full time Officer on 1 June 2014. This permanent staffing within FSA has already increased the ability to deliver.

One of the common projects undertaken by FSA was the request from growers to introduce an ethical trading platform for South African fruit production – this resulted in the birth of SIZA (the Sustainability Initiative of South Africa). Under the wise guidance of Colleen Chennells (an independent contractor on a consultancy basis) and the support from a wide range of stakeholders; most importantly the support of South African fruit growers, exporters and the trade, SIZA has gone from strength to strength. The FSA Board would like to thank all those who have made SIZA the success it is today; from the growers who have shown their commitment to prove legal compliance and produce in an ethical manner, through to buyers of South African fruit who have adopted the program. This prevented duplication of trade requirements and multiple audits and has led to a globally endorsed platform through which many stakeholders have moulded the codes, fine-tuned audits and improved the certification processes. Colleen and her committees and advisors have played a crucial role in this process which is widely recognized and appreciated by all stakeholders.

Like FSA itself, SIZA has now developed to a stage where permanent capacity is required to ensure that it is bedded down and delivers on all fronts. After a strategic planning exercise which identified various key positions in the SIZA programme, the FSA Board agreed that the most important first step is to appoint a dedicated full-time Manager for SIZA. In order to ensure transparency in the process and comply with legislation the post has been advertised. FSA will now continue with the appointment process and envisages having the Manager of SIZA appointed in a full-time position before June 2015. The FSA Board would like to thank and assure all stakeholders who have expressed an interest in, and concerns with the process, that SIZA will continue to deliver the value they have appreciated in the past. The FSA Board and Management will ensure that the best interest of the SIZA programme is served in this process.

We look forward to the continued support for SIZA as we continue to establish it as an independent, well capacitated, globally recognised and sustainable platform for the ethical production of South African fruit.

Any queries/question can be directed to:

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Vrugte Suid-Afrika (FSA), die sambreelorganisasie van die Suid-Afrikaanse vrugtebedryf, het ontstaan in 2001. Vir baie jare het FSA nie enige personeel in diens gehad nie, maar slegs staatgemaak op die lede organisasies (Sitrus Produsente Organisasie, Suid-Afrikaanse Tafeldruiforganisasie, HORTGRO, Vars Uitvoerders Forum en die Subtropiese Produsente Organisasie) om hulpbronne vir gemeenskaplik geïdentifiseerde projekte vir alle FSA lede, te voorsien. Om te probeer voldoen aan al die baie knelpunte wat hanteer moet word deur FSA, is Dr Konanani Liphadzi permanent aangestel as voltydse beampte op 1 Junie 2014. Hierdie permanente kapasiteit binne FSA het al klaar ŉ positiewe bydrae gelewer om sukses te behaal op verskeie gebiede.

Een van die gemeenskaplike projekte, wat op versoek van produsente onderneem is deur FSA, is om 'n etiese handelsplatform vir die Suid-Afrikaanse vrugteproduksie daar te stel – die resultaat hiervan was die ontstaan van SIZA (Die volhoubare Inisiatief van Suid-Afrika). Onder die wyse leiding van Colleen Chennels (ʹn onafhanklike kontrakteur op 'n konsulterende basis) en die ondersteuning van 'n wye spektrum van rolspelers; die belangrikste, die ondersteuning van die Suid-Afrikaanse vrugteprodusente, uitvoerders en die handel, het SIZA van krag tot krag gegaan. Die FSA Raad wil graag almal wat van SIZA so 'n groot sukses soos dit vandag is, gemaak het bedank; vir die produsente wat hulle verbondenheid om op ʹn etiese manier te produseer en te voldoen aan wetlike vereiste, gewys het; deur tot by die kopers van Suid-Afrikaanse vrugte wat hierdie program, aangeneem het. Die voorkoming van duplisering van handelsvereistes en veelvuldige oudits, wat gelei het tot 'n wêreldwye onderskrewe platform waardeur baie rolspelers die kodes vasgemaak, oudits verfyn en sertifiseringsprosesse verbeter het. Colleen, in samewerking met haar komitees en raadgewers het n belangrike rol gespeel in hierdie proses wat wyd herken en deur alle rolspelers waardeer word.

Net soos FSA, het SIZA ook nou ontwikkel tot op 'n vlak waar dit permanente kapasiteit benodig om aan alle vereistes soos gestel te voldoen en op alle gebiede sukses te kan behaal. Na afloop van 'n strategiese beplanningsessie waar verskeie sleutelpunte geïdentifiseer is in die SIZA program, het die FSA raad besluit dat die eerste belangrike stap is om 'n toegewyde en permanente bestuurder vir SIZA aan te stel. Die pos is geadverteer om ʹn deurlopende sigbare proses te verseker en om te voldoen aan die wetlike vereistes. FSA sal nou voortgaan met die werwings- en keuringsproses en hoop om n permanente bestuurder teen Junie 2015 in die posisie aan te stel. Die FSA raad wil graag alle rolspelers wat hulle belangstelling en kommer oor die proses uitgespreek het, bedank en verseker dat SIZA sal voortgaan om dieselfde standaard te handhaaf waaraan hulle gewoond was in die verlede. Die FSA raad en bestuur wil graag almal verseker dat die beste belang van SIZA in die proses sal dien.

Ons sien uit na u deurlopende ondersteuning vir die SIZA progam gedurende hierdie proses waar ons SIZA vestig as 'n goed toegerusde, wêreldwyd herkenbare en volhoubare platform vir die etiese produksie van Suid-Afrikaanse vrugte.

Enige vrae/navrae kan gerig word aan:

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