



SIZA

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA

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News

SIZA IS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER! AN INDEPENDENT NON PROFIT COMPANY!

SIZA, sustainability ethical trade initiative of South Africa has had a tough year. Yet this difficult time has also created an opportunity for self-examination, debate and the re-affirming of a number of key principles. The SIZA initiative is thus emerging from this process as a better, stronger and more exciting initiative.

It was for this reason a meeting of mandated stakeholder representatives was held to resolve differences and to find a joint way forward. Recent mistakes were acknowledged and a course of corrective actions were agreed and set in motion to pro-actively build on the foundation laid to date. At the meeting, these key stakeholders re-affirmed their commitment to continue to invest time and resources into making SIZA the world class system that we foresee.

Change is for the better: An Independent Structure

It was previously acknowledged and agreed that SIZA needed to change to a more independent structure. It was agreed that an Interim Independent SIZA Board would be appointed for the period to 31st March 2016, after which it must operate as an independent legal entity with a permanent Independent SIZA Board governing its activities in a transparent manner. One of the immediate tasks for this Interim Board is to initiate the process of moving towards independence, including working out how existing contractual arrangements might need to change. The revised budget, based on inputs from stakeholders, will also be important to support this new structure on a user-pay basis.

We are proud to announce that the SIZA Interim Board is as follows:

- Stuart Symington – Independent Chair (MD of Capespan)
- Konanani Liphadzi – CEO Fruit South Africa
- Paul Hardman – Industry Representative (Citrus Growers' Association - CGA)
- Tania Moodley – Retailer Representative (TESCO)
- Hennie Claassens – Exporter Representative (Kromco)
- Environmental Standards Specialist (to be confirmed)

It was also agreed that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the various technical working groups – such as the ESG – need to be firmed up urgently. A new chairperson of the ESG, in the name of Rowen Markie (Mack), was elected. This would create clarity for the different stakeholder participants around expectations, areas of participation, mandates and focus in these structures. More importantly it would also help the SIZA Manager (Retha Louw) to build momentum around the programme and to engage with stakeholders around the world. The new interim Board will assist Retha Louw with this process in a constructive and professional way

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RECOGNITION OF COLLEEN CHENNELLS

Colleen Chennells was the first SIZA programme manager to implement and drive the SIZA programme. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge her contribution and hard work to set up and maintain this programme over the last couple of years.

Colleen was involved in successfully running this programme in a holistic nature, which has enabled us to reach the target groups and to start up the first sustainability initiative for the South African agricultural industry. The feedback about Colleen's contribution from industry representatives, producers and retail entities has been overwhelming. She has proved herself over the last years as a valuable asset to the industry. Colleen's experience and commitment were remarkable, and she became an integral part of the agricultural industry.

The SIZA Interim Board and management team would like to thank Colleen and acknowledge the tremendous work that she has done over the years. We wish her the very best of success in her new ventures.

BETTER COMMUNICATION FOR SIZA

An ongoing objective of SIZA will be finding better ways to communicate to members and stakeholders, including in a more constructive manner.

SIZA DATA PLATFORM UPDATE

The SIZA data platform has been 'live', and members have been using the platform to register and renew subscriptions with great success. We urge those members who have not yet activated their accounts - or renewed their subscriptions or links to their retailers and export companies - to do so. We would like to have an up-to-date profile of our current members.

Members are also able to complete their Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQ's) on the data platform, as long as their membership is current. Thank you to all of those who have completed their SAQs. The review process of SAQs is ongoing and the platform allows the SIZA admin personnel to report back to members on areas where improvements are possible. We are aware of some members' historical data which is not up to date on the platform; but we are in the process of correcting that. Together with our service providers, we are working to ensure that correct data is obtained from the previous platform (SAIGOL). And this data will be imported into the system very soon. This is also the case with historical documentation which has been submitted onto the SAIGOL platform which currently is not available on the SIZA platform. There is ongoing discussion with SAIGOL to provide the data to us in a format that we can match with member profiles. To all our new members – enjoy the platform, it is a very good and modern system.

We can assure you that SIZA is doing its level best to make the transition from the old data platform to the new SIZA Data platform as smooth as possible for its members.

Thanks for the continued support of the program and assisting SIZA with feedback on improvements we can make!

Should you have any queries, please contact us on: info@siza.co.za / enquiries@siza.co.za

