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SIZA VISION



Enabling South African Agriculture to be a global leader. Ensuring sustainable, ethical trade and environmental stewardship.

SIZA MISSION

SIZA, the Sustainability Initiative of South Africa, provides a platform for agricultural stakeholders to ensure ethical and environmentally sustainable trade. This platform monitors care for the environment and compliance with labour legislation. Our aim is to encourage continuous improvement in practices over time more than the minimum legal requirements. We engage directly with our stakeholders throughout the value chain to identify needs and issues, and create interventions and support tools by measuring member compliance over time.

SIZA PLATFORM / SEDEX

Should you require access and visibility through the SIZA Sedex account, please answer "Yes" to question A4 on your SIZA SAQ (Self-assessment questionnaire). If you do not need access and visibility on Sedex, please click "No". The cost of this service is included in your SIZA membership fee.

Also, please ensure that you send your transfer form to Sedex should you have been previously registered with them and now wish that SIZA should manage your visibility through the SIZA Sedex account on your behalf. This will avoid duplicate profiles and additional costs.

For transfer forms or questions please contact Natalie Thomas: enquiries@siza.co.za



SIZA MEMBERSHIP

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ANUALLY?

Although you are allocated a Level A, B or C status after an audit (which is valid for two, three or five years), you must renew your membership and update your self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) annually. One of the conditions of the two to five-year audit period is that SIZA must monitor whether members maintain ethical practices and standards during that time. SIZA must also review the updated SAQ annually to see if anything changed on a farm during the specified period. If membership is not renewed and the SAQ not updated annually, visibility on both the SIZA and Sedex Platforms will be compromised and the audit confirmation letter will not be validated.

Take note that SIZA also display a message on the Sedex Platform indicating whether membership is still valid and active with SIZA.

SIZA ENGAGEMENT WITH MARKETS

SIZA and GRASP

We have now received confirmation that GRASP has formally recommended that retailers should also accept other social standards, including SIZA. For 2017, a “hand system” will be utilized as a pilot to exchange information between SIZA and GRASP. The idea is to create an automated interface for future years through which direct visibility could be provided for importers and retailers. Discussions to enable such in interface will be taken further early in the new year.

Please see below the confirmation from Global G.A.P. re SIZA acceptance (point 5 on the Guideline).

[http://www.globalgap.org/export/sites/default/.content/.galleries/documents/161108 GRASP Guideline-for-Retailers en.pdf](http://www.globalgap.org/export/sites/default/.content/.galleries/documents/161108_GRASP_Guideline-for-Retailers_en.pdf)

In order to prevent duplication, we propose that exporters (suppliers) should engage with their receivers as a matter of urgency and assure them that their requirements will be fully met via SIZA. There are already some German retailers who have confirmed their acceptance of SIZA. Any queries and requests for more information by retailers/receivers can be passed on to SIZA who will develop practical solutions with them.



SIZA ROAD SHOW AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE SUBRTROPICAL INDUSTRY

SIZA visited producers and packers in Nelspruit, Hazyview, Tzaneen and Letsitele to share information about the SIZA structures and to give them a situational report on SIZA activities and progress. In-depth training took place on the SIZA Platform as well as ethical practices, the SIZA audit process and methodology, and the SIZA standard. We are excited to welcome several new suppliers who registered on the Platform as a result of our visit.



SIZA ACROSS BORDERS

SIZA membership is open to neighbouring countries provided that they bear in mind that they will be audited on the current SIZA standard which is based on the South African Labour Legislation. If retailers are willing to accept the outcome of the SIZA third party audit from producers and pack houses from countries other than South Africa, they are most welcome to register with SIZA.

SIZA THIRD PARTY AUDITS

The ethical audit is not intended as a pass/fail exercise. The minimum requirement is compliance with legislation and the purpose of the audit is to identify any non-compliant areas on the site that require corrective actions and improvement based on the standard. The aim of the SIZA programme is then to support producers in ensuring there is compliance and ongoing improvement in labour conditions. The ethical audit is therefore not a tick box exercise but involves proof of evidence via an online benchmark to prove compliance with South African labour laws via audits conducted by accredited auditing bodies.

Audit Fees

Audit fees are a separate agreement between the growers and the audit body (AB). Therefore, it is very important that growers ask AB's for a quotation before the audit is scheduled and finalized. Audit fees are not payable to SIZA, but directly to the AB's. As per agreement with the AB's (as from 1 October 2016), SIZA invoices the AB's for R2 000 per audit to cover the follow up administration and operational confirmations, as well as the maintenance costs on the SIZA Platform.

SIZA is aware of the queries from growers that Audit Fees are sometimes exceptionally high, especially where AB's have to travel long distances. SIZA will therefore investigate ways to assist members with their audits, amongst others requesting AB's to consider satellite audit offices and/or coordinated audits where a number of audits could be "pooled" to share travel and accommodation expenses. We will also encourage new AB's to consider ethical audits (subject to them complying with the requirements for AB's) to ensure a better spread of service providers throughout all the provinces and the production regions.

For help and assistance on the SIZA Platform:

SIZA helpline 086 1111 568
Email info@siza.co.za



WATER RISK MANAGEMENT

Did you know?

- South Africa's average annual rainfall is 40% lower than the global average
- More than 60% of South Africa's water resources are allocated to agriculture
- As water demands increase, water allocations will change: **South African farmers will need to produce more with less water**
- Water risk is multi-dimensional and can impact your business in many different and unexpected ways

Blue North offers three solutions to assess and manage your water risks:

1. KNOW YOUR RISK: Water risk profiling (desktop and GIS-based)
2. IDENTIFY YOUR CHALLENGES: Water footprint (site-specific analysis)
3. KNOW WHAT TO DO: Water action plan (site-specific planning)

From high-level strategy to technology solutions, we will help you future-proof your business

For more information contact David Black 076 684 8953 / davidblack@bluenorth.co.za



SIZA COMMUNICATION

In conjunction with the deciduous fruit industry, SIZA appointed a public relations company to drive engagement and communication with retailers in Germany. A similar approach will be developed for other markets. For more information please visit the website. <http://siza.co.za/newsroom/german-marketing-campaign/>

