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SIZA ENVIRONMENTAL

SIZA, the South African sustainability standard for social and environmental assurance, is the first to reach **FULL (100%) equivalence** when benchmarked against SAI Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA). This level of equivalence is a first as no scheme has ever included the full scope of the FSA before.

The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI Platform) and SIZA announced the results of an equivalency project aiming to understand the gaps between SIZA and the FSA in a recent press release. The SIZA Platform offers two separate standards for South African producers, one covering relevant social criteria and the other covering relevant environmental criteria. Both standards were thoroughly reviewed against SAI Platform's FSA2.0 resulting in a maximum GOLD level of equivalence (100% essential, 100% basic and 100% advanced).

To read the full press release, please click on the link: https://siza.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SIZA-FSA-Gold-Equivalence_Media-release_final.pdf

INFORMATION ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

With the recent addition of the environmental module, SIZA is rolling out a number of training workshops to assist SIZA members with a better understanding of the Environmental Standard and guidance on how to complete the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) on the Platform. The workshops will be an introduction to the content as well as an interactive session on the Platform.

What to expect:

The workshop will cover an introduction to the content, questions about, and criteria of the Environmental Standard, as well as an interactive session on the Platform to ensure the SAQ is completed correctly. Once you register for a workshop, the SIZA environmental specialist will work with you to prepare the relevant information that will help you to complete the SAQ prior to the workshop as this is a requirement to attend the workshop.

How long: Each workshop is expected to take between 2 and 3 hours.

What to bring: Yourself, any questions you may have and an open mind to learn something new!

Cost of the workshops: Free of charge.

How to book your place: Email or call Henko Vlok at the SIZA office (henko@siza.co.za / (021) 852 8184) to confirm your place at the workshop you would like to attend, or if you have any questions.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP SCHEDULE 2018

Location	Date	Time
MARCH		
Fort Beaufort	13 March 2018	09:00-12:00
Kirkwood	14 March 2018	10:00-13:00
Patensie	15 March 2018	09:00-12:00
Margate	26 March 2018	09:00-12:00
Eshowe	27 March 2018	09:00-12:00
APRIL		
Upington	11 April 2018	12:00-15:00
Kakamas	12 April 2018	09:00-12:00
Bethlehem	17 April 2018	13:00-16:00
Harrismith	18 April 2018	09:00-12:00
Ceres	23 April 2018	10:00-13:00
Grabouw	24 April 2018	09:00-12:00
Riversonderend	25 April 2018	10:00-13:00
MAY		
Paarl	8 May 2018	10:00-13:00
Robertson	9 May 2018	12:00-15:00
Citrusdal	15 May 2018	09:00-12:00
George	23 May 2018	12:00-15:00

SIZA / GLOBALG.A.P. (GRASP)

In 2017 SIZA and GlobalG.A.P reached a formal agreement through which GlobalG.A.P. recognized SIZA's social module as an adequate standard to 'replace' GRASP audits in South Africa. This is in line with the SIZA mission to avoid audit duplication.

One of the requirements was that members' SIZA audit results should be reflected on the GlobalG.A.P database. SIZA has therefore started to develop an Application Programming Interface (API) between the SIZA and GlobalG.A.P databases. This development is in its final stages and the transfer of data from SIZA to GlobalG.A.P will soon happen automatically in real time which will replace the current arrangement through which information was sent through manually to GLOBALG.A.P on a monthly basis. Many European buyers are monitoring their suppliers' social compliance through the GlobalG.A.P / GRASP platform and this API will help to increase visibility for those buyers.

SIZA / CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE

In the SIZA Environmental SAQ, members are required to report on their energy use and emissions and how these are monitored. The Confronting Climate Change (CCC) initiative is a carbon footprinting project, which was developed by the fruit and wine sectors to identify and respond to the risks and opportunities associated with carbon emissions. When completing the Environmental SAQ, SIZA members will note a hyperlink to www.climatefruitandwine.co.za. This will give members the opportunity to report on energy use and emissions for their business. We encourage all SIZA members to use this application to add value to their businesses performance. The hyperlink will take you to the CCC website where you can use the carbon calculator.

SIZA MEMBERSHIP FEES

The SIZA membership pricing structure is going to change from the 1st of April 2018.

In future, this pricing structure will depend on the use of the different SIZA modules and depend on the level of visibility to be provided to the market. Your chosen membership level option will be your base fee, plus add-on modules and current selection options such as SIZA Social and/or SIZA Environmental.

Visibility options include GlobalG.A.P (GRASP) and/or Sedex.

Should you choose to have an add-on module (such as SIZA Environmental), then you would have to indicate that during your subscription renewal process. An additional R600.00 (ex VAT) annual cost for any add-on SIZA modules will apply in future.

If you need visibility at Sedex and/or GlobalG.A.P you would also need to inform SIZA during the renewal process. This visibility will cost an additional R100.00 (ex VAT) per platform per year. Please remember that you have to apply for one or both of these options if you require visibility, otherwise your data will not be visible to the markets of choice which may probably require additional audits. We are confident that these added functionality will prevent costly duplication of audits.

An example of the full structure is indicated below for our different membership levels.

Base Standard Selected	SIZA Social	Price (depending on the level of membership you choose*)
Add-on module	SIZA Environmental	R600.00 ex VAT
GlobalG.A.P visibility	Yes	R100.00 ex VAT
Sedex visibility	Yes	R100.00 ex VAT

* Normal membership fees will increase from 1 April 2018 and will be announced soon

SIZA is a not for profit service entity for the agri-sector. All membership fees are therefor used to create capacity and support through the SIZA office in Somerset West and to enable further development, functionalities and benefits on the Data Platform and through training programmes.

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ANUALLY?

Although you are allocated a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze status after an audit (which is valid for two or three years depending on your status), you must renew your membership and update your self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) annually. One of the conditions of the two to three-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 is not updated annually, visibility on the SIZA, Sedex and GlobalG.A.P. databases will also be compromised and the audit confirmation letter cannot be validated.



STRONGER TOGETHER PROGRAMME: FAIR LABOUR PRACTICES (FORCED AND BONDED LABOUR)

Stronger Together has launched a new global supply chain project to promote responsible employment in the wine and fruit growing industries in South Africa. Funded by the United Kingdom Home Office Modern Slavery Innovation Fund, the project will be delivered in partnership with the Wine and Agricultural Ethical Trade Association (WIETA) and The Sustainability Initiative of South Africa (SIZA).

The UK Modern Slavery Act of 2015 requires that large UK based businesses take steps in addressing and reducing the risk of modern slavery within their global supply chains. This includes any form of forced and bonded labour, human trafficking and preventing freedom of association. It is therefore becoming increasingly important for South African producers to ensure that their labour management practices are fair and without any indication of these mentioned issues. This will not only help secure market access and protect the livelihood of these sectors, but will also create a healthier work environment where exploitative labour practices are discouraged and workers are protected.

Therefore, we would like to urge you all to embrace this opportunity for free training and to learn as much as you can so that you have a clear understanding of what exactly forced and bonded labour entail. SIZA expanded the audit checklist to make sure all the requirements are covered, and auditors will look more comprehensively at these aspects during an audit.

A range of training sessions in the various production regions are being planned for this programme. The 2018 dates are indicated below. Look out for a session near you and contact the organizers to make sure you don't miss out on this opportunity. (Venues and other dates will be communicated soon.)

Month (in 2018)	Province	Locations	Confirmed dates
March	EC	Addo	1 March
		Kirkwood	2 March
	EC	Gamtoos valley	19 and 20 March
	Mpumalanga	Nelspuit	7– 9 March
May	WC	Ceres	7 May
		Op-die-Berg	11 May
		Riebeeck Cellar	9th May
		De Doorns	15 May
		De Doorns	16 May
		Various areas	May–September
June	NC	Grobelshoop / Grootdrink Upington/ Kanoneiland Augrabies / Kakamas	12 – 15 June
July	WC	Various areas	May–September
August	WC	Tulbach	29 August
		Various areas	May–September
September	WC	Various areas	May–September
	Kwazulu-Natal	Various areas	May–September
October	Limpopo	Hoedspruit / Tzaneen / etc.	1–5 October



Stronger Together Workshops continue ...

How long: Each workshop is expected to last for 1 day.

What to bring: Yourself, any questions you may have and an open mind to learn more about these hot topics!

Cost of the workshops: Free of charge

How to book your place: Email or call Lynn Taute at the SIZA office (lynn@siza.co.za / (021) 852 8184) with the workshop details you would like to attend or if you have any questions.

For help and assistance on the SIZA Platform:

SIZA helpline: Logan Terhoeven, 086 1111 568

Email: info@siza.co.za

