

Minutes of the 10th Biotrade Stakeholders Forum meeting held virtually on 3rd August 2020

1. Welcome, Apologies, Purpose of meeting and approval of draft Agenda

The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting stating that it had been quite some time since the last engagement as the biotrade Stakeholders Forum which took place in February 2020.

Dr Shakespear Mudombi who had started on the 1st of July his function at the Swiss Embassy as a National Programme Officer was introduced. Shakespear took over from Nonhlanhla Halimana and he is the SECOs program manager for the sustainable value chain and resource efficiency portfolio and the focal point for environmental issues.

The purpose of the meeting was to pick-up where we left off in February. At the 9th Biotrade Stakeholders forum meeting, it was agreed that the chairpersonship of the Forum will continue to be shared between the SECO funded ABioSA and the GQSP-SA projects and that the BioPANZA will provide guidance on the direction of the forum. It was agreed on holding quarterly meetings, the 10th meeting was chaired by the GQSP-SA project. It was mentioned that the May quarterly meeting was not held as everyone was grappling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and re-inventing how work could continue despite the hard lock-down.

The item on incorporation of the laboratory network development in to the BioPanza Market Access Cluster work programme was removed from the draft agenda for discussion at a future meeting. The revised agenda was approved by the meeting.

A list of attendees and apologies received is given in Appendix 1.

2. Recap of activities from the 9th meeting (3rd February 2020)

In October 2019, a process was started to map the meso-organizations operating in the BioProspecting and BioTrade segments. This stakeholder map was developed during a series of workshops and, during the 9th meeting Mesopartner presented some feedback on the meso mapping exercise. This presentation was also circulated. For information, the work was then written up as a case study and widely circulated, including to persons on the contact list for this Forum.

A case study on how the meso stakeholder map could be used to create a collaborative laboratory network that will specifically provide support to SMEs to achieve sector compliance with EU regulation was presented jointly by ABioSA, the GQSP-SA and DEFF. The actions that needs to be taken into consideration to create a collaborative network includes mapping the current activities of organisation that offers support with sector compliance with EU regulation; then create a multi stakeholder project comprising of those organisation to provide technical or financial support that will strengthen and capacitate the network of laboratories and institutions using the BioPANZA platform to engage with relevant SMEs and make the network visible.

DEFF presented on the BioPANZA integration plan. The presentation comprise:

- i) A description of the BioPANZA operational model;

- ii) An update of the 3 BioPANZA clusters already operational (finance, market access and sustainable supply); and
- iii) A concept on the implementation of an integrated market access cluster platform that will create a space where SMEs can be offered a holistic support towards market readiness was presented. The presentation had been circulated.

3. Development and establishment of a national network of testing laboratories

During the 10th forum Ms Belinda Berry and Dr Anushka Govindsamy were introduced. In 2019, LISAM conducted a study to Demystify the EU regulatory requirements for indigenous oils, this study also included a gap analysis as to how well these requirements were being adhered to by enterprises in SA.

LISAM presented the ground-work being done for the development of a national network of testing laboratories. The work presented here has been commissioned by the ABS Compliant Bio-trade in South(ern) Africa (ABioSA) programme that is funded by Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and implemented by GIZ.

It was emphasised that the Biotrade Stakeholders' Forum members will, in one way or another, need to engage with LISAM whilst they execute this very important assignment for the industry. For instance, forum members may be required to participate as follows:

- As part of government within the context of BioPANZA having to create this one stop platform for SMEs, or
- A public funded institution with a biotrade mandate with testing infrastructure and needs to join the ***“network of laboratories and related institutions”*** (i.e. CSIR BIDC, Innovation Hub, Incubators), or
- As part of a tertiary institution with expertise and infrastructure to conduct tests for the biotrade sector; or
- Be a commercial testing laboratory offering testing services for the biotrade sector; or
- May receive a proposal from biotrade SMEs asking for certain tests and analysis as part of their support and therefore it would be good for them to have an overview of what is required when for example Adrie as the ABioSA advisor receiving a proposals as part of the Round 1 & 2 calls with SMEs requesting specific tests such as efficacy tests to be conducted, but do not know that actually safety tests should have been concluded first.

The presentation made by LISAM is attached as Appendix 2. LISAM fielded questions on the cost of testing; indicated that compliance with EU requirements was an advantage when preparing to export to other countries; the validity of test results in other countries was of concern; LISAM does not have testing capability in South Africa.

4. Introduction to the development of 6 Sector Plans

In 2019 two (2) workshops were held to discuss a marula sector development plan. One in SA, the other in Namibia. Since then, the ABioSA project has made significant progress in the development of 6 sector plans for the BioTrade Sector in Southern Africa.

Kruger Swart and Associates shared information on the project which was kick-started in July 2020. The presentation is attached (Appendix 3).

SKA was advised to contact SAAFFI and the SME division at SABS. Inputs were given that it is important to do market research as it is pointless spending funds if there is no market or if the market needs cannot be met. It was indicated that DEFF has commissioned a market analysis study. Also, that the project management unit (PMU) was being set up for GEF 6 programme.

5. Way Forward and next steps

It was confirmed that the BioTrade Stakeholders' Forum is about information sharing, learning, collaboration and coordination. Updates on progress will be given at the next meeting.

6. Date of 11th meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 3rd November 2020. However, this date is problematic as several members are unavailable. As the next meeting will be chaired by the ABioSA project, it was agreed that a quick survey will be done to establishment availability on the 4th November 2020.

Appendix 1: Participants List ^{a)}

	Surname(s)	First Name(s)	Organisation	E-mail	Signature
1.	El Mohamadi	Adrie	ABioSA: GIZ	adrie.elmohamadi@giz.de	Attended
2.	Sehona	Serole	ABioSA: GIZ	serole.sehona@giz.de	Apology
3.	Lombard	Cyril	GIZ/ABS Project Advisor	newbotanical@hotmail.com	Attended
4.	Ntutela	Dr Siya	AfricaBio	Siya@africabio.com	Apology
5.	Klins	Ullrich	GIZ/BIA	ullrich.klins@giz.de	Attended
6.	Kotzé	Lara	CSIR: BIDC	LKotze@csir.co.za	Attended
7.	Gordon	Greg	CSIR	GGordon@csir.co.za	Attended
8.	Wadiwala	Ebrahim	CSIR	EWadiwala@csir.co.za	Apology
9.	Pimentel	Adelia	CTFA	adelia@ctfa.co.za	Apology
10.	Ghordon	Yashmay	CTFA	yashmay@ctfa.co.za	Attended
11.	Mojapelo	Moloko	DAFF	MolokoMo@daff.gov.za	Attended
12.	Naicker-Manick	Preshanthie	DEA	PNaicker@environment.gov.za	Attended
13.	Langazane	Phindile	DEA	PLangazane@environment.gov.za	Attended
14.	Feltman	Natalie	DEA	Nfeltman@environment.gov.za	Attended
15.	Kekana	Portia	DSDB	PKekana@dsbd.gov.za	Attended
16.	Moila	Tebogo	the dtic	TMoila@thedtic.gov.za	Attended

17.	Mabeba	Gerald	the dtic	GMabeba@thedtic.gov.za	Attended
18.	Janse van Rensburg	Anja	FNB	anja.jvrensburg@fnb.co.za	Apology
19.	Fuyane	Zandile	IDC	Zandilef@idc.co.za	Attended
20.	Togo	Chumunorwa	Innovation hub	ctogo@theinnovationhub.com	Attended
21.	Berry	Belinda	LISAM	belinda.berry@lisam.com	Attended
22.	Govindsamy	Anushka	LISAM	anushka.govindsamy@lisam.com	Attended
23.	Moodley	Letesha	LISAM	letesha.moodley@lisam.com	Attended
24.	Gwamanda	Nonhlanhla	NAMC	NGwamanda@namc.co.za	Attended
25.	Anzet	du Plessis	Proof Africa	anzet@proofafrica.co.za	Attended
26.	Gristword	Michael	SAAFFI	michael@saaffi.co.za	Attended
27.	Swanepoel	Karen	SAEOPA	saeopa@gmail.com	Attended
28.	du Toit	Wim	SAEOPA	secsaeopa@gmail.com	Attended
29.	Mudombi	Shakespear	SECO	shakespear.mudombi@eda.admin.ch	Attended
30.	Mtsweni	Malembe	SEDA	mmtsweni@seda.org.za	Attended
31.	Herbs	Suzanne	SKAA	suzanne@skaa.co.za	Attended
32.	Kruger	Sandra	SKAA	sandra@skaa.co.za	Attended
33.	Swart	Marthane	SKAA	marthane@skaa.co.za	Attended
34.	Reyneke	Anna	SIPPO	Anna.reyneke@sippo.co.za	Attended
35.	Nquma	Tandokazi	TIA	Tandokazi.Nquma@tia.org.za	Apology

36.	Meintjies	Elsie	UNIDO: GQSP	E.MEINTJIES@unido.org	Attended
37.	le Roux	Carmel	UNIDO: GQSP	C.LEROUX@unido.org	Attended
38.	Matsabisa	Motlalepula	University of Free State	MatsabisaMG@ufs.ac.za	Attended
39.	Aremu	Oladapo	University of North West	Oladapo.Aremu@nwu.ac.za	Attended
40.		Tembo			Attended
41.		Hobson			Attended

Appendix 2 – LISAM Presentation, attached separately

Appendix 3 – SKA Presentation, attached separately

