

## **Draft minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Biotrade Stakeholders Forum meeting held virtually on 20 June 2023**

### **1. Virtual Arrival**

### **2. Welcome and Purpose of meeting**

The Chairperson welcomed the participants.

The purpose of the meeting was that the ABioSA and DFFE presents the African Biotrade Festival, and UNIDO: GQSP presents the project's second phase.

The draft agenda was presented and with no changes.

### **3. Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Biotrade Stakeholder Forum meeting held on the 21st February 2023**

The minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Biotrade Stakeholder Forum Meeting were presented, and proposed changes will be included in the minutes.

### **4. Matters Arising**

None.

### **5. Presentations by ABioSA and DFFE**

Serole Mketsu, Adrie El Mohamadi from ABioSA and Katedi Mantsho from DFFE presented the African Biotrade Festival (ABF). The following is a summary of the points of the presentation.

- The African Biotrade Festival will be held on the 14-16 September 2023 at the Sandton Convention Centre in collaboration with the Natural Organics Expo.
- The purpose of the festival is to showcase the growth and market potential of indigenous ingredients and products and host discussion about the biotrade sector challenges and opportunities with an emphasis on market access, building business support networks, and linkages within the biotrade ecosystem.
- The festival is targeted at investors, researchers, policy makers, buyers & innovators from the food, fragrance, flavours, ingredients & cosmetics sectors to meet biotrade producers, suppliers and communities, and learn how the sector is addressing quality, market access, regulatory compliance and global competitiveness.
- The ABF will be hosted by the Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries (DFFE) and Department of trade, industry & competition (dtic) supported by the ABioSA (funded by SECO) and BIA (BMZ funded) projects with various technical support from various stakeholders (UNIDO:GQSP, SAEOPA, SIPPO, SSAIP, GEF6, UBET, SANBI, Buchu Association, ABA, SAHTA, ABS initiative, BioPANZA).
- The following is planned for the event: exhibition, workshops, conference, matchmaking, demonstrations and tasting and testing section, networking with producers, investment & trade opportunities.

- Pavilions representing key species and sector development plans including Baobab, Marula, Sceletium, Buchu, Honeybush and Essential Oils represented by sector associations for each value chains.
- SMMEs in the biotrade sector supported by development partners & government will be exhibiting their products. In addition, stands for SMMEs to exhibit will be made available through the Organics & Natural Products Expo Africa.
- The Biotrade Stakeholder members were invited to participate at the festival by supporting their SMMEs to exhibit using a discount code **ABF23** for 20% discount on exhibition floor space through Organic & Natural Products Expo Africa by contacting the organisers directly on [john.t@satp.co.za](mailto:john.t@satp.co.za) or [warrenh@blankpage.co.za](mailto:warrenh@blankpage.co.za) . Join the conference and sign up as a delegate @ [www.africanbiotradefestival.org](http://www.africanbiotradefestival.org) . The ABF team can be contacted directly on [abf@giz.de](mailto:abf@giz.de) for any questions or clarity.

## 6. Presentation of UNIDO: GQSP phase II

Elsie Meintjies presented the second phase of UNIDO: GQSP. The following is a summary of the points of the presentation.

- UNIDO: GQSP project is funded by SECO. The project first phase was from 18 September 2018 to 31 May 2023 (highlights available on the UNIDO Knowledge Hub [www.hub.unido.org](http://www.hub.unido.org)) and the second phase of the project will be from June 2023 to May 2027.
- The project will be focusing on five indigenous essential and vegetable oils from the previous phase but does not exclude other indigenous oils for participation in activities and events
- The project aims are to unlock the export potential of essential and vegetable oils through the strengthening of the Quality Infrastructure Institution and support associations (standards development, legal metrology, accreditation, conformity assessment); enhancing the compliance capacity to quality requirements of producers of essential and vegetable oils; and promote a sustainable culture for quality.
- The outcomes of the project are: OUTCOME 1: Technical competence and sustainability of the National Quality Infrastructure System is enhanced; OUTCOME 2: SME compliance with international standards and technical regulations strengthened; and OUTCOME 3: A conducive policy environment and culture for quality is strengthened.
- The project will also be focusing on women empowerment by addressing gender barriers to accessing, using/employing and benefitting from smart technologies, take active steps to promote gender equality and developing gender responsive training materials and maximize women's participation in trainings.
- UNIDO:GQSP will be collaborating with the other South-African SECO funded projects (SIPPO, ABioSA, SSAIP).

## 7. Closure

The active participation of the members during the meeting was appreciated and encouraged that stakeholders to register ([www.africanbiotradefestival.org](http://www.africanbiotradefestival.org)) and participate during the African Biotrade Festival.



Stakeholders were encouraged to submit topics for discussion or offer to present on their programmes to the 2 co-ordinating projects (ABioSA and GQSP-SA) for the next BioTrade Stakeholders' Forum meeting scheduled for 24th October 2023. The 20th meeting will be chaired by the GQSP-SA project.

#### **Appendix 1: African Biotrade Festival presentation**

#### **Appendix 2: UNIDO: GQSP phase II presentation**

