

REPORT
—SIZA



SIZA matters

CAPE TOWN—This year is proving a busy one for the sustainability initiative, linking its Environmental Standard to the GlobalGAP data base and rolling out MysIZA.

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The Sustainability Initiative of South Africa (SIZA), the transparent platform offering information to the country's fresh produce stakeholders regarding the implementation of ethical and environmentally sound practices, is taking great developmental strides in 2020.

The standard, which is based on South African legislation and also incorporates international good agricultural practices to assist suppliers in obtaining compliance and promote environmental stewardship, kicked off the year by announcing a link between SIZA and GlobalGAP platforms.

SIZA's Environmental Standard is now, along with its Ethical Standard, linked to the GlobalGAP database, which according to the two bodies helps to eliminate duplication in requirements between the SIZA environmental and Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standards,

ensures a more cost-effective model for producers that have to implement both standards, and provides better transparency to stakeholders on a global scale via the GlobalGAP-database.

"Both companies benefit from the partnership," they stated. "For SIZA, the relationship with GlobalGAP ensures that its environmental audits can be easily reviewed by global market players. For GlobalGAP, this connection provides an increase in the number of producers certified against its leading global certification programme. For the South African industry and both the SIZA and GlobalGAP organisations, this partnership supports the vision of a cost-effective approach by making the SIZA programme more comprehensive, allowing it to become the South African agricultural industry's preferred audit for both ethical and environmental requirements. Overall, agricultural businesses across South Africa will be able to access information about third-party audits more easily."

SIZA has worked to harmonise global environmental standard requirements in South Africa and its partnership with GlobalGAP improves its ability to support and train individuals and businesses in the agricultural industry with regards to sustainability.

This year will also see the launch of MysIZA, a new data platform engineered under the guidance of CEO Retha Louw, technical expert Francois Brink and Cape Town-based CloudSmiths. Through this, SIZA can monitor farmers and packhouses on their care for the environment and compliance with labour legislation.

"SIZA's previous platform did not allow for easy customisation in an environment of constantly changing legislation," said Stephen Moore, regional director for the Western Cape at CloudSmiths. "With the help of CloudSmiths, we leveraged Salesforce Communities to allow farmers to access their information, provide auditors with easy access to capture their audits, and finally allow for the SIZA administration to monitor requirements and provide excellent and detailed data to buyers. The vision is that MysIZA will be an enabler for businesses around the world whose aim is to manage risk and do business in a sustainable way." ●

TOP & BELOW—SIZA is based on domestic legislation and incorporates international good agricultural practices to help growers and suppliers

