



Organic Agricultural Production and Processing (OAPP) SANS 1369

SANAS New Accreditation Programme for Certification Bodies of Organic Agricultural Production and Processing

South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) will be launching a new accreditation programme for the certification bodies that will be certifying Organic Agricultural Production and Processing (OAPP) in accordance to the South African National Standards SANS 1369.

The roll out of this new accreditation programme for Organic Agricultural Production and Processing (OAPP) for certification bodies is the result of work done by a SANAS working group of technically knowledgeable experts in the organic agricultural production and processing who developed the SANAS Technical Requirements that addresses scope of accreditation and the minimum qualification and experience required in the OAPP.

Stakeholders that are involved in the Organic Agricultural Production and Processing whom are producing organic agricultural products and/or process organic agricultural products and their clients requires their products to be certified by an accredited certification body as well as interested certification bodies are invited to attend the launch. SANAS will be able to accommodate two delegates per organisation. The workshop will be at the **Manhattans Hotel**, 247 Scheiding Street in Pretoria on the **26 March 2015**.

Background

In recent years the world has seen a growing awareness about health and environmental issues. Consumers worldwide are becoming concerned about the quality and safety of food that they eat. They are also concerned about the effect of pesticides, fertilizers, livestock effluent and veterinary drugs on their health.. Organic agriculture is considered to be viable solutions to most of these concerns that have emerge from society.

According to Industry Policy Action Plan 2013 (IPAP 2013), Organic Agricultural Production and Processing (OAPP) as a food sector represents a high-value niche sub-sector with the potential to create 20,000 jobs over five years in both the primary agriculture and agro-processing stages of

the value chain. Moreover, since South Africa currently imports a significant proportion of the organic food demanded by consumers, there are both import replacement and export opportunities for this sub-sector.

SANS 1369 Organic Agricultural Production and Processing

Due to the growing demand in this high-value niche sub-sector, locally and globally, South Africa has developed a national standard for organic agricultural production and processing. The standard defines organically produce and processed product and the certification requirements for the organic agricultural production and processing. The South African Bureau of Standard (SABS), Organic Agricultural Product and Processing (SANS 1369) standard will be implemented by the producers and processors of organic product as defined in the standard. Once the implementation is been achieved and the conversion period has been served they can apply for certification from a SANAS accredited certification body

According to SANS 1369 organic agricultural production and processing management practices includes the following:

- Enhanced biological diversity within the whole system;
- Increased soil biological activity;
- Maintenance and improvement of long term soil fertility;
- Recycling of wastes of plant and animal origin in order to return nutrients to the soil, thus minimising the use of non-renewable resources;
- Relying on renewable resources in locally organised agricultural systems;
- Promoting the healthy use of soil, water and air as well as minimising all forms of pollution thereto that may result from agricultural practices;
- Handling of agricultural products with emphasis on careful processing methods in order to maintain the organic integrity and vital qualities of the product at all stages.

Consumer protection

The roll out of this SANAS accreditation programme will also give consumers who buy Certified Organic farm products, certainty that they are actually buying organically produced products because it would have been certified by the technical competent organic certification body that has been accredited by SANAS. This program also supports the consumer protection provided for by the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990) for the misleading or misrepresentation of the information on the labelling.

Accreditation by SANAS

Accreditation is internationally and nationally recognised as a reliable and transparent method of confirming the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) such as certification bodies, testing laboratories and inspection bodies. SANAS as sole accreditation body of Republic of South Africa provides formal recognition of CAB's technical competence to perform certification testing and inspection functions as per their scope of accreditations. SANAS is also recognised internationally by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Accreditation has proven to reduce the risk of inaccurate results and enhance public confidence and assurance in the results that are produced from the CABs that are accredited. With this new accreditation programme that will be rolled out on 26 March 2015, SANAS will be providing third party attestation of the technical competence of the certification bodies that will be certifying Organic Agricultural Production and Processing in accordance to SANS 1369. The SANAS accredited CABs will be certifying organic agricultural production and/or processing on how they have fulfil the requirements stated in the SANS 1369. The certification will be based on the tangible evidence of the Organic Agricultural Production and Processing as articulated in the SANS 1369. Certification Bodies (CB) that are to provide certification services according to (SANS 1369) will be accredited according to ISO/IEC 17065. SANAS will give recognition of technical competence of the CB, to certify organisation according to the Organic Agricultural Production and Processing standard.

The workshop will be used to roll-out of the SANAS accreditation programme for the Organic Agricultural Production and Processing, and will also be SANAS's platform to inform the organic agricultural production and processing stakeholder that SANAS is ready to accredit Certification Bodies that will offer organic agricultural products certification according to SANS 1369. During the workshop the accreditation process of SANAS will be presented and unpacked and some of the development in this sector would also be presented.

Ends

Mr Tumelo Ledimo
Project Manager

Tel: 012 394 3316

Fax: 012 394 4316

Email: TumeloL@sanas.co.za

www.sanas.co.za