

Sustainable Trade

Reap a wealth of
rewards with ethical
farming



bsi.

Introduction

South Africa's ethical farming standards are aligned to global best practices. This fact enables the agricultural sector to farm more productively, while caring for the environment. It also ensures the agricultural sector applies and extends all ethical labour guidelines as set out in legislation.

The Sustainability Initiative of South Africa (SIZA) is a non-profit organization, aimed primarily at improving labour and environmental conditions, while building and providing the framework for sustainable trade to comply with gazetted labour law. The organization

also supports ethical and sustainable trade. SIZA strives to ensure continuous improvement among agri-businesses, allowing for economic growth, social responsibility and environmental stewardship throughout the supply chain.

SIZA operates independently and has developed a single South African-based ethical standard and programme that meets retailers' requirements. Membership is open to all agricultural producers, exporters, importers, retailers and relevant stakeholders involved within the agricultural supply chain.

What is a social ethical audit?

The focus area of the SIZA audit is to evaluate the producer's compliance to relevant labour laws. Auditors regularly visit farms, engaging farmworkers independently from farm owners, so that they can speak freely about labour practices and conditions.

What is an environmental audit?

The aim of this audit is to ensure that suppliers not only comply, but also continually improve their environmental performance. The audit will show commitment to global and local environmental good practices and applicable environmental legislation.



Benefits of being audited



SIZA is South African based and is specifically focused on the South African agricultural sector. The programme is self-regulated, which means the analyses of the self-assessment provides pertinent and useful information for producers to improve operations on farms and packhouses. An audit provides credibility to the way the organization manages its workforce. It shows commitment to sustainability, while enhancing the organization's reputation in the industry. The audit can give management insight into the organization's culture and policies and will give confidence that the business can meet sustainability objectives.

Benefits for retailers, industry associations and importers

The SIZA data platform offers full visibility throughout the entire value chain and assists with the management of risk within the supply base. The risk rating is measured according to a third-party audit. These audits also provide indicators of where and what the risk factors are.

The programme creates the automatic tracking of corrective actions after audits have been finalized, with triggers and reminders sent to producers and retailers if the non-conformance areas are not completed. It also enables members to send alert notifications for critical non-compliances.

The data gathered through the audit is available, so supply base trends can be identified, along with any potential issues. Profiles of the suppliers along with indicators such as workforce demographics and working conditions in different industries can also be drawn up and analyzed.

The SIZA data platform supports self-regulation as it provides retailers with real-time information on potential risks in their supply base.

This ethical trade programme is based on continually improving the workplace and can add value to a business in several ways:

- Improves efficiency, productivity and lowers absenteeism in the workplace
- Motivates and creates a more efficient workforce
- Ensures the reputation of suppliers and retailers is protected from any unethical behaviour within their supply chain
- Lowers the cost of the audits and improves risk management, as it gives the assurance of ethical trade within the South African agriculture sector
- Provides retailers with access to SIZA's document library and all communication between SIZA and the relevant agricultural producers.

BSI is recognized by SIZA as an audit company to conduct ethical/ social and environmental audits.

Why BSI?

SIZA recognizes BSI as an audit company to conduct ethical/social and environmental audits.

Auditing bodies are chosen based on:

- Audit training and skills
- Audit experience
- Local and industry knowledge
- Language skills
- Gender and ethnic/national background reflecting that of the workforce
- Reputation
- Integrity
- Impartiality
- Commitment to improving social compliance.

It is for these above mentioned reasons that BSI is endorsed by SIZA to conduct audits.

BSI focuses on what really matters through regular stakeholder dialogue and by using ISO 26000 Guidance on Social Responsibility, the UN Global Compact principles and UN Sustainable Development Goals to steer its approach as well as its corporate values. These global goals provide a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all and address the challenges that BSI and its clients face.

BSI auditors have many years of experience in the global agricultural industry and understand the diverse needs of farmers and growers from fruit and vegetable farms to packhouses and distribution of agricultural products. They also make the audit process easy because they are able to simplify the application process along with answering all your questions.

BSI has extensive knowledge on social audits in all industries from planning to delivery, and is approved globally for auditing social compliance. It is recognized by the industry as a credible partner and believes in developing strong relationships with stakeholders and programme owners.

An important element of BSI's audit delivery capacity is that audits can be delivered in a number of languages: Afrikaans, English, Sotho, Tswana, Zulu, Shona, Ndebele and French.

Auditors are based in Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Durban, and BSI can reduce audit costs by combining SIZA and SMETA audits should a client require it.



Your journey with BSI

Pre-audit process



Audit execution



Our Solutions

