



NEWSLETTER NUUSBRIEF

8th March 2018

Keeping You Informed SAMAC New proposed Statutory Levy

Dear Valued Suppliers,

I sincerely hope you have all stayed abreast of the huge changes proposed by members from Golden Macadamia to SAMAC. Green Farms Nut Company has stayed neutral on these proposals, since Statutory Levies are paid by farmers, and we have no option but to be obliged to deduct the levy and facilitate the payments to SAMAC. **The following announcement was made by SAMAC.**

“Overall, the following results were obtained from PwC, who oversaw the process: Total Yes by numbers: 70% (out of 302 votes from a membership of +-620 farmers)

- Total Yes by hectares: 76% (out of 25 412 ha)
- Total Yes by production: 72% (out of 32 986 t)”

We would just like all farmers to know that the proposal on the table is for a R0.50c/Kg levy from 2019. (This is 115% increase from current levy at (0.23cents/Kg) and thereafter a 10% increase every year. In conjunction with this levy increase, are major changes to the SAMAC as we have known it over the last 20 years. A special General Meeting to vote on this will be held in **Nelspruit, Mpumalanga** at the Recreation Hall, ERC-ITSC **on the 14th March 2018** at 11:00. (see attached email)

We are concerned since the number of farmers who actually voted for the new levy, was very low. (Only <50% of the total members). That indicates that many farmers were either unaware of the radical changes proposed, or were not actively engaged because they were not aware how important this vote is to the industry, or they were not told that they could vote on-line. There was also serious confusion amongst farmers as to who was eligible to vote. Please note that **ALL FARMERS** even those who are not members of **SAMAC** should have voted. If you feel that you were not adequately informed by SAMAC or have been misled about voting status, you should express your concern to the National Agricultural Marketing Board.

Letters are to be addressed to: **Ms. Mathilda van der Walt.**

Email: mathilda@namc.co.za

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It is extremely important that ALL SAMAC members attend the meeting on the **14th March in Nelspruit**, or at least that your proxy is given to a trusted person who is attending. SAMAC members can vote on behalf of two other SAMAC members. (proxy is attached)

The proposals are for radical changes to SAMAC and the traditional functioning of the organisation. Many of these changes are good, but some need to be considered very carefully. I urge you all to please make yourselves properly informed. The new SAMAC will have a budget at its disposal of, in the region of R150 million, on a conservative industry growth projection, over the 4-year period. Farmers need to be very sure that this money is going to be spent wisely, and in their interest, and not at the agenda of any specific group in the future.

Please be sure to attend the very important meeting scheduled on the 14th March 2018. Independent farmers who are not members of a co-operative group should also make sure that they make themselves available for Board representation in the future; we need a SAMAC that is embracing and has the whole industry needs at heart, both large and smaller farmers.

Kind regards

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