

Bulletin 2 - April 2017

To all SAMAC members:

The SAMAC Evolution Committee has made some good progress so far on a couple of fronts:

SERVICE PROVIDER APPOINTED

We asked for proposals from two service providers to help us through the process of establishing a stand-alone SAMAC. As you may remember from our previous bulletin, their terms of reference included:

- Strategic overview.
- Research and due diligence.
- Project management, resources and execution.
- Design, development and implementation of best practice governance and infrastructure, including policies, procedures, etc.
- Long term strategic relationship and provision of support services.

We received written proposals back from both service providers, and then visited their offices for a formal presentation and discussion. As a result we have appointed AgriSA as our service provider. Their offering is more comprehensive, they are better positioned and resourced to support SAMAC, and most importantly they have a better and proven track record with other crop associations and agricultural organisations in offering the services we need.

After appointing them, we have had a more detailed planning discussion with AgriSA in which we refined the project plan, and we are now finalising our Evolution Project budget based on more concrete data. Next steps with AgriSA are to hold a strategic review and planning workshop, planned for May, and the continuation of the SAMAC CEO recruitment process.

KEY MILESTONES

Key milestones in the evolution project are the appointment of a CEO during August or September 2017, a second round of regional roadshows during July to present and discuss our proposals with members, and we intend being able to put forward proposals for any constitutional changes required at our 2017 SAMAC AGM in September for approval by SAMAC members.

FACT FINDING ROADSHOW

SAMAC is primarily a growers' association, so clearly any significant changes to the way SAMAC works must be aligned with the majority of the growers' needs. To ensure that we properly understand growers' needs, preferences and suggestions, the EC will be holding fact finding meetings in all the main growing areas as follows:

- Monday 8 May, 11h00 at the Hanglip Forestry Lapa near Louis Trichardt
- Tuesday 9 May, 14h00 at the ARC Rec Hall, Nelspruit
- Wednesday 10 May, 14h00 at the Chantilly Resort, Darnall
- Thursday 11 May, 14h00 at the Paddock Farmers Club

The study group convenors in each area will be sending out reminders and an agenda for the meetings. We look forward to hearing the views of as many growers as possible.

FACT FINDING MEETINGS - PROCESSORS/HANDLERS

The Evolution Committee has recently held meetings with processors in the Hazyview and Levubu areas to hear of their opinions about what SAMAC should be doing and how it should be organised. So far a lot of very useful ideas have been presented to the EC, and we look forward to more input from processors in the other regions during the next few weeks.

FINALLY...

This Evolution Committee Bulletin is sent to the primary SAMAC member's e-mail address only. Please forward it to anyone else within your organisation who you feel may be interested and should be kept informed.

Kind regards,
Peter Spangenberg

To ensure that communications channels between the EC and SAMAC members remains open, we have created an e-mail address which all EC committee members will monitor:

evolution@samac.web.za

We would like to ask that members use this as the first line of communication with the EC so that we have a written record of all the Evolution suggestions, issues, or outcomes that are important to you. We will consider all this information during the course of the project.