



MINUTES OF THE OLIVE OIL FORUM MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 9:30

KLEIN JOOSTENBERG FARM, MULDERSVLEI

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

Nick Wilkinson welcomed all and reminded attendees that the meeting was a forum for producers to be updated and to make suggestions. The importance of the Tree Census information for dealings with Government was highlighted.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Present: Bianca Boezaart, Marickus Brand, Jason de Beer, Hester de Wet, Reni Hildenbrand, Benedetta Lami, Amoré Matthee, Tiaan Ras, Louise Rabie, Andries Rabie, Nicolaas Roodt, Gert van Dyk, Kristel van Tonder, Vittoria Jooste, Nick Wilkinson.

Apologies: Ms Kelly White and Ms Venishree Mayer.

3. APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS JUNE 2020

The June 2020 communication to member was displayed on screen. No comments were noted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

5.1 Registration of chemicals

New registrations require 3-5 years and huge costs; major backlog at Registrar's office.

Finding products already registered in SA for other crops is only way to speed up the process.

Alternatively, get products registered in other countries accepted by retailers in SA.

Many chemicals already registered for olives in Europe and Australia should be acceptable in SA.

Requires lobbying with Government and retailers. Tabulate all chemicals registered in Europe and Australia.

Withholding period might have to be adjusted to SA conditions.

Develop a detailed document with information on chemicals and manufacturers which growers can adopt/adapt at own risk. Engage producers and manufacturers.

6. 2021 HARVEST

6.1 Production estimates

1,7 million litres of OO estimated for 2021 (1,5 million L in 2020) from SA Olive Awards entries and personal communications. Equivalent to R 689 000 in levies.

Load shedding is interfering with irrigation schedules. Planning needs to take irrigation needs into account. Suggestion to work through AgriSA and try a co-ordinated approach with other high-value crops in the area (e.g. table grapes, citrus).

Green energy should also be considered for the longer term.

7. LEVY INCOME

7.1 2021 income and annual trends

	NOTES	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET 2020/2021
Statutory levies		1 311 939	1 780 000
- Local : Olive Oil		346 913	480 000
- Local : Table Olives		38 245	100 000
- Imports : Olive Oil		846 910	1 100 000
- Imports : Table Olive		79 872	100 000

First year of new cycle; levy income 30% below budget.

Applicability of three Statutory Measures (i.e. registration, records & returns and levies) summarised in a table, now available on our website. Many entities contacted had not understood how the process works.

	REGISTRATION (No. R. 1238)	RECORDS & RETURNS (No. R. 1239)	STATUTORY LEVY (No. R. 1240)
OLIVE NURSERIES	✓		
PRODUCERS (OO, TO)	✓	✓	✓
PROCESSORS (OO, TO)	✓	✓	✓
IMPORTERS (OO, TO)	✓	✓	✓
PACKERS/DISTRIBUTORS (OO, TO)	✓		

* OO - Olive Oil

* TO - Table Olives

Levies are on ALL oil produced, whether sold locally or exported.

2021 levy income to be compared with 2020 production (1,5 million L = R 600 000).

Imports estimated at 6,5 million L for 2020 (SARS tariff code 1509), equivalent to R 2,5 million in import levies.

Agrilnspec were contracted earlier in the year to produce a 6-months synopsis of OO and TO imports. Follow-up of unregistered entities is ongoing, with some success.

Shortfall on levy income to be fully unpacked. Who in SARS can explain how the 1509 import data is arrived at? Working via W/Cape Dept of Agriculture might help.

8. COMPETITIONS & TASTING COURSES

8.1 SA Olive Competition Feedback

More oils from fewer producers, i.e. bigger ranges.

Proposal by Ms Rabie to rename Bronze medals to Silver and add a Double Gold (or Platinum) medal (for scores >84), in line with international trends. Proposal to be presented at AGM.

Batches created after winning batch is finished should not carry the medal; only the volume entered for the competition can have the medal. Relies on producers' honesty. Reputational risk to all producers if this is not adhered to. Lot number must contain tank numbers.

SAO Awards form to include percentage of cultivars in blends.

8.2 Absa Top 10 Feedback

The Absa Top 10 selection process has changed over time. A new 3-year contract has been in place since 2020. Producers don't choose to enter the Absa competition: oils are automatically entered based on scores, i.e. 20 highest scoring gold medals go through to final selection.

8.3 2021 Courses Feedback

Field Day was very well organised.

8.4 Proposals for 2022

Proposal by Mr van Dyk to include producers in competition judging panel. Scores are audited and producers' scores of own oils are excluded from median.

Current criteria were the outcome of lengthy deliberations by members. Only members can vote to change this.

Proposal to be presented at AGM.

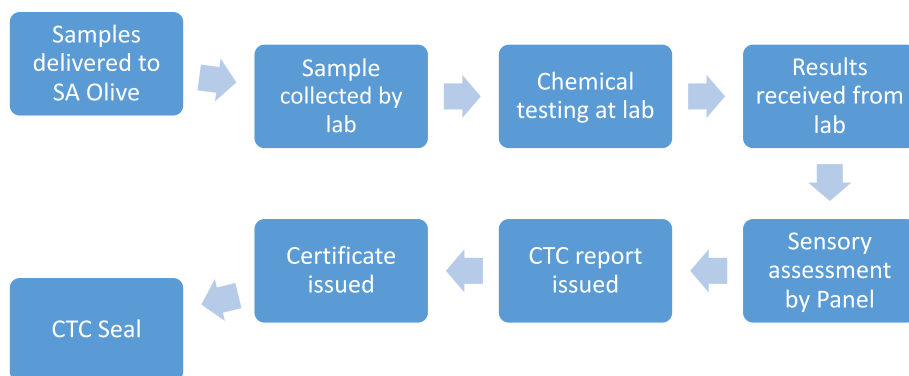
9. CTC SCHEME

9.1 CTC Programme

New CTC seal introduced in 2021 includes the words 'CTC' and 'Extra Virgin'.

'One-Stop-Shop' concept presented as work in progress: producers would drop off samples for testing and tasting at SA Olive two weeks prior to CTC tasting session, simplifying logistics and reducing courier costs. Quotes sourced from accredited laboratories being reviewed.

CTC – one-stop shop



9.2 Panel Accreditation with IOC

No accreditation again for 2021-2022. Need for more training of Panel recognised, especially on defects. Being planned for 2022.

9.3 Quality monitoring

Ongoing testing and tasting of EVOOs off the shelves. Defective oils reported to store managers and then suppliers. Opportunity in 2022 to send samples to IOC to participate in their international quality monitoring programme. Cost of programme is very high: scope limited to 6 samples of our choice.

10. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

10.1 Research projects

Projects approved by Technical Committee and proposed to Board.

11. GENERAL

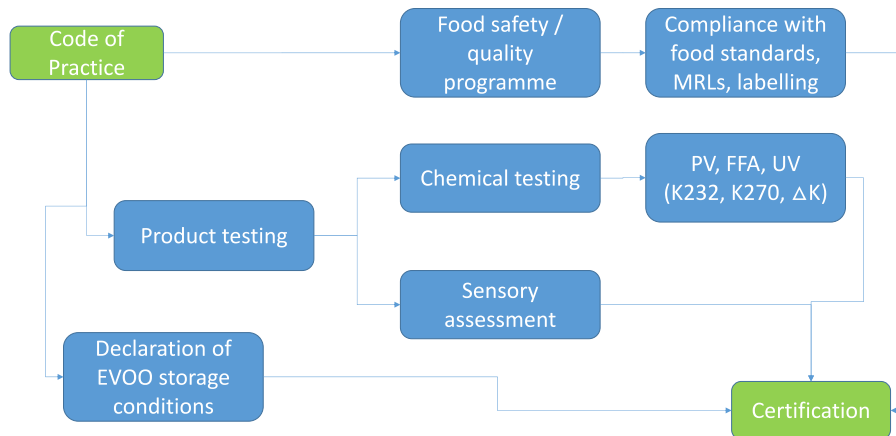
11.1 Compliance - Food Safety and Quality

Retailers dictate system to be used. Requirements change over time (e.g. HACCP, GFSI, FSA, FSSC).

Draft 'homegrown' food safety system presented at the last Board meeting will require buy-in from retailers, or it will never fly. Different food safety systems already exist: adopt basic criteria rather than reinventing our own? Worth a try, even though chances of success are limited.

Possible compliance flowchart presented, based on best practices in Australia and North America. UV tests for EVOO being considered, depending on pricing.

COMPLIANCE



11.2 Tree Census

TC is a statutory requirement, together with returns and levies.

This year's TC is a first for SA Olive. Will be "low tech", i.e. PDF to be updated manually by producers and changes captured in SADRIN. Web interface not migrated to SA Olive: new one to be developed in 2022.

Database installed on dedicated PC which only Ms Jooste and Ms Bussack can access.

Automated daily backups and virus protection in place.

POPIA consensus form to be signed and returned with TC.

11.3 New website

Launched and fully operational. Members can access the dedicated area with existing login details. Contact SA Olive office if problems are experienced. Discussion Forum functionality added in members area.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12.1 Wednesday 16 February 2022

13. CLOSURE

There being no further matters, the meeting was closed at 11.30.