

CONSTITUTION OF THE SEED POTATO GROWERS' FORUM



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1. NAME

The Forum shall be known as the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.

2. STATUS

2.1 The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall be the highest authority in the seed potato industry and shall be the representative body of registered seed potato growers or representatives of seed potato growers.

2.2 Resolutions passed by the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall be applicable to all registered seed growers.

2.3 The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall serve as the platform where all the role players in the seed potato industry can contribute and make an input.

3. AIM

3.1 To serve as discussion forum and to pass resolutions related to the seed potato industry.

3.2 The determination of the needs in the seed potato industry from ground level and the prioritising thereof.

3.3 The identification of research projects to address needs.

3.4 The identification of needs in respect of the certification of seed potatoes.

3.5 The identification of needs in respect of the trading of seed potatoes.

3.6 Making recommendations to the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes with regard to amendments to the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme.

3.7 The referring of resolutions to the respective committees and organisations involved in the seed potato industry.

3.8 Dissemination of information.

These aims shall be supportive of the objectives of the National Seed Potato Committee.

4. COMPOSITION

4.1 The members of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall consist of registered seed potato growers or representatives of seed potato growers.

4.2 The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall determine the criteria for the appointment of the delegates.

4.3 The delegates representing of the respective production regions shall have decision-making powers.

4.4 The composition of the delegates per region shall be based on the number of growers, number of hectares, certified yield, as well as the number of seed grower members of the National Seed Potato Committee.

4.5 The seed potato grower members of the National Seed Potato Committee shall be regional delegates, whereas the other delegates shall be designated by the regions on an annual basis.

4.6 In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the National Seed Potato Growers' Forum, the members present shall appoint a chairman from their ranks for the duration of the meeting.

4.7 The Secretary of Potato Certification Service shall be responsible for the secretarial duties of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.

4.8 Only delegates shall be entitled to vote.

5. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SEED POTATO COMMITTEE AND DELEGATES

When the Seed Potato Growers' Forum is in recess, the National Seed Potato Committee will be responsible for the activities of the Forum.

- 5.1 The members of the National Seed Potato Committee and the delegates to the Seed Potato Growers' Forum, who are entitled to vote, shall be designated by the Seed Potato Committees of the respective production areas.
- 5.2 The official confirmation of the appointment of the members of the National Seed Potato Committee shall take place during the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.
- 5.3 The Chairman of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall be elected from the seed potato grower members of the National Seed Potato Committee by the delegates at the Forum. This person shall automatically be the Chairman of the National Seed Potato Committee. In order to avoid a situation of divided interest, the Chairman of the National Seed Potato Committee may not be a Chairman of a Potatoes South Africa Regional Committee or a table producer.

The Vice-Chairman of the National Seed Potato Committee shall be appointed during the first meeting of the Committee to take place after the Forum.

- 5.4 The Chairman of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall be appointed for a period of two years.
- 5.5 The Chairman of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall automatically be the Chairman of the National Seed Potato Committee and serve as Director representing the seed potato growers on the Board of Directors of Potatoes South and the National Council.
- 5.6 In order to promote continuity, the members of the National Seed Potato Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years. The other delegates shall be designated by the respective production areas annually.
- 5.7 If a vacancy occurs on the National Seed Potato Committee, the Secretary of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall be notified thereof without delay. The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall upon receipt of such notification, or within a reasonable period thereafter, fill the vacancy by appointing the person designated by the production area concerned.
- 5.8 The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall also designate the members of the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes.

6. FUNCTIONING OF THE SEED POTATO GROWERS' FORUM

- 6.1 These rules and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Seed Potato Growers' Forum annually.
- 6.2 The National Seed Potato Committee shall report to the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.
- 6.3 The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall convene once annually. The National Seed Potato Committee shall convene three times annually with a third meeting taking place directly after the Forum in order to confirm resolutions of Seed Potato Growers' Forum and to refer such resolutions to the relevant organisations.
- 6.4 The locality of the meetings of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall rotate between the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the central part of South Africa, with the exception of those years, in which the Congress of Potatoes South Africa convenes, in which years the locality of the Forum shall coincide with that of the Congress.
- 6.5 The National Seed Potato Committee shall always convene in Pretoria, except in the case of the third meeting which shall take place directly after the Seed Potato Growers' Forum at the same locality as the Forum.

- 6.6 The resolutions passed at the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall be made available to the seed potato growers, as well as the National Seed Potato Committee, as soon as possible.
- 6.7 Resolutions will be passed on the basis of a majority of votes (50% plus 1%) and in the case of an equal division of votes, the issue shall stand over to the next meeting. Should an equal division of votes again occur, the issue shall be rejected.
- 6.8 The Chairman shall not have a deciding vote.
- 6.9 A minimum of two thirds of the delegates to the Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall be present at the meeting of the Forum to form a quorum.