



environmental affairs

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MARULA NEWSLETTER 1

April 2020

Dear Marula community

We have good news about the development of the high-potential Marula sector in Southern Africa. You are getting this mail because you are recognised as an important participant in the sector, and because you have engaged previously with the ABS compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa project (ABioSA) or other Marula networks.

Please let us know by [replying](#) to this mail if you would rather not receive future communication about Marula. Our commitment to you is that all information will be relevant and useful to your role in the Marula sector. Please share this newsletter with your own networks and provide details of anybody [we should add](#) to our mailing list.

We will be updating you regularly on activities by ABioSA as well as other projects, initiatives and businesses active in the sector. We will also be sharing technical briefings based on priorities identified at Marula workshops held in Pretoria and Windhoek last year.

Our first technical briefing will be distributed in mid-April and will cover access to new markets for Marula ingredients and products, based on some excellent work undertaken and completed by ABioSA consultants in South Africa and internationally in 2019. There will be future technical briefings on quality standards and reliable supply, conservation and sustainable use, policy and regulations, and beneficiation and product development.

We hope you find this communication useful, and we welcome your feedback on how we can improve our engagement with you and the wider Marula sector. Please [share](#) any Marula-related information you would like to see in a future newsletter.

Adrie El Mohamadi

ABioSA project manager

We are pleased to attach the final report from the very productive regional Marula workshop held in Windhoek in November 2019. Some of the updates below stem from the proposed way forward on [page 22](#).

A need has been identified for a future business association to serve the interests of the Marula community. We anticipate it being started with support of the ABioSA project and other institutional stakeholders, and then taken over by Marula producers, cooperatives and businesses.

We have completed an analysis of potential routes to market access for selected Marula food and beverage ingredients. This will be detailed in the forthcoming technical briefing, which includes recommendations for an EU market access strategy for Marula fruit and oil.

A request for expressions of interest for the development of sector plans for Marula and five other species was advertised in the Sunday Times newspaper on 15 March. The procurement process has been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, but we will keep all interested parties updated.

The development of South African national standards is underway for Marula and other priority species including Fever Bush, Rose Geranium and Baobab. Proposals are also being considered for the development of national standards for oils derived from Buchu, Cape Chamomile, Imphepho, Kalahari Melon, Mongongo and Sour Plum. UNIDO GQSP-SA and the Southern African Essential Oils Producers Association (SAEOPA) are supporting industry in this process, in collaboration with a SA Bureau of Standards technical committee. Please [advise](#) if you would like to participate in biotrade standards development.

Covid-19 has also obliged us to delay a contract for a desktop analysis of principles and an approach to long-term national monitoring of important indigenous biotrade species in South Africa, and a regional resource assessment and monitoring programme for Marula. The findings were due to be discussed at the proposed SANBI and ABioSA resource mapping methodology workshop, which has also been postponed. The date of the workshop will be communicated once we are operational again.

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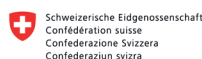
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