

CAPE BRANCH

CAPE BRANCH REPORT: AUGUST 2019 – JULY 2021

1. BRANCH COMMITTEE

There have been a number of changes in the Cape Branch over the last two years. Candice Sharp from FACTS has moved to the UK and was replaced with Hesrie van Heerden from FACTS. Manzimase Sishi has resigned from the Cape Branch and moved to Joburg with PepsiCo. Anza Bester resigned as she will be transferred to the USA with Merieux NutriSciences. Anza will be replaced by Monique Visser from Merieux NutriSciences. The committee for the term 2019-2021 included:

MEMBERS OF THE SAAFoST CAPE BRANCH COMMITTEE		
Lisa Ronquest-Ross	Chair	MANE Deli Spices
Emma Phillips	Vice Chair; MySAAFoST YP Representative	MANE Deli Spices
Melanie Naidoo	Past Acting Chair	Distell
Prof Gunnar Sigge	Ex Officio	Stellenbosch University
Jennifer Ricketts	Treasurer	MANE Deli Spices
Grant Momple	Member	Independent Consultant
Tricia Fitchet	Member	FST Editor, TF Events
Jacques van den Berg	Member	Coca Cola
Christine Van den Heede	Member	Wink Foods
Petri Horn	Member	Merieux NutriSciences
Dr. Vusi Mshayisa	Member; MySAAFoST CPUT Mentor	CPUT
Monique Visser	Member (new)	Merieux NutriSciences
Hesrie van Heerden	Member	FACTS
Nozuko Mhlauli	Member	Parmalat
Resignations		
Anza Bester	Member	Merieux NutriSciences
Manzimase Sishi	Member; MySAAFoST YP Mentor	Distell
Candice Sharp	Member	FACTS

The committee met on 12 November 2019 and set the priorities for the Cape branch for the 2 year period ahead. Below are the three branch priorities we aligned on:

1. Excellent topical and relevant events leveraging our unique location
2. Increase membership and retention of MySAAFoST members (755-850!)
3. Collaboration with other industry associations

2. BRANCH EVENTS

During the period August 2019 until July 2021, the Cape Branch hosted 9 events (2 physical, 7 virtual and 6 MySAAFoST events) in 23 months. Events were highly topical and relevant to current events such as Covid or

trending themes in Food Science such as alternative proteins and food waste. A summary of these events is shared below:

5 December 2019 – Custodian breakfast.

Well attended SAAFoST Custodian and Cape Branch breakfast held at Hilton Doubletree, Woodstock to end an eventful 2019 SAAFoST program. Ivo Vegter was the speaker and engaged the audience with his controversial topic of 'Why people believe the craziest things about food' and his excellent delivery.

5 March - Wine & fynbos cupcake pairing at Delheim Wine Farm

To kick off the 2020 SAAFoST Cape Branch year, we hosted a booked-out event with 50 attendees on the beautiful and historic wine farm of Delheim. The event was especially well attended by the University of Stellenbosch students. We enjoyed a talk from the wine maker, Roelof on the Delheim wines and recent harvest as well as how the idea of pairing fynbos, cupcakes and wine came about. A lucky draw of 6 bottles of Reserve wine was kindly included from Delheim.

Due to the Covid pandemic and lock downs, all branch events moved to online webinars from April 2020. This enabled speakers from beyond Cape Town to be approached and has certainly broadened the topics we were able to share with members.

28 May 2020 – Shifting to Sanitisers WEBINAR

Extremely successful webinar (182 attendees) with Caroline Snyman from Distell sharing how the business made the shift from wine making to sanitisers during the Covid crisis. Dr Stefan Hayward shared the research from the University of Stellenbosch on using bread waste to make alcohol for sanitisers.

8 July 2020 – Pivoting your innovation strategy to adapt to COVID-19 changes WEBINAR

ABInBev unpack innovative business strategies to adapt to COVID-19 changes. Speakers were Karusha Ramcharan (Liquid and Process Development Specialist within the Zitec (Zone Innovation and Technology) at AB InBEV) and Richard Lawrence (Innovation Director at AB InBEV).

7 October 2020 -Edible insect proteins webinar WEBINAR

Wonderful talk which provoked lots of audience engagement discussing insects as alternative proteins. Leah Bessa from Gourmet Grubb shared a consumer perspective from the pop-up insect restaurant experience she led. Dr Vusi Mshayisa (Techno-functional properties of edible insect proteins: What do we know?) shared research on current knowledge and information on the techno-functional properties of edible insects.

29 October 2020 - The legal standing and consequences of disobeying legal standards, regulations and labelling issues WEBINAR

Well attended talk with Janusz Lutereck, Hahn and Hahn as speaker.

The Cape Branch was unable to host our very popular Annual Quiz event in 2020. With Covid restrictions continuing, a virtual event is being explored for 2021.

11 February 2021- Food Waste WEBINAR.

Well attended talk discussing the various aspects of food waste. Speakers were Andy du Plessis from Food Forward discussing the role of food banks in redeploying food waste; Sibulela Ngeniswa from Consumer Goods Council of South Africa discussing Food Loss and Waste Initiative that South African Food & Beverage companies have committed to; and Dr Stefan Hayward on Food waste valorization

The Cape Branch then initiated a series of webinars on Entrepreneurship and Start-ups in the AgriFood space. We felt this was important in terms of the socio-economic status of the country and the impact of Covid on the businesses in Food and Beverage area. We invited speakers with various perspectives on entrepreneurship and start-ups in the AgriFood space including available programmes, incubators, funding, skills and business support. We will also invited successful business owners to share their stories and celebrate their successes.

10 June – Abby Stern global food industry innovation, health and sustainability expert and founder of Kardamom Consulting, LLC. Talk entitled: 'Growing South Africa's Future AgriFood Businesses'. Abby introduced Stellenbosch University's LaunchLab's mission, vision and focus areas, including their work in the AgriFoodtech space. She discussed SU LaunchLab's current incubation projects and initiatives, as well as how entrepreneurs, corporates and academics can contribute to the Food & Ag innovation ecosystem they are building at SU.

24 June - Eric Labuschagne – Eric, a successful entrepreneur in his own right now heads up New Business Development department for in2food. His talk entitled "Breakthrough ideas: the sum of habits" covered tools and techniques that organisations can use to break down barriers to think differently and coming up with breakthrough ideas.

Future speakers on the Entrepreneurship & Start-up theme are:

5 August – Christoff Oosthuysen - Leading entrepreneurial strategist and certified business advisor will be speaking on practical ways of finding your flow and the use of an easy model, called the Hedgehog Concept, to help refine the focus for your business to achieve good results from doing what you love and, in the process, allowing you to live your life's purpose.

MySAAFoST Events:

10 March 2020 – MySAAFoST Meet & Greet Event (Stellenbosch University)

The Stellenbosch MySAAFoST team hosted a welcome and networking evening for students and young professionals at the Food Science Department, Stellenbosch University. The event provided an overview of the MySAAFoST initiative and included presentations by Eric Labuschagne (YummiChef), Emma Phillips (Deli Spices) and Melanie Naidoo (KWV).

21 May 2020 - What is SACNASP and how can it support my career in Food Science & Technology? A webinar on How to register & Earn CPD points

SACNASP is the legislated regulatory body for natural science practitioners in South Africa, which allows for individuals within the Food Science & Technology sector to register as practicing scientists. This webinar aimed to introduce SACNASP to students, and to explain how to earn Continuing Professional Development Programme (CPD) and Candidate Mentoring Programme (CMP), amongst others. Presented by Sarah Van Aardt (Operations Manager, SACNASP) & Dr Pradish Rampersadh (CEO, SACNASP).

12 August 2020 - COVID-19: How can students and young professionals cope with and navigate the New Normal?

An online webinar presented by Dirk J Pretorius (Industrial-Organisational Psychologist (IOP), HPCSA) which addressed the life changes brought about by COVID-19 and provided support and tips on how to cope with these. The talk also touched on how to make the most of the virtual interview and how to succeed in the virtual hiring environment.

28 January 2021 – Re-imagining the hospitality industry post-COVID-19: How to build a brand in this new environment and the role of social media in growing your business

Celebrity chef Siba Mtongana presented a webinar which discussed how to build a successful brand and the role of social media in business growth in the food and hospitality sector.

2 March 2021 – Food Waste Hackathon

Successful online event led by Jesse Kelfkens and student team at Stellenbosch University. Brief included proposing product concepts from various waste streams. 25 students attended. Judging feedback was great in the sense that it became an interactive discussion between judges, participants and audience. Great exposure on social media, a lot of fun was had by all.

27 May 2021 – Covid-19 Food Security Hackathon

Pre-congress event held via 6Connex platform supported by Turners Conferences. Brief included validating whether R350 (SRD grant) is substantial to feed a small family for a week. Team led by Dr. Nwabisa Mehlomakulu (University of Pretoria). Participants were given a virtual supermarket to support their answer. 19 attendees RSVP'ed, unfortunately only 5 attendees attended. Judges and team members decided to postpone event due to low turnout, until later in the year when students return from recess. The support from Turners and Selby's was tremendous. A great learning curve for congress later this year.

3. FINANCES

Balance held at end July 2021 – R71676.96.

4. MEMBERSHIP

We achieved our ambition of increasing membership numbers from 773 to 911 due to a large increase in student memberships. The following is a summary of the number of members by category @ end July 2021:

- 2 – Consultant
- 17– Custodian
- 3 – Honorary Life Member
- 22 – Institution Member
- 139 – Members
- 37 – Post-Graduate
- 236– Professional

- 432 – Student
- 8 – Retired
- 15 – Retired professional

Total members: 911 (up from 773 in July 2019)

5. GENERAL

I'm pleased to say that we were able to achieve the goals we set ourselves for the term 2019 to 2021. This is all thanks to the members of the committee for their dedication and contribution. It wasn't an easy time with Covid and the committee quickly adapted to new ways of working. I would very much like to acknowledge, Emma Johnson as Vice Chair who was always willing to support as well as for her massive contribution to driving the establishment of MySAAFoST. I also wish to acknowledge, Anza Bester who will be leaving our shores and moving to the US. Anza has, for many years, given of her time and talent to SAAFoST at both a branch and national level and we wish her well in her new venture.

It has been a great pleasure to serve on the Cape branch committee as Chair. I'm particularly proud of how we embraced the move from live events to virtual, which has increased attendance and the diversity of the speakers we've been able to attract. Highlights for me were the 'Shifting to Sanitisers' and 'Food Waste' webinar that had a dynamic set of speakers talking on the same topic, but from very different angles. My hope is that the new committee is able to evolve this further and find more ways for networking to happen as this was such a vital part of SAAFoST's role, especially in building students with business and career opportunities.

A final thank you to all of you, our members, for attending and engaging in these events. Please support the new committee as they take SAAFoST Cape Branch into the future. I wish you all everything of the best.

Lisa Ronquest-Ross
Chair: Cape Branch