

## CAPE BRANCH

### CAPE BRANCH REPORT: AUGUST 2021 – JULY 2023

#### 1. Branch Committee

MEMBERS OF THE SAAFoST CAPE BRANCH COMMITTEE			
1.	Dr Vusi Mshayisa	Chair	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
2.	Petri Horn	Member Vice Chair;	Merieux NutriSciences
3.	Emma Phillips	MySAAFoST YP	MANE
4.	Jennifer Ricketts	Treasurer	MANE
5.	Tricia Fitchet	Member	FST Editor, TF Events
6.	Christine Van den Heede	Member	Wink Foods
7.	Yvonne Murevanhema	Member, MySAAFoST CPUT Mentor	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
8.	Monique Visser	Member	Merieux NutriSciences
9.	Dr Melvi Todd	Member	Founder-Consultant at Elyxer Consulting)
10.	Mathew van Honert	Member	Cereus
11.	Shannon Riva	Member	FACTS
12.	Prof Gunnar Sigge	Ex Officio	Stellenbosch University
13.	Grant Mople	Member	Independent Consultant
14.	Jacques van den Berg	Member	Private
<b>Resignations</b>			
	Dr Sune Henning	Member	
	Lisa Ronquest-Ross	Past-Chair	
	Tarien Riekert	MySAAFoST SU representative	
	Melanie Naidoo	Past Acting Chair	
	Precious Silangwe	Member	
	Nozuko Mhlauli	Member	

#### 2. Branch events

##### Past events

##### 25 November 2021 - Custodian breakfast - Mr. André de Ruyter

On November 25, 2021, the highly anticipated SAAFoST Custodian and Cape Branch breakfast took place at UCT's upper campus, with the added option for online attendance to accommodate other members. The event saw a significant turnout, with over 30 staff and students participating both in-person and virtually. The highlight of the morning was the insightful address delivered by Mr. André de Ruyter, the Group Chief Executive of Eskom.

During his talk, Mr. de Ruyter discussed the state of energy in South Africa and shed light on the future prospects of the country's energy supply. His presentation proved to be an

invaluable source of knowledge for the attendees, offering a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector. Given Eskom's pivotal role in the nation's power generation, the topic was of utmost importance and relevance to all those present.

The Custodian breakfast served as a platform for engaging discussions and fostering greater awareness of energy-related issues. It provided an exceptional opportunity for the SAAFoST community to gain insights from an industry leader and opened avenues for potential collaborations and initiatives to address energy-related challenges in the future. Overall, the event was a resounding success, leaving participants enriched with knowledge and empowered to make a positive impact in the field of energy in South Africa.

### **23 March 2022 – Cape Branch Quiz evening**

We are thrilled to announce that the long-awaited Cape Branch Quiz triumphantly returned on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022 at the prestigious Mowbray Golf Club. After two challenging years, where COVID-19 lockdown restrictions prevented us from hosting the Annual Quiz event, we finally came together for an exhilarating face-to-face gathering while diligently adhering to all COVID-19 protocols.

This remarkable event was attended by 49 enthusiastic participants, including our esteemed Quiz mistresses, who brought their intellectual prowess and competitive spirit to the forefront. The atmosphere was nothing short of electrifying as teams battled it out, showcasing their knowledge in an array of captivating quiz rounds.

### **18 May 2022 – Webinar Legal Update on Hand Sanitiser and the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Regulatory Reform**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, the Cape Branch joined forces with esteemed legal experts Isabella Mazzone and Janet Tomkow from Hahn & Hahn attorneys to host a highly informative and timely webinar. The event centred around the crucial subject of hand sanitisers - an ever-relevant and vital topic in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The webinar served as a platform to delve into the intricacies of hand sanitiser regulations, shedding light on the latest updates and insights in the rapidly evolving regulatory landscape. Isabella and Janet expertly navigated the legal complexities, offering attendees a comprehensive understanding of the requirements and compliance standards.

The event's success was evidenced by the high level of engagement from participants, who eagerly embraced the opportunity to gain invaluable knowledge from legal professionals specialising in this niche domain. The informative sessions and interactive discussions provided a unique opportunity for participants to seek clarifications, share experiences, and collectively navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic's impact on regulatory reforms.

### **01 July 2022 - Environmental Monitoring, a risk-based approach - Thomas Rupert Smtih**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022, the food industry community witnessed a remarkable event that impacted its attendees. The Cape Branch, in collaboration with the esteemed Thomas Rupert Smith, a technical specialist at Merieux NutriSciences with a wealth of 17 years of experience in the food industry, presented an illuminating webinar on "Environmental Monitoring: A Risk-Based Approach."

The topic of environmental monitoring is of utmost importance to the food industry, given its critical role in ensuring product safety and compliance with regulations. Thomas Smith's expertise and engaging presentation captivated the audience as he skillfully navigated the complexities of implementing a risk-based approach to environmental monitoring.

The success of this event was evident in the high level of participation and enthusiastic engagement from attendees. The informative session provided valuable insights,

empowering professionals to make informed decisions and enhance their environmental monitoring practices.

### **26 July 2022 - Food Legislation: Date Labelling – Mutsa Rwawoka**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, the Cape Branch hosted a pivotal webinar centred around "Food Legislation: Date Labelling," with Mutsa Rwawoka as the esteemed speaker. Mutsa's presentation delved into the critical framework for dates of minimum durability (BB/Use by/Sell by) and tackled concerns raised by food manufacturers and consumer perspectives regarding the information conveyed. The topic holds immense significance for the food industry, as proper date labelling is crucial in ensuring product quality, safety, and compliance.

The success of this event was resounding, with participants fully engaged in Mutsa's expert analysis and practical insights. Through the webinar, attendees understood how to accurately and effectively use date labelling in their food products. Mutsa's expertise and comprehensive exploration of the topic left a profound impact on the audience, equipping professionals with the knowledge needed to meet regulatory requirements and cater to consumer demands.

### **16 August 2022 - The Secret of Inspections – Malesela Mathenjane**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2022, the Cape Branch hosted a highly informative webinar entitled "The Secret of Inspections," featuring the expertise of Malesela Mathenjane. This engaging talk focused on empowering food manufacturers with practical tips and strategies to proactively identify risks and rectify mistakes in their food safety systems. The webinar emphasised the importance of being proactive in food safety to prevent re-occurrences of potential hazards and ensure the highest quality and safety standards.

The topic of food safety inspections is of utmost relevance to the food industry and the broader business sector. It plays a crucial role in safeguarding consumer health and trust while maintaining regulatory compliance. Malesela Mathenjane's expert insights provided invaluable guidance to professionals in navigating the intricacies of food safety inspections and developing effective action plans. By adopting proactive approaches to identifying and addressing risks, food manufacturers can bolster their reputation, reduce operational costs, and build lasting consumer confidence.

### **01 September 2022 Networking and talk about holistic wellness with Dr Debora van der Merwe**

Spring 2022 started on a high note as we gathered for our second in-person event at the esteemed Wine Arc in Stellenbosch. This remarkable venue stands as a symbol of South Africa's wine industry transformation, providing a brand home for black-owned wine brands and entrepreneurs. The Wine Arc not only fosters a strong business platform for these wine brands but also grants them enhanced access to markets, e-commerce facilities, and a specialised consumer sector, driving their growth and sustainability. Moreover, the Wine Arc serves as a dynamic innovation hub for budding entrepreneurs and young winemakers, nurturing their talents and creativity.

During the event, our guest speaker, Dr. Debora van der Merwe, a Food Scientist and accomplished product developer at Babylonstoren, delved into the captivating topic of "Holistic Wellness." Her engaging talk empowered the audience with valuable insights on achieving holistic well-being, aligning perfectly with the essence of spring as a season of renewal and growth. We relished the opportunity to network and share ideas, fostering a vibrant atmosphere of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, Merieux NutriSciences, and CereusSA, whose generous support made this event possible. Their commitment to advancing the food industry and fostering community engagement is truly commendable. Their contributions exemplify the spirit of collaboration that drives our branch's success and impact.

## **14 September 2022 New "No Meat" Meat Legislation - Janusz F. Luterek, Pr.Eng**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, SAAFoST Cape Branch hosted a highly informative webinar on the "New 'No Meat' Meat Legislation" with Janusz F. Luterek, Pr.Eng as the esteemed speaker. This timely topic has been generating significant attention from food processors, regulators, and academics, making it a critical subject for the food industry to grasp. Janusz expertly unpacked the legislation's history and legal basis, providing attendees with a comprehensive understanding of its implications and requirements.

The overwhelming response to the webinar was a testament to its importance, with a remarkable turnout of 77 attendees, making it the most attended webinar of the year for SAAFoST CB. The high level of engagement and the ensuing discussions among the audience underscored the relevance of the "New 'No Meat' Meat Legislation" to professionals in the food industry. The webinar served as a crucial platform for staying up-to-date with industry hot topics, equipping participants with essential legal insights and guidance to navigate the changing regulatory landscape.

Ensuring compliance with the new legislation is paramount for food processors, regulators, and academics alike. By providing a legal understanding of this issue, Janusz F. Luterek's expertise has empowered attendees to make informed decisions and align their practices with the latest requirements. The Cape Branch remains dedicated to hosting transformative events that keep our community abreast of crucial developments in the food industry. We extend our appreciation to Janusz F. Luterek and all attendees for their active participation, as their engagement fosters collective growth and progress in the ever-evolving landscape of food regulations.

## **23 March 2023 Workshop on Draft Labelling Regulations – R2986**

On March 23, 2023, the Cape Branch of SAAFoST successfully hosted a highly informative and crucial in-person workshop on the Draft Labelling Regulations (R2986) at the Stellenbosch Business School in Bellville. The workshop, expertly facilitated by three key industry specialists, Janusz Luterek, Nigel Sunely, and Jane Badham, proved to be a resounding success. Participants lauded the event as insightful, thought-provoking, and indispensable for the food industry.

As an organisation committed to delivering relevant and topical events for our valued constituency, this workshop on the draft labelling regulations holds immense importance. By bringing together renowned experts in the field, we provided our attendees with the latest insights and updates on the regulatory landscape, ensuring that they are equipped to navigate the ever-changing food labelling requirements.

The workshop's success reflects our dedication to fostering knowledge-sharing and creating networking opportunities within the food science and technology community. By organising in-person events like these, we aim to enrich our members' professional growth and enhance their expertise in critical industry matters. We will continue to strive for excellence in delivering such impactful workshops and events to keep our community engaged, informed, and empowered.

## **Finances**

Balances held at end of June 2023 – **R 73, 00.85**

### 3. Membership

In 2022, SAAFoST initiated a robust membership drive to update our database and encourage members to renew their membership fees. As of 4th July, the SAAFoST CB membership stands as shown in the table below. While we have made progress, it is evident that there is still more work to be done in order to remain pertinent to our constituency and foster increased engagement and participation among our members.

<b>Cartegories</b>	<b>BGM- 2023</b>
Consultants	3
Custodians	14
Institutions	17
Members	81
Professionals	204
Students	24
Postgraduate Students	15
HLM	3
Retired	5
Retired Professional	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>

### 4. General

I am delighted to announce that we have successfully achieved the goals we set for ourselves during the term from 2019 to 2021. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and valuable contributions of our committee members. Despite facing challenging economic times and the complexities of planning for the upcoming congress in August, the resilience and commitment of the Cape branch committee allowed us to stay relevant and continue to make a positive impact on the industry.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed members for their unwavering support and active participation in our events. Your engagement has been instrumental in driving the success of our initiatives. As we hand over the reins to the new committee, I urge you to continue supporting them on their journey in leading SAAFoST Cape Branch into the future. I wish them all the best as they embark on this exciting endeavor.

Serving as the Chair of the Cape branch has been a tremendous honor, and I am especially proud of how we embraced the transition from live to virtual events. This shift has not only increased attendance but also allowed us to attract a diverse range of speakers, enriching the knowledge-sharing experience for our members. Together, we have forged a strong sense of community and advanced the field of food science and technology. Thank you all for being an integral part of this journey.



Date: 21 July 2023