

GENERAL NOTICE ALGEMENE KENNISGEWING

NOTICE 596 OF 2015

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL (NAMC)

MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996, AS AMENDED (ACT No. 47 OF 1996)

REQUEST FOR THE CONTINUATION AND AMENDMENT OF STATUTORY MEASURES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PECAN NUT INDUSTRY:

INVITATION TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED GROUPS IN THE PECAN NUT INDUSTRY TO FORWARD COMMENTS TO THE NAMC

On 5 June 2014, the South African Pecan Nut Producers' Association (SAPPA), on behalf of the directly affected groups in the pecan nut industry, applied to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, for the approval of the proposed continuation and amendment of the following statutory measures for a four year period:

- The registration of all producers, growers, processors, packers, importers and exporters of pecan nuts and/or pecan nut products.
- The keeping of records and submission of returns by all producers, processors, importers and exporters of pecan nuts and/or pecan nut products, as may be required by SAPPA, relating to:
 - Pecan nut trees;
 - Volumes of pecan nuts and/or pecan nut products produced; and
 - Volumes of pecan nuts and/or pecan nut products imported and/or exported.
- Furthermore, that the levy of R0.15 per kilogram (excluding VAT), that will lapse on 9 March 2016, be continued and amended to the following levy rates per kg of pecan nuts for the next four year period:

| | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| In shell pecan nuts | 25 c/Kg | 25 c/Kg | 30 c/Kg | 30 c/Kg |
| Pecan nut kernels | 50 c/Kg | 50 c/Kg | 60 c/Kg | 60 c/Kg |

These proposed levies will be payable by producers, processors, packers, importers or exporters on all pecan nuts (that include in shell pecan nuts and pecan nut kernels).

The proposed levies could create an income of between R3.2 million and R5.1 million per year over the next four years based on a pecan nut production estimate of between 13 000 tons and 17 000 tons per year. SAPPA proposed that approximately 31% of levy funds will be used to fund research projects, 24% on market information and statistics; at least 20% on transformation and training; and the rest on plant improvement functions and certification, communication, and trade and market access, on behalf of the pecan industry. The proposed levies would represent approximately 0.5% of the domestic producers' selling price (first point of sale) of pecan nuts.

Registration, records and returns are necessary to:

- Ensure the availability and provision of continuous, timeous and accurate information relating to pecan nuts and pecan nut products to all stakeholders in the industry, which is essential in ensuring informed decision making and a stable and profitable industry;
- Ensure adherence to sound product handling, quality control systems and ethical trading; as well as transformation of the industry, and
- Administer the proposed levy.

No records or returns shall be required in terms of this measure which discloses confidential information of a marketing nature, and in particular, no returns disclosing, *inter alia*, contracting parties; purchasers of pecan nut products; prices of services or the prices obtained for products, or any similar information.

The establishment of these measures will assist in promoting the efficiency of the marketing of pecan nuts and pecan nut products. The viability of the pecan nuts industry would thus be enhanced. The measures will not be detrimental to the number of employment opportunities or fair labour practice.

Directly affected groups in the pecan nut industry are kindly requested to submit any comments regarding support or objections relating to the proposed continuation and amendment of statutory measures to the NAMC in writing (fax 012 341 1911 or e-mail to lizettem@namc.co.za) before or on 10 July 2015, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

ENQUIRIES: Ms Lizette Mellet
National Agricultural Marketing Council
lizettem@namc.co.za