

# COLLABORATIVE EFFORT ENSURES QUALITY NEEDS OF INDUSTRY

## SOUTH AFRICA

Standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology (SQAM) activities play a crucial role in enabling the emerging South African essential and vegetable oils value chains to participate in global trade. The GQSP South Africa supports the strengthening of the quality of essential and vegetable oil exports from South Africa.

The South African public sector technical quality infrastructure (TQI) supports a range of industry sectors and has evolved over a period of more than 70 years. In addition to the TQI, there are private stakeholders active in the market place addressing the quality needs of industry and supporting trade. These institutions have programmes to market their own value proposition, but it is a challenge for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to navigate through the maze of public and private sector institution service offerings in order to determine how they can be assisted.

In 2020, the national Multistakeholder Quality Forum (MSQF) was formed, with support from the GQSP South Africa, to act as an umbrella body through which the collective strength could be leveraged of government, South African technical/quality infrastructure institutions, and the various private sector SQAM service providers in order to respond to the needs of industry and ensure the protection of the health and safety of consumers.

This initiative brings together the specialized organizations and private sector associations that operate at national level and are active in promoting and implementing quality infrastructure activities as a tool for sustainable economic development. The MSQF members have developed a collective website through which the members' different service offerings are available in one place without duplicating what is already available on the individual websites, enabling SMEs to obtain the information they need before being referred to the correct service provider. Although the role of SQAM in facilitating trade is a difficult story to tell, the members of the MSQF agree that "Quality is a collective endeavour".

The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) is a global initiative to strengthen the export competitiveness of twelve partner countries, supported by Switzerland through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

  
GLOBAL QUALITY  
AND STANDARDS PROGRAMME

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