

WIETA *Newsletter*

Special
edition |
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Foto WOSA

**WIETA would like to
thank our members
for their commitment
to ethical trade in
2015**

Kindly note that our office will be closed from 18 December 2015 and will reopen on 6 January 2015. Wishing you all the joys of the Holiday Season and a happy New Year.



AGM moved to 26 April 2016 Due to the harvest being projected to commence in early 2016 we have had numerous requests from our producer members to have our AGM moved. Our AGM will no longer be on 20 January and will be held on **26 April 2016**.

WIETA is included in the International Trade Centre's Standards Map



STANDARDS MAP
YOUR ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABLE TRADE

The International Trade Centre (ITC) has developed a web platform called Standards Map that provides comprehensive and comparable information on sustainability standards and audit protocols through over 1 000 criteria analysed for each initiative. The main objective of this tool is to strengthen the capacity of producers, exporters and buyers to participate in more sustainable production and trade.

The Standards Map platform offers an online "comparison tool" that enables users to make analyses, comparisons and reviews of sustainability frameworks using a unique set of social, environmental and economic criteria, audit best practices and good governance models.

The Standards Map platform helps suppliers,

such as companies that engage in the United Nations Global Compact, to better understand how to access new markets and attract buyers, as well as learn how the ITC can help them become more competitive and sustainable in global markets. Standards Map users can save their settings online and share work with their social media networks, such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

During September WIETA's ethical code of conduct and ethical benchmark was successfully uploaded onto the Standards Map and verified. Stakeholders and all other interested parties can use the Standards Map to review WIETA's information and/or compare it with other standards.

For more information visit the Standards Map portal www.standardsmap.org.



Ethical Trade and Human Rights Forum: Transforming supply chains for responsible businesses at scale.



By **Amelia Heyns**, Standards & Certification
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The Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) and the Innovation Forum jointly held an ethical trade and human rights forum on transforming supply chains for responsible businesses at scale from 19 to 20 October 2015 in London, United Kingdom. I was fortunate enough to converge, on behalf of WIETA, with more than 300 delegates from around the world that looked at “how we can move beyond the incremental progress of an audit and CSR-based era, to a future of transformative and scalable change for sustainable trade.”

Critical issues were discussed by a wide range of professionals practising in the arena of ethical trade and the panellists were from companies, organisations, trade unions and NGO’s including Coca-Cola, Institute for Human Rights and Business, Levi Strauss & Co, Finlays, Nestle, Anti-Slavery International, International Trade Union Confederation, Marks & Spencer, H&M, Tesco and the International Confederation for Migration.

Key insights from the conference –

The state of ethical trade today:

Audits provide some improvement in worker conditions, but audits alone do not ensure change. It is not that audits do not work, it is that audits alone do not work. Empowerment of workers goes beyond merely treating workers better, it is allowing recognition of all of their rights. Evidence has shown that real change occurred in places where workers were involved in the workplace through worker participative structures, including health and safety worker structures and importantly where the community was involved.

Limits of auditing and moving beyond:

The value of auditing is that it sets minimum requirements and imposes these on the suppliers from whom companies source. It has further shown to be especially valuable where first time audits have been done on health and safety and child labour. Auditing has, however, sucked the resources and energy of the supplier and in many instances auditing is still used to replace worker participation.

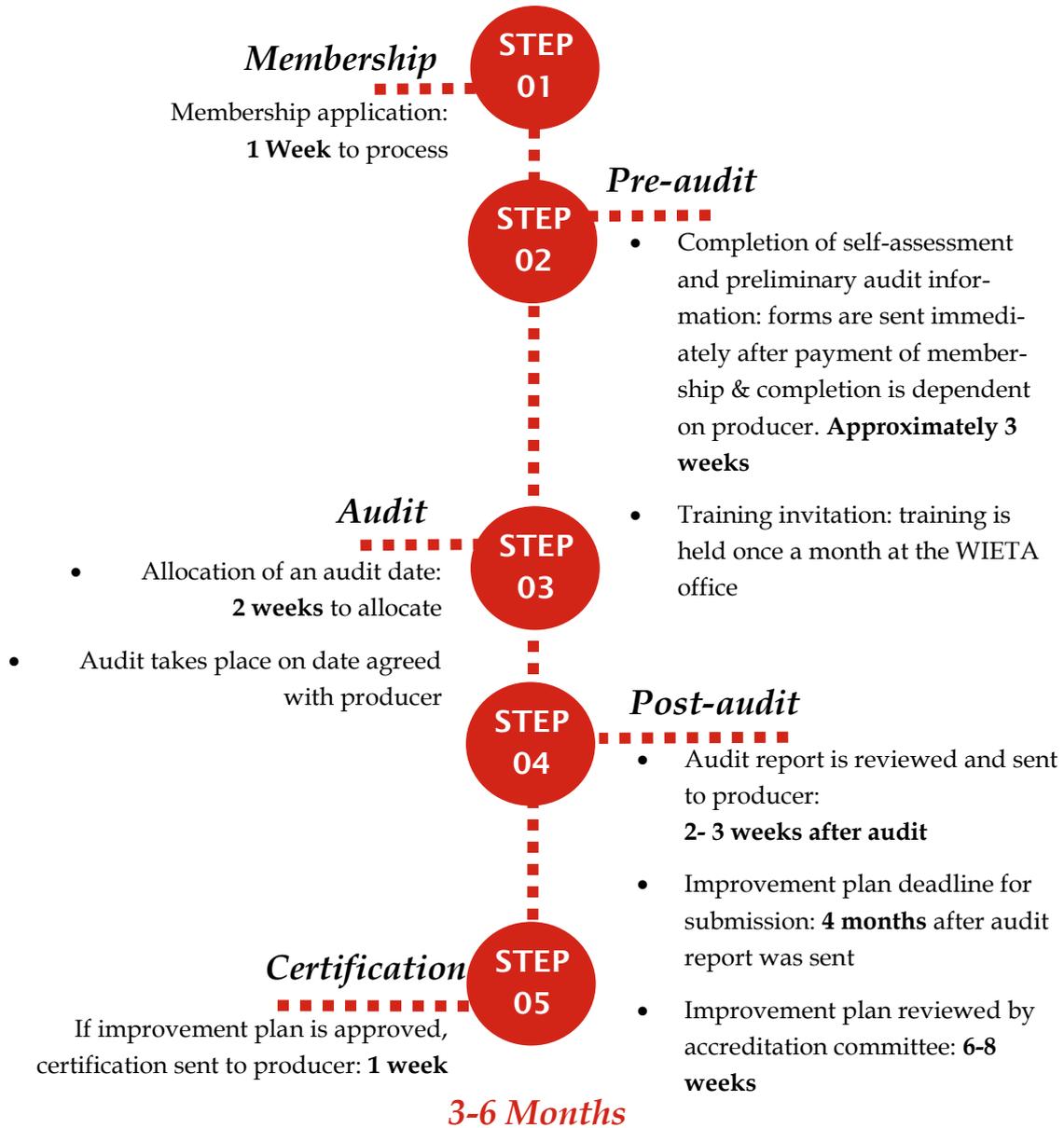
The role of unions in ethical trade:

Globally in developing countries the reality is that there is a decline in union membership, a misunderstanding of their meaning and role and a lack of capacity. There are nevertheless opportunities internationally for unions to ensure that all workers have a voice at the workplace to enable dialogue, and just and fair negotiations on working conditions at work. We need to recognise the right to participation of all employees in the workplace and ensure that workers organise themselves.

ETI’s Chair Philip Chamberlain ended the conference by stating that “The business and human rights agenda is moving fast. These two days highlighted a number of challenges for companies, but with that comes opportunities. This is a time for businesses to engage internally, ensuring that everyone is aware of their responsibilities. Boards and senior leaders need to review strategic plans, build better policies that support the new agenda and define what meaningful engagement with suppliers and workers really looks like – to help us reach the right result.” And as ETI’s slogan states, Ethical trade is “good for workers, good for business”.

Accreditation timeline

As the end of the year is drawing to a close and the forthcoming harvest is on the near horizon, producers increasingly require WIETA certification before their wine grapes are harvested and are compelled to speed through the accreditation process. We would therefore like to focus your attention on the time frameworks applicable to the following processes:



WIETA SIZA recognition: update

The WIETA recognition of SIZA audits is only effective from 1 March 2016 and only individual SIZA auditors that have competed and been successfully assessed during the SIZA/WIETA Auditor training in February 2016 will be recognised. The names of recognised auditors under the SIZA audit bodies will be communicated to all mix farm producers by 1 March 2016.

To attain WIETA certification, all farms having done a SIZA audit prior to 1 March 2016 must undertake a WIETA site verification of corrective actions of non-

compliances cited in the SIZA reports to ensure that those corrective actions have been completed. WIETA cannot issue a WIETA certificate to a site that has not been visited and inspected by a WIETA trained and authorised auditor.

Up to 28 February 2016, the WIETA process still requires that we evaluate the SIZA CAP and Audit reports, and category of SIZA audit status and then make a decision based on current SIZA audit status, to determine the extent to which the WIETA site verification will need to be done. In other words, a higher risk producer will need a half day mini audit; a lower risk producer may only require a quick site verification (1-2 hours dependant on the number and severity of non-compliances).