

THE MAIZE TRUST

NEWS RELEASE

LESS THAN A MONTH LEFT TO SUBMIT MAIZE TRUST FUNDING PROPOSALS

The next closing date for proposals to the Maize Trust, which provides financial support to organisations conducting research related to maize production and marketing, is drawing near. According to Mr Karabo Peele, Chairperson of the Maize Trust, all applications for 2008 should reach the Trust by 15 September 2007.

Founded in August 1998, the Maize Trust's primary aim is to promote the South African maize industry. It seeks to facilitate the continuous improvement of the entire maize industry, thus ensuring that it is internationally competitive and the regional leader. Further objectives include the acquisition, assimilation and dissemination of market information for the local maize industry, and to create market access for South African maize.

According to Mr Peele, any institution or organisation that plans to implement a project, which complies with the aims and requirements of the Trust, may apply for funding. All applications will be considered by the Trust on merit. Each application should provide comprehensive information regarding the following:

- A detailed explanation of the project, including its main aim.
- How the project would serve to achieve the objectives of the Maize Trust?
- Which sectors of the maize industry would benefit from the project?
- What will be the extent of the potential benefit?
- A well-defined process, including the estimated timeframe or duration of the project. (Each project must have a quantifiable and measurable outcome).
- Any other contributors to the project and the extent of their contribution.
- The total budget for the project.
- Capital expenditure and overseas travel that may be required by the project (comprehensive motivations for such expenditure have to be provided).

In addition to all the normal information pertaining to the applicant's details, the Trust also requires the following:

- A brief description of the capacity and involvement of the applicant in the South African maize industry.
- A statement of the applicant's own internal BEE policy framework, equity ownership and skills development.

Twenty printed copies of each application, including an executive summary in a prescribed format, must reach the Administrators of the Trust no later than 15 September 2007.

If an application is approved by the Trust for funding, a beneficiary will be required to submit interim and final progress reports to the Trust. The Trust may also request additional reports at any stage of the funding period.

The Trust is managed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of six members, appointed for a two-year term. Three trustees are appointed by specific maize industry sectors, while the remaining three are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs.

According to Mr Peele, the Maize Trust is not mandated to provide production credit, funding to individuals or general financial assistance.

Interested parties are invited to contact the Administrators of the Trust, L&L Agricultural Services, on telephone (012) 333-3429; fax (012) 333-3634 or e-mail l-lagric@mweb.co.za.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE MAIZE TRUST ON 28 AUGUST 2007. MEDIA ENQUIRIES: