

CONSTITUTION

OF:



The Western Cape Farmers Peer Guarantee System

ADOPTED

ON:.....[Day/Month/Year].....

The

Western Cape Farmers Peer Guarantee System

is a non-profit collective of individual farms and or farmers who practice organic farming in accordance with the South African Organic Sector Organisation, as guided by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

1. AIMS

The aim of the Western Cape Farmers Peer Guarantee System, is as follows:

- Participate as individual farmers, retailers as well as end consumers in a voluntary democratic collective, built on a foundation of trust, social networking and knowledge exchange
- Develop a base in a geographical area where similar needs are shared by small organic farmers
- Assist the collective in sourcing markets for surplus produce
- Develop, adopt and assist the collective in assessments of their practice, setting quality and production standards, implementing corrective actions in accordance with the IFOAM Organics International definition and principles of organic agriculture
- Document production processes and management systems
- Foster a culture of equality, inclusiveness, fairness and respect of all members
- Function within and promote the laws of the country
- Promote and support the development of women in agriculture
- Treat animals forming part of food growing systems or bred for commercial purposes humanely and stress free, supplying adequate and hygienic space, fresh water, protective cover and ample feed
- Utilise food production landscapes as a platform of education and social reform e.g. ending gender based violence etc.
- Correctly and appropriately utilise the WCFPGS logo on labels and products within the WCFPGS guidelines and principals and only within the context of an existing and active membership

2. POWERS

In order to achieve its aims the Group may:

- Raise money
- Open bank accounts
- Take out insurance
- Organise courses and events
- Work with other groups and exchange information

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. Membership of the Group shall be open to any person over 18 or any organisation living or located in the Winelands area who is interested in:
 - Helping the Group to achieve its aims
 - Willing to abide by the rules of the Group
 - Willing to pay any subscription agreed by the Management Committee
- 3.2. Membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion or belief.
- 3.3. Every individual member and each organisation shall have one vote at General Meetings
- 3.4. The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Management Committee but the member has a right to be heard by the Management Committee before a final decision is made.
- 3.5. Each member organisation shall appoint a representative to attend meetings of the Group and notify the Group's Secretary of that person's name.

4. MANAGEMENT

- 4.1. The Group shall be administered by a Management Committee of the Officers and not more than 50% other member(s) elected at the Group's Annual General Meeting (AGM). All Management Committee are required to be PGS certified farmers
- 4.2. The Officers of the Management Committee shall be:
 - The Chairperson
 - The Treasurer
 - The Secretary.
- 4.3. The Management Committee shall meet at least 2 times a year.
- 4.4. The Chairperson shall Chair all meetings of the Group.
- 4.5. The quorum for Management Committee meetings shall plus 3 extra members of the WCFPGS.
- 4.6. Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Chairperson shall have a second vote.
- 4.7. The Management Committee may by a two-thirds majority vote and for a good and proper reason remove any Committee member, provided that person has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.
- 4.8. The Management Committee may appoint another member of the Group as a Committee member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded.

5. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- 5.1. The duties of the Chairperson are to:
 - Chair meetings of the Committee and the Group
 - Represent the Group at functions/meetings that the Group has been invited to
 - Act as spokesperson for the Group when necessary
- 5.2. The duties of the Secretary are to:
 - Take and keep minutes of meetings
 - Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Committee and the Group in consultation with the Chairperson
 - Maintain the membership list
 - Deal with correspondence
 - Collect and circulate any relevant information within the Group
- 5.3. The duties of the Treasurer are to:
 - Supervise the financial affairs of the Group
 - Keep proper accounts that show all monies collected and paid out by the Group

6. FINANCE

- 6.1. Any money obtained by the Group shall be used only for the Group.
- 6.2. Any bank accounts opened for the Group shall be in the name of the Group.
- 6.3. Any EFT's or debit card transactions will be processed by the Treasurer and one other nominated official via e-mail confirmation

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 7.1. The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) in the month of May.
- 7.2. All members shall be given at least fourteen days' notice of the A.G.M. and shall be entitled to attend and vote.
- 7.3. The quorum for an AGM shall be 60% members.
- 7.4. The business of the A.G.M. shall include:
 - Receiving a report from the Chairperson on the Group's activities over the year
 - Receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Group
 - Electing a new Management Committee
 - Considering any other matter as may be decided.

8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed. All members shall be entitled to attend and vote.

9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.

10. DISSOLUTION

The Group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Group with similar aims.

This constitution was adopted at a general meeting of the Group on

_____ [date]

Signed by:

Chairperson:

Name in Print

Signature

Secretary:

Name in Print

Signature

Treasurer:

Name in Print

Signature

Other Committee members:
Member 1.

Name in Print

Signature

Member 2.

Name in Print

Signature

Member 3.

Name in Print

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Member 4.

Name in Print

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Member 5.

Name in Print

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Member 6.

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Member 7.

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Member 17.

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Member 18.

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Member 19.

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Member 20.

Name in Print

Signature