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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY TRUST FUND FOR EDUCATION

The trustees have the pleasure in presenting the Sugar Industry Trust Fund for Education (SITFE) Annual Report which should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2015. The Sugar Industry Trust Fund for Education is registered as a public benefit organisation as defined in terms of Section 30(1) of the Act, dedicated to advancing the objectives of the sugar industry through providing funds to educational institutions of a public character.

Nature of Business

SITFE's core task is to implement public benefit activities provided that all such activities are carried out in a not for profit manner and with a philanthropic intent without directly promoting the economic self-interest of any trustee or employee of the trust.

SITFE is therefore expected to provide funds, services and other resources by way of donations for the development of educational infrastructure; provision of bursaries to students from disadvantaged backgrounds; and for any other initiatives that support the educational objectives of the sugar industry. As part of SITFE's strategic focus, the fund also partners with government departments as well as non-governmental organisations to improve the provision of quality education within the sugar cane growing communities.

Review of Activities and Results

During the year under review, the trustees held four meetings. At these meetings, the Trustees provided guidance and strategic direction to the South African Sugar Association (SASA), who is responsible for the management of the Trust.

In particular, the trustees considered various reports and proposals from SASA management pertaining to SITFE's funded programmes and aspects relating to the administration of the Trust Fund as well as the investments of its funds. The activities of the Fund, its financial position, accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the year ended 28 February 2015 are set out in the annual financial statements. In the opinion of the trustees, these do not require further comment.

Board of Trustees

The following are the trustees of SITFE:

Chairman	:	TJ Murray
Members	:	SB Hlela V Khoza BN Linda LK Mhlongo ST Naidoo EV Nene S Sharma
Part (SASA)	:	A Madhanpall P Mpofo T Pepper U Wilson
Investment Managers	:	StanLib

Changes during the period under review:

U Wilson to K Stoffberg

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY TRUST FUND FOR EDUCATION

During the 2014/2015 financial year, SITFE invested over R7 million in its intervention programmes. R4.4 million was spent under the Study Assistance programme which provides full bursaries to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. A further R3 million was spent on various In-School Support programmes and initiatives that promoted the development and empowerment of learners and teachers. Such programmes were undertaken in partnership with Training and Resources in Early Education (TREE), Midlands Community College, Protec and MIET Africa.

SITFE held strategic review workshops in September and November 2014. The strategic review sessions provided the Trustees and management team with an important opportunity to reflect on the past five years. An external service provider was contracted to perform a review of the existing SITFE strategy, focusing on the following:

- Review of the overall programme with reference to the changing education landscape;
- Review and position the main focus area and initiatives of the Programme;
- Recommend changes and shifts in strategy;
- Secure executive support for changes in strategy;
- Document the final strategy.

A number of strategic considerations and recommendations emerged, and have informed the programme of work for the 2015/16 season. One of these recommendations was to analyse developments in the educational needs in sugarcane growing regions, such that the programmes and projects of SITFE may be remodelled to more effectively address these needs. As a result of this necessary period of research and development, contracts with TREE, Midlands Community College, Protec and MIET Africa have not been renewed for the next financial year. This decision may be revisited pending the findings of the review process.

SITFE has supported TREE since 2009 when the Trust Fund made a commitment to increase access, improve quality and promote ECD research and advocacy in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. As such, SITFE committed R3 million over a period of three years to support TREE's implementation of an integrated ECD programme in the Pongola area. Concerns pertaining to the sustainability and continuity of the programme upon SITFE's exit eventually prompted the Trust Fund to extend the funding for a period of one year. During this period TREE has made significant progress towards sustainability such that fears for the programme's continuation post the contract's ending in March 2014 have been allayed.

To elaborate on TREE's successes: All 11 play facilitators are now registered members of the local ECD forum. This forum assists its members with current government policy and programme information on ECD. It is also beneficial as a platform where challenges are openly discussed and quality implementation is enforced. The Department of Social Development (DSD) attends the forum meetings to be able to respond to any existing challenges in the ECD sector.



Another achievement is the collaboration of 9 of the 11 ECD Playgroups to form one new ECD programme called Isiqalosalwazi that has been registered as a legal entity granting them access to funding. TREE is now seeking registration of the Structured Playgroup programme. This will mean going forward, that all ECD programmes that are managed by TREE will be given automatic programme registration. This will expedite the administrative delays that currently exist and accelerate access to funding. SITFE's intervention has therefore resulted in the Department of Education's reviewing its policy on externally initiated / located ECD programmes.

Also in the Pongola area SITFE, in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, has for the past 4 years supported a programme run by MIET Africa to establish an education centre that will:

- Contribute to the improvement of grade 12 learners' science and maths marks in Pongola secondary schools;
- Provide opportunities to learners taking science in the FET phase to gain experience in the practical components of the science curriculum;
- Contribute to the enhancement of science and maths content knowledge and teaching skills of teachers teaching science and maths in secondary schools;
- Develop the capacity within unemployed youth to facilitate learning in science and afford them opportunities for career development;
- Improve access to science resources for teachers and learners by equipping the science laboratory at the education centres; and
- Equip the science laboratory.

SITFE's original commitment was R3 million over a 3 year period, but concerns pertaining to the sustainability of the programme upon SITFE's exit eventually prompted a one year extension of the contract to December 2014 to help ensure continuity post SITFE funding. MIET has now successfully completed the programme. The project has delivered a 91% Bachelors' pass rate in 2014, and an overall 90% Bachelors' pass rate for project learners from 2010-2014. During the four year period 320 learners have benefited directly and approximately another 12 000 benefited indirectly from SITFE funding. The Department of Education has also provided a permanent manager for the Education Centre, and the centre is now a hive of activity for learner development.

With regards to SITFE's Study Assistance Programme, during the 2014/2015 season, SITFE supported approximately 90 students. These students were registered at various tertiary institutions in KZN and Mpumalanga. In the latter two quarters of the financial year, SITFE processed over 900 bursary applications SITFE for science, engineering or agricultural studies, from students residing within the sugarcane growing communities

Generally, SITFE hosts two SITFE Graduation and Induction Functions, one in Mpumalanga and one in KZN. This year, however, for financial reasons the two Functions were combined and held in KZN in July 2014. The purpose of the Function was to acknowledge the success of bursary recipients who had completed their studies as well as to motivate first year recipients. The keynote address was delivered by Professor John Volmink, Chairman of the Umalusi Council. His message of the importance of education, and grasping opportunities and using them to improve your quality of life and the lives of those around you was applauded.



The same message was reiterated by the Student Graduate Speaker, Thulisizwe Zulu. The event was a great success.

The Rally to Read programme was launched in 1998 by READ to deliver educational material as well as critical teacher support and training to rural schools nationwide for 3 year periods. Since 1998, 876 schools have been supported by Rally to Read and over R72 million raised for rural education.

This year SITFE hosted the Rally in Eshowe, KZN. Six teams driving in convoy distributed teaching aids to 12 different primary schools in the uMlalazi Local Municipality. Among the items distributed were books written in English and isiZulu, classroom posters, stationary, wooden building blocks, nutrition information packs, soccer and volleyballs and balancing beams. SITFE will continue hosting Rally to Read, Eshowe over the next 2 years and teams will re-visit the schools to bring more materials and teaching aids and also to monitor the progress that is being made.

In conclusion, the trustees wish to again thank and commend SASA Management for their dedication and the professionalism in managing the work of SITFE.

TJ MURRAY
Chairman: SITFE



1. INTRODUCTION

The Sugar Industry Trust Fund for Education (SITFE) was launched in 1965. In its 49 years history, SITFE has provided bursaries to around 9800 students, financed school building projects, provided financial assistance to tertiary institutions and has worked closely with educational organisations to improve the overall education standard in the sugarcane growing provinces, namely KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

SITFE takes cognisance of the national shortage of skilled resources and the area in which the sugar industry operates in. As such, the Trust Fund places high emphasis on improving the quality of education within the sugarcane growing communities; specifically focusing on skills development around a wide range of disciplines including mathematics, science, technology, agriculture and engineering. SITFE programmes are implemented in partnership with reputable organisations in the respective fields.

2. SITFE PROGRAMMES

SITFE supports a wide range of programmes ranging from the school support programme; study assistance programme; in-whole school support programme; early childhood development programme; and an education centre development programme. These programmes are implemented in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning within the sugarcane growing communities.

2.1 Study Assistance Programme

The study assistance programme continues to enjoy significant industry and external stakeholder support and recognition. This programme is regarded as the sugar industry's key mechanism to assist government to redress inequalities in the field of science, agriculture and technology.

The objective of the programme is to increase the number of high potential learners from disadvantaged backgrounds with access to quality education and training in the fields of agriculture, science and engineering at tertiary institutions.

During the 2014/2015 financial year, the Trust Fund provided full bursaries to the value of R4.4 million towards approximately 90 students registered for science, engineering or agricultural studies.

The bursary programme continued to function under five schemes:

- University merit bursary programme;
- University of Technology merit bursary schemes;
- Colleges of Agriculture bursary schemes;
- SITFE/UNITE programme; and
- Tshwane University of Technology merit bursary scheme.



To address the serious and growing shortage of skills in the engineering sector, SITFE continues to support the University of KwaZulu-Natal Intensive Tuition for Engineers (UNITE) Programme, which provides an alternate access programme into mainstream engineering.

2.2 Post-matric Assistance Programme

The Midlands Community College has been implementing the Maths, Science, and Technology Recovery (MST Recovery) project since 1999 to assist learners from disadvantaged schools to improve their results and to assist these learners in re-writing the Department of Education's exam to gain entry to tertiary education. During the last financial year SITFE invested over R160 000 towards this post-matric programme. The programme accommodates 60 learners annually and is based in the midlands of KwaZulu-Natal. SITFE's contribution covers the cost for 5 out of the 60 learners for the one year period. During this last year all 60 students passed their National Senior Certificate Exams in Maths and Science. Of the 60 students 67% achieved more than 50% in Maths and 43% achieved more than 50% in Science. Over 80% achieved Bachelors passes.

2.3 In-whole school support programme

SITFE also supported the Midlands Community College in implementing the Maths, Science and English Integrated intervention programme. The programme targets grade 11 and 12 learners from ten rural schools and aims to provide additional educational support to the disadvantaged learners. Of these ten schools two achieved a pass rate of higher than the national average. One achieved a pass rate of lower than the national average but higher than the KZN average. All schools, however, except one showed a decrease in pass rates from 2013. It is suspected that this is due to the nationwide 'raising of the bar' in 2014, in terms of changes in the curriculum, policy approaches and exam questioning.

SITFE also collaborated with PROTEC Tongaat, a non-profit organisation that specialises in maths, science and technology education for grade 10 to grade 12 learners. PROTEC provides educational support to learners from socially and academically disadvantaged backgrounds in the form of maths and science lessons, career days, technology and International Computer Driver's Licence (ICDL) computer workshops. SITFE's funding for 2014 was used to support 20 learners attending the PROTEC Learner Excellence programme and 40 learners attending ICDL training. Support was also given to Post School students to ensure that they could integrate successfully into the work place.

2.4 Special Projects

2.4.1 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme

In May 2009, SITFE made a commitment to increase access, improve quality and promote ECD research and advocacy in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. As such, SITFE committed R3 million to implement an integrated ECD programme in the Pongola area over a period of three years. SITFE entered into a partnership with TREE, a non-profit organisation working with caregivers mostly women from impoverished communities to provide their young children with access to quality ECD. Concerns pertaining to the sustainability and continuity of the programme upon SITFE's exit eventually prompted the Trust Fund to extend the funding for a period of one year. During this period TREE has made significant progress towards sustainability such that fears for the programme's continuation post the contract's ending in March 2014 have been allayed. The following programmes have been implemented by TREE:

2.4.1.1 Playgroup Facilitator Programme

This intervention targets caregivers and their young children who do not have access to ECD site based programmes. TREE worked in partnership with local ECD Forums and selected a group of community volunteers, referred to as Playgroup Facilitators. The facilitators are trained in various aspects of child development and they form playgroups for children that cannot access an ECD site. The facilitator's role includes providing the required stimulation for children in order to be better prepared for grade R. There are 11 facilitators in the programme reaching an average 207 children per month. All 11 play facilitators are now registered members of the local ECD forum that is chaired by a TREE trained practitioner. This forum assists its members with current government policy and programme information on ECD. It is also beneficial as a platform where challenges are openly discussed and quality implementation is enforced. The Department of Social Development attends the forum meetings to be able to respond to any existing challenges in the ECD sector.

2.4.1.2 ECD Site & Management Programme

This programme focuses on a group of 13 ECD sites clustered in a geographic area and managed over a period of three years for optimal implementation. ECD sites have been selected on the basis of them hosting a weekly open day for children who do not have access to an ECD programme as well as displaying a commitment to improving the lives of children. The focus is on the development of self-help groups that will assist communities to identify issues militating against the achievement of quality of life. The groups are empowered to escalate issues to local as well as district municipal structures.

In pursuit of sustainability nine of these ECD Playgroups have come together as a collective to form one new ECD programme called Isiqalosolwazi that has been registered as a legal entity granting them access to funding. TREE is now seeking registration of the Structured Playgroup programme. This will mean going forward, that all ECD programmes that are managed by TREE will be given automatic programme registration. This will expedite the administrative delays that currently exist and accelerate access to funding.

2.4.1.3 Research and Advocacy

This programme is based on the premise that there is a growing recognition at the highest level of government of the need to intervene to mitigate the challenges facing the majority of young children in the country. TREE raises issues relating to ECD to the KZN Provincial Advisory Council for Children and the ECD Technical Task Team.

2.4.2 Education Centre Programme

The sugar industry is committed to creating a lasting, positive legacy in the communities in which it operates, not only by providing employment opportunities but also by supporting initiatives that help to create a healthy and sustainable social fabric. It is also committed to creating strategic partnerships with government and relevant stakeholders.

SITFE, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education and MIET Africa have collaborated on a programme to establish an education centre in the Pongola area. SITFE has committed R3 million towards an education centre programme that will:

- Contribute to the improvement of grade 12 learners' science and maths marks in Pongola secondary schools;
- Provide opportunities to learners taking science in the FET phase to gain experience in the practical components of the science curriculum;
- Contribute to the enhancement of science and maths content knowledge and teaching skills of teachers teaching science and maths in secondary schools;
- Develop the capacity within unemployed youth to facilitate learning in science and afford them opportunities for career development;
- Improve access to science resources for teachers and learners by equipping the science laboratory at the education centres; and
- Equip the science laboratory.

MIET has successfully completed the programme. Concerns pertaining to the sustainability of the programme upon SITFE's exit eventually prompted a one year extension of the contract to December 2014 to help ensure continuity post SITFE funding.



Results for 2014 show a decline in the number of “A” symbols amongst the MIET students, but this is in keeping with the trends in the 2014 results achieved nationally and in most provinces. The project has however delivered a 91% Bachelors’ pass rate in 2014, and an overall 90% Bachelors’ pass rate for project learners from 2010-2014. During the four year period 320 learners have benefited directly and approximately another 12 000 benefited indirectly from SITFE funding.

2.5 Stakeholder Interaction

In July, SITFE hosted its 2014 SITFE Graduation and Induction Function which was attended by over 150 stakeholders. The keynote address was delivered by Professor John Volmink, Chairman of the Umalusi Council. Various representatives from the sugar industry, government, tertiary institutions and the non-governmental sector attended the function.

The function enabled the sugar industry to highlight its commitment to the provision of quality education in and around the sugarcane growing communities.

