

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY – BOTSWANA TRAINED ON ISO 17025:2017 AND METHOD VALIDATION AND MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

SADCAS recently conducted a series of training courses on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing, ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing and Method Validation & Measurement Uncertainty for the Department of Agri Business Promotion (DABP) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing course was held from 17 to 21 May 2021 at Oasis Motel in Tlokweng, on the outskirts of Gaborone, Botswana. This training was attended by 33 participants from both government and private laboratories that are operating in the agricultural sector namely; National Food Control Laboratory, Department of Veterinary Services, Plant Protection, Butcher Shop, Senn Foods, Metres and Milea, Quality Meat. This was a physical training held under strict COVID-19 protocols. The participants included Chief Medical Laboratory Scientists, Microbiologists, Managers, Principal Agricultural Scientific Officers, Food Hygiene Quality Control Officers and Food Safety Managers.

In his opening remarks, Mr Edward Mmatli, the 1st NAFF for Botswana highlighted that SADCAS offers accreditation in key accreditation standards which include ISO/IEC 17025:2017, ISO 15189:2012, ISO/IEC 17020:2012. Representatives from the Department of Agri Business Promotion Mr. Onkgopotse Ezra Ramogapi accompanied by Ms. Gorata Boikanyo both from Agribusiness gave the closing remarks and declared the training over.

The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing course was conducted from 2 to 4 June 2021 and was attended by 32 participants most of whom had attended the earlier course. As this was an in-depth course on Internal Auditing. The participants did exercises on audit dimensions which included audit purpose, basis and scope of the audit, preparation of the audit checklist, preparation of non-conformities report amongst others. The course ended with an exam on the final day.

The 3rd training course was on Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty which was held remotely (via Zoom) from 14 to 18 June 2021 and was attended by 16 participants. The training was very intensive and required basic understanding of mathematics. The course covered statistical fundamentals before progressing to relatively advanced concepts of statistical techniques that are used in both method validation/verification and in calculating measurement uncertainty of test results. The course consisted of a mix of theoretical and practical applications and also included critiques of real examples of validation, verification and measurement uncertainty. The course ended with a two (2) hour examination on the knowledge assimilated by the participants.



Participants for the Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty Course held from 14 to 18 June 2021

A 2nd Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty course was held on 21 to 25 June 2021 for another group of fourteen participants and was concluded with an examination on 25 June 2021. In closing the Trainer, Mr Mike McNerney, emphasized the importance of participants institutionalizing the information that they learnt into their workplaces. He also encouraged all participants to apply the knowledge that they gained in the pursuit of accreditation of test and calibration laboratories in Botswana.



Participants for the Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty Course held from 21 to 25 June 2021