

CITRUS ACADEMY BURSARIES

Grab the opportunity

Applications for the 2026 Citrus Academy Bursary Programme opened on 1 June. By Sam Louw

The Citrus Academy bursaries present a great opportunity for qualifying students pursuing careers in the Southern African citrus industry to have their studies funded. The Bursary Programme continues to play a key role in developing scarce and critical skills across the citrus value chain, including production, logistics, research, and agribusiness management. While financial assistance remains central, the broader value of the bursary lies in the structured development offered to students. A key com-

ponent is access to the Citrus Academy's online student platform, Citrus Communities (scan QR code). The platform has become an important tool for learning, and industry integration. The student community hosts a range of e-learning short courses to supplement formal academic studies. These courses expose students to practical industry topics such as citrus production practices, supply chain dynamics, export requirements, and pack house processes. This blended approach helps students build a more applied understanding of the citrus industry. Equally significant is the platform's role in facilitating industry exposure. Through the Student Community platform, students gain access to Work Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities, internships, and vacation work

placements across all citrus growing regions. These experiences prepare graduates for the workplace, providing hands-on exposure and strengthening employability. The platform therefore strengthens the pipeline of talent entering the agricultural sector by fostering a sense of belonging. Applicants are encouraged to review the eligibility criteria and prepare the necessary documentation ahead of the closing date. As competition for funding remains strong, early preparation and alignment with industry-relevant fields of study is essential. ▶



PROMOSIE

From farm to fork: Why social compliance matters more than ever

Global supply chains are under growing pressure from rising costs, labour shortages and increased scrutiny from regulators and buyers. For South African producers and exporters, social compliance is no longer optional – it underpins trust, resilience and continued market access. Industry schemes such as SIZA and WIETA play an important role in improving labour practices at farm level. However, today's risks extend beyond primary production. Recruitment, pack houses, logistics operators and other service providers are increasingly impacted by buyer and regulatory expectations.

Structured assurance programmes help organisations move from reactive compliance to proactive risk management. By strengthening social compliance across the value chain, businesses can protect workers, reduce disruption and build confidence during uncertain times. **Did you know?** Modern slavery and labour exploitation risks can exist at any stage of a supply chain, often hidden within recruitment and sub-contracting practices.



Contact us +27 12 880 6230 | bsi.za@bsigroup.com

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

CONTENTS

SA Table Grape Industry (SATI)

44 Underground effects
48 Cover-crop trials in Paarl
50 Dekgewasse in wingerde

Hortgro

54 Demo-boorde in Ceres
57 Fire and flood
60 The business of breeding insects
62 Besies in kernvrugboorde

Citrus Research International (CRI)

66 Extension briefs
72 Postharvest Workshops

Fruit Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF)

74 Non-chemical control of postharvest diseases in avocados

