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SALI Training Program 2010

Background

As part of its ongoing efforts to provide its members with additional benefits, as well as its role in promoting best practices in the industry, it was identified that SALI Gauteng is in need of a training program. Instead of offering an easy to implement 'in house' type training schedule, SALI has opted to deliver a training program that is aligned with SAQA in order for the learners to be able to use the credits towards a further qualification. The SAQA modules are also already in existence and therefore this route would offer consistency in its application and cut out the development stage of the initiative. Information was sought from Di Goodwin and Bob Carrington, who are both well versed in landscaping and horticultural training in South Africa.

Rollout

A three year approach has been taken in implementing a full training program.

- 2010 – There is a myriad of courses available in countless combinations and on different levels for the green industry at SAQA. SALI has chosen six of these to cover the basic requirements of the entry level gardener. These will be trialed in six separate 'ad hoc' sessions meaning that they will stand alone and will not, as part of this program, contribute to a completed course. The modules may be changed in time if they are deemed to be less suitable than other courses that are on offer, but they have been selected to represent 25 credits in view of the plans for 2011. Should a learner be successful in passing the course, he will receive a certificate of attendance and his credits will be able to be used should he register for another course on SAQA.
- 2011 – If appropriate, the modules and 25 credits above would then be registered as a specific short skills program for SALI at the AgriSETA. This means that SALI will offer a full course where learners will register for all the modules and who's end result will be a short course certificate. SALI will, alongside this also offer the ad hoc courses as before for those who do not wish to register for the whole course. On doing this, SALI also will apply to the relevant government department for funding in order to supply this training at minimal cost, which at this stage is not a guarantee.
- 2012 – This option may be accelerated, however, it entails the development of a completely unique course, developed specifically for SALI and is aimed at an NQF level 4. It is envisaged to be an 8 month program covering all the theoretical, and importantly, practical aspects of landscaping. It is designed to fill the gap between current tertiary education on the one hand, and in house learning provided by individual companies on the other. The sole aim of the program is to provide the industry with competent individuals who have practical experience as well as theoretical knowledge when they enter the landscaping job market.

Courses for 2010

- Module 1 - Identification and Control of pests and diseases.
- Module 2 - Fertilizer application in ornamental plants and landscapes.
- Module 3 - Health and Safety in horticulture.
- Module 4 - Establishing landscaped beds.
- Module 5 - Operating brushcutters
- Module 6 - Operating Mowers

Cost

Predicted costs for a minimum group of 15 are as follows:

- Total SALI Member cost for attendance only – R400
- Total SALI Member cost for course certification – R550
- Total Non-SALI Member cost for attendance only – R500
- Total Non-SALI Member cost for course certification – R700
- Optional Cost to non SALI member – R700

The cost for certification is for an assessor to rate the individual at his place of work to assess whether the course has been implemented at the workplace.

Course Dates, Times and Venues

It would seem practical for the courses to be held in winter when landscapers are most likely able to have staff off site. It has also been experienced that the most successful days to offer courses are Wednesday and Thursdays. Thursday has been chosen as the day of choice with Saturdays as an alternative if demand allows for this. For individual companies that have a large number of staff requiring training on a particular module, more than one session can be arranged or a private session can be held at that company.

- Module 1 – 27 May 2010.
- Module 2 – 3 June 2010
- Module 3 – 5 August 2010.
- Module 4 – 19 August 2010.
- Module 5 – 2 September 2010
- Module 6 – 16 September 2010

There is a major break due to the world cup over June/July.

Venues are to be confirmed but suggestions include Johannesburg Zoo and SANA at Knoppieslaagde.

Summary

The options for SALI to offer training are endless. The six courses above are only a handful of hundreds of courses. The success of this trial will determine the extent to which SALI can offer more combinations of courses. In addition, by working with SANA, LIA, IPSA and GCMA, we should be able to benefit from that work that they are doing, which is purposefully along similar lines, and thereby pooling the efforts to get access to more courses without each association having to reinvent the wheel. This is an exciting project and may be the catalyst to pull the industry together. At the very least, SALI members will be able to simply pick up the phone and book their staff on a course that will equip them with the skills to deliver a SALI product.