

Pro forma for Farmer of the Year

Nominations must be made according to the pro forma to ensure uniformity and to enable the judges to make meaningful comparisons of the candidates. Nominations with deviations will not be accepted.

The aim of the new pro forma is to evaluate candidates according to sustainability. The latter refers to the farming method that will enable the farmer to achieve success in all fields, but continue farming successfully while using the land and farming enterprise in a manner that will allow his/her progeny to continue with these operations.

Point 1 describes the candidate's farming operation, while sustainability is based on points 2 to 6. These factors are all interdependent.

- Maintenance and increasing biological productivity
- Lowering risks to ensure greater security
- Maintenance and management of the natural resources
- Economic sustainability
- Social acceptability and justification
- The farming enterprise

(20 points)

As background fully describe the nature and extent of the farming enterprise to enable the judges to focus on the candidates' distinctiveness. Briefly list his/her qualifications, e.g. degrees/diplomas or other courses and in-service training to better equip him/her for farming.

2. Biological productivity

(20 points)

Describe the manner in which the candidate maintains and increases the farming operation's biological productivity, in other words, how successfully the candidate uses the available land to produce crops. In the case of a stock farmer it refers to, among others, calving percentage, weaning mass, intercalving period and mortalities. Do this by using percentages and comparing these with the acceptable limits. In the case of a crop, fruit, or vegetable farmer the nominator has to refer to the yields per hectare and other relevant norms for the industry, comparing these with the acceptable norms for the industry.

3. Hedging against all forms of risk

(20 points)

Identify all the risk factors that could have an impact on the enterprise. What steps are being taken by the candidate to lower the risks to provide greater security to the farming enterprise? What triggers the process of the farmer regarding certain factors as risks? Is he/she a risk taker or avoider of risks? Does he/she act reactively or proactively? How does the candidate adapt to changing circumstances? Name the relevant changes that play a role in the farmer's actions. Describe the steps taken to stay abreast of change and the manner in which the farmer transforms challenges into opportunities.

4. Maintenance and management of the natural resources

(20 points)

How does the candidate go about maintaining and improving the natural resources? In the case of a stock farmer, how is carrying capacity determined, measured and applied? In the case of a crop farmer which cultivation processes are followed? Motivate and describe how the farmer establishes cultivation methods, and why. How does the farmer determine land-use patterns, e.g. the use of satellite technology (GPS, GIS, etc.)?

5. Economic sustainability

(20 points)

Describe the candidate's *modus operandi* to ensure sustainability. Describe the candidate's development into a farmer, in other words, how he/she has extended and improved the enterprise since getting involved with it. In the case of a farmer inheriting the farm, how has value addition and growth occurred? Emphasis must be placed on farming successes. Fully describe how his/her financial management system and results. What are the strategic objectives? Describe how regularly these are re-evaluated and redefined. Which forms of diversification occur in the enterprise? In other words, where is the enterprise located in the value adding chain?

6. Social responsibility and trusteeship

(20 points)

What steps are being taken by the candidate to ensure that the farming enterprise is socially acceptable and justifiable? This involves, among others, own and workers' remuneration, support to workers and their families at social level, community empowerment and support. Describe the candidates' value to the industry/(ies) and organised agriculture. In other words, what is the extent of his/her community involvement? Refer to the acknowledgement already received and achievements. Indicate the level of acceptance by fellow farmers as mentors. What community projects have been started by him/her and what is the impact of these? Fully describe the farmer's relations with his/her workers, labour practices, remuneration structure, housing and assistance concerning personal and community matters.