



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

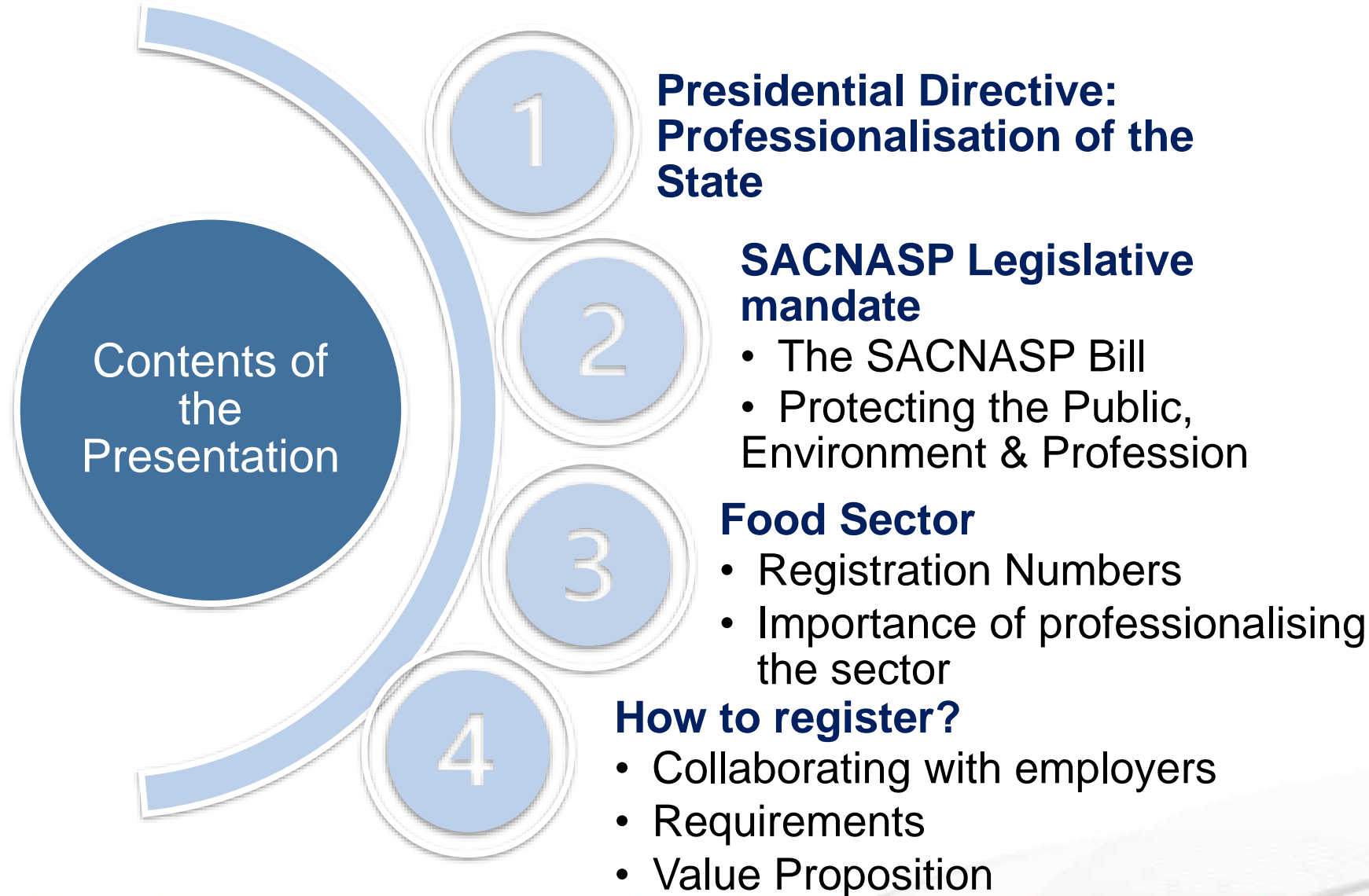
SACNASP
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions
Integrity in science

Empowering Scientific Professionals to Ensure High Quality Services in the Sector

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State of the Nation Address February 2024:

President Cyril Ramaphosa stated that many municipalities are failing on:

- **Failing on Governance, Financial & Service Delivery.**

To address this, the president stated that the country will be embarking on several measures to address this:

- Providing support to the local government.
- Ensure the professionalisation of the public sector.
- Ensure that people with the right skills are appointed to key positions.



SACNASP's Mandate

Register

Registration of
Natural
Scientists

Enable

To enable
registered
scientists through
life-long learning

Regulate

To protect the
public, the
profession and
the environment

Advise

To advise
government for
policy and
decision making

“Integrity in Science”

The Purpose of the Professionalisation of the State



A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK
TOWARDS THE
**PROFESSIONALISATION
OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR**

“

- professional, meritocratic and ethical public administration;
- improved leadership, governance and accountability;
- functional, efficient and integrated government;
- mainstreaming of gender, empowerment of youth and people with disabilities; and
- social compact and engagement with key stakeholders.

”

The Framework for Professionalisation of the State

The National Framework



Diagram 1: Pillars in the value chain for the professionalisation of the public sector.

Source: *The National Framework Towards the Professionalisation for of the Public Sector*

Pillar 4: Continuing Learning & Professional Development

- This pillar states that Departments must:

“Establish partnerships with HEIs and professional bodies (statutory and non-statutory professional bodies that are recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)) to develop the CLPD programme aimed at optimising its value as a capacity development intervention for all levels of employees.”

See page 8 of the Framework

SACNASP's Role in the Professionalisation of the State



- SACNASP will be playing a big role within the broader framework of enhancing professionalism and expertise within government institutions in fields related to natural sciences, in line with the State of the Nation Address by the President of South Africa to professionalise the public sector.
- SACNASP serves as a regulatory body responsible for ensuring standards of competence, ethical conduct, and continuous professional development among professionals in natural science disciplines.
- In the context of professionalising the public service, SACNASP will play a crucial role in supporting the development and recognition of expertise in natural sciences within government agencies.

The Legislative Mandate Supporting the Professionalising of the Natural Sciences

Section 18 (1) states: The categories for registered persons in the natural scientific professions are:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| (a) Professional natural scientist | (b) Candidate natural scientist | (c) Certificated natural scientist |
|---|--|---|



Section 18 (2) states: A person may not practice in any of the fields of practice listed in schedule 1 unless he or she is registered in a category mentioned in subsection (1).

SACNASP Draft Bill

Section 20 provides: The categories for registered persons in the natural scientific professions are:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| (a) Professional natural scientist | (b) Certificated Natural Scientist | (c) Technologist Natural Scientist | (d) Candidate Natural Scientist |
|---|---|---|--|

Draft Bill: A Case for Mandatory Registration

Section 20 provides: The categories for registered persons in the natural scientific professions are:

(a) Professional natural scientist

(b) Certificated Natural Scientist

(c) Technologist Natural Scientist

(d) Candidate Natural Scientist

The new bill states in section 19 states:

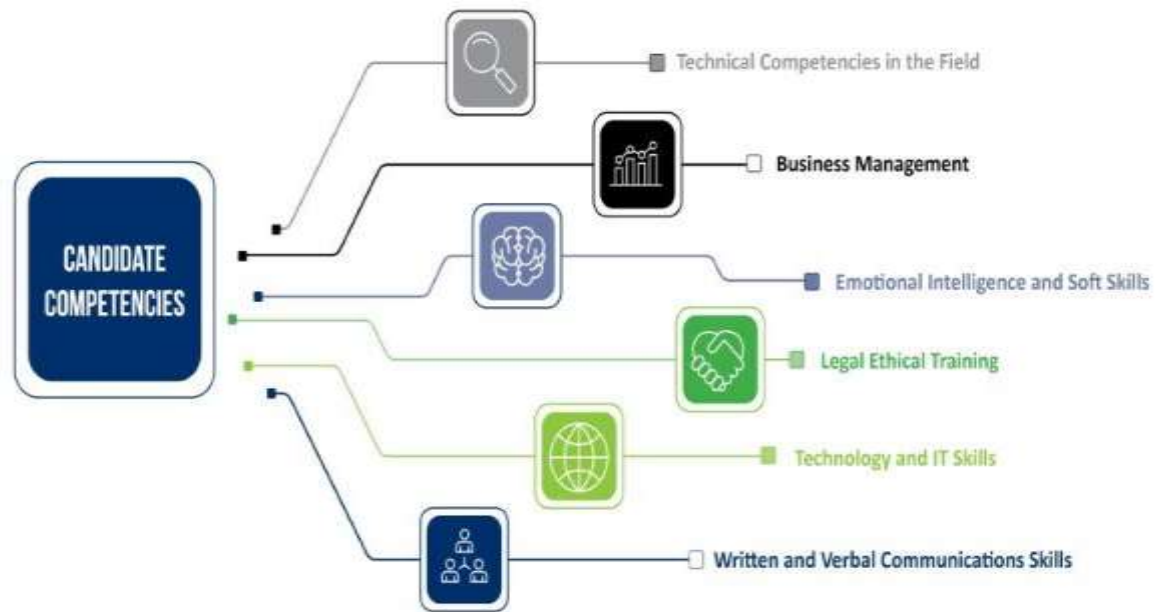
A person who is not registered in terms of this Act, may not:

- (a)** perform any kind of work identified for any category of Registered persons in terms of this section;
- (b)** pretend to be, or in any manner hold or allow himself or herself to be held out as, a person registered in terms of this Act;
- (c)** use the name of any Registered person or any name or title referred 1.0 in sections 18 and 22; or
- (d)** perform any act purporting or calculated to lead persons to believe that he or she is registered in terms of this Act.

(2) No person may employ and/or consult a person that is not registered and/or does not possess a valid registration certificate from the Council for purposes of obtaining advice in the field of natural science.

SACNASP's Role in the Professionalisation of the State

1) Candidate Scientists: Candidate Mentor Phase (CMP)



2) Senior Scientists: Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



Candidate Mentoring Phase (CMP)

- The Candidate Mentoring Phase (CMP) programme was initiated in FY2020/21.
- The programme is aimed at **building a pipeline for the next generation of skilled natural science professionals** in South Africa
- Ensure **transformation** in the percentage representation of natural science graduates from designated groups viz. women and marginalised groups.
- SACNASP, in collaboration with the VA's, is assisting graduates to be **ready for work** by providing them with the skills relevant to their field of practice.



Delivery through 48 Voluntary Associations (VA)



Science Engagements as per 2019 White Paper on Science, Technology & Innovation (STI)



- Women in Science, China 2023
- Networking Events
- Science exposure
- Mentorship
- Career opportunities

Inaugural SACNASP Conference 2024

SACNASP Conference
9 AM - 5 PM
28-30 OCT 2024

SHAPING THE FUTURE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Early Morning		Business Breakfast	
Morning-Afternoon	Conference & Exhibition	Conference & Exhibition	Conference & Exhibition
Evening	Annual Stakeholders Reception	Gala Dinner & F&DA	

SACNASP BUSINESS BREAKFAST

29 OCT 2024 TUESDAY
08:00am - 09:00am

A platform to forge and strengthen collaborative relationships between SACNASP and key executives from top companies that employ natural scientists.

Join us in cultivating a deeper understanding and partnership between the scientific and business communities.

SACNASP
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS RECEPTION

Dedicated to fostering a collaborative and progressive environment for all entities involved in the natural sciences sector.

A vital platform for dialogue, review, and input into strategic planning among SACNASP's diverse group of stakeholders, including voluntary associations, practitioners, closely linked regulatory bodies, academic institutions, and government representatives.

28 OCT 2024
18:00-19:00 PM

SACNASP
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

SACNASP AWARDS
For Professional Achievement & Development
&
GALA DINNER

TUESDAY OCTOBER 29

Designed to celebrate excellence and dedication in the field of Natural Sciences.

SACNASP
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

Protecting the Public, Environment & Profession

- Registered Scientists are bound by code of conduct that is reviewed annually
- Refraining from improper, unlawful and/or negligent unprofessional behaviour in matters involving the rendering of natural scientific services.
- Must only undertake natural scientific work for which their education, training and experience have rendered them competent to perform and is within the category of their registration.
- Must uphold the integrity, dignity, standing and reputation of the natural scientific profession.



The Fields of Practice – Schedule 1 of the NSP Act no. 27 of 2003

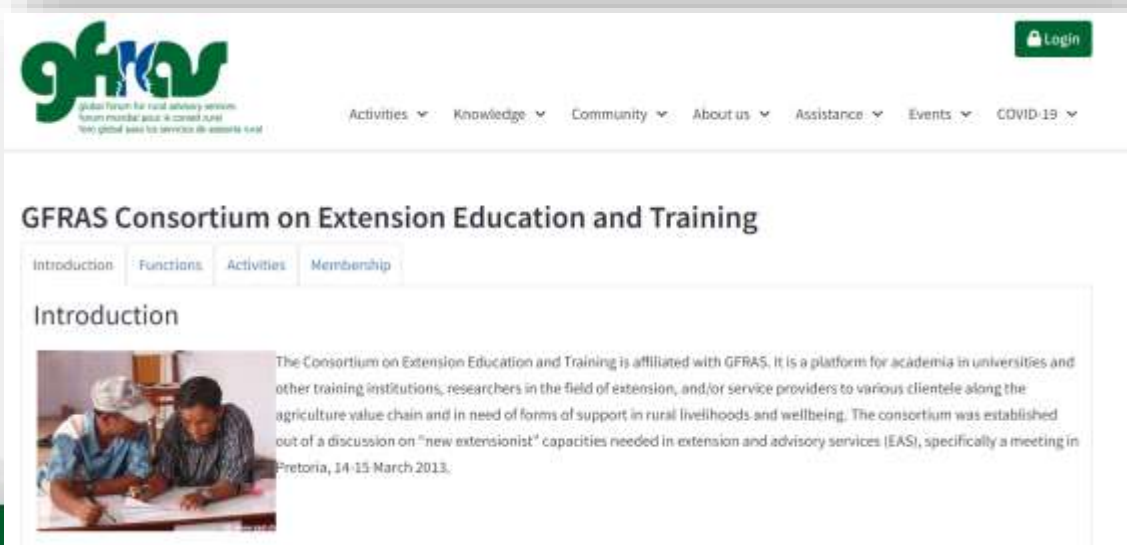


Case Study: Mass Food Recalls in South Africa in 2024



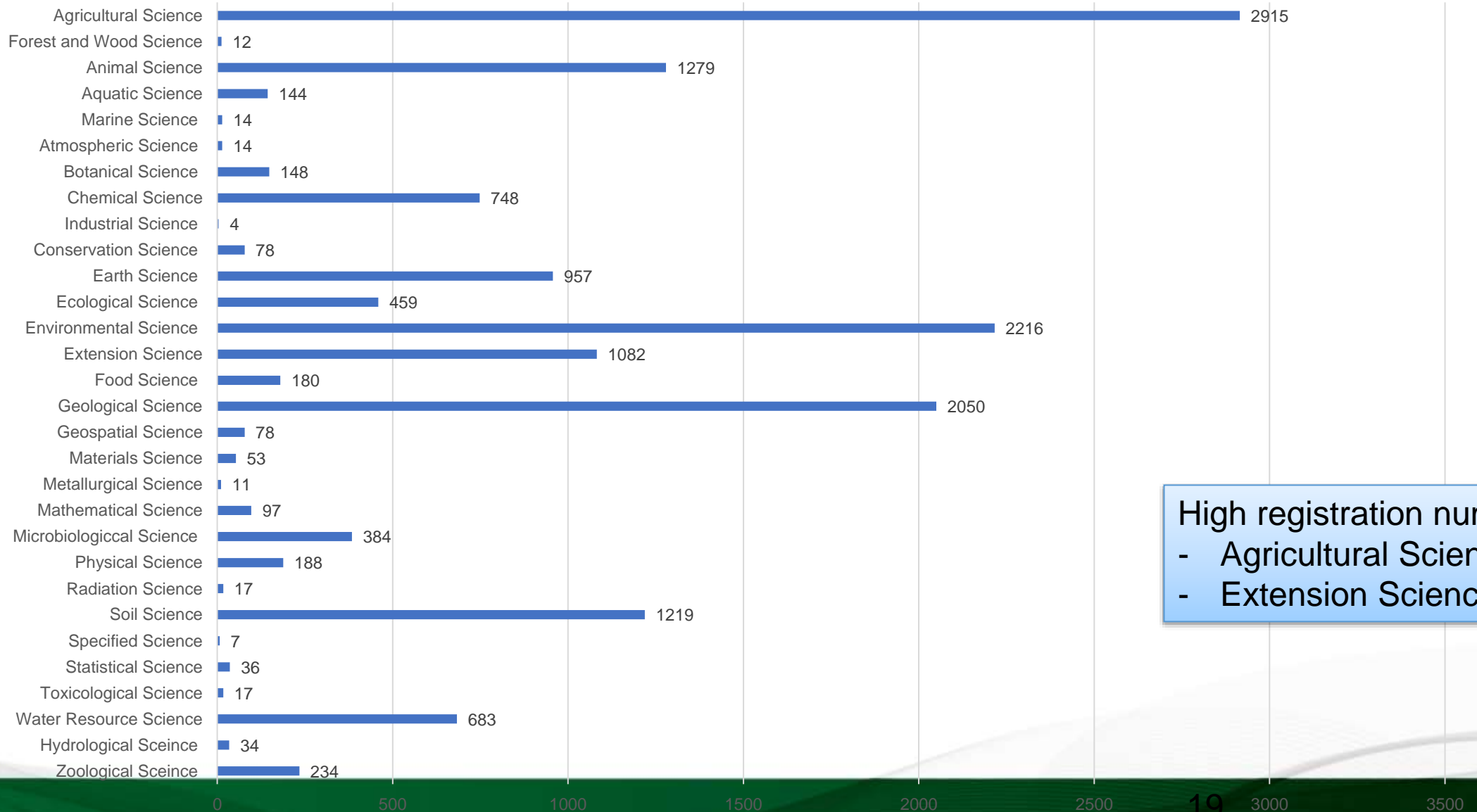
- 2024 recalls due to mold contamination and aflatoxin concerns.
- Highlighted the need for skilled and regulated professionals in food safety.
- Also highlighted the need to better protect the public through an enforceable Act to ensure vigilant monitoring and quality assurance processes.

SACNASP's Role in Addressing Food Safety



- Registration with SACNASP ensures scientists commit to continuing professional development.
- SACNASP's professional development programmes are geared towards the upskilling of registered scientists. Partnerships established include FAO and GFRAS to offer tailored training for agricultural and extension scientists.
- Following national disasters, SACNASP taps into the vast skills of registered scientists to host webinars and disseminate scientific advice to the public.
- The new partnership with Taylor & Francis Publishing will facilitate scholarly discourse and contributions to the creation of new knowledge and solutions.

Registered Scientists by Fields of Practice



High registration numbers for:

- Agricultural Science
- Extension Science

Current Registration Status in the Food Sector

- There is very high compliance with the legislative mandate within the Agricultural and Extension Sciences sector.
- However, the low registration of food scientists – 180 scientists nationwide.
- There is need for greater alignment between the extension, agricultural and food science fields to ensure that the entire Food value chain is capacitated with experienced, continually developed and legislatively aligned professionals.

SACNASP's Role in the Food Value Chain



1. Extension Science:

Research and Development:

Conduct agricultural research to develop new techniques.

Knowledge Dissemination:

Provide training and resources to farmers.

Support and Consultation: Offer ongoing support and troubleshooting for farmers.



2. Agricultural Science:

Land Preparation: Prepare soil through plowing and fertilizing.

Planting: Sow seeds or plant seedlings.

Crop Management: Manage crops with watering, pest control, and fertilization.



3. Food Science:

Processing: Clean, sort, and process harvested crops.

Quality Control: Conduct tests to ensure food safety.

Packaging and Distribution: Package food products and distribute them to retailers and consumers.



Possible SACNASP-GPDRT Collaboration: The Employer Champion Programme (ECP)



Requirements for Registration

Cand.Sci.Nat.

CANDIDATE SCIENTIST

Recognised natural science qualifications at appropriate levels that can lead to the above categories

No work experience required

Cert.Sci.Nat.

CERTIFICATED SCIENTIST

Recognised degree 3-year degree or

diploma at NQF level 7 plus 1 year experience, or

Recognised 2-year diploma at NQF Level 6 plus 5 years experience (Agriculture & Extension Science only)

Pr.Sci.Nat.

PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIST

Recognised 4-year degree at NQF Level 8 plus 3 years work experience, or

MSc degree at NQF Level 9 plus 2 years work experience, or

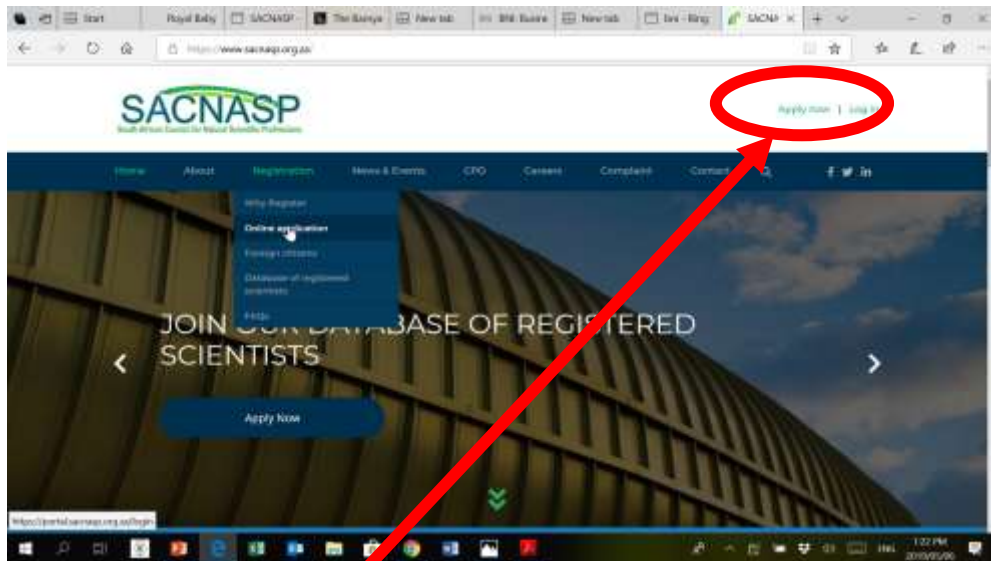
PhD degree at NQF level 10 plus 1 year work experience, or

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) plus 10 years work experience

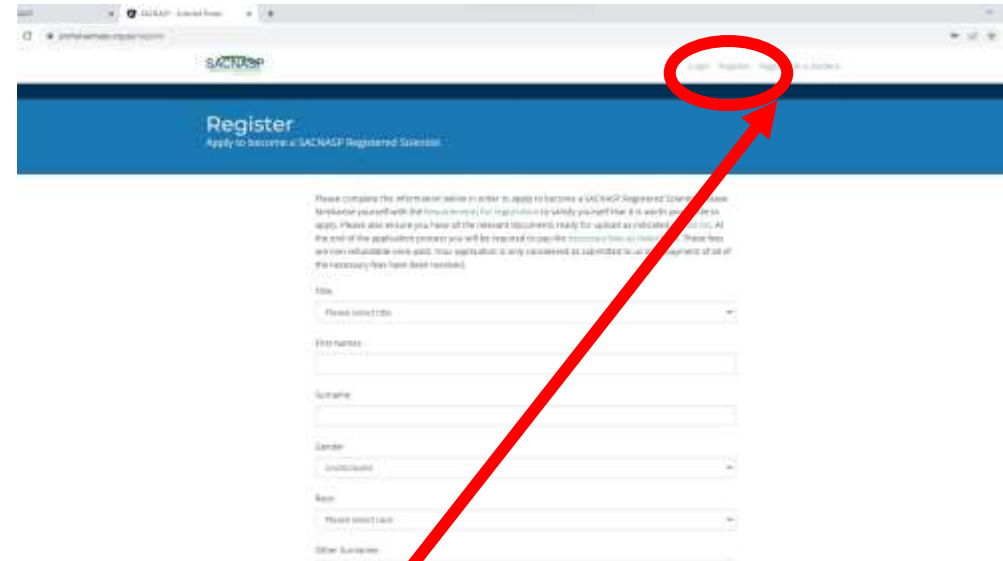
What is the process?

1.

www.sacnasp.org.za



2. Click: Apply Now



3. Click: Register

4. Submit:
Documents

The Value Proposition of Professionalisation



THANK YOU

“We urge professional bodies and regulatory authorities to take action against members who are found to have acted improperly and unethically”

State of the Nation Address by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa (16 February 2018)