To preserve South Africa’s competitive position in the global fruit & wine export markets, the industry needs to make a unified response to climate change – informed by sound science and based on local information.

Introduction:
Climate change is predicted to directly impact South Africa’s mean annual temperature and rainfall ranges, influencing pest & disease distribution, flowering and fruiting seasons, and ground water resources. Climate change also impacts indirectly, through the growing awareness amongst consumers and the corresponding demand for carbon-efficient business processes. The agricultural sector is a large source of greenhouse gases (GHGs) through activities such as land-use change, agrochemical application and fossil fuel use. Through conservative energy technologies and sustainable farming practices, substantial emission reduction opportunities exist which can improve efficiency and reduce costs throughout the supply chain.

Aims of the project: (see www.winetech.co.za)
- To highlight and communicate climate change issues, opportunities and threats to the agricultural sector
- To create an industry standard for GHG auditing within the fruit and wine sector, and ensure a standardised measurement, reporting and comparison of individual farm emissions that highlights emission reduction opportunities.
- To enable informed and authoritative comment, debate and negotiation by stakeholders and policy-makers
- To guide short and long term strategy formulation by decision-makers across the industry

How to get involved:
The success of this project relies on the active involvement of the industry. Please do not hesitate to contact the project team, or your industry representative.
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Outputs of the project:
- Climate Change Communication
  - Workshops & Information Documents
  - Understanding of the project’s purpose and the carbon footprinting template
  - Timeframe: March 2009
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint calculating tool
  - A web-based tool which will allow users to access the information portal to understand and calculate their on-farm and supply chain GHG emissions
  - Establishment of GHG footprint methodology, tool and protocol for SA fruit & wine industry
  - Timeframe: July 2009
- Climate Change Response - Strategic Framework for the Fruit & Wine Export Industry
  - Information obtained from the GHG assessment will be used to strategically identify emission reduction opportunities and establish realistic goals and targets for the industry
  - Benchmarking exercise to place SA fruit & wine export industry in context of competition regions
  - Timeframe: December 2009

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