

CIMA's Centre of Excellence Southern Africa

Projects Awarded for commencement in 2015

Value chain financing in agriculture: An African perspective

More and more organisations are diversifying their markets by expanding into Africa. However, as Africa is perceived to be a high risk investment, financing of such expansion projects are problematic. Agriculture provides employment to more than 80% of the population in Africa, and knowledge regarding this sector's value chain is crucial. The project will focus on agricultural value chain financing in Zambia and will assist agricultural producers, agribusinesses and agricultural financiers keen on expanding into Zambia by providing this information to formulate their strategies.

Dr Sanlie Middelberg, North-West University, South Africa

Integrating Reporting: Cost of equity capital and investment efficiency

This project proposes to provide empirical evidence on two expected benefits of integrated reporting, namely improved capital allocation decisions by investors (external benefit) and improved internal decision-making by managers (internal benefit). The research setting is South Africa where firms listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) have been required to produce an integrated report for years commencing on or after 1 March 2010, or to explain why they do not. We mainly use quantitative techniques such as multivariate regression analysis. The research aims to produce documented evidence on whether integrated reporting quality is associated with cost of equity capital and improved investment decisions by managers.

Prof Elmar Venter, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Evaluating post-qualification career progression of accountants and related continued professional development

Many research studies are conducted about the competencies at the point of entry or completion of the professional accountancy qualification. There is, however, a lack research performed on competencies required to advance in a career. In a developing country such as South Africa, with skills shortages in many spheres, including at management level, this research is long overdue. Accountants are also more and more appointed in management positions as their roles in organisations are changing. This research could assist in enhancing the quality of accountants at management level that could be filtered down to lower levels and also address skill shortage in management positions.

Prof Jaco Fouche, North-West University, South Africa

Projects Awarded for commencement in 2016

Professional Accounting Education: The skills required for integrated reporting

The introduction of integrated reporting which requires companies to communicate the medium and long-term effects of their business activities on sustainable value creation has had a significant impact on the accounting and financial reporting environment. Accountants are now required to obtain a new set of skills, especially in the area of environmental management accounting, enabling them to generate appropriate internal and external information to report on the effects that their company's activities are having on the environment and communities they operate in. The specific skills required, establish how these skills differs from traditional skills offered and the extent to which students studying towards a professional qualification in accounting are prepared for this new reporting environment is currently unknown. The purpose of this study is to firstly identify the skills and competencies an entry level accountant would need in terms of technical and professional skills to support integrated reporting and secondly to evaluate these skills against the syllabi offered by the major accounting bodies to which South African professional accountants belong.

Marie Van Rensburg, University of Johannesburg

The accountability and management control of CSR Foundations in Mauritius

The research proposes to study the accountability and management control practices of private 'CSR Foundations' (CSRF), a specific type of non-profit organization (NPO) which channels funds from companies to social and environmental programmes. The investigation of the CSR fund allocation process of the Foundations will help to map out the key roles the management accountant play in identifying management information required for project monitoring and appraisal. Insights from this research will also have a direct impact on NGOs and other beneficiaries in terms of how CSR Foundations engage with project appraisal and monitoring. This research will assist in developing an accountability framework so that CSR funding and its contributions are made visible to the wider public.

Associate Professor Raja Vinesh Sannasee, University of Mauritius

Please contact coe.sa@cimaglobal.com for any further enquiries.