

United National Breweries of South Africa (Pty) Ltd

BACKGROUND

United Breweries was established by a Black Economic a Empowerment Consortium from the previously stateowned National Sorghum Breweries, to meet the rising demand for sorghum beer. There are currently 10 breweries nationally, situated in Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal. National production is approximately 400 000 000 liters per annum. In May 2003, the NCPC SA approached Phelindaba to take part in the student training programme in conjunction with the CSIR and Austrian counterpart consultancy Stenum.



CHALLENGE

Due to rising demand for sorghum beer, the challenge is to get higher production volumes from the factory in a cost effective manner.

SOLUTION

A walk-through assessment and student experiential training programme was carried out using the in-plant assessment methodology. The assessment covered the following points:

- Identification and quantification of the water losses; and
- Minimizing of the spillage at filling points due to frothing of beer.

BACKGROUND

The company has implemented recommended water reduction options both from the NCPC and in-house initiatives. The results have shown a net reduction from 3,6 water/ beer to 3,1 water/ beer between July 2003 and July 2004. This is equivalent to a saving of 14% in water consumption and a water and effluent charge saving of R22 750 per month.



The work is being followed up with evaluations of cleaner production opportunities for:

- Boiler house;
- Redesign of the nozzle at the filling locations;
- and Evaluation of a new product which eliminates washing water, and transport .

The reason for success of the project according to Mr van Vyver are " the NCPC team focuses on the product and not the equipment"

