



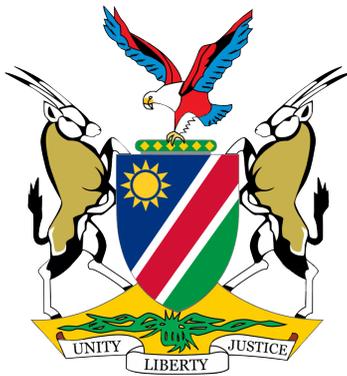
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NAMIBIA AGRICULTURE POLICY



December, 2015





REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words of gratitude are extended to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for leading and coordinating the formulation of the Namibia Agriculture Policy of 2015 together with the National Planning Commission. Appreciation is also given to all the stakeholders of the agriculture sector who participated fully and contributed towards this very important process of the reviewing the Namibia Agriculture Policy.



FOREWORD

In 1995, five years after Namibia's independence in 1990, Namibia launched its first National Agriculture Policy, which guided the development of the Namibian agricultural sector. The 1995 National Agriculture Policy was formulated during a transitional period and drew from a transitional National Development Plan. At the time, drastic sectoral policy initiatives were avoided in the endeavour to maintain economic stability and growth in Namibia by minimising disruptive change.

“This Policy provides a clear framework for all stakeholders in the Namibian agricultural sector to devise interventions that would enable them to make a concerted and meaningful contribution towards the sustainable development and growth of the agriculture sector in Namibia.”

In 2004, Namibia adopted its Vision 2030, which clearly states Namibia's desired state of development by the year 2030, namely, a prosperous and industrialised Namibia, developed by her human resources, enjoy peace, harmony and political stability. A series of National Development Plans were subsequently formulated which provided broad frameworks for the formulation of sectoral development strategies and plans to contribute towards the attainment of the national vision.



Hon. John Mutorwa, MP

The context in which the 1995 National Agriculture Policy was formulated is clearly overtaken by events, which necessitated the review and subsequently the formulation of this Namibia Agriculture Policy. Agriculture is a very important sector in the Namibian economy as it continues to support the livelihoods and create employment for the majority of our population. With the right policy and strategy interventions, the agriculture sector holds real potential to address national challenges of poverty, hunger and inequity, which continue to face Namibia.

The Namibia Agriculture Policy is a product of a broad consultative process and has taken over two years to complete, with the blessing of Cabinet. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), which is mandated to promote, develop, manage and utilise agricultural, water and forestry resources prepared the initial draft, which was circulated widely to stakeholders for input. In its formulation of the initial draft, the Ministry took due cognisance of Namibia's obligations and commitments under relevant international treaties



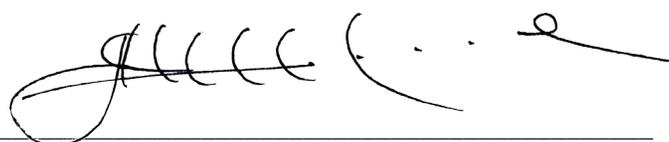
and agreements. As such, this Policy takes due cognisance of the relevant provisions of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Trade, the Southern African Customs Union Agreement (SACU) Agreement, the Dar es Salaam Declaration of Agriculture on Food Security, the revived SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the 2003 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the 2014 AU Malabo Declaration, amongst others.

In addition to the initial drafting and soliciting of written stakeholder inputs, MAWF facilitated two stakeholder workshops for intensive public private sector interaction, joint formulation and finalization of this Policy, at which all Namibia's agriculture stakeholder interests were represented.

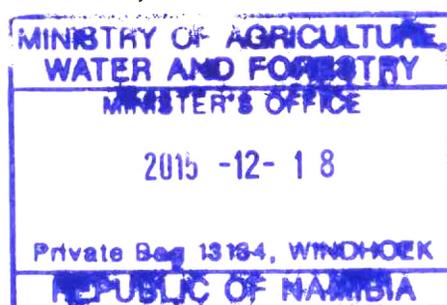
This Policy provides a clear framework for all stakeholders in the Namibian agricultural sector to

devise interventions that would enable them to make a concerted and meaningful contribution towards the sustainable development and growth of the agriculture sector in Namibia. It further provides a framework for the review and alignment of the legal framework, to give effect to the objectives and high level strategies articulated in the Policy.

The collaborative process which was evidenced through the formulation of this Policy, during which all stakeholders work together as partners in the agriculture sector for the benefit of all, should be continued as we move into the policy implementation phase.



Hon. John Mutorwa, MP
Minister



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Namibia Agriculture Policy is aimed at contributing to increased agricultural production, agro-processing and marketing as well as to serve as an overarching policy in the agricultural sector. The revised Policy Framework draws from Vision 2030, the fourth National Development Plan, the 2014 SWAPO Party Elections Manifesto and MAWF's mandate. The Policy is formulated within the confines of the Namibian Constitution and will provide a framework for adjusting relevant laws to give effect to the stated policy objectives and strategies.

“A system is already in place, under the supervision of the National Planning Commission, whereby sectoral stakeholders, including Government Ministries of each economic sectors formulate their five year Sectoral Execution Plans (SEPs)”

In 2014 the agriculture sector and its related industries contributed 3.7 % to GDP and grew by 9.6 % (2014 revised National Accounts). The agriculture sector is the highest employer with 172 530 people employed in 2012, which represented 27.4 % of total employment (2012 Namibia Labour Force Survey). A major factor in agriculture's relatively lower performance has been the effect of droughts and floods on crops and livestock as a result of climate change. Whilst the contribution of agriculture to GDP has declined in the past decades, about 70% of Namibia's population is dependent directly or indirectly on it for a livelihood.



Mr Abraham Nehemia

The Namibia Agriculture Policy (NAP) is essentially a revision of the 1995 National Agriculture Policy and its orientation takes due account of the socio-economic and environmental changes that have taken place since 1995. Formulation of the NAP further took due cognisance of the Namibian Constitution and Namibia's obligations under treaties and agreements that Namibia is party to ensure alignment and compliance. NAP list the principals on which it is anchored and which form an integral part of the policy.

The document is divided into two major parts. Part A articulates the policy and strategies for the agriculture sector. This part is further subdivided into specific themes that cut across the agricultural value chain and its support systems. For each theme, the documents clearly states the objectives of Government, followed by the national policy statements and strategies. The Policy statements explicitly spell out the Namibia's national position on the specific thematic areas, which forms the basis for engagement with engagement with third parties, beyond the national borders. The theme areas cover production, agro-industry development, marketing and trade, research and development, international cooperation,



training and capacity building, management information systems, agro-financing, co-operative development and extension services.

Part B of the Policy outlines mainly the role of stakeholders, policy implementation and revision as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Stakeholders play an important role in strengthening co-operation and co-ordination and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of resource utilization in the sector. Agricultural growth and development is not the responsibility of Government alone.

Other stakeholders have an important role to play to ensure success in this endeavour. The Policy implementation is therefore a responsibility of all agricultural stakeholders under the coordination and leadership of the MAWF.

A system is already in place, under the supervision of the National Planning Commission, whereby sectoral

stakeholders, including Government Ministries of each economic sectors formulate their five year Sectoral Execution Plans (SEPs), which are further cascaded into Annual Sectoral Execution Plans (ASEPs), which sets out programmes and development projects both by Government and the private sector. With the realisation of the strategic importance of monitoring and evaluation, the Ministry would carry out regular policy monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the SEPs and ASEPs implemented by the agriculture sector conform to the Namibia Agriculture Policy. When necessary, the Policy would be revised to ensure that it address the changing environment and circumstances.



Mr Abraham Nehemia
Acting Permanent Secretary



ACRONYMS

AMIS	Agricultural Management Information System
ARS	Agriculture Research Station
ATC	Agriculture Training Centre
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBPP	Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
DCDR	Division of Cooperative Development and Regulation
DVS	Directorate of Veterinary Services
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GM	Genetically Modified
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
Ha	Hectare
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
LMO	Living Modified Organism
LSU	Large Stock Unit
MAWF	Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry
MFN	Most Favoured Nations
Mm	Millimetres
MOHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
NCA	Northern Communal Areas
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
NSI	Namibia Standards Institution
OIE	International Organisation for Animal Health
PAP	Processed Agricultural Products
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PTA	Preferential Treatment Agreement
RAP	Regional Agriculture Policy
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TADS	Trans-boundary Animal Diseases
VCF	Veterinary Cordon Fence
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation



DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Agro-Industry: The large-scale production, processing, and packaging of food using modern equipment and technology

Dual Marketing Systems: The marketing of the same products to both consumers and business customers. A market system is any systematic process enabling many market players to bid and ask: helping bidders and sellers interact and make deals. It is not just the price mechanism but the entire system of regulation, qualification, credentials, reputations and clearing that surrounds that mechanism and makes it operate in a social context

Food Quality: This is the quality characteristic of food that is acceptable to consumers. This includes external factors as appearance (size, shape, colour, gloss, and consistency), texture, and flavour; factors such as federal grade standards (e.g. Size of eggs) and internal (chemical, physical, microbial).

Food Security: “exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”

Food Self-Sufficiency: When the nation is able to meet its consumption needs, particularly for staple food crops from its own production rather than importing.

Food Sovereignty: Food sovereignty is about the right of peoples to define their own food systems. Advocates of food sovereignty puts the people who produce, distribute and consume food at the centre of decisions on food systems and policies, rather than the demands of markets and corporations that they believe have come to dominate the global food system.

Special and Differential Treatment: is a set of GATT provisions (GATT 1947, Article XVIII) that exempts developing countries from the same strict trade rules and disciplines of more industrialized countries.

Stakeholder: Any Organisation (public or private), Ministry or Agency that plays a role in the Agriculture sector

Value Addition: The enhancement of a product or service before offering the product to customers. Value added is used to describe instances where a firm takes a product that may be considered a homogeneous product, with few differences (if any) from that of a competitor, and provides potential customers with a feature or add-on that gives it a greater sense of value.



INTRODUCTION

It is the commitment of the Government to ensure that the policy and legal environment are favourable for economic development and, in particular, the agricultural sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This contribution can be made through increased crop and livestock production and productivity, expansion of agro-processing enterprises and local value addition. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry (MAWF), shall lead the coordination of policy formulation and review as well as implementation of Policy Strategies, programmes and projects in collaboration with its stakeholders. Furthermore, The Government will encourage its development partners to continue with both financial and technical assistance to support agriculture development objectives.

The implementation of 1995 National Agricultural Policy reveals that the sector has reached and achieved most of its goals and objectives. The sector continued to be the lead employment creator with 27.4 % of total workforce in 2012, source of income to rural household and improved house hold food security. Much of the achievement is attributed to by the stable economic and financial sectors of the country. Despite this, the sector has also experienced challenges such as erratic rainfall, drought and flood as contributed to by climate change. The economic environment of the country has improved and new high level goals and objectives developed such as Vision 2030 and National Development Plans (NDPs), hence the need to aligning current sector strategies, programme and projects.

Under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4), the Government has set agriculture as an economic priority sector due to its potential to contribute to economic growth and employment generation. The focus on agriculture under the NDP4 goes beyond production to include large-scale development of the agribusiness and agro-industry. Amongst others, the sector is set to achieve desired outcomes which are increased agricultural production result in agriculture experiencing average real growth of 4 per cent per annum. MAWF in consultation with stakeholders formulated a five year Sectoral Execution Plan (SEP) for the sector. The SEP contains strategic outcomes, programme and projects with targets and outputs for the agriculture sector. The SEP is a comprehensive implementation tool of the strategies contained in the Namibia Agriculture Policy.

The policy implementation will be a concerted effort of all sector stakeholders under the coordination and leadership of MAWF. At intervals, the policy will be monitored and finally evaluated before the review.



BACKGROUND

Article 98 of the Namibian Constitution provides for “the economic order based on the principles of a mixed economy with the objective of securing economic growth, prosperity and a life of human dignity”. On the other hand, Article 95 calls for “the maintenance of the ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia as well as the utilization of living natural resource on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians both the present and the future”. Accordingly, economic activity in Namibia’s agriculture sector is conducted through different forms of ownership that is; public, private, joint public-private, co-ownership, co-operatives and small scale family. The 1995 National Agricultural Policy makes provision for sustainable natural resource management. As such, agriculture activity in Namibia is not pursued at the expense of the environment, all stakeholders that benefit from agriculture sector, are required to accept responsibility for sustainable management of natural resources.

Namibia Vision 2030 serves as a policy framework for long term national development. The elements that are essence of Vision 2030 are prosperity, harmony, peace and political stability. Chapter 5 of Vision 2030, titled sustainable resource base, exclusively articulate and comprehensively highlights the need to promote the sustainable, equitable and efficient use of natural resources, maximize Namibia comparative advantages, reduce inappropriate use practices and to create a database for information sharing and programme management. The agriculture sector has aligned itself with these and is committed to make significant contributions to the overall goal of Vision 2030. Namibia has developed National Development Plans (NDPs) which are five-year medium term strategies that guide the nation towards the achievement of Vision 2030. The Government of Republic of Namibia has launched the fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) which has identified agriculture as one of the priority sectors which has potential to contribute to the attainment of high and sustained economic growth, increased income inequality and employment creation. It is expected that the sector experience average real growth of four per cent per annum over the NDP4 period.

Namibia’s agriculture sector consists of two types of land ownership, namely; freehold titles and non-title deed. The commercial sector covers about 44 per cent of the total land though it accommodates only ten per cent of the population while the communal sector covers about 41 per cent of the total land area and accommodates about 60 per cent of the population. Due to climatic conditions, commercial farmers are predominantly engaged in livestock farming, with small-stock dominating the activities in the south. The central and northern part of the country is more suitable for large stock production however, international trade regulations prohibits the movement of large stock while restricting the movement of small stock and livestock products from the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs). Rain-fed crop production is possible only in the areas with more reliable rainfall patterns. The dominant crops produced under rain-fed subsistence farming include millet, maize, sorghum and leguminous crops while commercial rain-fed farming focuses mainly on maize production. Due to climatic changes, shortages of labour at household level and increasing pressure on the land due to population growth, most subsistence farmers do not produce sufficient crops to sustain them until the next harvesting season. While all the wheat is produced under irrigation, only about 50 per cent of maize is produced under irrigation. Similarly, crops such as grapes and other horticultural produce are also grown under irrigation at large dams and perennial rivers along national borders.

The agricultural sector accounted for 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2014, of which 60 per cent is attributable to the livestock sub-sector. The contribution of crop and forestry sub-sectors to GDP has continuously increased over the past years and culminated to the level of 40 per cent in 2014. Previously the national accounts distinguished commercial and subsistence farming, where commercial farming contributed about



two thirds to the total output of the agricultural sector. In addition to the sectors direct contribution to GDP, the sector also contributes to economic activity through its value chains of meat processing, food and beverage production including milling.

In 2012, the sector provided more than 172,530 jobs in the subsistence and commercial sectors, making it the most employment- intensive sector in the country. Moreover, it contributes to employment creation in the other sectors such as construction, repairs and investment. In 2012, the public sector invested about NAD486 million in the agricultural sector, accounting for 3.8 per cent of the total gross national fixed capital formation. Exports of livestock and crops were valued at NAD1.495 billion in 2011, accounting for 3.4 per cent of total exports of goods and services. Horticultural produce plays an increasingly important role in export.

Government has identified about 27 000 hectares of potential irrigable land of which about 11 000 hectares is under production. Therefore, there is scope to increase crop production. Livestock production has been dwindling over the years due to increasing bush encroachment. There is further scope to increase livestock production by addressing the challenge posed by bush encroachment.

In the meat industry, the downstream industries are somewhat well developed. Namibia has local and export abattoirs which are relatively state of the art. Export abattoirs are able to export to the EU. Namibia's livestock exports are concentrated on the South African and European market. Hence there is a need for market diversification. Although the production is high, the NCAs faces a challenge of a low off-take rate and it is for this reason that the Government is committed to the development of local and export abattoirs and meat processing facilities to attend to this challenge. Namibia also has a unique blend of quality pelts from the Swakara industry that has gained commendable international recognition. The dairy industry is also well developed and caters for local and export market. There are tanneries which process hides and skins to a wet-blue stage.

Namibia has a well-established milling industry which is by large dominated by the private sector. The Government is currently developing small milling facilities to increase processing capacity in the country. Marketing of cereals in the country is regulated by the Agronomic Industry Act (Act 20 of 1982). At the present, all cereals are marketed and consumed locally. Namibia's horticulture subsector is implementing effort for its development in order to provide the best quality produce for the domestic market, while creating employment and stimulating the economy effort in this aim at contributing to Namibia's self-reliance in terms of production, processing and marketing of fruits and vegetables. In developing the domestic market for local produce and industrial products, priority is put on instituting regulations and developing infrastructure necessary for an orderly marketing of cereal and horticulture produce. The marketing of fresh produce are regulated by the Market Share Promotion (MSP) which currently stands at 41.5 per cent. This means traders and retailers should ensure that 41.5 per cent of their produces are sourced locally before imports can be allowed for them.



RATIONALE

The Namibia Agriculture Policy is a review of the 1995 National Agricultural Policy. There have been new developments within the agricultural sector that prompted this revision. These include the role that agriculture is expected to play in the attainment of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) strategic objectives, as well as Vision 2030 goals of economic growth, sustainability, equity and poverty alleviation as well as the desire for Government to diversify agricultural products and export markets. Furthermore, another dimension that prompted the revision of this policy is the number of bilateral, regional and multi-lateral developments as well as the current and expected impacts of climate change and agricultural land reform that are affecting the performance of the agricultural sector.

This policy document presents a new direction in the process of agricultural development. Efforts are made to provide a coherent framework, inter-linkages through the value chain as well as the sectors that are relevant to agriculture. The Namibia Agriculture Policy is the overarching policy and will serve as a base for drafting new as well as aligning existing policies, law and regulations. The policy presents a framework for the design of programmes and projects that will steer the performance of the sector.

In reviewing this policy, the Government takes cognisance of the fact that African Union (AU) and its Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have taken the initiative to have common agriculture development agenda under Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Furthermore, countries belonging to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) have initiated a process for the harmonisation of agricultural and related policies. In 2013, SADC Minister of Agriculture have adopted the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP). Hence this policy has taken into account those developments.



Policy Principles

The agriculture sector is the backbone of the Namibian economy. It has been singled out in the successive series of National Development Plans (NDPs) as one of the priority sectors. The sector should be harnessed to bring about the much needed socio-economic development and improvement to the livelihoods of the majority of the Namibian people. The underlying principle points constitute the spirit and core basis upon which the Namibia Agriculture Policy was formulated:

1. Increase agriculture sector contribution to national development objectives of high and sustained economic growth, employment creation, increased income equality, and industrial development
2. Employment creation
3. Improve national and household food security and nutrition
4. Safeguard sustainable growth of the national agriculture sector and downstream industries
5. Special and Differential Treatment
6. Product development and diversification
7. Market development and diversification
8. Development and enforcement of agriculture related standards
9. Food Safety
10. Value addition
11. Develop technical regulations consistent with Namibian standards and values
12. Rural development
13. Integration of informal agriculture into the mainstream of national economy
14. Sustainable farming
15. Fair competition
16. Commitment to the Maputo Declaration
17. Commitment to the Malabo Declaration
18. Most Favoured Nation with exceptions provided for under WTO and Namibia's PTAs
19. SADC Regional Agricultural Policy
20. National Treatment
21. Transparency through notification of agriculture technical regulations



POLICY DIRECTION

Vision

To attain a conducive environment for sustainable agricultural production, marketing and agro-industry development in Namibia.

Mission

To promote, regulate, protect the sustainable development of the agriculture sector through stakeholder participation for the purpose of improving the socio-economic situation of the Namibian people.

Overall Goal

- To create a conducive environment for increased and sustained agriculture production and productivity
- To accelerate the agriculture sector contribution to National Growth Domestic Product
- To promote development of national agriculture sector across the value chain

POLICY OBJECTIVES

This Policy is formulated within the context of high level national policy documents in order to advance Namibia's overall economic development.

The overarching objectives for this policy are to:

- Accelerate the agricultural sector's contribution to the National Gross Domestic product (GDP)
- Create a conducive environment for increased and sustained agricultural production and productivity which is regionally and internationally competitive
- Create a common understanding among national and international stakeholders as well as investors, about the vision of the Government of the Republic of Namibia for the development of Namibia's agriculture sector and its downstream industries
- Create a framework that will enable streamlined efforts by all stakeholders in Namibia's agriculture sector and its downstream industries, towards common developmental goals
- Promote the development of the national agriculture sector across the value chain
- Serve as a basis for drafting new as well as aligning existing legislation



AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for agricultural production in Namibia:

- 1.1 To increase agricultural production and productivity
- 1.2 To promote investment in agricultural production
- 1.3 To promote skills development in agricultural production
- 1.4 To improve the quality of agriculture products
- 1.5 To promote food safety
- 1.6 To maintain and improve animal and plant health
- 1.7 To control and reduce the effect of pests when they occur
- 1.8 To promote agro-forestry
- 1.9 To develop and diversify agricultural production
- 1.10 To promote agricultural research and adaptation of appropriate technology
- 1.11 To support stakeholders in developing their capacity to be able to meet national and export market agriculture standards as well as other technical requirements
- 1.12 To promote the sustainable utilization of resources for agricultural production To contribute and support disaster preparedness
- 1.13 To contribute towards improved food and nutrition security at household and national levels
- 1.14 To contribute towards the attainment of food self-sufficiency
- 1.15 To increase income from agricultural production at household and national levels
- 1.16 To safeguard the sustainable existence of Namibia's agricultural sector

2. Policy Statements

In order to meet the set objectives, the Government of the Republic of Namibia is committed to the following statements of intent for Namibia's agriculture production:

2.1 Crop Production

In order to strengthen and support the sustainable development and existence of Namibia's crop sub-sector, Government shall:

- 2.1.1 Actively promote the sustainable utilization of available resources for crop production to realize the country's full crop production potential and ensure food security at national and household levels
- 2.1.2 Promote self-sufficient in staple crop production
- 2.1.3 Promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) in crop production to ensure production of safe and quality products



- 2.1.4 Promote the sustainable existence of Namibia's crop production
- 2.1.5 Provide different forms of support to eligible crop farmers in the country
- 2.1.6 Support the development of programmes aimed at improving productivity of arable land
- 2.1.7 Promote agriculture mechanization and adaptation of appropriate biotechnologies
- 2.1.8 Promote organic crop production and certification
- 2.1.9 Regulate the production, importation and use of genetically modified crops in Namibia
- 2.1.10 Promote combating and eradication of pests with social-economic impact
- 2.1.11 Promote food safety at production level
- 2.1.12 Promote crop diversification
- 2.1.13 Promote agro-forestry
- 2.1.14 Regulate the use of arable land for non-food crops production
- 2.1.15 Increase public investment in crop production
- 2.1.16 Increase investment into human resources development in the area of agriculture specialization
- 2.1.17 Maintain, improve, broaden agronomic price support mechanisms
- 2.1.18 Develop and promote the sustainable crop production system
- 2.1.19 Promote the use of integrated pest management system

2.2 Livestock Production

In order to strengthen and support the sustainable development and existence of Namibia's livestock sub-sector, Government shall:

- 2.2.1 Actively promote optimal utilization of available resources for livestock production to realize the country's full livestock production potential
- 2.2.2 Promote the sustainable existence of Namibia's livestock production
- 2.2.3 Adequately provide veterinary diagnostic services in Namibia
- 2.2.4 Provide different forms of support to eligible livestock farmers in the country
- 2.2.5 Develop and promote programmes aimed at improving the productivity of rangeland
- 2.2.6 Promote the adoption of appropriate technology and adaptation of new technologies
- 2.2.7 Promote the production of quality livestock
- 2.2.8 Promote free-range livestock production
- 2.2.9 Promote combating and eradication of parasites with social-economic impact
- 2.2.10 Promote the diversification of livestock breeds
- 2.2.11 Conserve and promote the use of indigenous, hardy and well adapted genetic materials
- 2.2.12 Regulate the importation and exportation of livestock breeding material
- 2.2.13 Promote the adaptation of exotic breeding materials
- 2.2.14 Promote good animal husbandry practices and animal welfare
- 2.2.15 Promote food safety
- 2.2.16 Regulate the breeding, importation and use of GMOs, LMOs and products derived thereof
- 2.2.17 Regulate the use of growth stimulants and growth hormones in livestock production
- 2.2.18 Regulate the use of fodder and supplements derived from GMOs and LMOs
- 2.2.19 Promote and conserve diverse livestock genetic pool
- 2.2.20 Regulate residue levels in livestock products
- 2.2.21 Promote organic livestock production and certification



2.3 Plant and Animal Health

In order to promote plant and animal health in Namibia, Government shall:

- 2.3.1 Safeguard the health of plants and livestock produced in Namibia
- 2.3.2 Strengthen veterinary diagnostic capacity
- 2.3.3 Monitor the occurrence of pests with social-economic impact
- 2.3.4 Improve the animal health status north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence
- 2.3.5 Provide different forms of support to eligible farmers in the promotion of animal and plant health
- 2.3.6 Promote the adoption of new and adaptation of existing appropriate technologies for the promotion of improved animal and plant health
- 2.3.7 Provide veterinary public health services
- 2.3.8 Provide registration services of plant product and agro-chemical
- 2.3.9 Provide certification services of plant and plant products destined for export markets
- 2.3.10 Control import and export of animal and animal products as well as plant and plant products
- 2.3.11 Provide inspection services for animal disease surveillance and on-farm feed establishment
- 2.3.12 Meet our disease notification obligations under international arrangements
- 2.3.13 Promote the control and eradication of trans boundary animal diseases in Namibia
- 2.3.14 Improve and protect animal health status in Namibia

3. Strategies

3.1 Crop Production

In order to implement the stated policies on crop production, Government shall:

- 3.1.1 Expand the Green Scheme Programme under which it will develop irrigable land along perennial rivers and large dams and other sustainable water sources
- 3.1.2 Implement conservation agriculture programme
- 3.1.3 Implement the Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP) and support farmers through the provision of subsidized fertilizer, improved seeds as well as weeding and ploughing services
- 3.1.4 Expand extension services and capacitate extension personnel in order to bring services closer to crop farming communities
- 3.1.5 Implement and support the Horticultural Development Programme
- 3.1.6 Support research for soil fertility enhancement technologies
- 3.1.7 Develop ATCs and continue to import and adapt the latest production technologies to Namibian conditions
- 3.1.8 Promote the adoption of new and appropriate technologies through extension services and encourage farmers to make use of such technologies
- 3.1.9 Intensify crop production training programme for farmers at the ADCs with special emphasis on GAP in order to ensure production of safe and quality food
- 3.1.10 Implement pest management programs
- 3.1.11 Develop instruments to regulate the production and importation of GMO crops and related products
- 3.1.12 Enforce soil conservation through implementation of the Soil Conservation Legislation
- 3.1.13 Enforce and ensure utilization of policy instruments at national, regional and multilateral level in order to promote the sustainable existence of Namibia's crop production



- 3.1.14 Design and implement support programmes for various categories of crop farmers
- 3.1.15 Implement and continuously improve programs aimed at improving the productivity of arable land
- 3.1.16 Develop and implement targeted programmes to support organic production and certification
- 3.1.17 Regulate levels of residues in crops
- 3.1.18 Encourage farmers to diversify crop production
- 3.1.19 Identify and introduce new crop varieties
- 3.1.20 Develop and implement an agro-forestry promotion programme
- 3.1.21 Develop and implement regulations for use of agricultural land
- 3.1.22 Protect and promote the conservation of indigenous plants and genetic materials through intellectual property rights
- 3.1.23 Maintain an environment that is conducive for investment by the private sector in crop production
- 3.1.24 Promote fodder production
- 3.1.25 Promote local fertilizer production
- 3.1.26 Establish irrigation scheme targeting fodder production

3.2 Livestock Production

In order to implement the stated policies on livestock production, Government shall:

- 3.2.1 Implement the National Rangeland Management Policy and Strategy
- 3.2.2 Strengthen the capacity for rangeland/pasture science research and rangeland management monitoring, so as to assist and guide farmers accordingly
- 3.2.3 Diversify breeding materials through the livestock research stations, livestock development centers and private breeders
- 3.2.4 Increase the number of farmers that benefit from quality breeding materials originating from breeding stations, livestock development centers and private breeders
- 3.2.5 Strengthen the outreach of programs such as extension and veterinary services in order to support livestock production
- 3.2.6 Develop and implement appropriate incentives to encourage the application of appropriate production enhancing technologies
- 3.2.7 Equip and operationalize laboratories in order to detect the presence of LMOs in livestock
- 3.2.8 Protect and promote the conservation of indigenous breeding materials through appropriate legislation
- 3.2.9 Promote the development of feedlots in areas where they are economically viable
- 3.2.10 Promote the use of livestock breeds that can adapt to the local climatic conditions
- 3.2.11 Encourage the production of fodder within the country
- 3.2.12 Enforce and ensure utilization of policy instruments at national, regional and multilateral level in order to promote the sustainable existence of Namibia's livestock production
- 3.2.13 Design and implement support programmes for various categories of livestock farmers
- 3.2.14 Promote the implementation of Farm Assured Namibia (FAN) Meat Scheme as a national marketing and trade tool
- 3.2.15 Develop and implement livestock trade regulations
- 3.2.16 Continue to promote the implementation of good animal husbandry practices
- 3.2.17 Legislate the exportation and importation of breeding materials
- 3.2.18 Prohibit the use of growth stimulants and growth hormones in livestock production
- 3.2.19 Legislate the use of fodder and supplements containing GMOs and LMOs
- 3.2.20 Establish embryo and sperm banks in order to conserve and preserve our quality indigenous and exotic livestock breeding material



3.2.21 Foster the implementation of the national drought policy and strategy

3.3 Plant and Animal Health

In order to implement the stated policies on plant and animal health, Government shall:

- 3.3.1 Enhance the sensitivity of the animal disease surveillance network for early detection and rapid response through increased human resources, infrastructure development and the implementation of animal identification and traceability
- 3.3.2 Enhance the research capacity for improving animal and plant health in the country
- 3.3.3 Expand provision of public veterinary services to include local abattoirs, butcheries and slaughter houses
- 3.3.4 Enhance the rapid response capability through the development of contingency plans and allocation of appropriate resources
- 3.3.5 Develop local and regional institutional framework and veterinary infrastructure to bring services closer to the animal producers
- 3.3.6 Cooperate and strengthen the framework for surveillance and the control of trade related TADs
- 3.3.7 Prevent and control animal disease outbreaks through vaccinations, animal movement control and training of farmers
- 3.3.8 Expand the capacity in the country to provide veterinary diagnostic services
- 3.3.9 Develop and implement the animal welfare policy and legislation
- 3.3.10 Provide registration services of plant product and agro-chemical
- 3.3.11 Provide certification services of plant and plant products destined for domestic and export markets
- 3.3.12 Provide inspection services for on-farm feed establishments
- 3.3.13 Establish a functional national plant protection organization
- 3.3.14 Establish and strengthen plant, pest and disease surveillance programs
- 3.3.15 Establish and safeguard pest-free areas (PFAs)
- 3.3.16 Implement programmes aimed at safeguarding pest-free areas
- 3.3.17 Strengthen border controls in order to prevent the introduction and spreading of pests and diseases threatening Namibian agriculture
- 3.3.18 Continue to cooperate at regional and multilateral levels to safeguard plant health
- 3.3.19 Build human and infrastructure capacity in the area of plant health
- 3.3.20 Eradicate pests and diseases in crop production areas which are excluded from export markets due to prevalence of such pests and diseases
- 3.3.21 Support strategies to attain freedom from FMD and CBPP
- 3.3.22 Promote regional standards to conform with OIE guidelines



AGRO-INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for agro-industry development in Namibia:

- 1.1 To create a conducive environment for agro-industry development
- 1.2 To promote investment in agro-industries
- 1.3 To promote the sustainable existence of Namibia's agro-industries
- 1.4 To build the ability of Namibia's agro-industries to compete sustainably
- 1.5 To promote skills development in agro-processing
- 1.6 To promote hygiene, food safety, product safety and food nutrition
- 1.7 To promote compliance to relevant national and international standards
- 1.8 To promote product development and diversification
- 1.9 To maximize benefits derived from value addition to primary agricultural produces
- 1.10 To promote the importance of food nutrition for all the Namibia people
- 1.11 Expand the Green Scheme Programme

2. Policy Statements

2.1 Agro-industry

In order to ensure the sustainable development and existence of Namibia's agro-industry, Government shall:

- 2.1.1 Encourage PPP in agro-industrial development
- 2.1.2 Promote investment in order to sustain the existence of Namibia's agro-industry
- 2.1.3 Promote product development and diversification in the agro-industry
- 2.1.4 Promote quality assurance in the agro-industry
- 2.1.5 Promote development of technical skills in the agro-industry
- 2.1.6 Promote the adoption of appropriate technology and adaptation of new technologies
- 2.1.7 Regulate processing of agricultural produce into non-food items
- 2.1.8 Improve incentives for private sector participation
- 2.1.9 Promote PPP as well as joint-venture partnerships between local and foreign investors

2.2 Food and Product Safety

In order to contribute to food and product safety, Government shall:

- 2.2.1 Promote food safety in agro-industries
- 2.2.2 Promote the development, adoption and enforcement of standards for Namibia's agro-industrial products
- 2.2.3 Promote compliance by agro-industries to national food processing and food safety standards and requirement



- 2.2.4 Oblige compliance with the WTO and regional treaties' SPS measures in order to facilitate international trade
- 2.2.5 Regulate levels of residues in food and products of agricultural origin
- 2.2.6 Ensure cooperation and coordination amongst all agencies responsible for agricultural food safety in Namibia, in order to guarantee that all food and products produced, processed and distributed in Namibia is safe for human consumption
- 2.2.7 Promote public understanding of good nutrition in order to improve the health and well-being of Namibians, and reduce the preventable burden of diet-related illness, disability and death
- 2.2.8 Promote dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of Namibian consumers
- 2.2.9 To monitor food and nutrition situation in the Republic of Namibia
- 2.2.10 To facilitate the cooperation and coordination amongst all agencies responsible for food nutrition in Namibia, in order to guarantee that all food produced, processed and distributed in Namibia are of good nutrition

3 Strategies

In order to implement the stated policies on agro-industry development, Government shall:

- 3.1 Formulate the Agro-business Policy and Strategy
- 3.2 Develop and implement the Agro-business Entrepreneurship Development Programme
- 3.3 Promote Public-Private Partnerships and Joint Ventures in the development of agro-business sector
- 3.4 Develop and implement programmes that provide incentives for Agri-business development
- 3.5 Support initiatives towards value addition in the agro- industry
- 3.6 Develop and implement a domestic food safety system
- 3.7 Acquire, adapt and adopt appropriate agro-processing technologies
- 3.8 Upgrade and equip state agricultural laboratories for the testing of agricultural products
- 3.9 Establish the plant and animal border inspection centers to ensure that imported agricultural products are of required standards and quality
- 3.10 Develop food laws, standards and regulations in order to guarantee the safety of agro-industrial products
- 3.11 Identify data to be recorded to ensure agricultural product traceability
- 3.12 Implement and promote the application of Good Health Practices (GHP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) as important steps in reducing possible hazards associated with the produce throughout the food supply chain in order to ensure food safety and quality standards
- 3.13 Implement adequate training programs at all levels of the food production chain in order to ensure that personnel involved in food handling have adequate knowledge and competency to undertake such tasks
- 3.14 Provide bulk agriculture storage, marketing and processing infrastructure through state agencies
- 3.15 Conduct independent food and product safety risk analysis in order to prevent, eliminate and minimize potential risk to consumers
- 3.16 Offer GMO detection services
- 3.17 Apply the precautionary principle where there is lack of scientific evidence on the safety of novel foods as outlined in Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety
- 3.18 Ensure that a national food safety certification/audit programme for food business operators is in place and functional



- 3.19 Ensure the registration of agricultural and veterinary chemicals
- 3.20 Implement quality assurance schemes for food, feed and products
- 3.21 Consult and cooperate with line ministries and other stakeholders responsible for food safety and quality assurance as well as related matters in order to avoid overlapping of functions through the National SPS and Food Safety Committee responsible for food and product safety and quality assurance
- 3.22 Ensure that food business operators take responsibility for the safety of the food and animal feed produced, transported, stored or sold in the country
- 3.23 Promote One health approach to food safety



AGRICULTURE MARKETING AND TRADE

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for agricultural marketing and trade in Namibia:

- 1.1 Promote marketing and trade of Namibian originating primary and processed agricultural products
- 1.2 Promote marketing and trade of a diverse range of primary and processed agricultural products
- 1.3 Promote marketing of livestock and livestock products from the NCAs
- 1.4 Promote skills development in agricultural marketing and trade matters
- 1.5 Promote agricultural market research and development
- 1.6 Promote the utilization and accessibility of agriculture market related information
- 1.7 Broaden the international market base
- 1.8 Promote the development of a transparent domestic marketing system
- 1.9 Increase the share of Namibian originating agricultural produce in the domestic market
- 1.10 Improve international market access for Namibian originating primary and processed agricultural products
- 1.11 Promote consumption of domestic agricultural products
- 1.12 Enhance the utilization and market share of Namibia's existing and new export markets
- 1.13 Promote full utilization of benefits contained in the various Preferential Trade Agreements that Namibia is party to
- 1.14 Improve the competitiveness of Namibia's agricultural products in local and international markets

2. Policy Statements

2.1 Domestic Marketing

In order to ensure the sustainable development and existence of Namibia's domestic market, Government shall:

- 2.1.1 Promote the optimal utilization of the domestic market for Namibian products
- 2.1.2 Develop, promote, maintain and improve sanitary and phyto-sanitary requirements
- 2.1.3 Encourage compliance to production quality, packaging and labeling
- 2.1.4 Promote consumption of locally produced primary agricultural and processed agricultural products
- 2.1.5 Strive to ensure that local standards conform to international standards
- 2.1.6 Promote the integration of the informal market into the mainstream economy
- 2.1.7 Promote equitable distribution of benefits across the value chain
- 2.1.8 Develop a responsive and transparent domestic marketing system for primary agricultural and processed agricultural products
- 2.1.9 Promote a transparent, efficient and effective domestic marketing system for crops, livestock and products thereof
- 2.1.10 Encourage branding



2.2 Agriculture Trade

In order to ensure the sustainable trade of Namibia's primary agricultural and processed agricultural products, Government shall:

- 2.2.1 Pro-actively promote a fair share for Namibian originating agricultural and agro-industrial products in the international markets
- 2.2.2 Promote competitive sourcing of production inputs, for primary agricultural and processed agricultural products
- 2.2.3 Advocate for the maintenance and improvement of the provisions of regional, bi-lateral and multilateral trade agreements that grant special and differential treatment to developing countries
- 2.2.4 Maintain and diversify export markets for Namibian originating primary and processed agricultural products
- 2.2.5 Enforce the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) and National Treatment on imported primary and processed agricultural products
- 2.2.6 Promote the competitiveness of Namibia's primary and processed agricultural products in the domestic and export markets
- 2.2.7 Promote domestic and international market access for agricultural produce originating in Namibia's communal areas
- 2.2.8 Pro-actively implement SPS arrangements for viable markets identified
- 2.2.9 Encourage branding
- 2.2.10 Regulate residues in agricultural products
- 2.2.11 Promote intra-SADC as well as continental trade

3. Strategies

In order to implement the stated policies on agricultural marketing and trade, Government shall:

- 3.1 Promote the Implementation of the Namibian Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy
- 3.2 Continue promoting compliance to standards and quality of primary agricultural and processed agricultural products
- 3.3 Continue to promote and implement the Market Share Promotion scheme
- 3.4 Conduct conformity assessment exercises
- 3.5 Implement legislative and other institutional requirements consistent with regional and international agreements
- 3.6 Promote and develop the domestic marketing infrastructure for the agricultural sector and its downstream industries
- 3.7 Promote the sourcing of inputs at competitive prices for agricultural enterprises
- 3.8 Promote market diversification for Namibia's agricultural products by promoting favorable bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements that respond to domestic conditions and challenges
- 3.9 Improve market analysis and research capacity
- 3.10 Promote the development and improvement of agricultural and agro-industry supply chains and logistics
- 3.11 Seek additional markets for livestock products originating from north of the VCF
- 3.12 Ensure that Namibia's agricultural produce and products claim a fair share of the domestic market through the promotion of domestic marketing strategies
- 3.13 Ensure that Namibia's agricultural produce and products claim a share of the international market through the promotion of domestic products
- 2.2.12 Promote Commodity Based Trade (CBT) approach in Zambezi region
- 2.2.13 Intensify agriculture production for export in order to enhance the balance of trade without neglecting production for national consumption



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Specific Objectives

Considering the status quo and aspirations for the future of agricultural research and development in Namibia, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for agricultural research and development in the country:

- 1.1 To conduct research which is responsive to producers' and consumers' needs, including enhancing productivity, diversification and sustainability of agricultural production
- 1.2 To produce improved and well adapted crop and livestock genetic material
- 1.3 To develop methods and strategies for sustainable rangeland and management practices
- 1.4 To assess and manage the risks and benefits associated with the use of genetic engineering technologies, other biotechnologies and agricultural chemicals, in collaboration with the respective competent authorities
- 1.5 To develop appropriate laboratories testing procedures that meet international standards
- 1.6 To construct new and upgrade existing laboratories in order to ensure conformity to international standards
- 1.7 To promote increased investment in agricultural research and development
- 1.8 To research and develop appropriate technologies in agriculture
- 1.9 To avail agricultural research information

2. Policy Statements

In order to ensure the sustainable research and development in Namibia's agriculture and agro-processing sectors, Government shall:

- 2.1 Promote existing and develop new crop varieties and livestock breeds in order to adapt to ever changing climatic conditions
- 2.2 Promote the adaptation of exotic genetic materials
- 2.3 Produce and multiply breeders' and foundation seeds
- 2.4 Strengthen and equip researchers with sufficient and appropriate plant and livestock research skills and knowledge
- 2.5 Preserve plant and animal breeding material
- 2.6 Adapt and develop appropriate technologies
- 2.7 Preserve the indigenous, hardy and well adapted breeds, genetic materials and crop varieties
- 2.8 Test, compare and recommend appropriate breeding methods
- 2.9 Promote research on, and the introduction of new crop varieties and animal breed suitable to Namibia's climatic conditions



3. Strategies

In order to implement the stated policies on research and development, Government shall:

- 3.1 Avail funds and develop programmes to promote innovation and research on appropriate technologies
- 3.2 Seek accreditation for state laboratories to become referral laboratories
- 3.3 Reduce turnaround time for sample testing
- 3.4 Promote the participation of more farmers and seed cooperatives in order to ensure adequate seed production
- 3.5 Disseminate research findings through publications, farmers days and scientific conferences
- 3.6 Capacitate laboratory staff and researchers through training on a continuous basis
- 3.7 Develop modern laboratory and seek accreditation through affiliation to regional and international standard accreditation bodies
- 3.8 Establish, equip and operationalize Agricultural Technology Centers to develop and ensure access to technology
- 3.9 Enter into PPP agreements with expert organization which will conduct research and training into these new technologies
- 3.10 Create effective awareness in order to ensure adoption of technology
- 3.11 Ensure annual appropriation of funds for technology development and implementation of e-governance
- 3.12 Strengthen research and develop capacity on appropriate technology
- 3.13 Implement livestock breeding schemes and other related programs
- 3.14 Capacitate farmers on sustainable livestock and crop production through mentorship programmes
- 3.15 Develop and promote improved and well adapted livestock breeds to the farming community in order to increase returns on investment
- 3.16 Promote the conservation of the genetic pool through amongst others: gene banks, sperm banks and embryo banks
- 3.17 Introduce new crop varieties that will adapt to local conditions through research stations
- 3.18 Expand its research capacity and utilize its research and laboratory facilities to develop high yielding, drought tolerant, local climate adapted and pest resistant crops
- 3.19 Expand plant breeding and seed multiplication centers
- 3.20 Encourage need driven research
- 3.21 Develop research database for agriculture
- 3.22 Train more professionals for the agriculture sector
- 3.23 Promote professional career path in research



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for international cooperation:

- 1.1 Take full advantage of development cooperation opportunities and benefits in the agriculture sector offered by international economic cooperation agreements
- 1.2 Ensure compliance to agriculture related international commitments
- 1.3 Explore new economic cooperation opportunities with third parties in the agriculture sector

2. Policy Statements

In order to ensure realization of maximum benefits to agriculture from international cooperation agreements, Government shall:

- 2.1 Promote cooperation in the fields of agriculture, water and forestry at an international level
- 2.2 Continue to seek and strengthen relations with bilateral, regional and multilateral institutions that are involved in agriculture
- 2.3 Support the implementation of existing and new agreements in the field of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in order to ensure that Namibia derives maximum benefits from her membership to international institutions and from agreements with its sister Governments

3. Strategies

In order to implement the stated policies on international cooperation Government shall:

- 3.1 Initiate and ensure the implementation of all bilateral, regional, and multilateral agreements related to the agriculture sector by meeting all Namibia's obligations while taking maximum advantage of benefits offered under these agreements
- 3.2 Create a central repository of all international agreements that are related to agriculture, water and forestry
- 3.3 Monitor and evaluate Namibia's conformity to her international obligations under bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and conventions



AGRICULTURE TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for agricultural training and capacity building in Namibia:

- 1.1 To capacitate farmers with knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to improve agricultural production and productivity
- 1.2 To support and facilitate capacity building for processors and manufacturers in the agro-industry sector
- 1.3 To support and facilitate capacity building in the marketing of agricultural produce and agro-industrial products
- 1.4 To ensure a pool of trained professional and technical cadres within the sector in order to promote agricultural development

2. Policy Statements

In order to ensure training and capacity building in agriculture production, marketing and agro-industry, Government shall:

- 2.1 Establish human capital needs within the agriculture sector across the value chain
- 2.2 Avail resources for capacity building and skills development
- 2.3 Collaborate with private and public institutions as well as development partners that are supporting training and skills development in the agriculture, water, forestry and agro-processing sectors
- 2.4 Support and facilitate the provision of targeted training to small-scale, emerging and resettled farmers as well as to operators of state-owned agriculture production and marketing facilities

3. Strategies

In order to implement the stated policies on agricultural training and capacity building, Government shall:

- 3.1 Carry out human capital needs assessment within the agriculture sector across the value chain
- 3.2 Cooperate with Namibian tertiary and vocational education institutions in developing appropriate curricula which are responsive to the need of the agriculture sector
- 3.3 Promote and encourage capacity building and skills development for the sector
- 3.4 Carry out targeted training programmes to impart agro-business skills and technology to women in agriculture and other vulnerable farming households
- 3.5 Ensure participation of the agricultural sector in the development of the curricula
- 3.6 Develop business management skills amongst farmers with special emphasis on financial management
- 3.7 Promote the transfer of project management and technical skills as well as technology required for the implementation of its development projects to previously disadvantaged Namibians through joint ventures and partnerships
- 3.8 Develop training programmes on sustainable land utilization
- 3.9 Provide support services to resettled farmers to ensure continued productivity of the land
- 3.10 Carry out a coordinated career path development programmes for agriculture managers
- 3.11 Ensure proper coordination of training programs and capacity building



AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

1. Specific Objectives

The Government has set the following objectives for agriculture information systems:

- 1.1 To provide quality data on agriculture, water and forestry for planning and decision making purposes to public and private institutions
- 1.2 To manage, improve and maintain agriculture management information system
- 1.3 To promote skills development in agricultural statistic and ICT
- 1.4 To integrate different data bases

2. Policy Statements

In order to ensure the effective and efficient management and dissemination of agricultural information in Namibia, Government shall:

- 2.1 Maintain an up-to-date agriculture management information system
- 2.2 Avail information to public and private sector for decision making
- 2.3 Strengthen institutional and data management infrastructure capacity
- 2.4 Develop guidelines for proper management of agricultural data and information
- 2.5 Establish a coordinated and synergized sector information system

3. Strategies

In order to implement the policies on agricultural management information system, Government shall:

- 3.1 Design structured systematic process for the collection of data and dissemination of agricultural information
- 3.2 Collaborate with NSA in conducting agricultural census, annual agricultural surveys and other specialized agricultural surveys
- 3.3 Enhance the corroboration between NSA and all stakeholders on collection and collation of agricultural data
- 3.4 Operationalize and strengthen the agricultural data user-producer forum
- 3.5 Maintain intra-ministerial data collection network
- 3.6 Enhance access to global trade database
- 3.7 Develop and maintain inventory and assessment of food processing facilities
- 3.8 Encourage institutional public outreach



AGRO-FINANCING

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for agro-finance in Namibia:

- 1.1 To facilitate and support the development of a comprehensive self-sustaining agro-financing scheme
- 1.2 To provide a diversified range of financial products targeting the needs of agri-businesses across the value chain
- 1.3 To provide targeted financial products to small-scale farmers to enhance their agricultural production and marketing

2. Policy Statements

In order to ensure the development of a self-sustainable agro-finance market in Namibia, Government shall:

- 2.1 Create a conducive environment for agro-financing in the agricultural sector at all levels and across the value chain

3. Strategies

In order to implement the stated policy on agro-finance, Government shall:

- 3.1 Develop a revolving agro-financing scheme that support activities across the value chain
- 3.2 Support the development and implementation of a comprehensive agro-financing scheme that would effectively provide a range of financial products targeting the needs of agriculture and agro-industry related businesses
- 3.3 Strengthen the understanding and expertise in agriculture amongst financiers
- 3.4 Explore ways to increase lending to the agriculture sector
- 3.5 Explore new alternative to collateral as well as alternative finance products
- 3.6 Develop support programmes that will ensure small scale farmers access to credit
- 3.7 Develop agricultural equipment schemes



CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for co-operative development in Namibia:

- 1.1 To create a conducive legal environment for the growth and development of the co-operative sector
- 1.2 To create awareness of the co-operative concept and promote co-operatives as a form of business
- 1.3 To facilitate access to finance for agricultural and non-agricultural co-operatives
- 1.4 To ensure compliance with the Co-operatives Act
- 1.5 To maintain up to date information on co-operatives
- 1.6 To facilitate improved networking with co-operatives, stakeholders and international support organizations

2. Policy Statements

In order to enhance the development of a vibrant co-operative sector in Namibia, Government shall:

- 2.1 Support co-operative development activities
- 2.2 Promote the establishment of co-operative businesses
- 2.3 Facilitate access to finance and markets for both agricultural and non-agricultural co-operatives products
- 2.4 Build business management capacity within co-operative businesses
- 2.5 Enforce compliance with the provisions of the Co-operatives Act by all co-operatives

3. Strategies

In order to implement the stated policies on cooperative development, Government shall:

- 3.1 Implement Cooperative Act 1996 (Act 23 of 1996) and Policy
- 3.2 Develop and implement a communication strategy for the co-operative sector
- 3.3 Facilitate participation of co-operatives at national and international fairs



AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

1. Specific Objectives

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has set the following objectives for extension services in Namibia:

- 1.1 To provide agriculture extension services in the form of communication, advisory and training to all producers
- 1.2 Provide agricultural services in form of advice, information dissemination and training
- 1.3 Identify technologies and training needs in all aspects of agriculture production
- 1.4 Promote the development, adaptation and adoption of appropriate crop and livestock technologies
- 1.5 To facilitate public private partnerships in extension services
- 1.6 To capacitate extension staff with necessary skills and continued Professional Development Program (CPD)

2. Policy Statements

In order to strengthen and support the sustainable development of extension services in Namibia, Government shall:

- 2.1 Spearhead transfer and adoption of technology in partnership with private partners
- 2.2 Coordinate efforts of stakeholders in the design and delivery of extension services
- 2.3 Encourage public and private extension services to complement each other in a cost effective manner
- 2.4 Continue capacitating farmers unions and associations

3. Strategies

In order to implement the policies on agricultural extension services, Government shall:

- 3.1 Provide targeted extension services
- 3.2 Provide specialized skills to extension staff
- 3.3 Create a platform for public private engagement on topical issues
- 3.4 Two tier approach towards the provision of extension services under which MAWF identifies a given number of motivated farmers (innovators) for mentoring and extension service while providing extension services to the remaining farmers (early adopters and laggard) through information days and on-farm visits



1. ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS

1.1 Government

- 1.1.1 It is the Government's function to create an enabling environment to develop, manage and sustainably utilize agricultural, water and forestry resources for socio-economic development and to encourage private sector investment.
- 1.1.2 Realizing the existing expansion potentials requires the Government to take a much more proactive approach to engaging with the private sector in development planning, implementation and management of development initiatives. This has two implications. Firstly, Government will become more directly involved in formulation and planning of large scale development initiatives with private sector. Secondly, Government will engage with the private sector in the management and implementation of development initiatives.
- 1.1.3 One essential objective of the Government in this regard is to remove price distortions in both input and output markets, and to promote effective competition in the market place. The Government will endeavour to reduce the risks inherent in agricultural investment through supporting technology generation, verification and transfer, as well as agricultural education and the provision of information services.

1.2 Agricultural Statutory Boards

- 1.2.1 Boards comprise of the expertise in their sectors. Agricultural statutory boards are mandated to promote their industries and special powers have been given to these boards to regulate the marketing of specific commodities. Due to the statutory powers given to the boards, there should be good cooperation between the Ministry and these boards. Therefore, the Ministry endeavors to maintain regular contacts and expects the boards to do the same. The boards are also expected to have long term goals to support Government policies and initiatives.

1.3 Non-Governmental Organizations

- 1.3.1 The Government fully recognizes the inherent capacities of NGOs, including community-based organizations, to serve as key actors in the agricultural development process. Such organizations can facilitate local initiatives, use indigenous recourses and technology, and mobilize rural people and community participation for sustained agricultural development. The Government will actively support the efforts of NGOs in agricultural development, and will assist them with policy led interventions, which will contribute to the achievement of national and local development objectives.



1.4 Institutions of Higher Learning

- 1.4.1 The Government recognizes the importance and the role of the institutes of higher learning in the agriculture sector. In the era of science and technology it is essential that the sector moves towards improved production practices. Faculties of agriculture as well as the Agriculture Training Centres will play the role of producing qualified graduates as well as providing training to farmers, extension officers and researchers.

1.5 Private Sector

- 1.5.1 The Government recognizes that it cannot implement all the agriculture programmes and projects alone and therefore recognizes the private sector as an essential stakeholder in implementing the 2015 Namibian Agriculture Policy. The Government will therefore provide a conducive environment through enactment of appropriate law and other provisions such that the private sector is able to carry out some of its roles. The roles of the private sector will be to fill the gaps that the Government is unable to fulfill due to limited capacity or lack of certain expertise. The private sector is to instill a sense responsibility towards the sector and contribute towards the objectives of the Government as portrayed in the National Development Plans as well as the country's long term vision; Vision 2030. The private sector is to commit towards job creation, training, skill transfer and investments along the whole agriculture value chain.

1.6 Cooperatives

- 1.6.1 The Government recognizes the role of agricultural cooperatives in the sector. The cooperatives movement is a crucial stakeholder, which will enable the Government to improve the livelihoods of mostly rural communities. Cooperatives will provide a platform for the Government to harness entrepreneurial and business management skills within the agricultural sector. Cooperatives will be in the forefront of providing and ensuring that farmers have a sense of ownership and responsibility.

2. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- 2.1 Stakeholders in the agriculture sector, developed the costed Sectoral Execution Plan for joint implementation of agriculture projects and programmes, as such stakeholders are expected to budget for their activities, projects and programmes that support agriculture development. In case of insufficient funds to implement the projects and programmes, stakeholders are encouraged to mobilize resources. Through formal channels, stakeholders are encouraged to mobilize resource and technical support from our development partners.

3. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION

3.1 Implementation of the Namibia Agriculture Policy

- 3.3.1 The implementation of this policy will take into account the laws and regulations affecting the utilization of natural resources and agricultural production. The Namibia Agriculture Policy objectives are geared towards the realization of the targets of Millennium Development Goals, Fourth National Development Plans and Vision 2030.



- 3.3.2 The implementation of the strategies under this policy is expected to be a concerted effort by a host of role players within the Government, private sector and civil society as well as with the support of the international cooperating partners, all under the coordination and supervision of the Ministry of Agricultural, Water and Forestry. The stakeholders are expected to supplement Government/policy strategies with the aim to attain the objectives of this Policy.
- 3.3.3 The Ministry is the main implementer of this Policy and will ensure that the strategies for implementation of the Policy are contained in documents such as Sectoral Execution Plans and Sector Strategic Plans among others.

3.2 Revision of Namibia Agriculture Policy

- 3.2.1 The Namibia Agriculture Policy should not be considered as a static document and therefore it should be revised to take into account new national priorities and circumstances.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM

- 4.1 The agriculture sector under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, like all other sectors have a responsibility to develop a five year Sectoral Execution Plan (SEP). The SEP is a plan developed by all stakeholders based on priority areas and strategies identified in the NDPs for the sector to address. The sector is also required to develop the Annual Sectoral Execution Plans (ASEPs). This is the plan that provides the breakdown of implementation of the SEP on an annual basis. It contains details of the programmes and projects along with a budget, as tools for implementation of the sector strategies on an annual timeframe. The Sectoral Execution Plan is by all measure a comprehensive implementation tool of the strategies of the Namibia Agriculture Policy and shall ipso facto be utilized in monitoring and evaluating the policy.
- 4.2 This policy shall be evaluated concurrently with the Annual Sectoral Execution Plans. It is a Cabinet decision for various line ministries to report on a bi-annual basis on the progress made in the implementation of the sectoral plans. These reports will not only include the physical and financial execution rates, but will also analyse the impact of the various strategies/activities on the sectoral targets, achievements of policy objectives and the overall national development goals. It is envisaged that Monitoring and Evaluation of this policy shall take place by way of these evaluation assessments, which shall be conducted every six months. The sector is expected to conduct a thorough evaluation of the policy after every 5 years prior to a review exercise of the policy.

5. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

- 5.1 The Namibia Agriculture Policy document is an important tool for guiding activities of all the players in the agriculture sector, namely Government, Farmers Unions, Associations, Parastatals, SOEs, Agricultural Boards, NGOs and the private sector amongst other stakeholders. It is thus imperative that the policy be communicated to all relevant players timeously for its effective and efficient implementation. This makes the communication strategy an integral part of the policy implementation process. The Communication Strategy serves to provide general and specific information on the revised policy, build the required partnerships between Government and civil society including local communities, indigenous people, the private sector and the general public.



- 5.2 On adoption of the policy, a national awareness campaign on the revised Namibia Agriculture Policy shall be launched on the broadcast media, both television and radio, print media in all the local languages in order to raise awareness on the existence of this important policy document. Ministries, Government agencies and offices at the central, regional as well as constituency level shall be provided with hard copies of the policy document. Academic institutions, National libraries, Community Libraries and Farmers Union, as well as other outreach partners shall also be availed with hard copies of the document for an extended reach to their members. Meanwhile the policy document shall be made available for download and viewing via the internet on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the National Planning Commission, Agricultural Boards, Agencies and more.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The agriculture sector has the potential to create employment through increased investment in production infrastructure as well as processing and value addition to primary products.
- 6.2 This Policy and its associated Strategies and Programmes are expected to contribute not only to the 5-year Sectoral Execution Plans, the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) but also to the supreme national goals, i.e. “Land is used appropriately and equitably, significantly contributing towards food security at household and national levels, and supporting the sustainable and equitable growth of Namibia’s economy, whilst maintaining and improving land capability” as stated under Vision 2030.
- 6.3 Although the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has the overall mandate with regard to the implementation of the Namibia Agriculture Policy, successful implementation of the Policy, its strategy and the achievement of its specific objectives will depend on the full involvement of all the role players in the various sub-sectors of agriculture.
- 6.4 The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry will, through this policy framework, provide an enabling environment for investors, farmers, producers, processors, financial institutions, traders and other sector stakeholders to carry out activities that would contribute to the achievement of national goals and objective.
- 6.5 The Namibia Agriculture Policy will be implemented under the full realization that climate change will impact negatively on agricultural production and productivity. The Agriculture Policy will, therefore, take cognizance of national and international protocols and conventions dealing with climate change and adaptation and will promote measures that ensure that agricultural production adapts to a changing environment.



NOTES





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