# Season's HARVEST

Issue No. 03

NAMIBIAN AGRONOMIC BOARD

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## Editor's Note


**Auguste Fabian**
Public Relations Officer


Dear reader, welcome to the 3rd edition of the "Season's Harvest", NAB's quarterly newsletter.

As the rainy season descends upon us, we can't help but appreciate the harvest of the past season and look forward to the upcoming season in anticipation of abundant rainfall and an even greater harvest.

In this edition, we share with you, some of the most notable agronomic and horticultural highlights, such as the bumper harvests recorded for wheat and white maize in the 2021 marketing season, which prove that Namibian producers are hard at work ensuring that the nation has enough staple food on the table, and ultimately a step closer to food self-sufficiency.

We also shed light on the Namibian floor price formulas for controlled grain products to further educate our stakeholders on the mechanisms employed in the setting of prices for Namibian grains.

Furthermore, the NAB Research subdivision continues to expand its scope for research across the value chain in order to inform and accelerate development within the agronomic and horticultural industry, as well as offering informed advisory services backed by scientific evidence. Hence, we are excited to share some of the findings from the various research projects currently being conducted in different parts of Namibia in collaboration with industry partners. The wheat research, which is aimed at accelerating the development of high-yielding wheat seed varieties that are adaptable to the Namibian climatic conditions, and the cowpea production research, as a responsive strategy to climate change, have yielded commendable results that are beneficial to the entire value chain. The detailed reports are also accessible on the NAB website for all our stakeholders.

The NAB will continue to support industry initiatives aimed at the betterment of the industry's performance and increasing food production. However, all Namibian consumers can contribute towards these initiatives by empowering local producers through buying the local produce on our shelves.

*Until the next edition, Happy reading!*

# CEO'S CORNER

Chief Executive Officer

**Dr. Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi (PhD)**

This year is a year of re-imagining and it is a critical year to the NAB's operations as we review our activities of quarter three and at the same time look forward for what is at stake in the 2022. The major highlight in quarter three talks straight to our newsletter's name, "season's harvest", as part of the marketing season for white maize grains and pearl millet grains. Thus, it is worthwhile to report that Namibia obtained its highest ever metric tonnes harvested for white maize grains during the 2021 marketing season. The 2021 harvesting and marketing season will always be remembered in the history of Namibia when it comes to white maize grains, for a record harvest of 90 580 MT, as well as a record harvest of wheat grains of 18 462 MT.

During the said marketing season, as the NAB we acknowledge the challenges that were faced in terms of the intake of grains from small-scale farmers, especially in the Zambezi region, since most grains were only brought to the market towards the end of the marketing season. Such practices not only affect the opening of the border for imports but the entire logistical process in terms of transportation from farms to millers. Quality factors were a serious consideration as this led to grains being downgraded to second grade due to insect infestations, moisture content, etc. What also came out clearly during this marketing season is the issue linked to illegal activities such as the smuggling of grains from Zambia to Namibia. This is assumed to have brought in distortions in the estimated total amount of grains expected from the Zambezi region at the beginning of the marketing season. These challenges are receiving attention to ensure accurate crop estimates and/or closer representations to the reality. This is being done while at the same time monitoring illegal practices in coordination with other border management agencies such as customs (NAMRA) and the Namibian Police as some of the efforts being implemented.

The NAB would therefore like to use this opportunity to appreciate the efforts made by our white maize and wheat producers in the journey to increase production and claiming a significant local market share of grains. Furthermore, success in the marketing season is owed to all grain processors / millers involved in the agronomy marketing process. Without millers' commitment, it would have been difficult for the grains to be absorbed into the market. This success only encourages the NAB to enhance compliance to the regulatory frameworks that are in place as a way of enabling the environment in promoting fair trading of grains in Namibia while at the same time ensuring food safety and standards. One way to enhance and improve our crops estimates is to get all producers to be registered and also for them to provide accurate information that allows us to make informed decisions when it comes to closing and opening borders for imports.

We therefore look forward to the outcomes of the current planting season and the upcoming marketing season for 2022. On this note, we wish our farmers abundant rainfall so that they can do what they do best, which is to produce grains that are safe and also meet the standards expectations for millers and in return improve the quality of life for our citizens through having access to affordable and safe grains.
The NAB remains committed to its aspiration of becoming a world class regulator of a vibrant, diversified and sustainable crop industry. I thank you.

# SPINACH ADDED TO THE SPECIAL CONTROLLED PRODUCT TO BOOST LOCAL SPINACH PRODUCTION

The Special Controlled Product (SCP) Scheme for horticulture, also known as the "MSP booster scheme", was established in 2012 to boost Market Share Promotion (MSP).

The scheme started with only two products, potato and onion. Today, the number of special controlled products has increased from two SCPs to 18 SCPs. The products under this scheme include potato, onion, cabbage, butternut, tomato, carrot, green pepper, coloured pepper, English cucumber, sweet potato, beetroot, gem squash, watermelon, sweet melon, pumpkin, sweetcorn, lettuce (iceberg), and the newly added SCP, spinach, effective from 01 January 2022.

The SCP scheme involves the identification of vegetable products that are in high consumer demand in the country and have the production capacity to satisfy the local demand. For a vegetable product to qualify for the SCP, the production of such a product is closely monitored by the NAB for a certain period of time to determine if the production trends justify the addition of this product to the SCP. Hence, spinach was part of the monitored crops for a long time and statistics shows that 95% of the spinach being locally sourced with only 5% being imported.

Currently, there are 14 registered spinach producers in the country, with the majority of producers farming in the central and KARST production zones. Therefore, the addition of spinach to the SCP scheme is aimed at encouraging spinach producers to increase local spinach production and consumption in Namibia. The production of the 18 SCPs is monitored and verified every month. In addition, a "close border" period is implemented whenever sufficient local production is expected.

The SCP scheme is implemented in line with the market share promotion scheme, a scheme that was introduced to stimulate the local production of horticultural products in Namibia, and as a growth at home strategy implemented by the NAB.

The SCP scheme classifies horticultural products to form part of inclusions and exclusions. All products under inclusions are not allowed to be imported during the 'close border' period and they are only imported when borders are open under special permits which are valid for a month. Products that are under the exclusion category are allowed to be imported with no restriction, and during the 'close border' period, they are imported as part of mixed fruits and also through acquiring a vegetable import permit which is valid for 90 days.

Therefore, the inclusion of spinach includes all types, grades, size groups, and container sizes of the fresh, chilled, whole, or cut spinach (i.e common cultivar forkhook Giant). The exclusions include baby spinach, coloured spinach, and all frozen and processed spinach groups (dried, cooked, preserved). Products that are mostly listed under exclusions are some spinach products that are not grown in Namibia.

In conclusion, the NAB would like to encourage local spinach producers to engage supermarkets that sell products under exclusion (i.e. coloured spinach, baby spinach) and initiate the production of these products to ensure that they form part of inclusions in the near future.

Spinach is a nutritional powerhouse, and the NAB would like to further encourage Namibian consumers to buy local spinach products and subsequently support local farmers.

# THE NAMIBIAN FLOOR PRICE FORMULAS FOR CONTROLLED GRAIN CROPS

**Loide Uahengo**
Manager: Agronomy Market Development

White maize, mahangu and wheat are staple crops for many Namibians and therefore, they bear important implications for poverty alleviation and the achievement of food security. These grain crops are currently gazetted as controlled agronomic crops, in line with the Agronomic Industry Act (AIA) 20 of 1992, and implemented by the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB).

Although the three crops are locally produced, large volumes are still imported to meet local demand, hence the market for locally produced grains is driven by registered millers who process grain into various value-added products. Each year, millers' and producers' representatives negotiate and agree on the principles of the grain marketing agreement and the reference price formula for determining a minimum floor price for the intake of local grains during the closed border period or marketing season. The marketing agreements for grains are implemented by the NAB as a developmental agenda that is aimed at providing a secured market for the Namibian grain farmers during the harvesting season, and to ensure that such grains are not marketed below the minimum price.

Based on the industry agreed price formula, the NAB determines grain floor prices during the marketing season. The floor price is the minimum selling price of locally produced grain to be paid to the farmer/ seller per tonne at the mill door or farm gate.

Consequently, a miller may offer a producer a higher price but producers and processors hardly negotiate for a high selling price than the minimum floor price.

The grain minimum floor price remains fixed during themarketing season, with the exception of white maize which staggers every fortnight to cover storage costs on the SAFEX component.

**White Maize Grade 1 (WM1)** Grain Floor Price Formula: The price for white maize is based on the Import Parity Price (IPP) and in this case, the South African Future Exchange (SAFEX) spot prices as Namibia mostly imports grain from South Africa. The IPP is the price at the border of a product/grain that is imported, which includes the actual (SAFEX) Spot Prices, plus the actual transport costs from Sannieshof in South Africa to Otavi in Namibia, plus the Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Free Premium as the Namibian produced maize is GMO free, plus the SAFEX Silo Premium and a portion of NAB import levies differential.

The white maize price formula is calculated based on the five-year average of the actual SAFEX spot price over the five years with the official inflation plus a fixed GMO-free premium on the SAFEX component of the reference price, plus the transport differential of the formula based on official road transport costs from Sannieshof in South Africa (outward differential) to Otavi, Namibia. This average is to ensure a more stable domestic/producer price in Namibia versus the potential fluctuating SAFEX price in South Africa.

The formula also includes a weighted average Silo Premium per tonne based on the Sannieshof premium which is added to the final reference price and a portion of white maize import levy that is calculated based on the total reference price.

Due to the implementation of a strict close border control period by the NAB, the calculation of the WM1 floor price based on the import parity price is to ensure that producers of white maize are not paid a lower price compared to the imported maize. In cases where the IPP is higher than the minimum floor price set by the NAB on the date of sale, the IPP, based on the SAFEX weighted average of the previous two weeks plus GMO free Premium, plus official transport costs from Sannieshof to Otavi, plus SAFEX silo premium and a portion of the import levies become the price of the day.

The floor price is the minimum price paid for the grain per tonne (N$/tonne) or per 20 bags weighing 50kgs and this price is a mill-door price. However, farm gate prices can also BE negotiated where transport costs of a maximum N$ 1.00 per tonne per kilometre is deducted from the reference price.

The marketing period for white maize starts from the 1st of May each year, and it is during this time when the floor price as determined by the NAB comes into effect.

During the open border period, the locally produced maize is sold at the price not less than the actual import parity price for GMO free grain. This is for grain that is harvested before and after the closed border period mainly from irrigation production.

**Pearl Millet (Mahangu) Grain Floor Price Formula:** Mahangu is produced locally, mainly by surplus producers in the communal areas. The minimum price for mahangu is calculated based on the production costs for inputs. Producers and processors of mahangu calculate the floor price for mahangu based on the production costs per hectare with an understanding that a producer can easily harvest one tonne per hectare. The formula only includes the variables that are significant in terms of producing mahangu at a commercial level.

As a result, the NAB determines the floor price per annum, based on the cost of inputs for a specific planting season. This is stipulated in the mahangu marketing agreement between organised processors/buyers and producers. The formula includes the commercial cost of production (basket of inputs) per hectare in which the data is collected from local input supplies for inputs such as: seeds (Okashana no. 2), fertilizer (2:3:2 (37) ZN + S {at AGRA Ltd, Grootfontein), equipment (disc, diesel, and chisel-diesel, maintenance and depreciation) labour (weeding, bird scaring, harvesting, planting, threshing and transport costs to the closest collection point), as well as levies to calculate the cost of producing mahangu per hectare under rain-fed production.

The production input costs are monitored and adjusted by the NAB annually on the 1st of October, with an inflation factor based on the increase/decrease of costs of the agreed inputs for the past 12 months. The floor price is the minimum price for grain calculated per tonne or 20 bags weighing 50kg each.

**Wheat Grain Floor Price Formula:** The floor price for wheat is calculated per tonne of wheat grain and as a mill door price.

The price formula is based on the combination of the import parity price which includes the SAFEX spot price and the import parity for Free On Board (FOB) Hard Rate Wheat (HRW) from the United States of America (US) , mainly because Namibia imports 90% of wheat from South Africa and other international markets.

Furthermore, the price formula has two components, which comprise of a combination of 30% and 70% of the calculation.

**Component one** of the formula is a combination of the 30% of the five-year SAFEX spot price average, plus the transport differential from Upington, South Africa, and landing it in Windhoek, Namibia, and 70% of the five-year average (inflation adjusted) FOB HRW import parity price from the US and the Rand/US$ exchange (inflation adjusted), plus railway transportation, and harbour costs and freight cost via Walvis Bay and landed in Windhoek plus SACU tariffs.

**Component two** of the formula is a combination of 30% of the SAFEX average calculated on the actual SAFEX spot price for the month of October, calculated from 1 to 31 October, plus the transport costs differential via Upington, South Africa to Windhoek, and 70% of the average FOB HRW IPP from the US, as well as the Rand/US$ exchange for October, plus the transport costs via Walvisbay and landed in Windhoek, plus the SACU tariffs.

Once the calculation is completed for component one and two on the 31st of October, the highest between the 5-year average and the October weighted average will be the fixed price from 1 November until 31 January of the following year.

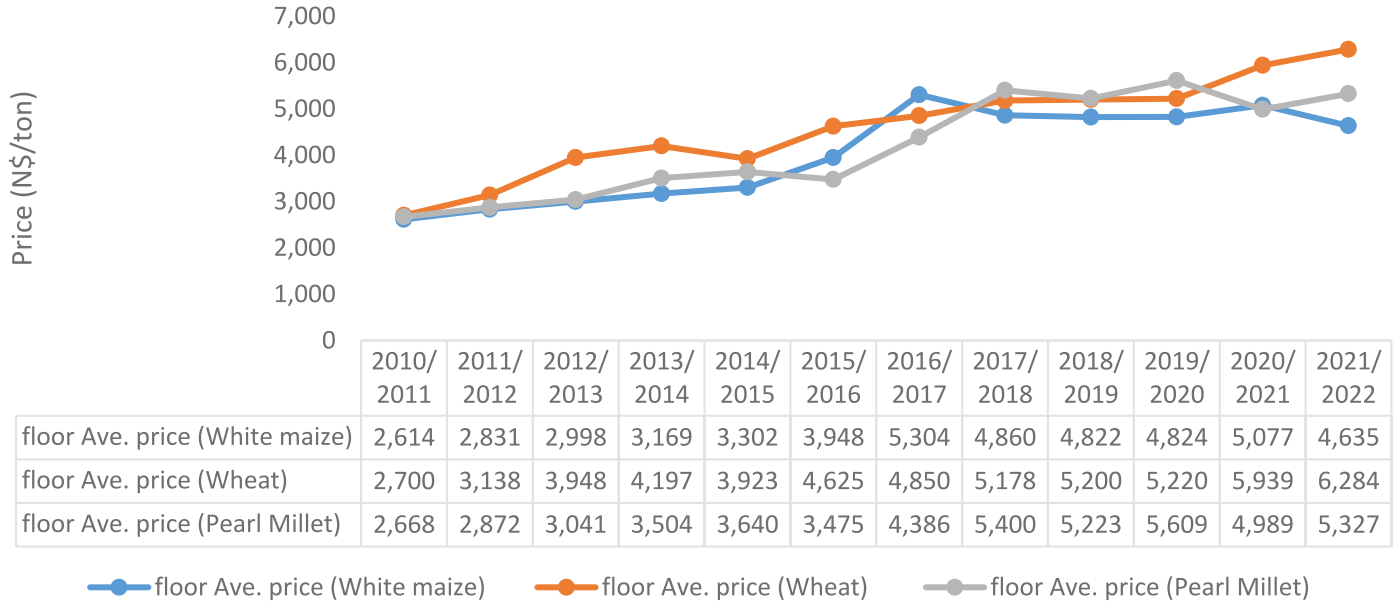
The graph on page 6 illustrates the trends of grain prices in Namibia and it highlights an upward trend over the past 12 years, thus indicating a sharp increase in the price of wheat and mahangu during the past three years.

The price for white maize shows a decline during the 2021 marketing season due to the decline in the SAFEX spot price experienced in the previous two years.

The increase in the price of mahangu last year was due to the increase in the production cost of inputs such as fuel and the price of fertilizer.

In conclusion, the NAB as a regulatory body is empowered by the Agronomy Industry Act no 20 of 1992, to implement the marketing agreements signed between organised producers and millers.

## Grain domestic floor price per tonne for the period 2010 to 2022 FY




| | 2010/2011 | 2011/2012 | 2012/2013 | 2013/2014 | 2014/2015 | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 | 2019/2020 | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| floor Ave. price (White maize) | 2,614 | 2,831 | 2,998 | 3,169 | 3,302 | 3,948 | 5,304 | 4,860 | 4,822 | 4,824 | 5,077 | 4,635 |
| floor Ave. price (Wheat) | 2,700 | 3,138 | 3,948 | 4,197 | 3,923 | 4,625 | 4,850 | 5,178 | 5,200 | 5,220 | 5,939 | 6,284 |
| floor Ave. price (Pearl Millet) | 2,668 | 2,872 | 3,041 | 3,504 | 3,640 | 3,475 | 4,386 | 5,400 | 5,223 | 5,609 | 4,989 | 5,327 |

*Fig. 1: The floor price trend for white maize, wheat and pearl millet grains*

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## CALL FOR REGISTRATION OF THE EXPECTED WHITE MAIZE HARVEST TO BE MARKETED IN THE 2022 SEASON

NAMIBIAN AGRONOMIC BOARD

In line with Section 10 (k), (ii) of the Agronomic Industry Act, 20 of 1992, the NAB is mandated to obtain specified information from any person/s engaged in the production, processing, marketing, preservation and/or storage of controlled products.

Therefore, to efficiently and effectively facilitate the marketing of locally produced white maize grain, the NAB hereby invites all farmers who intend to market maize grain to registered processors/silos during the upcoming 2022 marketing season, to register their expected harvest with the NAB. The commencement and deadlines for the registration of the expected harvest to be marketed are as follows:

| | Commencement of registration | Deadline for registration |
|---|---|---|
| **Irrigated Production** | 01 February 2022 | 15 March 2022 |
| **Rainfed Production** | 15 March 2022 | 30 April 2022 |

The NAB will conduct field verifications in some production zones to ensure the accuracy of the expected production data collected. All maize grain farmers with limited access to internet connectivity are advised to register their expected harvest at the nearest Agricultural Development Centers (ADCs), where they will be assisted by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Directorate of Agricultural Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES).

During the expected harvest registration process at the ADCs, maize farmers are expected to provide the following vital information and documents:

**1.** Any proof of identification (original or certified copy of ID, Birth Certificate, Letter from the Traditional Authority, Land Lease or company registration certificate).
**2.** Complete the Expected Grain Production Data Collection Form; indicate the estimated hectares planted, tonnage / no of bags to be marketed and expected harvesting date.

Maize farmers who have access to internet connectivity can access the Expected Grain Production Data Collection Form on the NAB website: www.nab.com.na. Farmers that do not submit the completed Expected Grain Production Data Collection forms by the given deadlines will not be allowed to market their grains.

For more information, contact the following Agronomic Market Development Officers at the NAB: **Akawa Amufufu** at Cell: 081 7116666, Email: Akawa.Amufufu@nab.com.na and **Theresia Angala** at Cell: 081 3634879, Email: Theresia.Angala@nab.com.na, or telephone: 061379500.

# NAB AIMS TO IMPROVE WHEAT PRODUCTION IN NAMIBIA

The Namibian Agronomic Board in collaboration with the University of Namibia (UNAM) hosted a wheat field day at Mannheim Research Station in the Tsumeb Area on the 09th of November 2021.

The event was attended by 61 farmers from the Karst (Maize triangle) area and other industry stakeholders. The main objective of the field day is to accelerate the development of high-yielding wheat seed varieties that are adapted to our climatic and soil conditions. This is the first-ever wheat seed variety trial of this magnitude to be conducted in Namibia for all the agronomic production zones.

The field day also aimed to equip farmers with first-hand information on the performance of the different varieties of wheat under trial at Mannheim Research Station in the Tsumeb area.

The wheat crop, also scientifically referred to as Triticum aestivum, is a cereal grain crop cultivated during winter and it is only produced under irrigation in Namibia. Wheat is planted from May to July and harvested and marketed from October to January. It is currently cultivated in five (5) production zones namely: Kavango, North Central, Karstland, Central/East, and South. However, the biggest volume of wheat is produced in the Kavango and Hardap agronomic zones, and the biggest market for wheat grain is in the central production zone (Windhoek).

According to the 2020/2021 financial year's production and trade statistics, the total domestic demand for wheat grain in Namibia currently stands at 137,340 tonnes per annum, translating into an average domestic demand of 11,445 tonnes per month. Out of the total domestic demand recorded during the 2020/2021 financial year, 11,498 (8%) tonnes were locally produced and 125,838 (92%) tonnes were imported.

Furthermore, Namibia is also a net importer of wheat seeds, mainly sourced from South Africa through various input suppliers. Hence, access to wheat seed varieties that can perform better in the Namibian climatic and soil conditions is one of the main factors hindering wheat productivity and production in Namibia.

Therefore, the NAB in collaboration with UNAM is conducting wheat seed variety trials in 5 trial sites namely; Mashare Irrigation PTY and Divundu Correctional Facility in the Kavango production zone, Zambezi Vocational Training Centre (ZVTC) in the Zambezi production zone, Mannheim Research Station in the Karst (Maize Triangle) production zone and Eldorado farm in the Southern production zone respectively.

Out of all the 52 different wheat seed varieties planted at the 5 sites, a total of 49 were sourced from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT) in Mexico, while the remaining 3 were imported from South Africa through local input suppliers. All the varieties were successfully planted at all 5 sites in June/July 2021 and all the 5 sites were successfully harvested in November 2021.

In conclusion, farmers who attended the trials observation day were excited with the performance of the CIMMYT varieties, in terms of the preliminary results on grain yield and quality. The final results of the trials from all 5 sites will be shared with the farmers and other stakeholders upon completion. The top 10 performing wheat varieties in terms of grain yield will be selected for the second or final trials to be conducted in 2022, before the commercial release of the varieties in the third year.

# NAMIBIA COWPEA PRODUCTION:

## A RESPONSIVE STRATEGY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND A VITAL CROP FOR BOTH THE HUMAN AND LIVESTOCK POPULATION

**Venanune Hepute**
Researcher at the NAB

Cowpea [Vigna unguiculata (L.) Walp.] is one of the widely cultivated and consumed grain legumes globally, especially in the arid and semi-arid tropics. Since it can grow well in harsh environments under dry-land conditions, it is one of the most widely grown legume crops in sub-Saharan Africa including Namibia. In Namibia, cowpea is the third most important staple crop after pearl millet [Pennisetum glaucum (L.) R. Br.] and sorghum [Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench]. Cowpea is grown by 95% of the small-scale farmers in Namibia from different regions, namely Kavango East and West, Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati, Zambezi, Omaheke, and Otjozondjupa (Fleissners & Bagnall-Oakeley, 2001). Nakare, Oshindimba and Bira are the most commonly planted cowpea varieties, whilst the white grain coloured cowpea with a high above-ground biomass is the most popular type. Intercropping of cowpea with sorghum and pearl millet is the dominant cowpea farming system in northern Namibia. The majority of farmers in these areas grow cowpea for food, as feed for their livestock, as a form of cash income, and for the improvement of soil fertility.

Cowpea is a source of protein and carbohydrates as protein makes up 23-25% of the grain and 27–34% of the leaves, and 57% of the grain is a carbohydrate (Horn et al., 2015), thus, cow pea is commonly referred to as “the poor men's meat”.

However, there is no formal market of significant scale in Namibia, thus, cowpea and cowpea products (cowpea grain, dried succulent and tender leaves) are currently marketed informally and they are mostly consumed in rural areas. Consequently, cowpea production, productivity, and market supply in Namibia have declined in recent years due to lack of a formal market and other several challenges such as low yields, the unavailability of improved seeds, post-harvest loss, and damages caused by field pests including aphids [Aphis craccivora (Koch)], storage pests such as cowpea weevil (Callosobruchus maculatus), and parasitic weeds such as Striga [Striga gesnerioides (Willd) Vatke] and yellow witchweed [Alectra vogelii (Benth)] (Horn & Shimelis, 2020).

*Cowpea plant vigorously growing*

*Cowpea field*

Furthermore, cowpea yields in Namibia vary from 250 to 500 kg per ha, which is relatively low compared to potential yields of 1,500 – 3,000 kg per ha (Fleissners & Bagnall-Oakeley, 2001; Horn et al., 2015). Several research studies (Horn & Shimelis, 2020; NAB, 2020; Horn et al., 2015; Fleissners & Bagnall-Oakeley, 2001) were recently conducted in Namibia, which were directed towards cowpea improvement on aspects of production, productivity, and market creation, with promising preliminary results. Cowpea is a drought-tolerant and well-adapted crop under Namibian climatic weather conditions, with a short growth duration. Given the low rainfall received on the onset of 2021/2022 and the prevailing high temperatures due to climate change, cowpea is the appropriate crop for local farmers, particulalry for the small-holder farmers.

The total average area of 14,500,000 ha is under cowpea cultivation worldwide, with a total average yearly

production of 8,800,000 metric tonnes and a yield productivity of 0.58 tonnes per ha. Africa accounts for over 46% share of total world cowpea production, Nigeria being the largest cowpea producer and consumer in the world (FAOSTAT, 2021).

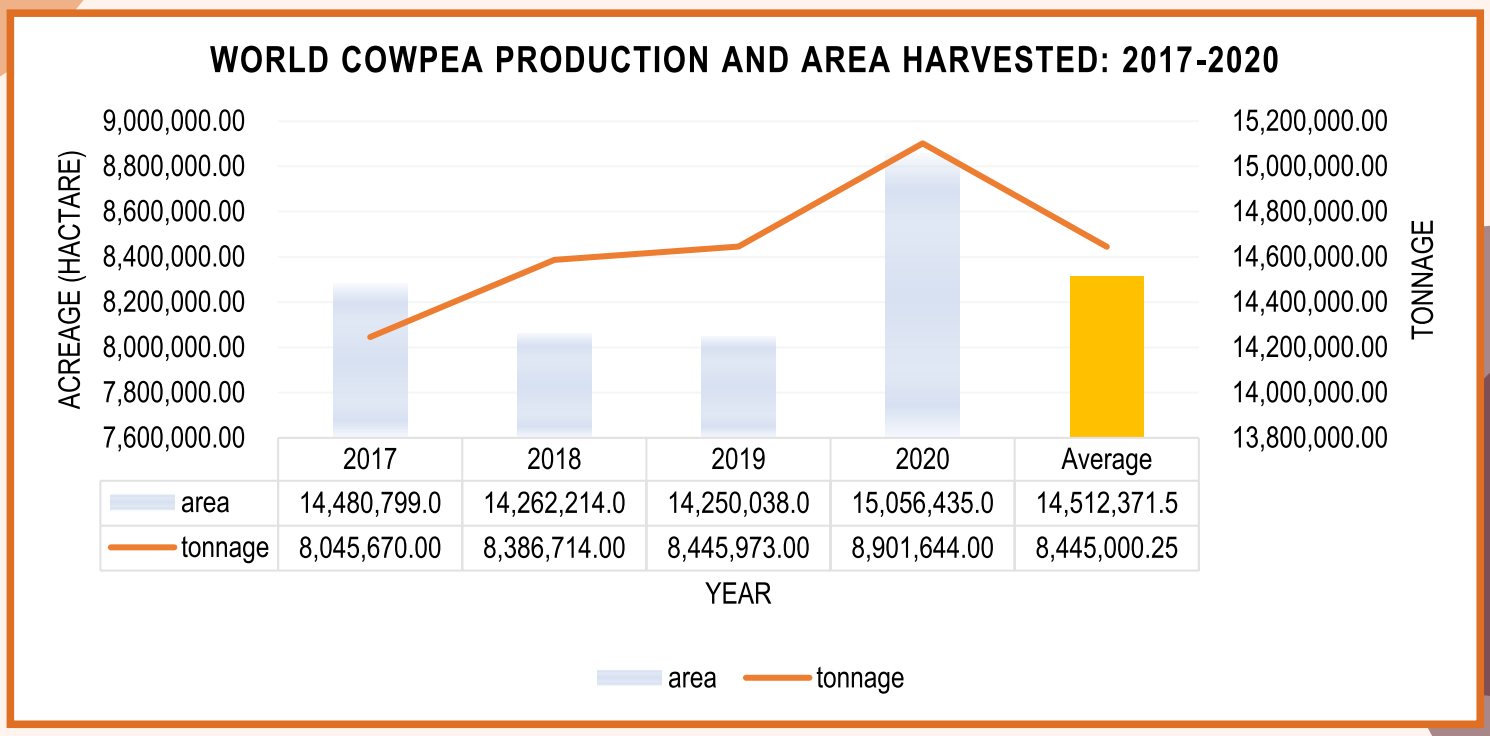



*Figure 2: Cowpea world production and area harvested from 2017-2020 (FAOSTAT, 2021)*

Figure 2 depicts that there was a downward trend from 2017 to 2019 in both world cowpea production and area under cultivation, however, an increase was observed from the year 2019 to 2020.

Cowpea production in Namibia is dominated by small-holder farmers, who presumably market their produce through informal markets. It is therefore assumed that most cowpea production records with more quantity value are not accounted for. In Namibia, over 95% of cereal crop producers (mahangu, sorghum, and maize) intercrop cowpea at a minimum average area of 0.5 ha to 3 ha per producer (Fleissners, 2001). Cowpea production costs range from N$ 3,900 to N$ 4,600 per hectare (NAB, 2020). The study conducted by NAB in 2020 estimated that over 60,000 ha could be under cowpea cultivation in Namibia, producing more tonnage at a yield average of 250kg per hectare (NAB, 2020). However, there is no formal market to absorb this production, and therefore cowpea is dominantly consumed at a household level in the remote areas, and very small quantities are sold in the informal markets. Cowpea producer price in Namibia is volatile, varying from N$12,000 to N$16,000 per tonne (NAB, 2020).

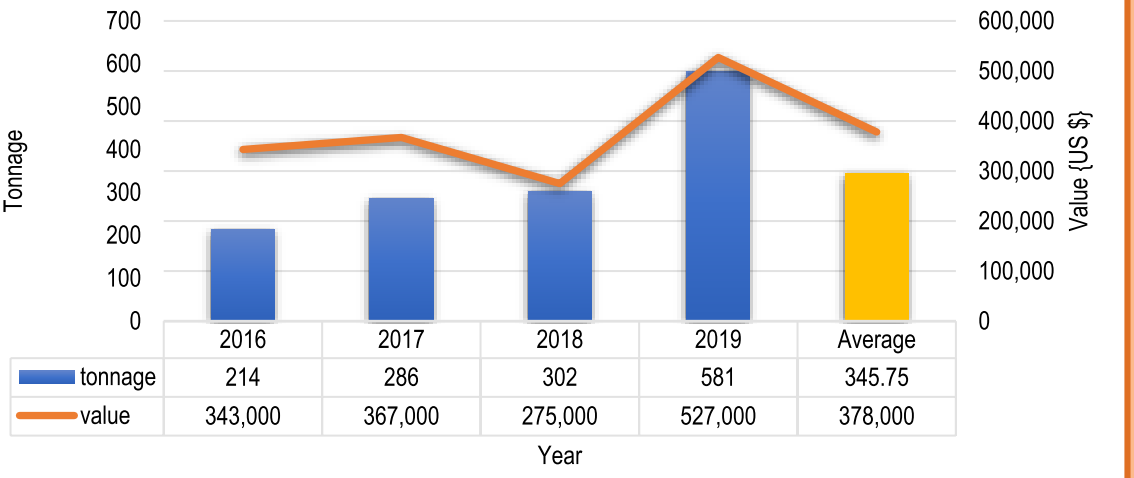
On the other end, there is an increase in the importation of dry beans (including dry cowpea) into the Namibian formal-urban market, due to an increase in demand. Cowpea can be sold as dried beans (dry cowpea), canned beans, fresh beans, and bean flour, and it is often included in soup mixtures as a relish for the staple food.

However, due to the lack of value addition and processing of cowpea products in Namibia, the cowpea market is confined to dry beans. Despite its smaller market share compared to other crops, cowpea (dry cowpea) is well established in certain markets such as the informal market in the Northern and North Eastern parts of Namibia.

On an international scale, in the United States of America, the price of dry cowpea ranges from USD 0.4 to USD 0.6/kg; canned cowpea ranges from USD 0.5 to USD 1/kg; and fresh cowpea ranges from USD 0.3 to USD 0.5/kg (Osipitan et al., 2021).

The price of dry cowpea is comparable to that of soybean, however, it is less profitable to produce cowpea compared to soybean, partly because of its high production costs (Osipitan et al., 2021). Namibia imported dry beans (including dry cowpea) averaging 345.75 tonnes per annum, with an average value of 378,000 US dollars {N$ 5,874,120} between 2016 and 2019.

Figure 3 (next page) depicts that there has been an upward trend from 2016 to 2019 in both Namibian dry bean imports tonnage and value (including dry cowpea). Imports increased from 214 tonnes in 2016 to 581 tonnes in 2019, while the import value increased as well from 343,000 US$ {N$ 5,330,220} in 2016 to 527,000 US$ {N$ 5,874,120} in 2019. The Namibian beans urban formal market is saturated with imports whilst the Namibian cowpea export is of no significance.




**Dry beans import value in Namibian dollars {N$} conversion date 13/01/2022 @ 15.54**

**2016 –** 5,330,220

**2017 –** 5,703,180

**2018 –** 4,273,000

**2019 –** 8,189,580

*Figure 3: Namibia dry beans import tonnage and value (FAOSTAT, 2021)*

In conclusion, cowpea is a multipurpose legume crop yet its potential is not fully utilised in Namibia in terms of production and marketing. Cowpea is a food crop that is a rich source of protein for healthy eating consumers, and in Namibia it is commonly prepared as Oshingali. Cowpea is produced as animal feed, used for soil fertility management using nitrogen fixation, and it is also produced as a cash crop due to the high returns on sales (cowpea can be sold as fresh vegetables, dry grains, and processed beans).

It is an economic crop for many local producers, and it holds enormous potential for market expansion in Namibia. Its popularity as an alternative food for a healthier diet has increased its demand for use as a plant-based protein. Cowpea offers an alternative crop for farmers who grow protein for animal and human consumption.

The projected rise in the minority population in the United States of America (USA) will also likely increase cowpea demand globally. Considerable progress has been made in cowpea research and breeding, but much remains to be done. Support of cowpea research will ensure the development and maximisation of this useful legume for both human and animal benefit.

## OUR SERVICES IN A NUTSHELL

- Border Control and Inland Inspections
- Permit Issuance: In-transit, Import and Export
- Registration of Producers, Transitors, Traders and Processors
- Production and Market Facilitation for Controlled crops
- Value Addition and Storage Facilitation
- Farms and Facilities Inspections
- Food Safety and Quality Inspections
- Crop Value Chain Research
- Information and Advisory Services

# WORLD FOOD DAY

## CELEBRATIONS 2021

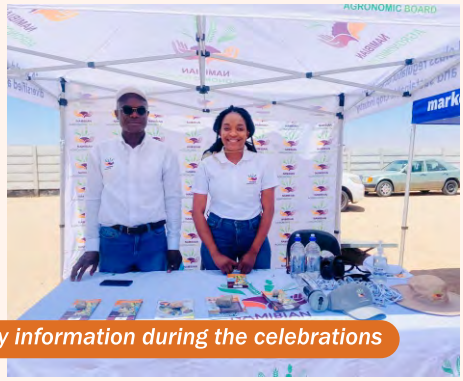
The Namibian Agronomic Board was one of the proud sponsors toward the 2021 World Food Day commemorations. This event was held on the 16th of October 2021 at the Utuseb area in Walvis Bay Rural Constituency in Erongo Region, under the theme "Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life". The NAB sponsored an amount of N$ 10 000 to be used in the preparations for the event.

The NAB remains committed to being a world class regulator of a vibrant, diversified and sustainable crop industry in line with our mandate to promote the agronomic industry and to facilitate the production, processing, storage and marketing of controlled products in Namibia as outlined in the Agronomic Industry Act, Act 20 of 1992.


*Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform, Hon. Anna Shiweda delivered the keynote address during the World Food Day Commemorations at Atuseb*

*Food parcels were handed over to community members at the event*

*NAB staff provided event guests with industry information during the celebrations*



## OUR MANDATE

To promote the agronomic industry and to facilitate the production, processing, storage and marketing of controlled products in Namibia.

## VISION

"a world-class regulator of a vibrant, diversified and sustainable crop industry"

## MISSION

To promote the agronomic and horticulture industry through market regulations and facilitation.

## CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Pro-activeness
- Inclusivity

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