September 2024

NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

NATIONAL **DROUGHT SUPPORT** PROGRAMME

FOR SURPLUS AND COMMERCIAL GRAIN PRODUCERS (NDSP-SCGP)

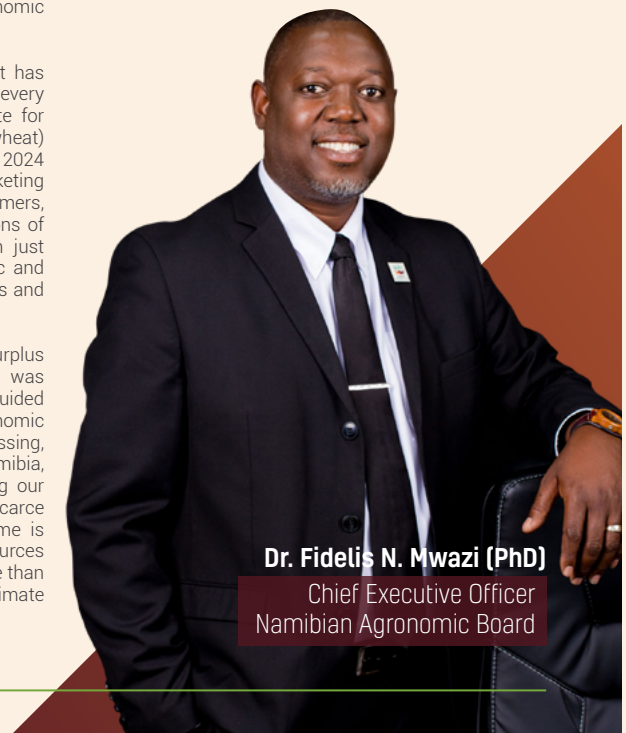
FORWARD

Namibia's agronomic sector stands at a critical juncture, challenged by a persistent drought that has tested the resilience of our grain producers and the strength of our food security systems. As the Chief Executive Officer of the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous efforts of our farmers to rise above these difficulties. Between 2021 and 2024, a total of 406,950 tons of white maize, wheat, and mahangu grains were produced in Namibia for commercial purposes. This is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our producers, who contribute so vitally to the agronomic industry.

Despite these efforts, the harsh reality of drought has severely impacted our production capacity, nearly every third year. The country's food self-sufficiency rate for staple grain crops (white maize, mahangu, and wheat) has declined from 38 % in 2022 to below 26% for the 2024 marketing season. The 2024 harvesting and marketing season witnessed a historic crisis for Namibian farmers, with a harvest expected to be less than 30,000 tons of grain crops. This shortfall represents more than just a challenge; it highlights the urgency for strategic and collaborative interventions to support our producers and sustain Namibia's agricultural future.

The National Drought Support Programme for Surplus and Commercial Grain Producers (NDSP-SCGP) was established to address such critical challenges. Guided by the NAB's mandate to promote the agronomic industry and to facilitate the production, processing, storage, and marketing of controlled products in Namibia, this programme plays a vital role in safeguarding our country's food security. Against the backdrop of scarce and costly crop production inputs, this programme is expected to assist in providing the necessary resources through subsidy in a small way and support to more than 2500 farmers, strengthen farmers' resilience climate change, and enhance food security in the country.

This booklet provides an in-depth look at the National Drought Support Programme, showcasing the efforts, innovations, and strategies employed to support our commercial and surplus grain producers. It is a story of resilience, collaboration, and the unwavering commitment of the NAB to its mission. As you explore this booklet, I hope you will find both insightful and inspirational, as we continue to work together towards a resilient and sustainable food system in Namibia.



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Chief Executive Officer
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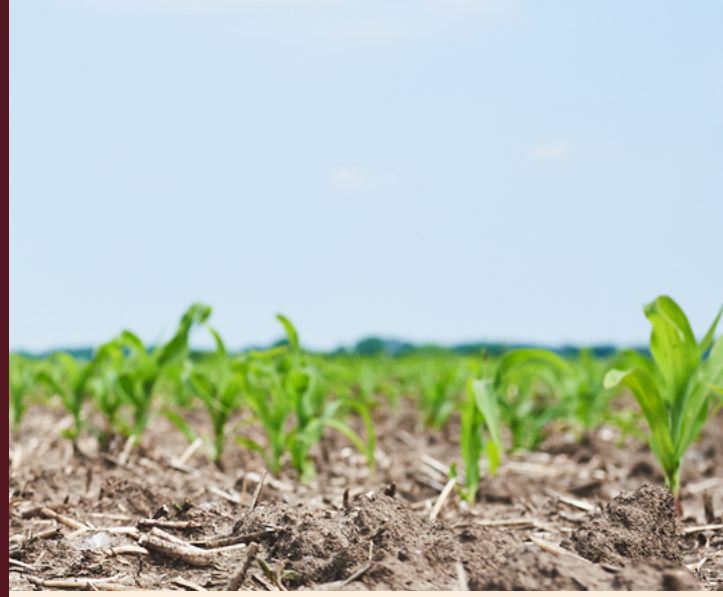


1. BACKGROUND

Drought is several months or even years of abnormal dryness due to below-average rainfall that causes a pronounced decrease in crop yield relative to what is expected in an average year. Namibia's climate is particularly arid in the greater parts of the country except in the north and north-eastern areas. The rainfall season runs from October/November to March/April of the succeeding year. Annual rainfall varies from 650 mm in the northeast to less than 50mm along the coastal areas.

Rainfall in Namibia is also highly variable in time, the inter-annual variability ranges from 30% in the relatively wetter north-eastern parts to 100% in the south and western parts (Namibia Meteorological Service, 2013, p2). Over the past 4 years and in particular 2018/2019, drought has become national rather than confined to some parts of the country. Between 2013 and 2019, the government has declared three state of emergencies related to drought. Due to a nationwide drought, 2024 was also declared a state of emergency by His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba the President of the Republic of Namibia on 27 May 2024. Given these characteristics of Namibia's climate, it is evident that drought is a natural and frequently observed phenomenon in Namibia. It is one of the two distinct extremes of Namibia's climatic environment, the other being floods.

The historical data indicates that during a good rainfall season, rainfed white maize production contributes on average 50% to the total production and the remaining 50% comes from irrigated production, however in a low rainfall season rainfed production significantly reduces to less than 10%. On the other hand, mahangu production solely depends on rainfall, and during a drought year, there is little or no harvest to be harvested.

According to the production forecast report published by the NAB, white maize production is expected to decline by more than 50% in the 2024 harvesting season when compared to last year, and only 4% is expected to be harvested from rainfed production. A total of 37,000 tons of white maize is expected to be harvested in the 2024 season, which represents 18% of the domestic demand for white maize, and hence the country is expected to import 167,000 tons of white maize in the 2024/2025 financial year. In terms of national demand, Namibia requires about 200,000 tons of white maize grain annually, and the bulk is met through imports, while the national demand for mahangu grains formal markets stands at about 5,000 tons annually.

In response to the current drought situation in Namibia, on 23 April 2024 cabinet approved a total of N$25 million for seeds and horticulture provision, as part of the drought relief programme. Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) is implementing rainfed agronomic subsidy programmes such as the Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP) complemented by the Cereal Value Chain Development Programme (CVCDP). The DCPP and CVCDP are implemented to benefit cereal communal farmers in the 10 crop-growing regions of Kunene, Omusati, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kavango West, Kavango East, Zambezi, Otjozondjupa and Omaheke. These programmes aim to increase food production and productivity along the cereal value chains, enhancing food security and creating resilience to climate change. The DCPP and CVCDP involve subsidised ploughing, planting, and weeding services, improved seeds, fertilisers, machinery, and grain storage facilities. However, the subsidy for ploughing, planting, and weeding services, seeds, and fertilisers is limited to a maximum of 5ha per farming household.

Therefore, the proposed National Drought Support Programme for Surplus and Commercial Grain (white maize and mahangu) Producers is meant to complement the government's effort to address the impact of the 2023/2024 drought in Namibia, through the provision of seeds, and fertilisers, using a pre-planting voucher system. The programme targets to benefit approximately 400 white maize and 1000 mahangu surplus and commercial farmers in both the communal and commercial areas, who are not benefitting from the DCPP and the current government drought assistance programmes.

A commercial farmer in this case refers to farmers who cultivate white maize or mahangu for marketing purposes, while a surplus farmer refers to a farmer who cultivates white maize or mahangu for their consumption and sells surplus to the buyers i.e. processors/ silo operators registered with the NAB.

2. OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this programme are as follows:

A. Provision of subsidised certified white maize, mahangu seeds, and fertilisers to rainfed surplus and commercial farmers affected by drought in the 2023/2024 planting season.

B. Local production of certified mahangu seeds under irrigation during the spring season, targeting local varieties that are drought tolerant.

C. Promote irrigated production of white maize and mahangu by surplus and commercial farmers, through the provision of subsidised seeds and fertilisers, and tackle related constraints such as restrictive water permits and high electricity costs.

D. Contribute towards the government's effort in addressing household food insecurity in the country.

3. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

This programme will take a two-tailed approach, that is during the forecasted good rainy season and drought/ El Niño conditions, or both options.

3.1 FORECASTED GOOD RAINY SEASON

In a year where good rainfall is predicated, the NAB will support the production of rainfed white maize and mahangu through the provision of subsidised seeds and fertilisers to surplus and white maize farmers, to maximise the good rainfall forecasted, and ensure food self-sufficiency.

3.1.1 Subsidised Certified Seeds

- In order to enhance resilience to drought, the NAB will provide a 10% subsidy for drought-tolerant white maize to surplus and commercial farmers who were affected by the drought of the 2023/2024 planting season, while mahangu farmers will access the certified seeds from the NAB seed producers, subsidized at 20%, as outlined under clause 3.3.
- This involves the provision of subsidised certified and drought-tolerant white maize and mahangu seeds to surplus and commercial farmers, through a pre-planting voucher system.
- The subsidy will be limited to 10% (maize seeds) or (20% seeds) of the cost of the specific type of seed under rainfed production but limited to a minimum of 5ha and a maximum of 50 hectares per maize farmer and 10ha per mahangu farmer, based on a standard seed rate per hectare of 8kg/ha (18 000 seeds) for white maize and 6kg/ha for mahangu for rainfed production.
- This programme mainly targets white maize and mahangu farmers that were affected by the 2023/2024 drought.
- The seeds will have to be sourced from local suppliers by the farmer, and the voucher will only be issued once the farmer has paid his/her 90% for maize or 80% mahangu seeds to the supplier in case of a cash purchase or if it's a credit transaction, the voucher will only be issued the credit to the specific farmers has been confirmed in writing by the supplier.
- The beneficiaries will be identified by the NAB based on the list of farmers who planted white maize and mahangu under rainfed conditions in the 2023/2024 season, for marketing purposes, and through the Agri-Input Suppliers, and Agricultural Development Centers (ADCs).
- Mahangu seeds will be purchased by farmers at 20% cheaper from the NAB-registered/ approved Mahangu Seed Producers (Seed Growers) or Seed Dealers who participated in the certified seed production programme.

3.1.2 Subsidised Fertilisers

- In order to improve soil fertility, the NAB will provide a 10% fertiliser subsidy to surplus and commercial white maize farmers who were affected by the drought of the 2023/2024 planting season.
- This involves the provision of subsidised fertilisers to surplus and commercial white maize and mahangu farmers, through a pre-planting voucher system.
- The subsidy will be limited to 10% of the cost of the specific type of fertiliser, limited to a minimum of 5ha and a maximum of 50 hectares per maize farmer and 10ha per mahangu farmer.
- Each surplus/ commercial mahangu farmer will be subsidised to a maximum rate of 50kg/ha of basal fertiliser i.e. NPK (2:3:2 or 2:3:4) and 50kg/ha for top dressing.
- Each surplus/ commercial white maize farmer will be subsidised to a maximum rate of 150kg/ha (3 bags of 50kg) of basal fertiliser i.e. NPK (2:3:2 or 2:3:4) or Monoammonium phosphate (MAP), and 100kg/ha (2 bags of 50kg) for top-dressing fertilisers i.e. Urea/ Limestone Ammonium Nitrate (LAN)/ Ammonium Sulphate.
- The fertilisers will have to be sourced from local suppliers by the farmer, and the voucher will only be issued once the farmer has paid his/her 90% to the supplier in case of a cash purchase or if it's a credit transaction, the voucher will only be issued the credit to the specific farmers has been confirmed in writing by the supplier.
- The beneficiaries will be identified by the NAB based on the list of farmers who planted white maize and mahangu under rainfed conditions in the 2023/2024 season, for marketing purposes, and through the Agri-Input Suppliers, and Agricultural Development Centers (ADCs).

3.2 FORECASTED DROUGHT/ EL NIÑO CONDITIONS

- In a year where El Niño conditions or low rainfall is predicated, the NAB will support the production of irrigated white maize and mahangu through the provision of subsidised seeds and fertilisers to surplus and white maize farmers, to ensure food self-sufficiency.

3.2.1 Subsidised Certified High Yielding Seeds

- The NAB will provide an 8% subsidy for high-yielding certified white maize to surplus and

commercial white maize farmers, through a pre-planting voucher system and to be produced strictly under irrigation, while mahangu farmers will access the certified seeds from the NAB seed producers, subsidised at 20%, as outlined under clause 3.3.

- The call for participation will be done by the NAB before the planting season, preferably in June/July, through media.
- The subsidy will be limited to 8% (maize seeds) or (20% seeds) of the cost of the specific type of seed but also limited to a minimum of 5ha and a maximum of 30 hectares per white maize farmer. The 20% subsidised mahangu seeds will be limited to 10ha per mahangu farmer, based on a standard seed rate per hectare of 25kg/ha (60 000 seeds) for white maize and 8kg/ha for mahangu for irrigated production.
- This programme targets surplus and commercial farmers who are willing and able to produce white maize and mahangu under irrigation.
- The white maize seeds will have to be sourced from local suppliers by the farmer, and the voucher will only be issued once the farmer has paid his/her 93% to the supplier in case of a cash purchase or if it's a credit transaction, the voucher will only be issued the credit to the specific farmers has been confirmed in writing by the supplier.
- Mahangu seeds will be purchased by farmers at 20% cheaper from the NAB-registered Mahangu Seed Producers (Seed Growers) who participated in the certified seed production programme.

3.2.2 Subsidised Fertilisers

- In order to improve soil fertility, the NAB will provide an 8% (white maize) and 7% (mahangu) fertiliser subsidy to surplus and commercial white maize farmers who wish to produce white maize and mahangu under irrigation.
- The call for participation will be done by the NAB before the planting season, preferably in June/July, through media.
- This involves the provision of subsidised fertilisers to surplus and commercial white maize and mahangu farmers, through a pre-planting voucher system.
- The subsidy will be limited to 8% or 7% of the cost of the specific type of fertiliser under rainfed production but limited to a minimum of 5ha and a maximum of 30 hectares per maize farmer and 10ha per mahangu farmer.
- Each surplus/ commercial mahangu farmer will be subsidised to a maximum rate of 100kg/ha of basal fertiliser i.e. NPK (2:3:2 or 2:3:4) and 100kg/ha for top dressing.
- Each surplus/ commercial white maize farmer will be subsidised to a maximum rate of 400kg/ha (8 bags of 50kg) of basal fertiliser i.e. NPK (2:3:2 or 2:3:4) or Monoammonium phosphate (MAP), and 300kg/ha (6 bags of 50kg) for top-dressing fertilisers i.e. Urea/ Limestone Ammonium Nitrate (LAN)/ Ammonium Sulphate.
- The fertilisers will have to be sourced from local suppliers by the farmer, and the voucher will only be issued once the farmer has paid his/her 93% to the supplier in case of a cash purchase or if it's a credit transaction, the voucher will only be issued the credit to the specific farmers has been confirmed in writing by the supplier.

3.2.3 Water and Electricity Interventions

- Water and electricity are important inputs into the production of white maize and mahangu under irrigation. Hence, through this programme, the NAB will engage the government regarding the current challenges in obtaining water permits and find ways how to reduce the cost of electricity for staple cereal productions, to promote irrigated production.

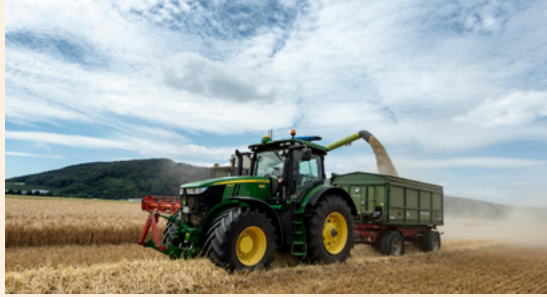
3.3 MAHANGU SEED PRODUCTION

- This involves the production of certified mahangu seeds using drought-tolerant and high-yielding local varieties such as Okashana No. 2 to support mahangu production interventions in the good or bad rainy season.
- The call for participation will be done by the NAB before the planting season, preferably in June/July, through media.
- The planting of mahangu for seed production will take place in the early spring season strictly under irrigation for harvesting in early summer.
- The certified mahangu seeds will be produced by farmers (seed growers) who have a functional irrigation system in place and with a reliable source of water.
- The NAB will provide the seeds and fertiliser to the participating farmers for free, with the expectation that such seeds will be sold to farmers at 20% cheaper.
- Upon harvesting, the NAB will physically verify all quantities of harvested mahangu seeds before selling them to farmers.

3.4 OTHER TARGETED INTERVENTIONS

- In terms of non-monetary interventions, the NAB will maintain the open border period for the 2024 harvesting and marketing season for white maize and mahangu, to ensure food security in the country, as a very low harvest is expected.
- The importation of white maize and mahangu grains for household consumption will also be allowed but restricted to 250kg per person per month.

- Address challenges related to water permits and high electricity costs by engaging the responsible Ministries or State-Owned Enterprises (SOE), to support irrigated production.
- Furthermore, as part of the NAB's social corporate responsibility, the NAB will donate N$1 million to the Office of the Prime Minister to assist the government in addressing household food security in the country.



4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The NAB established the Crop Disaster Fund and currently, there is a total of N$25 million in this fund. The purpose of this fund is to assist the government in responding to disasters such as drought, and pest outbreaks through adaptation strategies.

Hence, in line with requirements of the Agronomic Industry Act 20 of 1992, these funds will be used for this programme, as approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform. The total cost of the seeds and fertilisers subsidy is calculated below, based on the modalities outlined in section 3:

4.1 FORECASTED GOOD RAINY SEASON

The target is to produce 24,000 tons of white maize under rainfed conditions, to cover about 12% of the annual domestic demand of 200,000 tons for formal markets.

Rainfed maize production currently mainly takes place in three (3) production zones i.e. Zambezi, Karst, and Central, and hence each of these production zones will be allocated 2,667ha, of the 8,000ha targeted.

Table 1: White Maize rainfed

Intervention	Targeted Ha	Quantity (Kg/ha)	Number of bags/ ha	Total Quantity (bags) @ 8000ha	Cost per bag N$	Subsidy %	**Total Cost N$ @ 8000ha	**Total Subsidy N$ @ 8000ha	Total Farmers Contribution N$ @ 8000/ha
1. Fertiliser Subsidy	8,000	250	5	40,000	2,002.90	10%	42,372,000.00	4,237,200.00	38,134,800.00
MAP (Basal Fertiliser) 50kg bag		150	3	24,000	1,290.70		30,976,800.00	3,097,680.00	27,879,120.00
Urea (Top Dressing Fertiliser) 50kg bag		100	2	16,000	712.20		11,395,200.00	1,139,520.00	10,255,680.00
2. Seed Subsidy (25kg bag)		8	0.32	2,560.00	2,000.00		5,120,000.00	512,000.00	4,608,000.00
Total							**47,492,000.00**	**4,749,200.00**	**42,742,800.00**
Targeted Total Harvest (Tons) @ 3tons/ha								**24,000**	*Subsidy/ha: 594.00
								5,936.50	**Cost/hs: 5,936.50

Rainfed mahangu production currently mainly takes place in eight (8) political regions i.e. Zambezi, Kavango West, Kavango East, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and hence each of these production zones will be allocated 625ha, of the 5,000ha targeted, to produce 3500 tons of mahangu grains, and this will cover 58% of annual domestic demand of about 6,000 tons (formal market).

Table 2: Mahangu rainfed

Intervention	Targeted Ha	Quantity (Kg/ha)	Number of bags/ ha	Total Quantity (bags) @ 5000ha	Cost per bag N$	Subsidy %	**Total Cost N$ @ 5000ha	**Total Subsidy N$ @ 5000ha	Total Farmers Contribution N$ @ 5000/ha
1. Fertiliser Subsidy	5,000	150	3	15,000	2,002.90	10%	16,468,000.00	1,646,800.00	14,821,200.00
NPK (Basal Fertiliser) 50kg bag		100	2	10,000	1,290.70		12,907,000.00	1,290,700.00	11,616,300.00
Urea (Top Dressing Fertiliser) 50kg bag		50	1	5,000	712.20		3,561,000.00	356,100.00	3,204,900.00
2. Seed 2kg (20% Subsidy)		6	3	15,000	27.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total							**16,468,000.00**	**1,646,800.00**	**14,821,200.00**
Targeted Total Harvest (Tons) @ 0.7tons/ha								**3,500**	*Subsidy/ha: 392.26
								3,293.60	**Cost/hs: 3,293.60

4.2 FORECASTED DROUGHT/ EL NIÑO CONDITIONS

The target is to produce 80,000 tons of white maize under irrigation and this will cover 40% of the annual domestic demand for formal markets. Irrigated maize production currently mainly takes place in three (4) production zones i.e. Kavango, North Central, Karst, Central, and Hardap, with potential for irrigated production in the Zambezi production zone. Hence each of these production zones will be allocated 267ha, of the 8,000ha targeted.

Table 3: White Maize Irrigated

Intervention	Targeted Ha	Quantity (Kg/ha)	Number of bags/ ha	Total Quantity (bags) @ 8000ha	Cost per bag N$	Subsidy %	**Total Cost N$ @ 8000ha	**Total Subsidy N$ @ 8000ha	Total Farmers Contribution N$ @ 8000/ha
1. Fertiliser Subsidy	8,000	700	14	112,000	2,002.90	8%	116,790,400.00	9,343,232.00	107,447,168.00
MAP (Basal Fertiliser) 50kg bag		400	8	64,000	1,290.70		82,604,800.00	6,608,384.00	75,996,416.00
Urea (Top Dressing Fertiliser) 50kg bag		300	6	64,000	712.20		34,185,600.00	2,734,848.00	31,450,752.00
2. Seed Subsidy (25kg bag)		8	0.32	2,560.00	2,000.00		5,120,000.00	409,600.00	4,710,400.00
Total							**121,910,400.00**	**9,752,832.00**	**112,157,568.00**
Targeted Total Harvest (Tons) @ 10tons/ha								**80,000**	*Subsidy/ha: 1,219.10
								15,238.80	**Cost/hs: 15,238.80

No rainfed mahangu production taking place in Namibia, however, there is potential to produce under irrigation in all the current mahangu production regions, and hence each of the 8 production regions will be allocated 625ha, of the 5,000ha targeted. This will produce 5000 tons of mahangu grain, to cover 90% of the annual domestic demand for formal markets.

Table 4: Mahangu Irrigated

Intervention	Targeted Ha	Quantity (Kg/ha)	Number of bags/ ha	Total Quantity (bags) @ 5000ha	Cost per bag N$	Subsidy %	**Total Cost N$ @ 5000ha	**Total Subsidy N$ @ 5000ha	Total Farmers Contribution N$ @ 5000/ha
1. Fertiliser Subsidy	5,000	200	4	20,000	2,002.90	7%	20,029,000.00	1,402,030.00	18,626,970.00
NPK 2:3:2 (Basal Fertiliser) 50kg bag		100	2	10,000	1,290.70		12,907,000.00	903,490.00	12,003,510.00
Urea (Top Dressing Fertiliser) 50kg bag		100	2	10,000	712.20		7,122,00.00	498,540.00	6,623,460.00
2. Seed 2kg (20% Subsidy)		8	4	20,000	27.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total							**20,029,000.00**	**1,402,030.00**	**18,626,970.00**
Targeted Total Harvest (Tons) @ 1ton/ha								**5,000**	*Subsidy/ha: 280.41
								4,005.80	**Cost/hs: 4,005.80

4.3 MAHANGU SEED PRODUCTION

The target is to produce 80 tons of certified mahangu seeds under irrigation to support both rainfed and irrigated production of mahangu, sufficient for 10,000 ha targeted.

Table 4: Mahangu Irrigated

Intervention	Targeted Ha	Quantity (Kg/ha)	Number of bags/ ha	Total Quantity (bags) @ 80ha	Cost per bag N$	Subsidy %	**Total Cost N$ @ 85ha	**Total Subsidy N$ @ 85ha	Total Farmers Contribution N$ @ 85/ha
1. Fertiliser Subsidy	80	200	4	320	2,002.90	7%	320,464.00	320,464.00	18,626,970.00
NPK 2:3:2 (Basal Fertiliser) 50kg bag		100	2	160	1,290.70		206,512.00	206,512.00	12,003,510.00
Urea (Top Dressing Fertiliser) 50kg bag		100	2	160	712.20		113,952.00	113,952.00	6,623,460.00
2. Seed Subsidy 2kg bag		8	4	320,000	27.00		8,640.00	8,640.00	0.00
Total							**329,104.00**	**329,104.00**	**18,626,970.00**
Targeted Total Harvest (Tons) @ 1ton/ha								**80**	*Subsidy/ha: 4,113.80
								4,113.80	**Cost/hs: 4,113.80

4.4 BUDGET SUMMARY

The implementation of this programme, specific to the seeds and fertilisers subsidy will attract administrative costs, and hence certain funds will be put aside to roll out the programme, as indicated in Table 6 below. Furthermore, Table 6 below provides a snapshot of the budget of the programme, inclusive of the N$1 million to be donated to the Office of the Prime Minister for government drought food relief assistance.

Table 6: Programme Costing Summary

A. Forecasted good rainy season	
ITEMS	**TOTAL COST N$**
White Maize Rainfed	4,749,200.00
Mahangu Rainfed	1,646,800.00
Mahangu Seed Production Irrigation	329,104.00
Sub Total	6,725,104.00
Administrative Cost @2%	134,502.08
Sub Total Cost	**6,859,606.08**

B. Forecasted drought conditions	
ITEMS	**TOTAL COST N$**
White Maize Irrigation	9,752,832.00
Mahangu Irrigation	1,402,030.00
Mahangu Seed Production Irrigation	392,104.00
Sub Total	11,483,966.00
Administrative Cost @2%	229,679.32
Sub Total Cost	**11,713,645.32**

DONATION FOR DROUGHT	**1,000,000.00**
TOTAL	**12,713,645.32**
GRAND TOTAL (A+B)	**19,573,251.40**

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