

Season's Harvest

NEWSLETTER

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NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

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EDITOR'S *Note*

Liseli Mwilima
Public Relations Officer

Welcome to the latest edition of **The Seasons Harvest!**

I'm thrilled to connect with you through my very first publication with the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB). This edition is packed with inspiring stories of growth, innovation, and resilience across Namibia's agronomic and horticultural sectors.

We're excited to announce the launch of the National Drought Support Programme, with NAB contributing N\$1 million to drought relief efforts. This initiative demonstrates our unwavering commitment to supporting farmers and communities in times of need.

We've also had the honor of celebrating the champions of food security at the National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA) 2024. These awards recognize the outstanding efforts and achievements of individuals and organizations driving excellence in food production across the country.

Our dedication to building capacity and sharing knowledge is evident in the recent Banana Production Training, which empowers aspiring producers to tap into new opportunities. We're also strengthening relationships with our stakeholders through active engagement at key national trade fairs, showcasing the dynamic growth and potential of Namibia's agronomic and horticultural industries.

A significant milestone in this edition is the successful launch of the Crop Producer Registration Cards. This achievement will greatly enhance our ability to manage and plan for a more productive and sustainable sector.

We're also diving into Namibia's promising avocado landscape, exploring consumption trends, trade potential, and future prospects. On a celebratory note, NAB is proud to have achieved a prestigious ISO certification, highlighting our commitment to quality and continuous improvement.

Additionally, we've wrapped up fruitful investment awareness sessions and represented Namibia's agricultural prowess on the global stage at Macfrut 2024. These efforts are paving the way for increased investment and growth in our thriving sector.

This edition of *The Seasons Harvest* is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved in Namibia's agronomic and horticultural journey. I'm eager to continue sharing these incredible stories with you in the issues to come.

Happy reading!

CEO'S Corner

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) remains committed to building a world-class, diversified, and sustainable crop industry.

Achieving this vision requires robust stakeholder engagement, both locally and internationally. These partnerships are essential to ensuring that Namibia's crop industry thrives, fulfilling domestic demand while tapping into international markets.

Currently, Namibia imports 96% of its fruit consumption needs, producing only 4% locally. This disparity is why the NAB has adopted a robust approach to fruit development, driving efforts to significantly boost production over the next five years and beyond. The goal is not only to meet local demand but also to position Namibia as a key player in the global market.

Namibia's unique environmental, political, and economic stability makes it ideal for fruit production. The country boasts excellent infrastructure, reliable water availability, and access to port facilities, all of which provide a solid foundation for expanding fruit exports. By leveraging these advantages, the NAB aims to accelerate the growth of fruit production, ensuring that Namibia can supply both local and international markets with high-quality produce.

Engaging local stakeholders, such as farmers, agribusinesses, and government bodies, is critical for driving innovation and addressing challenges unique to Namibia. By working collaboratively, the NAB ensures that the industry can capitalize on opportunities for growth, particularly in fruit production.

At the same time, international engagement allows Namibia to adopt global best practices and access advanced technologies. Aligning with international standards like GAP and HACCP not only enhances product quality but also opens new export markets, ensuring that Namibia's fruits can compete globally.

The NAB's strategic plan underscores the importance of stakeholder engagement in achieving market facilitation, regulatory compliance, and sustainable growth. Through local and international collaboration, Namibia's crop industry can continue to grow, driving economic prosperity and food security.

Stakeholder engagement is not just a priority, it is essential for the long-term success of Namibia's crop sector. As we work together, our shared efforts will help transform Namibia into a major player in both local and international markets, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for the industry.

Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi (PhD)
Chief Executive Officer
Namibian Agronomic Board

NAB Launches National Drought Support Programme and Donates N\$1 Million to Drought Relief Efforts



The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) CEO, Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi, alongside NAB Board Chairperson Mr. Hubertus Hamm, the Governor of Omusati Region, Honourable Erginus Endjala, and the Governor of Oshana Region, Honourable Elia Irimari, handed over N\$1 million towards drought relief efforts to Mr I-Ben Nashadi, Executive Director of the Office of the Prime Minister.

In a powerful demonstration of solidarity and commitment to Namibia's crop sector, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) has launched the National Drought Support Programme for Surplus and Commercial Grain Producers. This initiative aims to assist farmers affected by the ongoing drought, ensuring that the country's crop productivity and food security remain safeguarded.

As part of this effort, the NAB proudly donated **N\$1 million** to the Office of the Prime Minister. This contribution will go directly towards the national drought relief program, supporting communities and farmers most impacted by the current drought. NAB's contribution underscores its unwavering commitment to mitigating the devastating effects of drought on Namibia's crop sector and vulnerable communities.

Awardees Step Up with Additional Donations

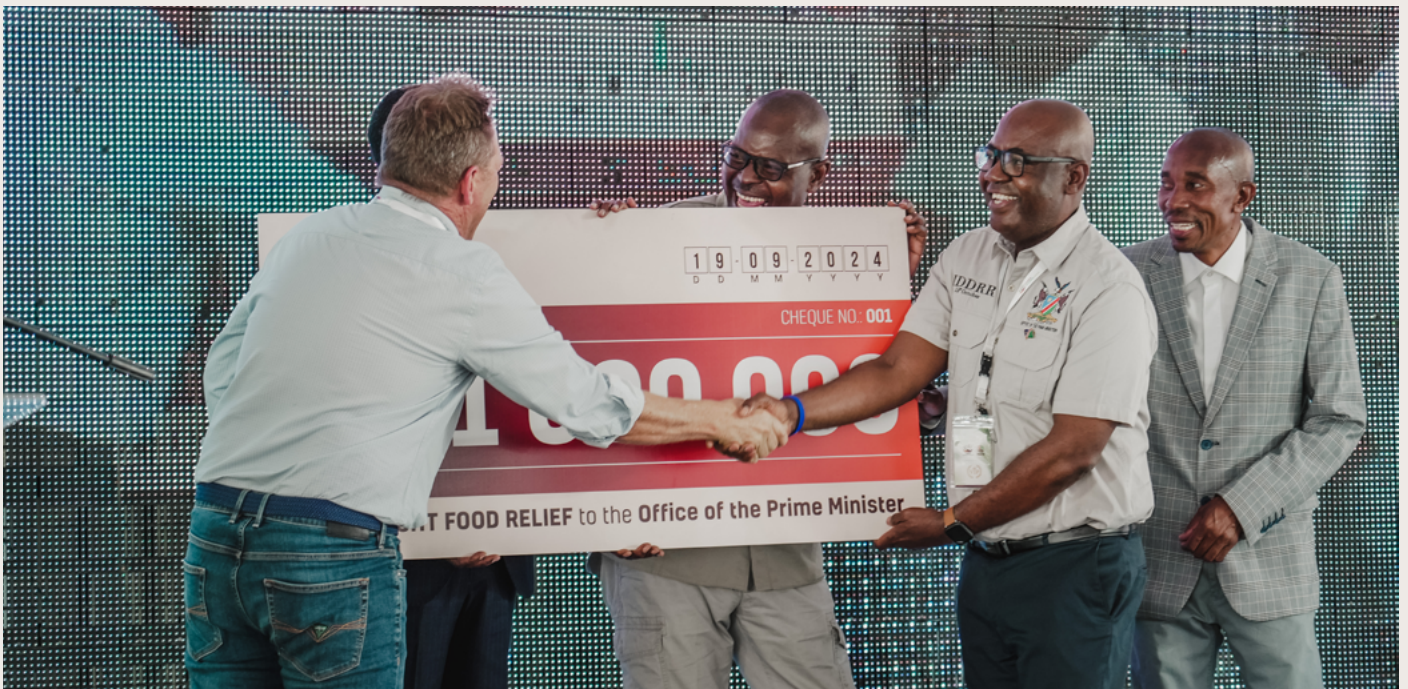
In a surprising and heartwarming turn of events at the **National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA) 2024**, various awardees chose to donate their prize money to the drought relief programme.

Among the contributors were **Bokomo Namibia, Goal Maize cc, Agro-Marketing Trade Agency (AMTA), FRESHCO NAMIBIA, Fysal Fresh Produce, and AgriGro Namibia**. Their generous donations further amplify the impact of the NAB's support and reflect the sector's shared commitment to helping farmers and communities during this difficult time.

A Renewed Focus on Food Security

The National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards 2024 also emphasized the essential role Namibia's farmers play in shaping the future of the country's crop landscape. With ongoing climate challenges, such as drought, resilience and sustainable practices are more important than ever. NAB's recent initiatives, including the National Drought Support Programme, and the contributions from the awardees, highlight the sector's united efforts to ensure food security for all Namibians.

As Namibia continues to confront the effects of climate change, the NAB and its partners are leading the way in supporting farmers and reinforcing the country's crop future.



Celebrating **Champions of Food Security** at the **National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA) 2024**



NAB CEO, Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi, presents the "Master Crop Value Chain Winner" award to Emillenhof Investments CC, joined by Honourable Elia Irimari, Governor of Oshana Region; Mr. I-Ben Nashandi, Executive Director from the Office of the Prime Minister and Mr. Leevi Nekwaya, Deputy Director – North from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform during the National Agronomy & Horticulture Awards.

The Namibian Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA) 2024 took place on Thursday, 19 September at the Olushandja Marketing Hub in the Omusati Region, honoring the exceptional contributions of Namibia's top producers, traders, input suppliers, and other stakeholders in the crop industry. This year's event highlighted the growing importance of food security in the face of climate change, and recognized the achievements of individuals and organizations dedicated to strengthening Namibia's agronomy and horticulture sectors.

A Resounding Call for Sustainability

Under the theme "Enhancing Food Security Amidst Climate Change Challenges," the awards ceremony showcased the critical need for innovative and sustainable farming practices to ensure the nation's food security. Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of the Oshana Region, delivered the opening address, emphasizing the pivotal role of agronomy and horticulture in addressing the nation's crop challenges. He praised the efforts of Omusati Region, particularly through projects like the Etunda Irrigation Project, and encouraged further investment in producing subtropical and tropical fruits.

Celebrating Industry Achievements

Mr. Hubertus Hamm, Chairperson of the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), commended the sector's progress in adapting to climate challenges. He highlighted significant milestones, such as the increased local market share and the expansion of horticultural exports. Namibia's crop sector has demonstrated resilience, despite setbacks such as a decline in grain self-sufficiency from 38% in 2022 to 20% in 2023 due to drought.



NAB Board members in attendance at the National Agronomy & Horticulture Awards (NAHA) ceremony.



NAB CEO, Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi, shared additional insights into the sector's growth, with the horticulture Market Share Promotion (MSP) scheme seeing an increase from 38% to 40% between 2022 and 2023. Dr. Mwazi highlighted the substantial growth in horticulture exports, which surged from N\$674 million in 2010 to an impressive N\$1.9 billion in 2023. However, he stressed the need to build resilience in grain production, as climate change continues to pose significant risks to the sector.

seeds, fertilizers, and water access, reinforcing Namibia's food security efforts in the face of ongoing climate challenges.

Namibia's Role in Regional Trade

As Namibia looks to the future, Hamm underscored the importance of Namibia's role within the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). He called for a review of SACU agreements to ensure balanced trade and development across member states. "Policies must not hinder our ability to access and implement strategies that benefit all SACU members," Hamm stated, urging collaborative efforts in revising the current regulatory framework to promote sustainable growth.



Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region, delivered the welcoming remarks.



Awardees took the stage with excitement to receive their NAHA awards.

Strengthening Food Security Amidst Climate Challenges

A highlight of the event was the keynote address, read on behalf of Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata Executive Director- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform by Mr. Leevi Nekwaya, Deputy Director – North Central, Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform. Nekwaya reaffirmed the government's commitment to building a sustainable agricultural sector by launching an N\$825 million drought-relief program. This initiative aims to provide vulnerable communities with essential resources such as food,

Looking Ahead

The Namibian Agronomy and Horticulture Awards 2024 not only celebrated the outstanding achievements of Namibia's crop industry stakeholders but also served as a reminder of the pressing need for resilience and innovation in agriculture. As the nation continues to confront the realities of climate change, events like these highlight the critical role of collaboration between government, farmers, and the private sector in ensuring long-term food security for Namibia.



Centre: General Manager: Agronomy & Horticulture Mr. Gilbert Mulonda, presented the award of Outstanding Agronomy service provider of the year to Agro-Marketing Trade Agency (AMTA).



Onampira Combined School won the Outstanding School Garden of the Year, sponsored and handed over by the Rössing Foundation.

NAB Strengthens Partnerships with Regional Governors to Drive Crop Sector Growth and Farmer Empowerment

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) recently conducted courtesy visits to the Governors of Omusati Region, Honourable Erginus Endjala, and Oshana Region, Honourable Elia Irimari, to explore ways of enhancing partnerships aimed at advancing the crop sector in these regions. During these discussions, NAB CEO, Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi, reaffirmed the board's dedication to empowering local farmers by collaborating with government partners to address key challenges and promote sustainable agricultural development.



From left: Honourable Elia Irimari, Ms. Sonja Molebugi (NAB Board Member), and NAB CEO Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi during a Board Familiarization

Dr. Mwazi underscored the value of such engagements, stating, ***"The goal of these visits is to strengthen collaboration with government input. This approach helps us better understand the challenges, governance issues, and opportunities provided by Local Economic Development (LED), allowing us to enhance our support to farmers."***

This visit comes at a pivotal time, as NAB is currently reviewing its five-year strategic plan. Dr. Mwazi emphasized that feedback from government stakeholders will be incorporated into the board's efforts to better serve farmers and enhance productivity across the crop sector.



NAB CEO Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi with Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region, during a Board Familiarization tour.

Developing a Crop Value Chain Strategy

Central to NAB's current focus is the development of a Value Chain Strategy aimed at transforming the crop sector. The strategy will address every stage of the value chain from input supply to marketing, with the goal of promoting local industries and improving seed production.

"We are moving into the production stage of seed production, which will be rolled out in various zones. Over the past five years, we've focused on improving productivity in key crops, especially staple foods. If we are to become food secure, we must address production levels and move towards processing and adding value to our horticultural products," Dr. Mwazi explained.



NAB Board members during their visit to the Etunda Green Scheme.



NAB Board members during their visit to the office of Governor of Omusati Region, Honourable Erginus Endjala.

Focus on Mahangu Commercialization

One of NAB's most ambitious goals is the commercialization of mahangu, a staple crop widely grown for household consumption. According to Gilbert Mulonda, NAB's General Manager of Agronomy and Horticulture, increasing the productivity of mahangu is critical to its commercial success.

"Mahangu has the potential for true commercialization, but currently, production levels are too low, averaging only 0.5 tons per hectare. This is far below its potential. We need to increase productivity to make commercialization viable," Mulonda noted.

By increasing yields and creating a more structured market, NAB hopes to turn mahangu into a profitable crop that contributes to both food security and economic development.

The Importance of Soil and Water Management

Honourable Governor Endjala echoed the need for a scientific approach to agriculture, particularly regarding soil health and water management. ***"Agronomy, which focuses on crop production, soil management, and land usage, is vital. Soil quality varies across Namibia, and some regions, like Oshana, are dominated by sandy soils that require treatment to become productive,"*** Governor Endjala said.



NAB Board members during their site visit to the Etunda Green Scheme.

He stressed the importance of advanced soil science in transforming poor-quality soils and maximizing agricultural output. ***"Oshikoto is blessed with fertile soil, unlike Oshana, which has sandy and alluvial soils. These challenges highlight the need for collaboration with rural water suppliers and modern water management technologies, especially as climate change impacts water quality and availability,"*** he added.

Governor Endjala also raised concerns about water quality, particularly in areas where underground water is saline. ***"We need to use advanced technology to ensure safe water for irrigation. Poor water quality can damage crops, and we must address this issue if we are to improve our agricultural output,"*** he said.

Banana Production Training Empowers Aspiring Producers in Namibia



Participants in Swakopmund that attended the Banana Production Training.

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), in collaboration with AvaGro hosted an insightful two-day Banana Production Training event from 27 August to 1 September 2024. The training took place across two locations, Avagro Farm in Swakopmund and Singalamwe Combined School in Kongola, drawing in a diverse group of aspiring banana producers eager to deepen their knowledge of banana cultivation.

As the second most consumed fruit in Namibia, bananas are a vital part of the country's agronomic landscape, and this training aimed to equip participants with essential skills to boost local production. Attendees delved into the fascinating world of banana cultivation, learning about the unique morphological characteristics of the banana plant and how to optimize its growth in Namibia's challenging subtropical environment.

Participants were particularly engaged with topics such as managing banana crops in varying temperatures, a critical factor that influences the plant's growth. The training also shed light on the specific challenges faced by farmers in regions like Kongola, where climate and soil conditions play a major role in crop success.



Participants engaging in hands-on activities during the Banana Production Training in Katima Mulilo.

One of the highlights of the training was the hands-on experience at Vulizi Mango farm in Singalamwe, where participants applied their newly acquired knowledge by planting banana plants themselves. This practical aspect of the training allowed attendees to gain firsthand experience in soil preparation, planting techniques, and crop management, transforming theory into practice.



Participants engaging in hands-on activities during the Banana Production Training in Katima Mulilo.



Participants engaging in hands-on activities during the Banana Production Training in Katima Mulilo.

Through this collaboration with AvaGro, the NAB is empowering local farmers and aspiring producers to improve banana production, contributing to Namibia's goal of increasing self-sufficiency in fruit production. As the demand for locally grown bananas continues to rise, initiatives like this are essential in fostering sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring food security in the country.

The NAB remains committed to supporting Namibian farmers with resources and training, ensuring that the agricultural sector thrives through continuous learning and innovation.



Mr. Gilbert Mulonda, General Manager: Agronomy & Horticulture demonstrating how it's done at the Banana Production Training in Katima Mulilo.

NAB Strengthens Stakeholder Engagement at Key National Trade Fairs



NAB engaging with stakeholders at the Zambezi Bream Festival and Cultural Expo.

As part of its ongoing vision to foster a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is placing stakeholder engagement at the heart of its activities. By actively participating in key national trade fairs such as the Zambezi Bream Festival and Cultural Expo, the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, and the Windhoek Agricultural and Livestock Show, the NAB is solidifying its role as a critical connector between producers, consumers, policymakers, and industry players.

Fostering Local Connections at the Zambezi Bream Festival and Cultural Expo

At the Zambezi Bream Festival, the NAB's focus was on strengthening ties with the local fishing community, as well as other regional stakeholders. The festival provided an ideal platform for the NAB staff members to engage with fish farmers, discuss sustainable fishing practices, and highlight the importance of preserving Namibia's aquatic resources. Through face-to-face interactions, the NAB was able to gather invaluable insights into the challenges faced by local producers and share tailored support initiatives aimed at improving aquaculture management and enhancing productivity.

Enhancing Dialogue at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair

The Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair stands out as one of Namibia's most vibrant economic and cultural events, attracting thousands of visitors and exhibitors each year. NAB's participation at this trade fair underscored its commitment to creating spaces where stakeholders from diverse agricultural backgrounds can come together to discuss critical issues. NAB used this opportunity to engage with small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs, and industry representatives, facilitating conversations on the latest trends and market opportunities. Through interactive sessions and networking opportunities, NAB deepened its relationships with both long-standing and emerging stakeholders, ensuring that their voices and concerns continue to shape the future of the crop industry.

Bridging Agricultural Communities at the Windhoek Agricultural and Livestock Show

The Windhoek Agricultural and Livestock Show, known for its diverse exhibitors and visitors, gave NAB a powerful platform to engage a wide range of stakeholders. From large-scale commercial farmers to smallholder producers, the NAB facilitated discussions on topics such as sustainable farming

techniques, agricultural technology, and the regulatory landscape. These conversations enabled NAB to address stakeholder needs directly, ensuring that NAB's strategies and policies are aligned with the realities on the ground.

Looking Ahead: A Collaborative Future for Agriculture
As the Namibian agricultural landscape continues to evolve, the NAB's focus on building robust relationships with stakeholders will remain a cornerstone of its strategy. By actively engaging with those who shape the sector, be it through trade fairs, community meetings, or industry forums, NAB is ensuring that it remains responsive to the needs of the sector. This proactive approach positions the NAB as a trusted partner in Namibia's journey toward agricultural growth and sustainability.



NAB engaging with stakeholders at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair.



NAB at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair engaging with visitors.

A proud moment for the Namibian Agronomic Board came at the Windhoek Agricultural and Livestock Show when NAB won the Silver Award for Indoor Stands at the Windhoek Showgrounds. This award reflects NAB's commitment to strengthening stakeholder engagement and supporting Namibia's crop sector by bringing its services closer to the people.

Through these trade fairs, the NAB not only elevates the profile of Namibia's agronomic and horticultural sectors but also creates lasting connections that will continue to shape the future of agriculture in the country. By putting stakeholders first, the NAB is leading the way toward a more inclusive, innovative, and prosperous agricultural future for Namibia.

The show also provided a space for the NAB to meet with policymakers and development partners, solidifying a collaborative approach to addressing Namibia's agricultural challenges.

Committed to Inclusive Engagement

Throughout these events, the NAB demonstrated its firm commitment to inclusive stakeholder engagement. By participating in trade fairs that attract a wide range of participants, from local producers and agribusinesses to government officials and consumers, NAB ensures that all voices in the crop value chain are heard. The NAB's approach to stakeholder engagement is grounded in the belief that strong relationships and open dialogue are key to advancing Namibia's agronomy and horticulture industry. Whether addressing challenges faced by farmers or exploring new avenues for growth, NAB remains dedicated to facilitating meaningful interactions that drive positive change.



NAB at the Windhoek Agricultural and Livestock Show engaging with visitors.

NAB Moments at Key National Trade Fairs



NAB Celebrates the Successful Launch of Crop Producer Registration Cards: A Major Step Forward for Namibia's Agronomy and Horticulture Sectors



NAB with registered farmers celebrating the successful launch of Crop Producer Registration Cards.

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) proudly announced the successful launch of the Crop Producer Registration Cards (CPRC) at an event held at the Zambezi Regional Council. This landmark occasion marked a major turning point for Namibia's agronomy and horticulture sectors, bringing together crop producers, government officials, and key industry stakeholders to celebrate an initiative set to reshape the future of the crop industry.

The introduction of the CPRC is poised to significantly enhance the regulatory framework governing the industry. Designed to serve as official proof of registration, the cards will simplify the process for registered producers and foster a culture of accountability and compliance. This important tool supports the growth, diversification, and long-term sustainability of the country's agronomic and horticultural industries.

During the event, the Governor of the Zambezi Region, Honourable Alufea Sampofu, encouraged farmers to take full advantage of the crop producer cards and register with the agronomic board. He highlighted the importance of continuing hard work to fully realize the benefits of this initiative.

"So it doesn't mean that when you have this card then you start saying that it's enough; this is just for you to get all these benefits," said Governor Sampofu. "Work hard, harder, so that you produce more; our markets are within our country. For those who can, you can even market outside the country; it's allowed. It's very important, so we wish you all the best."

Governor Sampofu further emphasized that the producer cards will open doors to new opportunities and partnerships, ultimately leading to better market prices and improved income for crop producers.



Stakeholders who attended the launch of Crop Producer Registration Cards.



Ms. Loide Uahengo, Manager: Agronomy Development and Governor of the Zambezi Region, Honourable Alufea Sampofu during the launch of Crop Producer Registration Cards.

The event resonated with a sense of shared achievement, with stakeholders applauding the collaboration between various sectors. Many recognized the CPRC as a vital step toward ensuring a thriving, well-regulated crop production industry in Namibia.

“The launch of the Crop Producer Registration Cards was a defining moment for our industry,” said Ms. Loide Uahengo, Manager: Agronomy Development. ***“This initiative will empower our producers, strengthen our regulatory framework, and enhance Namibia’s standing as a leader in sustainable crop production.”***

The NAB extended its heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders who attended and contributed to the success of this initiative. Their collective effort will play a crucial role in driving the future of Namibia’s agricultural industry and cementing the country’s place as a world-class regulator of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop sector.

For further details on the CPRC, or to learn how to register as a producer, please contact the NAB on 061 379 500.



Exploring Namibia's Avocado Landscape: Consumption, Trade, and Future Prospects

As avocados continue to capture global attention for their health benefits and culinary versatility, Namibia's engagement with this trending fruit offers intriguing insights. Despite a promising increase in consumption, the country's avocado production remains limited, with most avocados imported from neighboring South Africa.



Current State of Avocado Production and Consumption

According to a 2022 study by the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), Namibia's avocado cultivation is still in its nascent stage. The study identified approximately 201 avocado trees primarily in the Kavango and Karst production zones. Annually, Namibia imports over 1,200 avocado seedlings, yet detailed production metrics, such as yield quantity, are not available. Consequently, the country lacks official records on avocado production volumes.

In contrast, avocado consumption has seen a significant rise. From the 2021/22 to the 2022/23 financial year, avocado consumption in Namibia grew from 756.9 tons to 889.5 tons. This increase underscores the fruit's growing popularity among Namibian consumers, though it is worth noting that local production contributes less than one ton of avocados annually.

Trade Dynamics: Imports and Exports

Namibia's avocado trade is heavily reliant on imports, with South Africa being the exclusive supplier. In the 2021/22 financial year, Namibia imported 756 tons of avocados valued at N\$14.5 million. This figure surged to 889 tons valued at N\$16.4 million in the 2022/23 financial year. The increase in both import quantity and value reflects the growing demand for avocados in the country.

Despite the rise in imports, Namibia's avocado export sector remains non-existent. Local producers sold less than one ton of avocados in both financial years, generating revenue of under N\$10,000. This highlights a significant opportunity for growth in both production and exportation.

Price Trends

The price of avocados has experienced fluctuations over the past two years. In the 2021/22 financial year, the average import price was N\$11.93 per kilogram. This price decreased to N\$9.79 per kilogram in the 2022/23 financial year, indicating variations in international market conditions and availability.

Looking Ahead

The future of Namibia's avocado industry holds promise. The growing demand for avocados presents an opportunity for local producers to expand their operations. By investing in improved agricultural practices and addressing the current production challenges, Namibia can work towards reducing its dependence on imports. This shift not only has the potential to bolster local job creation but also to set the stage for future avocado exports.

As we navigate these opportunities, the NAB remains committed to supporting the development of Namibia's avocado sector and ensuring that the benefits of this flourishing market are realized domestically.

NAB Achieves Prestigious ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Accreditation, Elevating Namibia's Agronomic Standards



From Left: NAB's leadership team, Mrs. Lorna Shikongo-Kuvare (GM: Regulatory Services), Mr. Gilbert Mulonda GM: Agronomy and Horticulture Development), CEO Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi, and Mrs. Barbara Snyders-Bock (GM: Finance, HR, Admin, and ICT) showcasing NAB's ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation certificate.

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) has reached a major milestone by receiving its ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation from the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS). This significant achievement highlights NAB's unwavering commitment to enhancing the regulation of agronomic and horticultural products in Namibia.

ISO/IEC 17020:2012 is a globally recognized standard that outlines the stringent requirements for the competence of inspection bodies, ensuring impartiality and consistency in their operations. With this certification, the NAB's inspection processes have now been validated to meet international benchmarks, reflecting the organization's pursuit of excellence and reliability.

For Namibia's agronomic and horticultural sectors, this accreditation is more than just a stamp of approval—it is a game-changer. The NAB's dedication to upholding the highest standards in inspection services not only strengthens its regulatory framework but also opens doors for Namibian products to compete on the global stage.

This achievement bolsters NAB's credibility, paving the way for increased international trade and fostering a culture of continuous improvement within the industry. As a result, the entire Namibian crop industry stands to benefit, further solidifying the country's reputation as a trusted player in global agricultural markets.

With the ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation, the NAB has set a new benchmark in quality inspection services, ensuring that Namibia's agronomic and horticultural products meet world-class standards.



From left: NAB CEO Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi receives the ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation from the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) CEO Eve Gadzikwa.

NAB Concludes **Fruit Investment and Export Opportunities Awareness Sessions**

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), in collaboration with the European Union (EU) Namibia through the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) Programme, successfully concluded its **Fruit Investment and Export Opportunities Awareness Sessions** earlier this year. These sessions, held across four key production zones, equipped fruit farmers and stakeholders with valuable insights into investment prospects and export opportunities within Namibia's fruit sector.

Aimed at strengthening and promoting the fruit value chain—one of Namibia's most critical agricultural sectors—the sessions provided attendees with a deep understanding of the financial and market dynamics necessary for business expansion and access to international markets.

The awareness sessions kicked off on **29 April 2024** in the **Karst Production Zone**, with the scenic **Kupfer Quelle Resort** in Tsumeb as the venue. Fruit farmers and stakeholders from the northern regions gathered to discuss leveraging Namibia's growing fruit sector. The event was well-attended, with participants eager to explore new investment avenues and export opportunities.

The second session followed on **30 April 2024** in the **Kavango Production Zone** at the Rundu Hotel, attracting a significant number of local farmers. Discussions focused on how to expand operations and tap into both regional and global markets, underscoring the growth potential of the Kavango region, renowned for its agricultural output.



An EU representative's presentation during the Investment and Export Opportunities for Namibian Fruits awareness session.

On **02 May 2024**, the **Zambezi Production Zone** held its session at **Kamunu Wholesalers & Mills** in Katima Mulilo. Fruit producers from one of Namibia's most agriculturally productive areas engaged in dynamic discussions on optimizing fruit production and capitalizing on export opportunities. The high-energy atmosphere reflected the region's ambitions to exploit its strategic location near key borders.

The final session took place on **10 May 2024** in the **Central Production Zone** at the **Protea Hotel - Fürstenhof** in Windhoek. Drawing participants from the central and southern regions, this event provided a comprehensive overview of Namibia's fruit market on a global scale, with emphasis on the need for collaboration and innovation within the value chain.



A presentation during the Investment and Export Opportunities for Namibian Fruits awareness session at Protea Hotel Fürstenhof.



Participants during the Investment and Export Opportunities for Namibian Fruits awareness session.

These sessions proved instrumental in empowering Namibia's fruit farmers and stakeholders, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to grow their businesses, attract investments, and explore lucrative export opportunities. The NAB remains committed to fostering growth and sustainability in Namibia's agricultural sector through initiatives like these.

For more information on future initiatives, visit our website: www.nab.com.na

NAB Showcased **Namibia's Agronomic Industry** at Macfrut 2024



Macfrut's 41st edition in Italy attracted over 1,400 exhibitors and 1,500 top buyers, establishing itself as a key platform for industry innovation and collaboration.

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) proudly represented Namibia's agronomic industry at **Macfrut 2024**, Italy's premier Fruit and Vegetable Expo. The event, which attracted global leaders from the agricultural sector, provided a significant opportunity for Namibia to showcase its expanding agronomic potential on the international stage.

Led by **NAB CEO Dr. Fidelis Mwazi**, the delegation aimed to draw investment into Namibia's fruit and vegetable sector. During the expo, Dr. Mwazi emphasized the importance of promoting Namibia's agronomic industry and highlighted the country's strategic agricultural strengths, including its vast arable land and favorable climate for crop production. "Our participation in Macfrut 2024 was crucial as we worked to build international partnerships and attract investment to further develop Namibia's agronomy sector. The expo allowed us to showcase the potential of our local farmers and the high quality of Namibian produce, which is capable of competing globally," said Dr. Mwazi.

Macfrut 2024 offered a platform for stakeholders across the value chain—from production to export—to connect, share knowledge, and explore new markets. Namibia's participation underscored the NAB's commitment to expanding the country's agricultural footprint on a global scale.

Through its involvement in Macfrut 2024, the NAB sought to position Namibia as a key player in the international fruit and vegetable industry while inviting investors to explore the many opportunities available within the country's agronomy sector.

For more information about NAB's activities at Macfrut 2024 and other future events, visit: www.nab.com.na



NAB participated in Macfrut 2024, Italy's leading Fruit and Vegetable Expo, to promote Namibia's agronomic industry and attract investments.

OUR SERVICES

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

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

- Integrity
- Proactiveness
- Accountability
- Inclusivity



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