

Season's HARVEST

Issue No. 1



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Editor's Note

Welcome to our first issue of the "Season's Harvest", NAB's quarterly newsletter! I am excited to share this journey with all our readers.

The name Season's Harvest is inspired by the agricultural seasons that are experienced in Namibia. Time will certainly pass and seasons will come and go, however, no matter the season, agriculture must prevail to ensure the sustainability of food production. At the end of each season, we must evaluate the fruits borne from the past season and plan for the next.

In efforts to connect more with our stakeholders, especially now when the whole world is battling the Covid-19 pandemic, we would like to ensure that all our stakeholders are updated with our yearly activities, as well as all relevant industry information throughout all seasons.

Therefore, this newsletter is yet another addition to our pre-existing information sharing publications. This publication further affirms the NAB's commitment as a major industry player, to the continual improvement of information services that will further strengthen our dealings with all our stakeholders.

In this edition, we will share our Season's Harvest consisting of some of the exciting events and projects that the NAB has been spearheading for the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

We hope that you will find value in this edition.

Happy reading!



Auguste Fabian
Public Relations Officer



Chief Executive Officer:
Dr. Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is mandated to promote the agronomy and horticulture industry and to facilitate the production, processing, storage and marketing of agronomic and horticultural products in Namibia.

The first quarter of the year has presented both global and local economies with various challenges, therefore the agronomic and horticultural industry is no exception. During the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year, the industry experienced demand-based challenges in some commodity lines.

These challenges are mainly attributed to Covid-19 national regulations and restrictions, such as the closure of schools, restaurants and catering business establishments which led to a decrease in market demand for horticultural fresh produce. This resulted in some of the local producers experiencing challenges with finding the market to absorb their fresh produce.

Furthermore, the effects of the third wave of COVID-19 also had direct implications for the overall operations of the NAB in terms of implementing various strategic initiatives that were planned for the 2021/2022 financial year.

However, going forward, we need collective efforts from all industry role players and the Namibian business community, in driving the production, processing, storage and marketing across the value chain for agronomic and horticultural products. This will close the market gap and reduce Namibia's reliance on imported produce, ultimately stimulating the creation of more local job opportunities.

Ultimately, the NAB's journey, to be a world class organisation, requires various activities to be undertaken systematically and consistently to achieve targeted interventions. Thus, the full implementation of the annual business and financial plan is ongoing, but its preliminary success is attributed to the committed, dynamic NAB staff.

To further uphold continual organisational performance, the NAB has invested in various capacity development programmes, for NAB staff, to upgrade the skills and knowledge required for high-level performance. The programmes mainly focus on performance management systems, total quality management and ICT related training. Having a highly skilled and motivated team yields better outcomes in terms of service delivery and strengthened stakeholder engagement.

In line with our strategic Plan 2020-2024, the Namibian Agronomic board has committed itself to three main high-level strategies, namely: Agronomy and Horticulture Development, Operational Excellence and Regulatory Framework.

To achieve the aforementioned strategies, effective and comprehensive information-sharing systems are vital. Hence the introduction of this quarterly publication further affirms the NAB's commitment to maintaining the continuous flow of comprehensive information that will keep our stakeholders well informed on significant industry news. Thus, the introduction of the NAB newsletter known as "Season's Harvest" is aimed to boost information dissemination to our valued stakeholders in addition to our existing multimedia platforms that have been created thus far.

Therefore, our Season's Harvest newsletter is aimed to strengthen stakeholder engagement and satisfaction as our ultimate goal, hence it will be released on a quarterly basis to update the industry on the NAB activities across the country in contributing to the improvement of the quality of life for our citizens.

I thank you!



NAB'S TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT (TQM) PROGRAMME



Total Quality Management Officer
Celestino Ferreira

The Namibian Agronomic Board's (NAB) strategic plan is the blueprint towards enhancing the organisation's performance within the next five years. This was emphasised by the Chief Executive Officer in his introductory statement of the five-year strategic plan for the NAB.

The NAB's vision is to become "A world class regulator of a vibrant, diversified and sustainable crop industry". The vision of the NAB has been set SMART and it is further supported by management and the Board's decision to implement ISO 9001:2015. The main objective of implementing ISO 9001:2015 is to obtain world-class recognition, not only as a regulator but also as an entity which is known for performing sound business practices in accordance with globally acceptable standards.

Out of the seven principles of the standards, at the top of the list is customer focus and leadership. This is a clear indication that the top management at the NAB has placed the customers as their most important stakeholder.

The decision to adopt the standard is a clear indication of the NAB's commitment towards customer satisfaction. As a requirement in the standard, management is expected to demonstrate leadership and commitment to customer focus by conducting the assessment in context, to ensure that all relevant customer and legal requirements have been considered, maintained and consistently met. This requirement has been met through the establishment of the NAB Quality Policy, as management commitment towards the implementation of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS). The Policy is available to the public and it is accessible on the NAB website and all NAB offices countrywide.

The implementation of the QMS according to the standard, will ensure and demonstrate that the NAB's services satisfy customer requirements, as well as applicable statutory and legal requirements. The application of the standard also indicates that in as much as customer satisfaction may be satisfactory, the NAB will remain committed to the improvement of its services to stay abreast of global trends in the industry. Organisations use the standard to demonstrate the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements as we have been continuously demonstrating.

Through the risk-based approach and in accordance with standard requirements, the NAB adopted quality objectives to set the tone for implementation and its processes, as well as to ensure continual improvements towards ISO 9001:2015 certification. The aforementioned objectives are as follows:

- 1 Respond to customer complaints within 48 hours / 2 working days upon lodging of a complaint;
- 2 Achieve an overall rating of 75% on the Customer Satisfaction Survey;
- 3 Training of all NAB employees on the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System requirements standards; and
- 4 Achieve 70% implementation of the Quality Management System across the NAB.

NAB's top management has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the successful implementation of the QMS through the approval of the quality policy and its quality objectives. Hence, internal and external stakeholders (interested parties), including NAB leadership, will play a significant role in the full implementation of the QMS and ensuring world-class recognition.





UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF CROP FARMING IN FUTURE FARMERS



Minister of Education, Hon. Anna Nghipondoka pictured with NAB Board Chairperson, Michael Iyambo and NAB's General Manager: Horticulture and Agronomy Market Development, Gilbert Mulonda, during the hand-over ceremony in Windhoek

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is a statutory body which is governed by the Agronomic Industry Act, Act 20 of 1992 and it is mandated to promote and facilitate the entire agronomic and horticultural value chain in Namibia (from farm gate to the table).

Despite the challenging times posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NAB remains steadfast in serving the agronomy and horticulture industry as well as ploughing back into the Namibian communities through corporate social responsibility initiatives.

During the 2020/21 financial year, the NAB Board approved an amount of N\$1.1 million towards the NAB School Garden Funding Project (SGFP). The project aims to support at least one school garden in each of the 14 regions in Namibia.

The main objectives of this project are to advocate for practical teaching and learning, as well as to inculcate the culture of crop farming in school learners, as future crop farmers. In addition, the project seeks to further supplement the soup kitchen and school feeding maize blend with fresh produce from the gardens as a way to minimize malnutrition disorders among school learners in Namibia.

The project was officially launched at a hand-over ceremony on the 9th of June 2021 at Awas Primary School, in Katutura, Windhoek. The event was officiated by the

Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Anna Nghipondoka.

However, the project implementation officially commenced on the 23rd of March 2021 and was completed in May 2021. Currently, all 14 school garden structures have been successfully set up, and 11 school gardens are operational whilst the remaining three are yet to commence with planting.



Emilie Abraham, NAB's Manager: Horticulture Market development giving a school garden tour during the hand-over ceremony.

The project is set to benefit approximately 6000 learners, in total, who are currently supported by the school feeding maize blend. The NAB will only fund the initial capital requirements of the project. Afterwards, the beneficiaries



are expected to sustain their gardens by selling surplus produce to the surrounding communities.

To ensure inclusivity and a fair selection process of the 14 schools that are funded by the SGFP, the NAB requested the Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture (MoEAC), as the main custodian of schools, to nominate at least three potential schools to be assessed, per region, in line with NAB nomination guidelines. Hence, a total of 42 schools were nominated for assessment. The NAB and the MoEAC conducted assessment visits at all 42 school gardening sites during November 2020, to select the 14 schools that would benefit from the school garden funding initiative.



The NAB also donated promotional signages for the sponsored school gardens

The selection criteria mainly focused on schools with the most vulnerable children in the region, schools that have agriculture as a subject, with an existing and active school garden, as well as agriculture teachers who were most passionate about gardening amongst other criteria.

The selected schools are as follows; Origo PS (Hardap region), Gobabis PS (Omaheke region), St. Therese SS (//Karas region), Aus PS (Komas region), Oshinamumwe CS (Oshikoto region), Ondeikela CS (Ohangwena region), Onawa SS (Omusati region), Okaquati CS (Kunene region), Coastal High School (Erongo region), GK Wahl CS (Otjozondjupa region), Nkurenkuru CS (Kavango-West), Divundu CS (Kavango-East region), Schuckmansburg CS (Zambezi region) and Iihenda SS (Oshana region).

Depending on the unique gardening needs identified during the field assessment period, the project equipped school gardens with 200 m² greenhouses, automated and timed drip irrigation systems, water tanks and stands, garden tools, seedling stands, and a supply of production inputs such as planting materials (seeds & seedlings), organic fertilizers and organic pesticides. The project package also included on-site practical training for learners and teachers involved in the garden activities, comprising of first planting service, and continuous virtual mentorship services for a period not less than three months, until the schools attained their first harvest. Moreover, the NAB and MoEAC will be conducting monitoring and evaluation, at three-month intervals, to ensure that technical inefficiencies are promptly corrected and that non-performing school gardens receive timely technical support.

This project is one of many initiatives driven by the NAB in working towards increased food production and national food security in our country. The NAB remains committed to being a world class regulator of a vibrant, diversified and sustainable crop industry.



Auas Primary School Learners were in performance cheers during the SGFP launch



SCHOOLS SHARE THEIR GARDEN SUCCESSES

Auas Primary School



Gobabis Primary School



Okanguati Combined School



Ondeikela Combined School



Origo Primary School



St. Therese Combined School



Ihenda Primary School



Coastal High School

NKURENKURU Combined School





NAB AND UNAM SEED RESEARCH PROJECT TO YIELD PROMISING OUTCOMES



Field visit during the Seed Research Open Day at Mashare Irrigation research site in Kavango East Region

On the 10th of May 2021, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), in collaboration with the University of Namibia (UNAM), held a Seed Research Open Day event to assess the progress on the white maize and pearl millet seed variety trials currently being conducted by the two organisations at Mashare research site. The event was held at Mashare Irrigation (Pty) Ltd, situated about 50km east of Rundu in the Kavango East region.

The event aimed to highlight the preliminary outcomes on various seed variety trials currently being undertaken as part of the implementation of the MOU signed between the NAB and UNAM on the 17th of June 2020.

The seed variety trials are being conducted at four research sites namely; Mashare Irrigation (Pty) Ltd, Ogongo UNAM Campus, Zambezi Vocational Training Centre and Dorringboom UNAM Farm respectively.

The resolution for the two organisations to collaborate in seed variety research stems from the needs assessment findings, which identified the limited availability of high-quality certified seeds that are high-yielding varieties, and are adapted to the Namibian climatic and soil conditions. The assessment further indicated that seed is the most important input and Namibia remains a net importer of both agronomic and horticultural seeds, a gap which the ongoing seed variety research aims to address.



Gilbert Mulonda, NAB's GM: Agronomy and Horticulture Market Development addressing the crowd during the open day.

Speaking at the event, NAB's GM for Agronomy and Horticulture Market Development, Mr Gilbert Mulonda said, *"the seed trials will produce findings to supplement the government's efforts in establishing white maize and pearl millet seed varieties that are best suited towards Namibia's climatic conditions and are most likely to produce maximum yields to ensure increased food production in Namibia"*.

During December 2020 to April 2021 growing season, 24 elite Pearl millet seed varieties were received from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid



Tropics (ICRISAT), for Eastern and Southern African Regional office in Nairobi, and they were planted at the aforementioned research sites. These seeds were tested under irrigation, for yield and adaptability to the Namibian climatic conditions. Three early maturing local seed varieties; Okashana2, Kangara and Kantana were also included in the assessments as checks.



NAB's CEO Dr Fidelis Mwazi and UNAM's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Kenneth Matengu pictured during the field visit at the open day

During the same period, 28 early and 28 intermediate maturing white maize hybrids seed varieties were received from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and they were similarly tested on all four research sites. As part of these trials, one local seed variety and three commercial varieties commonly planted in Namibia were included as test controls.

Harvesting and final screening of the early and intermediate white maize and pearl millet varieties, planted at all four sites, have been successfully conducted. The top-performing varieties, for both white maize and pearl millet seeds, will be recommended for release after the second trials, subject to regulatory certification in line with Namibia's Seed and Seed Varieties Act No 23 of 2018,

to be facilitated through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR).

UNAM's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kenneth Matengu, highlighted that during the second seed trials, 2021/2022, to be conducted later this year, the selections from the open day will be tested on more research sites and larger land areas under farmers' conditions.

Prof. Matengu further encouraged more Green Schemes and farmers to partner and participate in advanced seed trials by providing seed testing facilities and seed production areas.

Reflecting on the event, the NAB CEO, Dr Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi, further highlighted that in line with the NAB's strategic plan for 2020/21 - 2024/25, seed research and production for agronomic and horticultural crops remains a key focus area. *"The seed research is very significant in driving the sustainable crop production, and the production of high-quality seed varieties is the foundation for the long-lasting profitability of a crop farming business in Namibia"*, he said.

"Ultimately, the hybrid seeds to be produced as from 2022 will be increased yearly, packaged and availed to our local farmers at affordable prices, which will further contribute to food security and reduced reliance on seed imports", he concluded.

The NAB remains committed to establishing itself as a world-class regulator of a vibrant, diversified and sustainable crop industry in line with its mandate of promoting the agronomic industry and to facilitating production, processing, storage and marketing of controlled products in Namibia as outlined in the Agronomic Industry Act, Act 20 of 1992.



NAB and UNAM staff pictured during the open day at Mashare.



PROGRESS ON THE SEED RESEARCH PROJECT

In line with the NAB's strategic plan for 2019 - 2024, seed research and production for agronomic and horticultural crops is one of the major priorities. Seeds are the most important input in crop farming, however, the availability of improved quality seed varieties, that are adapted to our local climatic conditions, is one of the biggest factors hampering crop productivity in Namibia. Consequently, Namibia is a net importer of both agronomic and horticultural seeds.

In this regard, it is logical for Namibia to accelerate the development of high yielding and adapted seed varieties. Therefore, the seed research project, spearheaded in partnership between the NAB and the University of Namibia (UNAM), has gained significant progress in driving the agenda through the Crop Improvement Programme (CIP). The CIP aims to breed for, and select, high yielding and adapted seed varieties of agronomic and horticultural crops, with priority given to white maize, pearl millet, wheat and potatoes.



Pearl millet (mahangu)

During December 2020, 24 elite pearl millet seed varieties were received from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Eastern and Southern African Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya.



Planting took place at Mashare Irrigation Pty Ltd (Kavango East), Zambezi Vocational Training Centre (Zambezi), Ogongo UNAM Campus (Omusati) and Dorringsboom UNAM Farm (Otjozondjupa), from December 2020 to January 2021. The seed varieties used in these trials were tested for yield and adaptability to local climatic conditions.

The Zambezi trials were tested/conducted under rainfed conditions and all the remaining three research sites were under irrigation.

Three local check varieties were included in the trials. Harvesting and final screening was conducted in May 2021. The next trials are scheduled to commence from mid-October 2021.



White maize

During December 2020, 28 early and 28 intermediate maturing white maize hybrid seed varieties were received from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).



They were planted during December 2020 to January 2021 and tested at the aforementioned four research sites under irrigation, except for the Zambezi site that was under rainfed conditions.

One local and three commercial check varieties were included in the trials. Harvesting and final screening of the varieties was completed in May 2021.



Wheat

During March 2021, 200 bread wheat varieties were received from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), to be tested in Namibia during the winter planting season. Two commercial checks were included in these trials.





Planting commenced at the end of May 2021 and the trials were conducted at five sites located in the Hardap area, Mannheim Research Station (Tsumeb), Dorringboom UNAM Farm (Otjozondjupa), Mashare Irrigation PTY (Kavango East), and Zambezi Vocational Training Centre (Zambezi).

Planting was completed in June 2021, while harvesting and final screening of the varieties is expected to commence during October and November 2021 respectively.

Potato

During December 2020, the NAB and UNAM, in collaboration with a French company, Comptoir du Plant, and with assistance from the Namibian Embassy in France, embarked on seed potato variety trials in Namibia at four selected sites, namely; Hochfeld (Otjozondjupa), Guinas (Tsumeb), Tsintsabis (Tsumeb) and Dorringboom UNAM Farm (Otjiwarongo).



The trials focused on the yield and adaptability of the six French potato seed varieties in the Namibian climatic and soil conditions, and two commercial check varieties commonly grown in Namibia were also included.

The six French seed potato varieties were donated to the NAB by Comptoir du Plant, and distributed by the NAB to all the participating Namibian farmers at no cost. The participating farmers conducted trials at their own cost, while NAB was responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the trials at all four sites.

Harvesting and final screening of the varieties for the Hochfeld and Guinas sites were conducted during the first week of April 2021. However, harvesting and screening at the Dorringboom UNAM site was only completed in June 2021, due to late planting. In addition, the trial at the Tsintsabis site was not fruitful due to heavy rainfall that damaged the crops, therefore, no harvest was gained.

According to the preliminary outcomes of the trials conducted at Hochfeld and Guinas sites, some French varieties are performing very well when compared to the commercial checks in terms of yield, quality and adaptability, including the sensory evaluation that was also conducted for all the varieties.

In summary, the objective of the seed research trials is to evaluate various varieties of white maize, pearl millet, wheat and potato for high yield and adaptation in the four Namibian production zones and to select the best performers for commercial production. Top-performing varieties which are better than the local and or commercial varieties (checks) will be recommended for release after the second or third trials and official recognition, in accordance with the Seed and Seed Varieties Act 23 of 2018 of Namibia.

Thereafter, seed multiplication for commercial purposes will be undertaken in Namibia for the best performing varieties of white maize, pearl millet and wheat, while in terms of French seed potatoes, top-performing varieties will be recommended to farmers for commercial production.





EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT



General Manager: Regulations
Lorna Shikongo-Kuvare

The NAB is pleased to announce the executive appointment of Lorna Shikongo-Kuvare as the new General Manager for Regulations with effect from 01 April 2021.

Lorna is a well-known professional in the regional and international standardisation spheres. She has gained a

wealth of experience working in the standards and quality assurance industry for more than 15 years and contributing immensely to the functionality of Namibia's National Quality Infrastructure.

She is well versed in the formulation of technical regulations and she has played an instrumental role in the certification of Quality Management System based on ISO 9001:2015, the Certification of Food Safety Management System according to ISO 22000:2018, as well as the Food Safety System Certification based on the FSSC 22000 Certification Scheme. This includes the attainment and maintenance of the accreditation for the Certification of Quality Management System to ISO 9001:2015.

Furthermore, Lorna has led the establishment of a fully-fledged Product Certification Scheme based on ISO/IEC 17065, leading to the certification of products and issuance of the Namibian Standards Mark of Conformity.

Lorna holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Namibia, a Master's degree in Veterinary Public Health from the University of Pretoria, and is currently completing her thesis for the Master of Business Administration at the Namibia Business School.

She describes her leadership style as direct and leading by example. *"I enjoy delegating tasks and taking the lead on projects, but I also like to stay involved and inspire my team by showing that I'm working hands-on to help them, too,"* she said.

Lorna is motivated by knowing the fact that her hard work and perseverance are influential in achieving greater professional success. Expressing her excitement in joining the NAB team, she said,



I look forward to utilising the experience that I have in standards, quality assurance and regulations to help streamline the regulatory service provision for even more successful implementation



The NAB is confident that Lorna's wealth of expertise will be a valuable addition to the overall agronomic and horticultural industry.





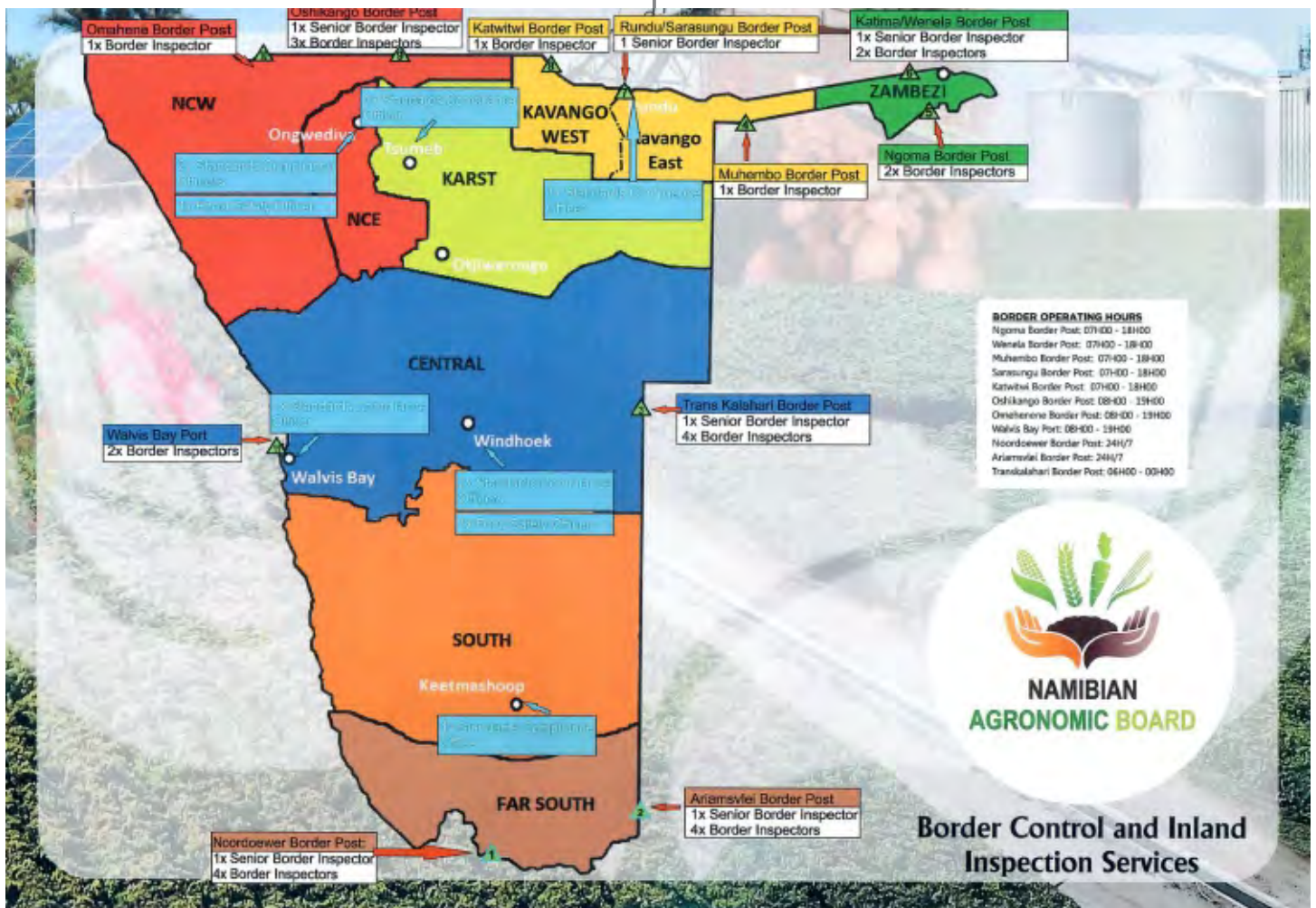
NAB BORDER CONTROL OPERATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

Since the NAB officially took over the implementation of all regulatory functions in April 2020, which included Border Control Inspection services, the NAB's Regulations division has implemented a fully functional Border Control Inspectorate sub-division at all commercial ports of entry and exit, into and out of Namibia, in line with the NAB's strategic objectives. The NAB currently has 11 Border Control Inspectorate offices at various border posts, which provide border control inspection services, with a full staff complement of 29 staff members based at the respective border posts.

The main objective of the border control inspection services is to determine and ensure compliance, and admissibility of agronomic and horticultural products, as documented, for export, import and transit. The Border Control Inspectorate performs the first line inspection process, physical inspection (where applicable), document

checks and verifications for admissibility of agronomic and horticultural products for export, import and in-transit. Non-compliance may result in the refusal of product entry into or through Namibia. Non-compliant consignments are sealed for inland inspection at the first point of offloading. Should products be deemed non-compliant with import conditions and regulations, they are confiscated by NAB officials. Confiscated products that are fit for human consumption are donated to charity organisations of the NAB's choice, however, products that are not fit for human consumption are destroyed.

During the 2020/21 Financial Year, the Border Control Inspectorate recorded a total of 3 945 grain and grain product import consignments and 1 692 horticultural import consignments. The overall recorded compliance rate during the 2020/2021 Financial Year was 99.2%.

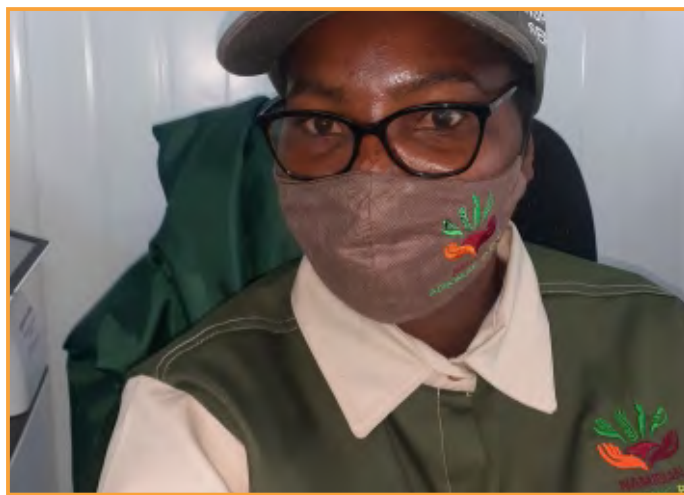


The Map depicts the eleven (11) commercial ports of entry and exit where the Namibian Agronomic Border Control Inspection services are provided. The two southern borders (Noordoewer and Ariamsvlei) operate 24 hours and seven days a week (with interchanging shifts), while the Transkalahari Border post at Buitepos operates from 07h00 till 00h00 midnight. The NAB is also present at Katwitwi, Ngoma, Sarasungu, Katima Mulilo (06h00 till 18h00), Mohembo and Omahene border posts to inspect and clear Agronomic and Horticultural consignments seven (7) days a week from 07H00 till 18H00. At the Oshikango border post, the Agronomic and Horticultural consignment inspection and clearance services by the NAB are from 08h00 till 19h00, seven (7) days a week.



How to spot NAB Inspectors

All NAB Border Control Inspectors can be identified by their unique uniforms and safety gear, for the purpose of executing their duties at various ports of entry/exit. In addition, all NAB Border Control Inspectors are provided with official ID cards for identification purposes.



FAQ

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FOCUS ON BORDER OPERATIONS)



Q: Are all agronomic and horticultural consignments sealed at the point of entry?

A: No, not all import consignments are sealed but only special and controlled horticultural product consignments are sealed at the point of entry. All in-transit consignments are sealed. For the purpose of implementing and ensuring compliance to the Regulatory Framework, the NAB Regulations Division, subdivision Border Control Inspectorate may, from time to time, implement the sealing of consignments as per the Board Resolutions and/or for the purpose of compliance assessments.



Q: When having a NAB permit, is the importer restricted to use the entry port as indicated on the permit?

A: Not necessarily. The importer may use another port of entry into Namibia with a valid NAB permit. It is advisable that if the importer is not sure of the port of entry to be used, they can indicate “various ports of entry” when applying for a permit.



Q: Will an agronomic or horticultural consignment be allowed entry into Namibia with an expired permit in order to apply for a new permit at the first point of offloading?

A: No. Agronomic and horticultural consignments will be allowed entry into Namibia if the permit is expired or if the validity period is not yet into effect. The consignment will be detained and the owner of the consignment will be allowed to apply for another permit at his or her own cost. The consignment will only be cleared upon presentation of a valid permit and supporting documents.



FAQ

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FOCUS ON BORDER OPERATIONS)



Q: Are the NAB Border Control Inspectors allowed to detain consignments at the border post?

A: Yes. The NAB Border Control Inspectors are appointed as per Section 13 of the Agronomic Industry Act 20 of 1992. Therefore, they may detain consignments that are not in compliance with the permit conditions, MSP rules and procedures, as well as export, import and transit rules and procedures pertaining to border control. NAB Border Control Inspectors may also detain consignments that do not comply with the Board resolutions pertaining to border control.



Q: Are there special conditions for the transit consignment trucks?

A: Yes. All transit agronomic and horticultural consignments transiting through Namibia shall be sealed. Hence, the design of the trucks shall be in such a way that they are sealable (e.g. flat-bed trucks should have hooks onto which the seals should be placed). Flat-bed truck consignments should be covered with a tent and a net, and all transit consignments should exit the Namibian territory within 48 hours from the time the consignment was cleared at the port of entry (permit conditions apply).

Seen OUT & ABOUT



The NAB team recently participated at the Zambezi Horticulture Farmers Day event held in the Zambezi region. The event was aimed at bringing farmers together to showcase their agricultural produce and create a platform to network with other service providers in the region as well as other regions for knowledge sharing.





NAMIBIAN TABLE GRAPES INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO PROSPER



Over the years, the Namibian table grapes industry has grown from strength to strength, establishing itself as the most fast-growing and lucrative commodity within the horticultural sector. The industry plays a major role in employment creation in the country, currently employing more than 10 215 Namibians (11% permanent & 89% temporary workers).

During the 2020/21 harvesting season, the sector recorded the highest ever table grapes production, which saw our farmers exporting 39 233 tons of table grapes, generating over N\$ 858 million in revenue, representing an increase of 14% in volumes when compared to the 2019 season. This translates into 8.7 million cartons (4.5 kg concerted cartons) of Namibian table grapes exported during the 2020 season to the European Union (56%), United Kingdom (29%), Africa (6%), Asia (6%) and the remaining 4% to the USA and Norway respectively.

Traditionally, Namibia's table grapes harvest season commences from late October to mid-January the following year. However, with the introduction of new improved varieties, Namibian table grape farmers are finding new ways of extending the table grape harvest production into the winter season, with a smaller amount of table grapes, comprising mostly of white and red seedless varieties, being produced between May and June respectively.

To date, there are 13 table grape registered producers in Namibia, farming on 2,217.46 ha of land under irrigation. They are mainly situated in the southern parts of Namibia

at Aussenkehr, Komsberg, Naute Dam and Noordoewer respectively. The main varieties produced in Namibia are white (48%), red (43%) and black (9%) seedless grapes.

Namibian table grapes are well known for their world-class quality. Therefore, maintaining the consistent quality of Namibian table grapes, for both the international and local market, is our priority. The NAB, through its regulatory services, is responsible for facilitating and conducting table grapes food safety and quality inspections. This is done through our team of highly trained and competent inspectors, hence giving assurance to the market and the consumer, that our table grapes are indeed safe to eat and of superior quality.



NAB inspectors pictured after attending training on ISO 17020 Standards, as well as on Personal Development conducted by VISIONEER it. The training took place at the Aussenkehr Valley, South of Namibia, just before the commencement of the table grapes harvest season for 2020/21





NAB inspectors pictured while attending a Refresher Training on Table Grapes Inspections. The training was conducted by PPECB to effectively equip all our inspectors with the guidelines for Table Grapes Inspections for export purposes. The training took place at the Aussenkehr Valley, South of Namibia

To further support the table grapes industry and ensure that it continues to prosper, the NAB through its division for Agronomic and Horticulture Market development, creates an environment that is conducive for the production and marketing of table grapes by crafting rules and regulations to enhance the value chain activities. This is done through market facilitation in terms of ensuring that farmers get access to the local and international markets, providing advisory and information services to all relevant stakeholders including the registration of

producers, traders and other stakeholders in the value chain, issuing of permits (in-transit, export and import), and conducting research across the value chain.

The NAB further encourages more upcoming producers to join the table grapes industry, for the growth and sustainability of the industry, and to create more job opportunities within the Namibian market to contribute towards the overall economic development of the nation.



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 and Inclusivity.

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