



NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD



Seasons HARVEST

Issue No. 04 & 05

CONTENTS

- 02 ▶ OUR SERVICES
- 03 ▶ CEO'S CORNER
- 04 ▶ NAB AND THE GLOBALG.A.P. COLLABORATE EFFORTS IN CREATING FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR NAMIBIA
- 06 ▶ NAB AND AGRIBANK SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
- 07 ▶ WHITE MAIZE MARKETING AND BORDER CONTROL MANAGEMENT IN THE ZAMBEZI REGION
- 08 ▶ REGISTRATION OF GRAIN PRODUCERS AND SUBMISSION OF EXPECTED GRAIN HARVEST
- 09 ▶ NAB AND PARTNERS CONDUCT SECOND FRENCH SEEDPOTATO VARIETY TRIALS IN NAMIBIA
- 10 ▶ NAB AND UNAM HOST INSIGHTFUL FARMER'S INFORMATION DAYS AT SELECTED PEARL MILLET RESEARCH TRIAL SITES
- 11 ▶ CROP SPECIFIC MARKETING AND QUALITY STANDARDS WORK SHOPS
- 12 ▶ NAB LINKING SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS IN THE NCA TO FORMAL MARKETS
- 13 ▶ NAMIBIA'S QUEST FOR A GREEN ECONOMY: NOTES FROM DUBAI
- 15 ▶ TOP TRADED HORTICULTURAL CROPS IN NAMIBIA
- 16 ▶ PUBLIC NOTICE
- 16 ▶ SEEN OUT & ABOUT
- 18 ▶ TIPS FOR A HASSLE-FREE BORDER CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR AGRONOMIC AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Editor's Note

Dear reader, welcome to yet another exciting edition of our quarterly *Season's Harvest*.

As we strive to become a world class regulator of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry, forming strategic collaborations is of paramount importance. Hence, during the first half of 2022, the NAB focused its efforts on forging cooperation with local and international partners, that can further escalate the growth of Namibia's infant crop industry.

In this edition, we share with you the strides that have been achieved in establishing and cementing collaborative efforts through formalised partnerships. Examples of this include the advancement of the globalg.a.p and NAB collaboration in capacity building, and efforts to create farm assurance solutions for Namibia, as well as the NAB and Agribank's Memorandum of Understanding, which is focused on connecting small-scale farmers to the formal market.

We also highlight the progress that has been made on the NAB's research trials for French potato seed varieties and the pearl millet seed varieties which are currently underway at various research sites countrywide. The detailed reports are accessible on the NAB website for all our stakeholders. In addition, we share with our readers the various stakeholder engagement activities that were undertaken for the period under review, which are aimed at keeping all our stakeholders abreast with relevant industry information.

In essence, the future of the agronomy and horticulture industry in Namibia requires concerted efforts from all role players to bring about sustainable social and economic benefits in our society. The NAB, as the industry leader, will continue to support initiatives that enhance the industry's development.

Until the next edition, *Happy reading!*



Public Relations Officer
Auguste Fabian

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 MANDATE

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

02



NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

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



CONTACT US

+264 (61) 379 500

www.nab.com.na





Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Fidelis N. Mwazi (PhD)

In a quest to further drive the agenda of economic growth through agronomy and horticulture development, during the first half of the year, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) focused efforts on scouting for investment opportunities within the local and international sphere. These efforts were cemented through various notable international engagements, such as the Dubai Expo 2020, and the World Economic Summit.

The Dubai Expo 2020 was held in the UAE, the international centre stage for economic growth and diversification. The expo also provided an opportune platform for the country to engage with potential investors and to showcase investment opportunities in priority sectors such as agronomy

CEO'S CORNER

and horticulture, which can potentially drive economic growth and foster food self-sufficiency in Namibia.

Some of the key takeaways from the Dubai Expo 2020 is that other than grapes and dates, Namibia has a great potential to expand the scope of our current export product lines into other high-value fruits such as citrus, avocados, and blueberries. We also have suitable soils and climatic conditions, sufficient water resources, arable land as well as good infrastructure in terms of the road network, ICT, and ports such as the Walvis Bay Harbour. Furthermore, it was noted that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a net importer of most fruits and vegetables, and as such, Namibia can tap into this lucrative market. Collaborations with investors have reached an advanced stage, therefore, in addition to the existing export lines of grapes and dates, we have started to export horticultural products such as butternuts and blueberries, respectively. Therefore, more agronomic and horticultural products will be introduced to the UAE export markets as well as other international markets.

At the World Economic Summit that was held in Davos (Switzerland) in May 2022, the NAB presented to the world what Namibia can offer in terms of our best quality and safe export product lines such as table grapes, dates, blueberries, tomatoes, onions, butternuts, sweet pepper, and English cucumbers. The NAB also highlighted some key investment opportunities in the line of

citrus fruits, avocados, oil seeds, wheat production, agro-processing, and the production of important agri-inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and chemicals.

If marketed exhaustively, key enablers such as economic and political stability, favourable climatic and soil conditions, availability of arable land, reliable water sources, as well as good infrastructure, have the potential to attract foreign direct investments. Furthermore, Namibia prides itself on excellent quality and safe fruits and vegetables that meet international standards, due to strict controls that are currently in place in the country, and it has the advantage of being early on international markets than most of the countries situated in the Southern hemisphere.

To further cement international and local collaboration on agronomy and horticultural investment opportunities, the NAB has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with three local and five international partners in the areas of research, standards, trade facilitation, and inspection services.

We strive to become a world-class regulator of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry, and hence cooperation with both local and international partners of interest is paramount in achieving this vision, given that the Namibian crop industry is still at its infant stage.

I thank you

NAB AND GLOBALG.A.P. COLLABORATE EFFORTS IN CREATING FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR NAMIBIA

● The Partnership

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) has partnered with the GLOBALG.A.P. c/o FoodPlus GmbH to support NAB in its mission to promote the agronomy and horticulture industry sector in order to facilitate the production, processing, storage and marketing of controlled agronomic and horticultural products in Namibia. This partnership has been formalised through the signing of a Service Level Agreement spanning over a period of two (2) years [1st April 2021 – 31st March 2023].

The GLOBALG.A.P. support to the NAB has been centred around capacity development and facilitating the adoption of the localg.a.p. Primary Farm Assurance (PFA) standard for

implementation at farm level, and integration within the regulatory system administered by the NAB. The localg.a.p. programme is designed to aid in introducing farm assurance solutions to the country that will not only help to produce safe food for the domestic market, but also open the door to international trade in the Southern African region and beyond.

● Project Deliverables

As part of the service level agreement, GLOBALG.A.P. has delivered several GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurer and localg.a.p. workshops, as well as group certification workshops in Quality Management Systems (QMS) and Internal Inspector Training (IIT) that will guide the NAB through the process of setting-up a localg.a.p. programme in Namibia to ensure compliance to food safety and quality standards in the crop industry.



From left: Dr Kristian Moeller (MD: GLOBALG.A.P.), Lorna Shikongo-Kuvare (NAB's GM: Regulations), Brian Windsor (NSF Africa (Pty) Ltd Representative) and Dr Fidelis Mwazi (NAB CEO) pose for the camera after a successful training workshop.

The workshops were conducted during the period of August 2021 to February 2022, yielding exceptional results, with all 16 NAB Inspectors successfully completing their modules with a final examination pass mark of 70% and above.



Participants of the Global gap training held at Am Weinberg in May 2022.



GLOBALG.A.P. training in full swing.



Dr Kristian Moeller (MD: GLOBALG.A.P.) shared insightful best practices during the workshop held in Windhoek.

In addition, 11 independent experts have also benefited from this initiative and they are now officially recognised under the **Registered Trainer programme for GLOBALG.A.P.** standards. Registered trainers support producers in achieving GLOBALG.A.P. certification and they are authorised to use official GLOBALG.A.P. training materials and offer GLOBALG.A.P. recognised training to producers and other interested parties.

To conclude the training interventions, the Farm Assurer Mentorship programme was introduced as an add-on, thereby preparing NAB Inspectors to independently assess the status quo of farms under the localg.a.p., PFA standard, which was successfully executed during the month of March and April 2022 in the Republic of South Africa facilitated a **GLOBALG.A.P. Registered Trainer, Ms Michelle Groenewald**. These interventions were aimed at equipping NAB Inspectors with knowledge and skills of conducting assessments as GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurers.

● Building Foundations For Local G.a.p. Implementation

To continue the cooperation between the NAB and GLOBALG.A.P., the NAB hosted the **GLOBALG.A.P. Managing Director, Dr Kristian Moeller** during the period of 9 - 11 May 2022 to engage in high level discussions on the implementation of localg.a.p. in Namibia and collaboratively host a capacity building workshop.

The localg.a.p. capacity building workshop focused on creating awareness and enhancing industry representatives' understanding of the concept of localg.a.p. Primary Farm Assurance

(PFA) standard requirements as a tool to implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) at both farm and production level. Technical expert, Brian Windsor, from the global certification body NSF Africa (Pty) Ltd, delivered a presentation citing that *"the introduction of such standards has many benefits for farmers, extending beyond market access to include aspects such as the overall reduction of production costs through optimised organisation and documentation"*.

During his time in Namibia, Dr Moeller had an opportunity to meet with Hon. Anna Shiweda, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), to discuss the modalities of cooperation and partnership between the two institutions. She was quoted saying that, *"it is critical that we reach out to farmers in every corner of our country and enabling them to produce a safe product that the market wants"*.

"The implementation of the Namibia Food Control System for the agronomy and horticulture industry sector compliance with the localg.a.p. standards will become mandatory as defined in the draft regulations pertaining to the local production and trading of controlled products", she concluded.

● The Next Steps To Conclude The Project

- In order to prepare producers for the implementation of localg.a.p., the NAB will engage the GLOBALG.A.P. Registered Trainers to facilitate training sessions to assist producers in understanding the localg.a.p. PFA Standard requirements and with the implementation at farm level, across all seven

(7) production zones of Namibia during the month of September 2022.

- Finalise the processes leading to the publication of the regulations pertaining to the local production and trading of controlled products in the Namibian Government Gazette as a piece of legislation governing quality and food safety aspects during production and trading of locally produced agronomic and horticultural products.
- Setting-up the localg.a.p. programme in Namibia, upon the approval of the NAB as a verification body by GLOBALG.A.P.



From left: Penda Ithindi, Deputy Executive Director: Planning, Marketing and Administration; Dr Kristian Moeller, Managing Director: GLOBALG.A.P.; Hon. Anna Shiweda, Deputy Minister: MAWLR, and Dr Fidelis N. Mwazi (NAB CEO) captured during a courtesy visit to the honourable Minister's office.

With the adoption the of the localg.a.p. PFA standard, Namibia is set to join the wider family of countries using GLOBALG.A.P. standards, as a way to create a platform for sustainable farming practices, as well as facilitating market access and the consumption of safe products.

NAB AND AGRIBANK SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Dr Fidelis Mwazi (NAB CEO) and Dr Raphael Karuaihe (Agribank CEO) pictured during the signing ceremony.

During the month of April 2022, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) and the Agricultural Bank of Namibia (AgriBank) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate in interventions aimed at developing the agronomic and horticultural industry in Namibia.

The two institutions are major players within the agriculture industry, and their roles are therefore

inter-linked and ultimately aimed at growing the Namibian agriculture industry. The NAB is established to promote the agronomy and horticulture industry, and to facilitate the production, processing, storage, and marketing of controlled products in Namibia. Similarly, the objective of Agribank is to promote agriculture and related activities by lending money to persons and financial intermediaries through providing affordable and innovative financing.

The MOU is aimed at promoting collaboration activities between the two institutions focused on transforming small-scale farmers through scaling-up programmes in agronomy and horticulture production, value addition, and connecting them to formal markets and services for expansion. Furthermore, promoting the adoption of relevant technologies and climate-resilient strategies amongst agronomy and horticulture farmers in Namibia also serves as another area of collaboration.

Additionally, the scope of the MOU covers the risk assessment of loan applicants who want to venture into the production, value addition and storage of agronomic and horticultural products, while also evaluating the need for new loan products across the agronomic and horticultural value chain.

Furthermore, the two institutions will share information that is relevant to the core business of each party and collaborate in the hosting of capacity building activities as a way to enhance knowledge and skills in production for farmers/individuals/small and medium enterprises.

Speaking during the MOU signing ceremony, the NAB CEO, Dr Fidelis Mwazi, said that, *“this is our time as a generation to ensure that the crop value chain transformation benefits all farmers, especially the small-scale farmers in terms of access to affordable quality inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, and above-all, access to finance and after-service to support producers in achieving their targeted potential yield as part of organised farming”*.

Also speaking during the MOU signing ceremony, AgriBank's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Raphael Karuaihe, said that, *“AgriBank is committed to its mandate and will continue to play its part in not only in promoting horticulture and agronomy related activities but the agriculture industry as a whole.”*

The MOU is valid for five years from the date of signature, with the option for renewal at the end of the five years.



Dr Fidelis Mwazi (NAB CEO) and Dr Raphael Karuaihe (Agribank CEO) were joined by management from the two institutions to witness the MOU and discuss future collaborative activities during the signing ceremony.

WHITE MAIZE MARKETING AND BORDER CONTROL MANAGEMENT IN THE ZAMBEZI REGION



Loide Uahengo, NAB's manager for Agronomy Market Development addressing farmers during the stakeholder engagement in Zambezi Region.

On the 14th of June 2022, the NAB held a stakeholder engagement exercise in collaboration with the Namibian Grain Processors Association (NGPA) and the Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) at Katima Mulilo town in the Zambezi region.

The event was attended by white maize producer representatives and Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies (OMAs) from the region, and it aimed to discuss modalities regarding the marketing of white maize from the Zambezi Region.

The discussions also highlighted on the challenges experienced by farmers in the region with regards to the marketing of their white maize and pearl millet grains, the registration of grain producers and the field verification process, and most importantly, the use of the pool floor price mechanism to be implemented in the region. The meeting also discussed the border control measures to curb the smuggling of illegal white maize from neighbouring countries, which has been a problem in the past.



Full house attendance by white maize farmers in the region.

During the 2021/2022 financial year, a total of 8 893 tons of white maize was marketed to millers, the biggest harvest ever recorded in the region. However, most farmers experienced challenges in selling their white maize grains earlier in the season due to the slow intake by millers who are operating in the region. As a result, a high rate of post-harvest loss was experienced by many farmers in the region due to insect infestation around November/ December 2021, thereby making their maize grain to be no longer fit for marketing.



The NAB and NGPA delegation captured during a courtesy visit to the region's leadership at the Office of the Governor.

For the 2022/23 (current) financial year, an estimated 10 000 tons of white maize is expected to be harvested in the Zambezi region, which is an even higher estimate compared to last year. Hence this stakeholder engagement exercise was crucial in ensuring that the challenges experienced in the previous marketing season are tackled before the grain intake for the marketing season commenced on the 1st of July 2022. The strategy that was implemented this year to ensure the smooth marketing of white maize grain was by allocating some tonnage of grain to both millers in the region, as well as those outside the region. Millers outside the region were to intake their grain through the AMTA-National Strategic Food Reserve facilities on a voluntary basis by way of a supply agreement between AMTA and the individual millers.



The NAB and NGPA delegation pictured during a familiarisation visit to Namib Mills offices in the Zambezi region.

As part of the stakeholder engagement exercise, the delegation consisting of the NAB, NGPA and AMTA, paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor and also made some site familiarisation visits to some of the millers in the region, namely, Kamunu Mills, Namib Mills and Goal Maize respectively.

The NAB remains committed to serving the industry as a world class regulator of a vibrant and diversified crop industry.

REGISTRATION OF GRAIN PRODUCERS AND SUBMISSION OF EXPECTED GRAIN HARVEST

1 Who is eligible to register with the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB)?

In line with Section 10 (1), (J) of the Agronomic Industry Act, 20 of 1992, all producers of controlled agronomic crops in Namibia are obliged to register with the NAB as a producer or farmer of a controlled products.

2 Why do I need to register with the NAB?

The NAB as mandated by the Agronomic Industry Act 20 of 1992 and in line with the grain marketing agreements signed between the producer and processor representatives, is responsible for the registration of all producers who are expected to sell their grains to registered millers/silos during the marketing season. The registration enables the NAB to efficiently and effectively facilitate the marketing of locally produced grains.

3 What are the benefits of being a registered producer?

- Only registered producers are allowed to market their grains to registered millers. Hence, all registered producers are entered into the database that is distributed to registered millers/silos for grain intake during the marketing season.
- Data recorded from the producers allows the NAB to compile national grain production forecast reports that guide the allocation of the marketable national harvest tonnage to millers/silos during the marketing season.
- It further ensures effective implementation of the close-open border period, a function that enables the NAB to determine the closure of borders for importation of grains during the marketing season.

4 How do I register as a producer?

Registration of producers is a once-off process, using three easy steps as follows:

- I. Download and complete a producer registration form accessible on the NAB website: www.nab.com > Download > Registration > Producers registration form. **Alternatively, the registration form can be requested from the NAB.**
- II. Submit the completed form and a certified ID copy to the NAB.
- III. Receive confirmation of registration (with your unique producer number therein) within 1-2 working days.

NB: Registration is free of charge

5 When should I submit my expected harvest?

Each year, after planting, producers/farmers who intend to market their grains are required to submit the expected and actual production data collection form. The form requires the producer to indicate the following:

- I. Estimated hectares planted for each controlled crop (white maize, pearl millet and wheat),
- II. Estimated tonnage expected per hectare planted,
- III. Total quantity (tons/ kg/ 50kg bags) expected to be marketed to registered millers and silos during the marketing season.

- 5 Expected and actual production data collection forms are accessible on the NAB website: www.nab.com.na > Downloads > Data collection > Expected and actual grain crops production data collection form.

Due dates for submissions are announced on an annual basis by the NAB.

6 Who do I contact for registration and submission of the expected grain harvest?

Registration of producers:

Contact Ms. Tresia Simon
Email: Tresia.Simon@nab.com.na
Tel: 061-379 543

Submission of expected harvest:

Contact Ms. Theresia Angala
Email: Theresia.Angala@nab.com.na
Tel: 061-379 514

NAB AND PARTNERS CONDUCT SECOND FRENCH SEED POTATO VARIETY TRIALS IN NAMIBIA

Harvesting of French Potato varieties at Adrenalin Safaris (Old Smithfield 1233) Farm at Abenab in the Karst Production Zone during the 2nd trials.



After the first on-farm trial of French potato varieties was concluded in May 2021, a second trial was conducted between May and September 2021 to validate the first results of the trials. The second trial was conducted by the NAB in partnership with Comptoir Du Plant, a French-based company that supplied the seed potatoes, and the University of Namibia (UNAM), which provided technical support and land.

The purpose was to assess the adaptability of six French potato varieties to the Namibian environment, in terms of yield performance and these varieties are; Barcelona, Montreal, Nicola, Rainbow, Satis and Spunta. Two local commercial varieties (Mondial and Tyson) were used as standard (check) varieties in the trials. Due to the prevalence of frost in some areas, these trials were only conducted at four out of seven horticultural production zones in Namibia, namely, North Central, Karst, Kavango and Zambezi, and specifically at 13 trial sites.

A representative sample was harvested for post-harvest data collection and analysis. Two (2) meter portions times five (5) were sampled per potato variety at each trial site to record the number of plants, several tubers for each category (<35mm, ≥35 mm to ≤50mm and >50mm), the weight of tubers of each category (<35mm, ≥35 mm to ≤50mm and >50mm) and the shape of tubers for each variety. A few tubers from each variety were analysed for dry matter content, whilst, inspections were also done to identify external quality factors such as pest damage and defects.



A sample of the Rainbow potato variety harvested from a 10m row at Ebandulo Project Farm at Olushandja in the North Central Production Zone during the 2nd trials.

Both Barcelona (67 tons/ha) and Montreal (61 tons/ha) yielded more than Mondial (check variety) which had 60 tons/ha. Nicola recorded 45 tons/ha and recorded Satis 39 tons/ha, making them the only French varieties that yielded below Tyson (check variety) which yielded 46 tons/ha.

Furthermore, Montreal is the only variety that obtained a gross average yield in Namibia (61 tons/ha) greater than the average yield obtained in France (55 tons/ha), as well as the net yield equivalent to its net yield weights in France (weight of +50mm tubers only). The rest of the other French varieties performed below average gross yields in France but discrepancies were minimal for Barcelona, Spunta and Rainbow varieties. In terms of net weight (total weight – the weight of tubers less than 35mm), discrepancies were as follows; Barcelona 9%, Spunta 30%, Rainbow 36%, Nicola 31% and Satis 39% lower in Namibia, relative to the net yield weights in France.

Dry matter content recorded was between 19% and 24%, thus making all varieties to be within the dry matter content acceptable in potato industries, which is 15% to 25%. The tubers harvested from trials in Namibia had a higher dry matter content, relative to those harvested in France. There were no variations among varieties when it comes to pests and diseases observations, except for the minimal tuber deformities that were observed on the rainbow variety at one trial site in the Karst production zone, whereas another trial site in the Karst production zone was affected by frost, though it recuperated at a later stage.

In congruence with first-round trials' recommendations, the adoption of French varieties, especially Barcelona, Montreal, Spunta and Rainbow is recommended, so as to complement the local varieties that are normally imported from South Africa.



NAB Researcher, Simeon Ndjelekeni pictured during data collection and assessment of French Potato varieties Trial at Okatjongeama Farm.

NAB AND UNAM HOST INSIGHTFUL FARMER'S INFORMATION DAYS AT SELECTED PEARL MILLET RESEARCH TRIAL SITES



Farmer's field tour and visual variety observations during the farmer's information day at Mashare.

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) in collaboration with the University of Namibia (UNAM) hosted insightful Pearl Millet Farmer's Information Days at selected research trial sites:

Mashare Irrigation PTY (Kavango-East Region) on the 15th of June 2022 and Zambezi Vocational Training Centre (Zambezi Region) on the 17th June 2022.

The Farmer's Information Days are aimed at engaging and sensitising local farmers on the performance of the different pearl millet varieties in the trials.

Pearl Millet, locally known as Mahangu, is a staple food supporting the livelihoods of over 60% of the Namibian population. The production of this crop, however, remains a challenge in meeting its local demand, especially during severe climatic conditions, as it is produced mainly under rainfed production systems.

Therefore, to ensure the sustainable production of this crop, the NAB and UNAM are conducting trials on various pearl millet seed varieties that are aimed at producing quality and certified seeds that are well adapted to Namibia's soil and climatic conditions. The results from these trials could assist local farmers to cope with the harsh conditions and boost the country's food security.

The information days form part of the NAB and UNAM's collaborative research agenda that is aimed at evaluating and identifying high-yielding pearl millet varieties under Namibian climatic conditions, that can be multiplied and released to local farmers as part of the MOU signed between the two institutions in 2019.

The pearl millet research trials commenced in 2021, consisting of ten pearl millet pure seed varieties obtained from International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Nairobi, and additional two local variety

checks which were planted in February 2022 at four-farmer managed sites in the Omusati region (North Central Production Zone), Kavango East and West regions (Kavango Production Zone), as well as the Zambezi region (Zambezi Production Zone). A total of thirty-six (36) farmers witnessed the evaluation of Pearl Millet varieties planted at Mashare and Zambezi Vocational Training Centre respectively.



Briefing session for farmers on pearl millet production and market overview in Namibia, held during the information day.

As part of the trial observation, farmers were tasked to visually select and score each variety based on their own observations against agronomic parameters and the scoring guide provided by the research team. Overall, upon observations, farmers expressed more interest in the early maturing varieties due to the early harvest advantage.

The research strives to create a diversified pearl millet industry in response to climatic changes. Therefore, upon conclusion of the research trials, the two institutions will publish the final research results of the best performing pearl millet varieties in the Namibian seed system through the relevant authorities regulating the seed industry.

CROP SPECIFIC MARKETING AND QUALITY STANDARDS WORK SHOPS

Mariental stakeholder workshop.



The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) in collaboration with the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI), hosted various stakeholder consultative workshops at Outapi, Tsumeb, Rundu, and Mariental during the period from January to February 2022.

The main purpose of the consultative workshops was two-fold: (1) to introduce the draft crop-specific marketing and quality control standards and solicit inputs from stakeholders as part of the standards drafting process done collaboratively with NSI; and (2) to outline the purpose of the regulations, administrative provisions and

enforcement arrangements pertaining to the production and trading in agronomic and horticultural products.

The workshops focused on crop-specific marketing and quality standards education, as well as the awareness of draft technical regulations that deal with all controlled agronomic and horticultural products importation into the country, as well as exportation and in-transit from or through Namibia. A combined total of 118 participants consisting of producers and traders of controlled horticultural products attended the workshops.

During the consultative workshops, crop-specific marketing and quality control standards for lettuce, watermelon, berry fruits and citrus fruits were completed as part of soliciting more inputs from producers and traders nationally. The outcome of the workshops is a document agreed upon by consensus and approved by a recognised body (in this case NSI), that provides for common and repeated use, rules, and guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, based on the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) provisions.

The setting process for the development of standards begins with the identification of specific standard needs, followed by consultation with the NSI's technical committee, the public comments stage (gathering inputs through stakeholder engagements), and lastly the publication of the standards. Thus, following the recent stakeholder consultations, an industry notification of the public enquiry stage was publicised in local print media and the NAB website and social media pages

during the month of June 2022 to allow for scrutiny and inputs from industry stakeholders. Thereafter, the draft crop-specific standards will be approved by the NSI and published in the *Government Gazette* as Namibian Standards.



NAB LINKING SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS IN THE NCA TO FORMAL MARKETS



In Namibia, small-scale producers dominate the farming scene. NAB's registered producer database indicates that 500 out of the 800 registered producers are small-scale farmers in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA's) of Namibia, which constitutes 50% of the total number of producers registered on the NAB's Agricultural Marketing Information Database (AMID) system.

The average land size for a small-scale producer is less than one hectare, and usually, only a few producers increase the planting area with time to not more than 3 ha. Approximately, 70% of vegetable products produced by small-scale

producers are sold in the informal market and only 30% enter the formal market. Despite the implementation of the Namibian horticulture Market Share Promotion (MSP) scheme which was introduced in 2005, to protect local producers from cheap horticultural imports and to create market access opportunities for all local producers among other objectives. This intervention mainly resulted in creating market opportunities for medium and large-scale producers who are more willing to conform to the formal market requirements in terms of volume and quality-related factors compared to small-scale producers. Hence, small-scale horticulture producers experience more challenges in supplying the formal market and conforming to the formal market specifications and requirements.

● Creating Market Access

This pilot project is a component of the market facilitation role and MSP scheme implemented by the NAB, and it is aimed at developing the horticulture value chain by Linking Small-Scale Horticulture Producers (LSSHP) to formal markets. The pilot project will run for five years and focus on grooming small-scale producers in the NCA, through awareness programmes aimed at educating Small-scale farmers on the benefits of conforming to formal market specifications. Furthermore, the project aims at creating an enabling environment for small-scale producers to upscale their production and market their products to registered traders in their production zones. This initiative is anticipated to contribute toward the target MSP increase, to achieve 60% MSP by 2025, in line with NAB's 5year strategic plan, while contributing to socio-economic growth and creating permanent and temporal employment in Northern Communal Areas of Namibia.

● Targeted Production Areas

The pilot project targets three production areas in the NCA'S; North Central, Kavango, and Zambezi production areas respectively. 15 project beneficiaries were selected, (five per production zone).

● Capacity Building Programs

Project beneficiaries will be capacitated through technical support such as soil sampling and analysis, crop husbandry practices, Post handling of produce, marketing of produce, and financial management respectively. This is to ensure that they are equipped with suitable skills needed to produce good quality horticultural products which conform to the formal market requirements. In addition, training on marketing of fresh produce in the formal market will be conducted by formal traders participating in the pilot project and the production-related training will be conducted by an expert or practical trainer selected based on practical skills and experience they possess on specific crops to be produced by beneficiaries.

● LSSHP Beneficiaries To Agribank

The project beneficiaries shall be linked to the Agricultural bank of Namibia to secure funding for their crop production activities (production inputs) to increase production and expand to positively contribute to the market volume demands. Considering most of the beneficiaries are full-time farmers and have no collateral, they will use the offtake agreement as collateral to secure funding. NAB remains committed to boosting the primary MSP to 60% by 2025 and reducing dependence on imports. In essence, this intervention to groom the small-scale producers for the formal markets is one of the strategies employed by the NAB to ensure the targeted MSP is achieved as intended.

NAMIBIA'S QUEST FOR A GREEN ECONOMY: NOTES FROM DUBAI

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) participated in the Expo 2020 Dubai, under the auspices of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDP) as the main custodian of the expo hosted in the United Arab Emirates from 01 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. The expo participation was aimed at stimulating and attracting foreign direct investment.

Namibia was among 192 countries that participated in the expo which attracted a record-breaking attendance of over 25 million visitors from all corners of the globe. This article sheds light on the highlights of NAB's participation in the expo during the "Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods" thematic week held in February 2022.

● Namibia's Agriculture Seminar – 22 February 2022

The NAB in collaboration with NIPDP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) hosted a Namibia Agriculture Seminar during the Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods theme week at the EXPO 2020 DUBAI, in the Estonia Pavilion.



From right: Gilbert Mulonda (NAB GM: AHMD), Dr Fidelis Mwazi (NAB CEO), Michael Iyambo (NAB Board Chairperson), Nico van der Merwe (Trader/Investor) and Maria Immanuel (Trade Expert) captured during the agriculture seminar held in Dubai.

The seminar was hosted under the theme, "Namibia's Quest for a Green Economy," which aimed to discourse on efficient resource utilisation for available agricultural land, water, power, market access and infrastructure development as key aspects in achieving a sustainable green economy. This also pertained to providing the world with an overview of the crop value chain in Namibia, the policy instruments that govern and attract investment initiatives, industry development initiatives (grow and support players within the crop value chain) and potential investment opportunities. The crop value chain in Namibia, the policy instruments that govern and attract investment initiatives, industry development initiatives (grow and support players within the crop value chain) and potential investment opportunities.

The introduction, implementation and management of a green economy is a vital tool in the continuous improvement of the Namibian people's livelihoods, while efficiently managing the available natural resources. The NAB as the custodian for the facilitation of the agronomic and

horticultural industry and other industry leaders (government institutions, banks and private institutions) have taken strides in ensuring the full capitalisation of resources which are available to lead the development and maintenance of a successful green economy from the crop perspective. However, owing to the lack of funding and international investment, there is still a need for more efforts in ensuring that Namibia establishes herself as a leader in agriculture, with well-organised and attainable green economy strategies in Africa. The realisation of these strategies will not only benefit Namibians, as they ultimately contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the 2030 agenda, therefore benefiting all of mankind.

The seminar incorporated a round table discussion consisting of Dr Fidelis Mwazi (NAB CEO), Gilbert Mulonda (NAB GM: Agronomy and Horticulture Market Development), Michael Iyambo (NAB Board Chairperson), Nico van der Merwe (Trader/Investor) and Maria Immanuel (Trade Expert). Lorna Shikongo Kuvare (NAB GM: Regulations) delivered the takeaway message and vote of thanks at the seminar. The round table discussion which was broadcast live on the NIPDP and NAB Facebook pages attracted close to 200 live audiences online and 20 face-to-face potential investors at the venue proceedings respectively.

Reflecting on the discussions held, the opportunities in the agronomy and horticulture value chain are mainly in agro-processing and storage; manufacturing of agrochemicals and fertilisers; establishment of nurseries for the production of fruit seedlings and overall agricultural technology. The seminar aimed to further expand market access by attracting new

investments that can generate a range of benefits including, increased profits and income for Namibian farmers, gains at the macroeconomic level (i.e. rate of economic growth, agriculture's contribution to the Growth Domestic Product), enabling the sector to adapt to climate change; and ecosystem services related benefits that ultimately contribute to the livelihoods of the Namibian people.

● Studio Expo Interview 24 February 2022

As a follow-up to the Agriculture seminar, the NAB CEO, Dr Fidelis Mwazi, had an exclusive interview with Studio Expo, a channel of Dubai One TV, that focused on the Expo 2020 Dubai news. Dubai One TV is an established media house with a massive viewership in Dubai and the UAE in general.

The interview was aimed at providing feedback on the agriculture seminar that was held on 22 February 2022, during the Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods thematic week. During the interview, the CEO unpacked key enablers that can create a conducive environment for investment in Namibia's crop industry in our quest for a green economy.



NAB CEO, Dr Fidelis Mwazi captured during his exclusive interview on Studio Expo, a channel of Dubai one TV.

● Namibia Investment Summit 23 March 2022

The NAB CEO, Dr Fidelis Mwazi was a high-level panel member at the Namibia Investment Summit in Dubai. The event was hosted by the NIPDB, under the patronage of His Excellency Dr Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia on the margins of Expo 2020 Dubai, in the UAE. The panel discussion focused on Agribusiness technology and investment opportunities within the entire value chain.



Hon. Carl HG Schlettwein (Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform) and Dr Fidelis Mwazi (NAB CEO) participated in the panel discussion focused on AGRIBUSINESS technology and investment opportunities at the Namibia Investment Summit in Dubai.

In addition to the Agriculture seminar, studio expo and Namibia Investment Summit, the NAB-led delegation held various networking sessions with potential investors and other participating countries to form future collaborations that can benefit all parties.

In conclusion, Namibia's dream to become a leading green economy in Africa is an attainable goal, provided that all aspects are well aligned and implemented accordingly.













NAB Delegation led by the NAB CEO held various meetings with country representatives from AUE, Nigeria, South Africa, Eswatini, China among others.



TOP TRADED HORTICULTURAL CROPS IN NAMIBIA











Top Imports

Top 10 Imported crops during the 2020/21 Financial year.

	Potatoes Value: N\$138,401,184
	Apple Value: N\$ 105,370,054
	Banana Value: N\$ 46,322,563
	Oranges Value: N\$ 31,925,619
	Onions Value: N\$ 27,786,500
	Avocado Value: N\$ 25,376,154
	Grapes Value: N\$ 24,458,745
	Tomatoes Value: N\$ 19,234,591
	Pears Value: N\$ 15,095,451
	Lettuce Value: N\$ 15,036,050











Top Exports

Top 10 exported crops during the 2020/21 Financial year

	Grapes Value: N\$ 857,591,822
	Dates Value: N\$ 92,693,000
	Onions Value: N\$ 24,410,572
	Tomatoes Value: N\$ 19,799,123
	Blueberries Value: N\$ 9,560,616
	Sweet Melons Value: N\$ 6,408,810
	Butternuts Value: N\$ 4,501,500
	Peppers Value: N\$ 3,808,200
	Watermelon Value: N\$ 3,489,050
	Potatoes Value: N\$ 1,073,600

Top Local Purchases

Top 10 locally purchased crops during 2020/21 Financial year

	Potatoes Value: N\$ 95,685,192
	Tomatoes Value: N\$ 34,175,131
	Carrots Value: N\$ 31,232,105
	English Cucumber Value: N\$ 30,376,934
	Onions Value: N\$ 24,696,327
	Cabbage Value: N\$ 20,663,575
	Mushroom Value: N\$ 13,538,291
	Lettuce Value: N\$ 12,199,400
	Pepper Value: N\$ 11,070,017
	Butternuts Value: N\$ 9,121,699

PUBLIC NOTICE



ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRAIN PRODUCTS UNDER THE AGRONOMIC INDUSTRY ACT

This notice serves to inform the general public that the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is established as a statutory body under the Agronomic Industry Act 20 of 1992 (the "Act") to promote the agronomic industry and to facilitate the production, processing, storage and marketing of controlled products in Namibia. Controlled products are published in the Government Gazette No. 5645 (Notice 268 of 2014) as regulations relating to the imposition of general levies on certain controlled products.

In addition, the NAB is also mandated to regulate the production facilities of white maize and pearl millet in Namibia in terms of the following regulations;

- a. Regulations relating to grading and classification of maize (Government Notice 71 of 1994)
- b. 1994)
- c. Standards for composition of white maize products (Government Notice 72 of 1994)
- d. Grading standards for whole and decorticated pearl millet (mahangu) grains (Government Notice 89 of 2000).
- e. Regulations relating to composition and quality of pearl millet (mahangu) products (Government Notice 97 of 2016)

Therefore, any natural person or legal entity, who wishes to process, distribute or trade white maize meal or pearl millet (mahangu) flour or wheat flour in Namibia, must have a valid milling license issued by the NAB and should ensure that these products comply with the requirements in the applicable regulations and the provisions set out in the Act.

Processors, distributors or traders are advised to acquaint themselves with the requirements contained in these regulations, and approach the NAB to obtain more information on the registration process, including the licensing of their milling facilities and products.

For administrative enquiries, contact Ms. Loide Uahengo, Manager: Agronomy Market Development on Tel: +264 6137 9549 or by email at Loide.Uahengo@nab.com.na

Technical enquiries should be directed to Ms. Cecilia Hinda, Manager: Food Safety and Compliance Services on Tel: +264 61 37 9509 or by email at Cecilia.Hinda@nab.com.na

Seen Out & About

Highlights from NAB's Media Familiarization Day



On the 25th of March 2022, the NAB hosted the Annual Media Familiarization event at the Taste restaurant in Windhoek. The event aims to celebrate and network with one of our key stakeholders, media personalities (Editors/Journalists/Marketers) that are the core drivers for accurate dissemination of Agronomic and Horticultural industry news, through various mediums, to our broader stakeholders and the nation at large.

During the event, guests were treated to an intense information-sharing presentation focused on agronomic and horticultural highlights and the NAB's mandate, followed by a networking session respectively.

Seen Out & About

NAB @ the 7th AgriTech Expo Zambia 2022

In efforts to further develop the agronomy and horticulture value chain in Namibia, the NAB is continuously engaging and networking with professionals in the crop industry at both national and international levels, through various platforms. Hence, the NAB Research team attended the 7th AgriTech Expo Zambia 2022 held at the Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART) research farm situated in the Chisamba region, Central Province of Zambia, from 7-9 April 2022. The purpose of the visit is to share best practices and meet international and local suppliers in the agricultural industry representing all elements of farming processes.



The NAB team that attended the Agri-tech Expo consisted of, from left: Gilbert Mulonda (NAB GM: Agronomy & Market Development) Emma Nekayi (NAB's Policy Analyst) and Gerson Kampungu (NAB's Manager: Research).

AgriTech Expo Zambia is an annual farming and agricultural event which aims at connecting various stakeholders and investors in the agricultural farm machinery sector, as well as other agricultural specialists. The event features conferences, live harvest trials, and workshops among other activities.



TIPS FOR A HASSLE-FREE BORDER CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR AGRONOMIC AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In line with the Agronomic Industry Act 20 of 1992, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is responsible for providing border control inspection services and compliance monitoring on export, import and in-transit agronomic and horticultural products. To ensure that there is a smooth process of clearance of agronomic and horticultural consignments, it is advisable to follow the tips below:


- Check and ensure that the NAB permit is valid (invalid, expired or used permits will result in the delay of consignment clearance)
- All invoices of agronomic and horticultural consignments presented to the NAB office at the border should not include other products, such as clothing, canned food, etc.
- Primary processed, cut-chilled and/or frozen agronomic and horticultural products also require a NAB permit, and these have to be cleared for entry at the border of entry.
- Keep yourself updated with the latest open and closed border notices during the period that you are planning to import fresh produce as well as primary processed, cut-chilled and or frozen horticultural and agronomic products. Products on the closed border period will not be cleared or will alternatively be confiscated at the first point of offloading.
- Ensure proper logistical planning to allow your permit sufficient validity when you enter Namibia.
- When applying for a permit, make sure to ask the NAB official assisting you regarding any concerns you might have, e.g. the required documentation.
- Educate your drivers on the procedures for the consignments that they are carrying, such as imports, exports and products in transit. New drivers are prone to making mistakes and not following the procedures, hence, the owner of the consignment will bear the consequences of not following the procedures.

Follow these tips and enjoy a hassle-free and fast clearance of agronomic and horticultural product consignments.



CONTACT US


Windhoek Head Office

 +264 (61) 379 500

 PRO@nab.com.na

BORDER OFFICES

 Ariamsvlei Border Office

 +264 63 280031

 Ariamsvlei.Border@nab.com.na

 Noordoewer Border Office

 +264 (63) 297815


 Noordoewer.Border@nab.com.na

 Katima Mulilo Border Office

 +264 (66) 254903

 Katima.border@nab.com.na

 Walvis Bay port Office

 +264 (64) 204221

 Walvisbay.Border@na.com.na

 Ngoma Border Post

 +264 (66) 250621

 Ngoma.border@nab.com.na

 Oshikango Border Office

 +264 (65) 265524

 Oshikango.Border@nab.com.na

 Transkalahari Border Office

 +264 (62) 560474

 Transkalahari.Border@nab.com.na

INLAND OFFICES

 Ongwediva Office

 +264 (65) 238619

 Tsumeb Office

 +264 (67) 222571

 Katima Office

 +264 (66) 253524

 Rundu Office

 +264 (66) 256718



**NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD**