



Press Release

RE: NAB HOSTS THE 2022 NAHA AWARDS CEREMONY

On the 16th of November 2022, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) held a successful National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA) ceremony at the Agriculture Showgrounds in Grootfontein, Otjozondjupa region. Otjozondjupa region is in the Karst production zone, a zone that produces substantial volumes of agronomic and horticultural crops, constituting approximately 25% of the local production, hence hosting the NAHA in the region was befitting.

The awards are aimed at recognising and awarding the value chain actors (producers, processors, traders, service providers and school gardens) that have contributed significantly to the development and growth of Namibia's agronomy and horticulture industry.

Historically, the awards for the agronomy and horticulture industry players were celebrated in three farmer-centric separate award ceremonies, namely; Master Agronomist, National Horticulture Day, and National Mahangu Harvest Festival. However, for the current financial year and going forward, the NAB has made a strategic decision to host one event aimed at recognising all industry players. The NAHA, therefore, creates a platform for both agronomy and horticulture industry players to network, share best practices and motivate each other, thus, signifying the importance of the agronomy and horticulture industry development.

The 2022 NAHA ceremony was celebrated under the theme, *"Promoting growth in crop value chain development"*. The theme was inspired by the growth of the industry in terms of local production as well as the processing and marketing of agronomic and horticultural products in Namibia. To further highlight achievements of the industry that were derived from the implementation of various policies by the NAB in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) as industry custodians. The most notable policies include the horticulture Market Share Promotion Scheme (MSP), the Grain Marketing Scheme (GMS), the Dryland Crop Production Programme (DCPP), the Green Scheme Policy and the Horticulture Support Programme.

The successful implementation of these policies has been instrumental in Namibia's quest for food self-sufficiency. This is particularly so as the country's food self-sufficiency rate in the context of agronomic and horticultural products currently stands at approximately 45% from a mere 15% three decades ago, while approximately 50%

(N\$1.2 billion) of horticulture local production is exported, albeit with limited export of agronomic products.

Furthermore, the awards aim to recognise the role of the private sector and its contribution to national food production and food security. Much of the food is produced, processed, traded, and distributed by private businesses, hence individual companies are playing a greater role in addressing food security in Namibia. This signifies the role of the private sector in producing essential food products that are needed to feed the Namibian people and the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.

The awards were presented in various categories to the best performers that have demonstrated exceptional innovative agribusiness approaches, local sourcing commitment, good risk diversification, good labour relations, excellent service provision and community involvement among others.

In attendance was Her Worship, the Mayor of Grootfontein - Ms Talitha Garises, Honourable Councillor Victor Shaandjuka, NAB Board representatives, Agribank and World Food Programme representatives, various agronomic and horticultural producers, traders and service providers from all the seven production zones of Namibia, Farmers Unions, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture representatives, as well as school groups from the Otjozondjupa region. The awards were streamed live on the NBC Digital News' and NAB's Facebook pages.

NAHA WINNERS

During the ceremony, 18 overall winners were awarded various prizes and certificates. Winners also received award vouchers valued between N\$20 000 and N\$30 000 each.

Agronomy Awards Winners		
1	Best White Maize Producer of the Year	Kapule Geoffery Samunzala Production Zone: Zambezi
2	Best Mahangu (Pearl Millet) Producer of the Year	Sara Ndjato Production Zone: Oshikoto
3	Emerging White Maize Producer of the Year	Guillaume Steenkamp Production Zone: Karst
4	Emerging Mahangu (Pearl Millet) Producer of the Year	HERMAN - ALUDHILU AMUNKETE Production Zone: Omusati
5	Best Agronomy Youth Producer of the Year	MULELE ADMIRE SIMUNJA Production Zone: Zambezi
6	Best Agronomy Innovator Producer of the Year	MARIA NANGOLO Production Zone: Oshana
7	Best Agronomy Service Provider of the Year	NAMIBIA ZAMSEED (PTY) LTD Production Zone: Zambezi
8	Best Grain Processor of the Year	NAMIB MILLS Production Zone: Central
9	Emerging Grain Processor of the Year	OPOTO MILLS Production Zone: Oshana

Horticulture Awards Winners		
1	Best Horticulture Producer of the Year	ERIC VAN DRUTEN Production Zone: Karst
2	Emerging Horticulture Producer of the Year	CHARITH MULEMWA GOAISES Production Zone: Zambezi
3	Best Horticulture Youth Producer of the Year	AUGUSTINUS POROTO Production Zone: Kavango
4	Best Horticulture Innovator Producer of the Year	GREEN CRISP FARMING Production Zone: Central
5	Best Horticulture Service Provider of the Year	INTELI- GROW Production Zone: Karst
6	Best Horticulture Exporter of the Year	SONOP FARMS Production Zone: Orange River
7	Best Horticulture Trader of the Year	NAMIBIAN FRESH PRODUCE MARKET Production Zone: Central
8	Emerging Horticulture Trader of the Year	CHOPPIES SUPERMARKET Production Zone: Central
9	Best School Garden of the Year	OSHINAMUMWE COMBINED SCHOOL Oshikoto

In addition, 15 runner-up category winners were also recognised.

Agronomy First Runner-Ups		
1	Emerging White Maize Producer of the Year	SILUMBI LOVENESS Production zone: Zambezi
2	Best Pearl Millet Producer of the Year	WEBSTER MUSETO Production zone: Zambezi
3	Emerging Pearl Millet Producer of the Year	FILEMON SHAPUMBA ANYOLO Production zone: Omusati
4	Best Youth Producer of the Year	TRESIA MUHOGORA Production zone: Otjozondjupa
5	Best Innovator Producer of the year	ELIA SHIMBULI Production zone: Ohangwena
6	Best Grain Processor of the Year	GOAL MAIZE CC Production zone: Khomas
7	Emerging Grain Processor of the Year	HUTTENHOF FARM MILL Karst
Horticulture First Runner-Ups		
1	Best Horticulture Producer of the Year	LEONIE HARTMANN – AWAGRO Production zone: Central
2	Emerging Horticulture Producer of the Year	ASSER SIRANDA: TUMBU-TUMBU Production zone: Kavango
3	Best Horticulture Youth Producer of the Year	LONIA N. ISMAIL: MAHDE INT. FARM Production zone: North Central

4	Best Horticulture Innovator Producer of the Year	AGNES LIMBO: LYAMBEZI FOODS Production zone: Zambezi
5	Best Service Provider of the Year	AGRI-GRO Production zone: central
6	Best Horticulture Exporter of the Year	CANDO FARMING Production zone: Central
7	Best Horticulture Trader of the Year	SPAR GROUP Production zone: Central
8	Emerging Horticulture Trader of the Year	O&L FRESH PRODUCE Production zone: Central

Focus on the green economy

Speaking during the awards ceremony, Dr Fidelis Mwazi, the NAB CEO, emphasised the need for Namibia to adapt towards the green economy from the crop industry perspective.

“The industry needs to focus efforts on interventions aimed at rescuing the green economy from a crop perspective in the face of the economic crisis and climate variability”, he said.

“Furthermore, there are massive Agribusiness Opportunities that can be achieved through the Green Economy, such as investment in primary production (agronomic and horticultural products for irrigated crop production, dates, table grapes, blueberries, citrus, asparagus, onions, tomatoes and potatoes among a few”, he added.

Dr Mwazi applauded all awards category participants for their hard work and dedication, and further encouraged all industry players to explore opportunities in agro-processing and exportation of mainly horticultural products. This is particularly so as Namibia currently imports processed horticultural (fruits and vegetables) products valued at approximately N\$1.5 billion and only exports processed fruits and vegetable products valued at approximately N\$3.5 million, which is mainly re-exports.

Therefore, the development of Namibia’s green economy has the potential to contribute significantly to the Growth of Domestic Products (GDP) of our economy, food self-sufficiency and employment creation in the country’s economy.

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

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