





NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD



Table of *Content*

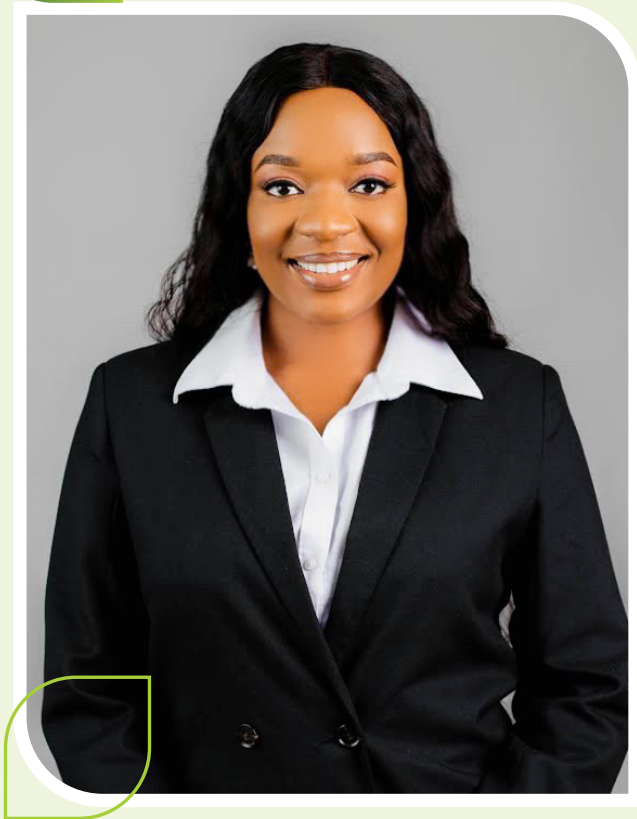
| | |
|----|--|
| 04 | Editor's note |
| 05 | CEO's corner |
| 07 | New Board Announcement |
| 10 | White maize bumper harvest |
| 12 | 2023 NAHA Awards exceed expectations |
| 20 | NAB/UNAM seed research project collaborates with Zambia seed companies |
| 23 | Registration of horticulture producers and submission of vegetable production data estimates |
| 26 | The NAB's battle against cross-border smuggling |
| 28 | NAB's participation in trade fairs and show exhibitions |
| 30 | Trans-Kalahari Boarder Post |
| 31 | Our Services |
| 32 | Contact us |



Editor's *Note*

Auguste Fabian

Public Relations Officer



Dear reader,

Allow me to kickstart this edition with a thought-provoking quote: *"In every seed lies the potential for a bountiful harvest."* This sentiment echoes through the pages of this newsletter as we explore the bountiful harvest of news comprising incredible achievements and ground-breaking initiatives that have come to fruition in the past months.

First and foremost, we are delighted to introduce a new dawn of leadership, the NAB's new Board of Directors. They bring with them diverse expertise that is necessary for steering the agronomy and horticulture industry to unprecedented heights to the benefit of improved lives of our citizens.

A momentous highlight noted is Namibia's attainment of its highest-ever white maize production harvest of 98,000 metric tonnes. This is a milestone that not only reinforces Namibia's efforts towards the achievement of staple food self-sufficiency but also that of overall national food security.

We also highlight the festivities of the 2023 National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA) ceremony that took place on the 14th of September in the Kavango-East region. The event was meant to honour crop value-chain actors from all seven production zones who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the agronomy and horticulture industry of Namibia. Their dedication inspires us all to strive for excellence in everything that we do.

Collaboration lies at the heart of progress, and the NAB's partnership with UNAM in the seed research project is a shining example of this. We explore the partnership with Zambia's seed companies, thereby laying the groundwork for advancements that will shape the future of seed production and distribution in Namibia.

We also shed light on the pros and cons of horticulture producer registration and further explore the role of producers in ensuring accurate data submission of vegetable production and the benefits thereof.

In the battle against cross-border smuggling, the NAB stands firm in its commitment to protect the interests of our agricultural community and the entire nation. Through vigilance and strategic initiatives, we continue to make significant strides in safeguarding our industry.

Lastly, our participation in trade fairs and show exhibitions is a testament to our dedication to knowledge sharing and our commitment to bringing services closer to the people whilst forging connections that will drive industry development.

As you dig into these topics and more, I encourage you to reflect on the potential that lies within each seed and the boundless possibilities that await us in the world of agronomy and horticulture. Together, we are sowing the seeds of a brighter and more prosperous future for our crop industry.

Until the next edition, happy reading!



CEO's *Corner*

Dr Fidelis N. Mwazi (PhD)

Chief Executive Officer



Reflections: The Quest for Improved Service and Global Recognition

I am delighted to share with you the news of my re-appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) for another five years. It is a privilege to continue leading this esteemed organisation as we forge ahead on our path towards establishing ourselves as a world class regulator of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry.

Over the years, my tenure at the NAB has been characterised by a steadfast commitment to advancing sustainable crop production, research, regulatory services, and stakeholder engagement. I am honoured to lead a team of dedicated professionals who share this vision and work tirelessly to make it a reality.

Our collective achievements during these years have been nothing short of extraordinary. Together, we have advanced the NAB's organisational goals and strengthened our presence in the agronomic and horticulture industry. With a dedicated team and the support of our esteemed Board of Directors, we have achieved significant milestones.

We developed and successfully implemented the Integrated Strategic Business Plan 2020/21-2024/25, a roadmap that guides our strategic initiatives. We ensured compliance with PEGA requirements, underlining our commitment to operating at the highest standards. The introduction of our Performance Management System also enhanced our overall organisational performance, thereby setting a new standard for excellence.

In addition, we expedited the implementation of the Horticulture Market Share Promotion (MSP) and grain marketing schemes, paving the way for increased local production. I am proud to report that our efforts led to white maize production reaching a record high of 98,000 MT in 2022, up from 67,000 MT in 2017. Moreover, our horticultural product exports increased to 86,259 MT valued at N\$1.7 billion in the 2022/23 financial year, a significant leap from 55,358 MT in 2017/18.

Furthermore, we developed 16 crop-specific marketing and commercial quality standards through the Namibia Standards Institution (NSI), thus ensuring that our products meet the highest industry standards. The NAB also secured an approved verification body status for GLOBALG.A.P. standards and advanced towards the final stages of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard certification status. The strides we have made in the development of standards position us well as an organisation in the quest for quality management and global recognition through being a world class regulator of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry.

Similarly, our commitment to regulatory compliance services through stringent border control and food safety monitoring, crop-specific inspections, and farms and facilities inspections, has not only enhanced the industry's reputation but this has also expanded market accessibility and export opportunities for all actors in the crop value chain.

This journey has not been without challenges such as the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the drought that has impacted the production output of certain crops as well as the geo-political disruptions from the global space. However, with the support and dedication of the NAB staff members, the Board of Directors, and industry stakeholders, we have met each obstacle with determination and innovation.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities that lie before us. We are in the final stages of developing a crop-value chain development strategy which incorporates a more holistic approach aimed at enhancing overall efficiency through the production, processing, storage, and marketing of controlled agronomic products. I believe that together we will continue to work towards a green economy that promotes growth and innovation and ensuring excellence in agronomy and horticulture market development.

I thank you.



Appointment of NAB's New Board of Directors



Incoming Board of Directors pictured with the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Honourable Carl H.G. Schlettwein during the inauguration event held on the 29th of June 2023 at the Ministry's headquarters.

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is pleased to announce the appointment of new Board of Directors who were inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Honourable Calle Schlettwein in June 2023.

The Board is constituted and appointed in accordance with, and for a period as determined under Sections 14 and 15 of the Public Enterprises Governance Act. The powers of the Board are wide-ranging, including all the fiduciary powers required to manage a statutory regulator, and specifically powers to manage controlled agronomic products and the respective value chains. Moreover, the new Board is composed of experts from various industries and links of the crop value chains and will serve a three-year term, effective from 01 July 2023.

Speaking during the inauguration, the Honourable Minister welcomed the new Board and emphasised that in exercising their powers, the Board has the responsibility to ensure the implementation of policies and initiatives that promote food security and food self-sufficiency for staple food crops.

He further said that agriculture, specifically the agronomy and horticulture industry, offers the best economic opportunities for job creation, improved livelihoods, and youth employment.

"We need to focus our support on the thousands of small-scale horticultural and agronomic producers in order to improve their productivity and market access," he said.

The composition of the new Board includes Hubertus Hamm, who was re-appointed to the Board and will serve as the Chairperson, with Dr Marina Muller also being re-appointed, and will serve as the Deputy Chairperson of the Board. Gerhard Engelbrecht, Jacob Hamutenya, Maria Pogisho, Peter Kawana, Ruthy Masake, Salomo Mbai, Sonja Molebugi, and Violet Simataa will serve as ordinary members.

The Honourable Minister also commended the outgoing Board, for its excellent work during their extended term, spanning from June 2017 to June 2023.

"It was indeed a timespan during which many challenges had to be faced, including severe drought, COVID-19 lockdowns, and the implementation of the PEGA and its relevant provisions," he said.

"You managed them well and today we can proudly observe that growth has returned to the agronomic and horticultural sectors," he concluded.

Reflecting on his four-year tenure as Chairperson of the outgoing board, Michael Iyambo, also on behalf of the outgoing Board, conveyed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the agronomy and horticulture industry. Iyambo also extended his best wishes to the incoming Board, expressing confidence in their ability to lead the NAB towards continued success in the pursuit of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry.

The outgoing Board of Directors are Michael Iyambo (Chairperson), Leon Nel, Tarsius Shingundu, Elinah Kalundu, Ludie Kolver, Joycelyn Kangotue, Jason Emvula, Josephine Fugre, Ferdina Inkono, Lucas Mbangi and Wilhelmina Handunge.



Outgoing Board Members pictured with the NAB's Executives during a farewell event held on the 29th of June 2023

Dr Fidelis Mwazi, the NAB CEO, also expressed gratitude to the retiring directors for their unwavering commitment, exceptional leadership, and valuable guidance demonstrated throughout their tenure.

The new Board Members bring diverse and valuable experience, pertinent to the attainment of the NAB's strategic objectives towards improved market facilitation and ensuring food security while improving the quality of life for citizens. Furthermore, their presence reinforces the NAB's aspirations to become a world-class regulator of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry.

Presenting Namibian Agronomic Board's New Board of Directors

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is proud to announce the appointment of its new Board of Directors, who were inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Honorable Calle Schlettwein. The board will serve a three-year term, effective 01 July 2023.



Hubertus Hamm
(Chairperson)



Dr Marina Muller
(Vice-Chairperson)



Peter Kawana
(Member)



Ruthy Masake
(Member)



Jacob Hamutenya
(Member)



Maria Pogisho
(Member)



Salomo Mbai
(Member)



Sonja Molebugi
(Member)



Violet Simataa
(Member)



Gerhard Engelbrecht
(Member)



Dr Fidelis Mwazi
Ex Officio Member/CEO

The NAB staff and management is confident that the newly appointed Board members will effectively guide the crop industry towards prosperity and their presence reinforces our aspirations to become a world-class regulator of a vibrant, diversified and sustainable crop industry.

NAMIBIA RECORDS A WHITE MAIZE BUMPER HARVEST FOR THE 2022 HARVESTING SEASON

It is with great pride that the NAB announces a significant milestone in the agronomic sector as Namibia achieves its highest-ever white maize production harvest. White maize holds a prominent position among the essential grain crops cultivated within Namibia, serving primarily for human consumption. The cultivation of white maize occurs across various production zones, including Zambezi, Kavango, North Central (Etunda), Karst (Maize Triangle), Central (Summerdown and Hochfeld), and the South (Hardap).

This versatile crop is grown through both rainfed and irrigation methods, with planting activities commencing from October to January annually. Subsequently, the harvesting phase spans from April to October each year, ensuring a consistent supply of this crucial staple food crop. Harvesting usually takes place from April to October each year.

During the marketing season that commenced on 09 May 2022 to 03 December 2022, Namibian producers marketed/sold more than 98 thousand tons to local millers (approximately N\$ 622 million in monetary value), a significant increase from 90 thousand tons recorded in the previous marketing season. The total local demand for white maize was 191,029 tons, of which 52% was produced in the country and 49% by imports, mainly from South Africa. The total white maize production was, therefore, allocated to millers according to their market share in terms of grain demand. The NAB currently has 20 millers for white maize registered on the NAB AMID system.

During the marketing season, the NAB closely monitors the production and the local demand for white maize and facilitates the marketing of local grains by closing the borders to the importation of white maize until the entire locally produced stock is taken up by locally registered millers.

Figure 1: Local production marketed for the period from 2010 - 2022

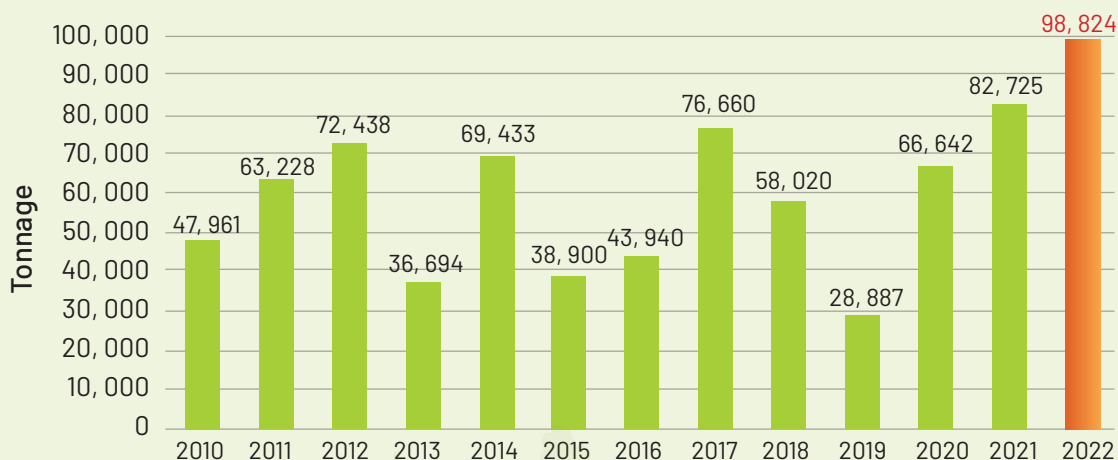


Figure 1: Local white maize marketed for the period from 2010 - 2022



As depicted in Figure 1, the white maize local production has been on an upward trend after the 2018/2019 draught, of which the 2022 marketing season was the highest with a total of 98 824 tons, which is an increase of 16 099 tons when compared to the 2021 harvesting season.

Out of the 98 824 tons produced, 46% was rainfed, while 54% was produced under irrigation. Karst emerged as the production zone with the highest tonnage produced with 47% compared to the other production zones. The second-highest white maize production zone was Central with 24% and the lowest tonnage production zone was North Central with 1%.

Table 1: White Maize Tonnage - Irrigation vs Rainfed - 2022

| Production Zone | Rainfed (tons) | Irrigation (tons) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Zambezi | 6,822 | 0 |
| Kavango | 0 | 6,364 |
| North Central | 1,079 | 1,760 |
| Karst | 29,842 | 20,738 |
| Central | 7,906 | 17,598 |
| South | 0 | 6,715 |
| Total | 45,649 | 53,175 |
| Rainfed vs Irrigated Share % | 46% | 54% |

Table 1 illustrates the comparison of tons of rainfed versus the irrigation white maize produced per production zone. Furthermore, during the 2022 marketing season, there was a noteworthy surge in wheat production, recording an impressive 13% growth. Conversely, pearl millet production experienced a substantial decline of nearly 40%. This data suggests that Namibian producers are demonstrating considerable dedication towards enhancing their output to meet domestic demand and achieving self-sufficiency in staple food production within the country.

With good rainfall, Namibia has a good potential to increase local production by more than 50% of the domestic demand. The good harvest experienced in 2022 is mainly attributed to the increased number of local producers and an increase in hectares planted for crop production. The NAB will, therefore, enhance efforts in the market facilitation of staple food crops to support local producers in attaining this goal.

A BUMPER HARVEST- 2022

- 1008 Registered Farmers
- 32 127 Hectares Planted
- 26371 (ha) Rainfed
- 5756 (ha) Irrigated

The 2023 National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards Exceed Expectations



Overall NAHA Winner: AvaGro scooped two awards, the Master Crop Value Chain Actor and Horticulture Innovator of the Year.

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) hosted the highly anticipated National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA) on 14 September 2023, at the Mashare Irrigation Project in the heart of the Kavango East Region.

The event was celebrated under the theme, *"Promoting a Resilient, Sustainable and Profitable Crop Industry,"* and it set the stage for an unforgettable day. The event served as a true celebration of excellence and recognition of the significant contributions made by individuals, organisations, and institutions in the agronomy and horticulture landscape of Namibia.

The event was a resounding success, attracting over 350 distinguished agronomy and horticulture crop value chain actors, agricultural enthusiasts, and stakeholders from across Namibia. The event successfully brought together an action-packed day combining both practical learning sessions and exhibitions from industry-input suppliers. It further provided a platform for the facilitation of knowledge sharing among key stakeholders in the agronomy and horticulture industry through knowledge sharing.

Speakers

This year's NAHA ceremony featured a stellar line-up of speakers, each bringing a wealth of expertise in the field of agriculture. Stefan Glaser, the Technical Coordinator from GIZ, kicked things off with an insightful talk on the concept of Farming for Resilience (F4R) in the face of a changing climate - a practice that promises sustainability. Glaser went on to encourage producers to explore agrivoltaic systems, a forward-thinking approach that not only enhances energy efficiency but also promotes crop production and value chain development.

Etukata Nashima, the acting GM for Certification at the Namibia Standards Institution, highlighted a crucial point during her presentation by stressing the need to embrace food quality and safety standards in the crop-value chain.

"The commitment to food safety and standards compliance is the responsibility of all, including the government, consumers, and industry stakeholders to ensure consumer protection, and the benefits thereof must be viewed in terms of public health," she stated.

Etukata further stressed the necessity for key industry stakeholders to work together to enhance the capacity of crop producers, especially small-scale producers, in meeting food safety and quality requirements. Critical being that such initiatives will open doors to global markets.

Professor Rhoda Birech, a renowned researcher, and head of the ongoing NAB and UNAM Seed Research Project, shared a promising update on the initiative. Professor Birech shared that the project aims to produce superior seed varieties that not only thrive in Namibia's unique soil and climate conditions but also hold the potential for higher yields. Professor Birech underscored the critical role this research plays in addressing the shortage of high-yielding crop varieties such as white maize, pearl millet, wheat, and potatoes, as well as in reducing the costs associated with agronomic crop production, particularly due to irrigation demands.

Closing off the series of the enlightening presentations, was Salomo Mbai, the Director of the Agricultural Trade Policy Institute (ATPI). Mr Mbai emphasised that empowering the agri-food sector through strategic collaboration with stakeholders is key to improving competitiveness in the global market.

"Similarly, a conducive policy environment is imperative for enhancing productivity and performance across supporting industries and logistics infrastructure," he concluded.

Winners

The ceremony honoured 42 outstanding participants across various categories compared to the 33 categories awarded at the 2022 NAHA. Each winner walked away with well-deserved prizes in certificates and vouchers valued between N\$ 20,000 and N\$ 30,000 each. The following crop value chain actors were awarded.

WINNING AGRONOMY CROP VALUE CHAIN ACTORS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Outstanding White Maize Producer of the Year | Eric van Druten Karst Production Zone |
| 2. Emerging White Maize Producer of the Year | Clemence Masasa Makumbi Zambezi Production Zone |
| 3. Outstanding Wheat Producer of the Year | Ernst van Biljon Karst Production Zone |
| 4. Emerging Wheat Producer of the Year | Floris Smith-Uvungu Vungu Kavango East region |
| 5. Outstanding Pearl Millet Producer of the Year | Anne Nora Ohangwena Region |
| 6. Emerging Pearl Millet Producer of the Year | Hendimbi Immanuel Hedimbi Oshikoto region |
| 7. Outstanding Youth Producer of the Year | Rudolf J. N. Steyn Central Production Zone |
| 8. Outstanding Innovator Producer of the Year | Elizabeth Haruwodi Kavango West Region |
| 9. Outstanding Small-Scale Producer of the Year | Tomas Angula-Ndonga Linene Kavango West Region |
| 10. Outstanding Agronomy Service Provider of the Year | Agra Namibia Karst Production Zone |
| 11. Outstanding Grain Processor of the Year | Kamunu Mills Zambezi Region |
| 12. Emerging Grain Processor of the Year | Agriculture Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) Central Production zone |
| 13. Outstanding Grain Exporter of the Year | NamibMills Central Production Zone |

WINNING HORTICULTURE CROP VALUE CHAIN ACTORS

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Outstanding Horticulture Producer of the Year | Jan Cronje Karst Production Zone |
| 2. Emerging Horticulture Producer of the Year | Ludwig Kampingana Karst Production Zone |
| 3. Outstanding Horticulture Youth Producer of the Year | Aina Imalwa North Central Production Zone |
| 4. Outstanding Horticulture Innovator of the Year | AVAGRO Central Production Zone |
| 5. Outstanding Horticulture Service Provider of the Year | Agri- Grow Central Production Zone |
| 6. Emerging Horticulture Service Provider of the Year | Starke Ayres Central Production Zone |

| | |
|--|--|
| 7. Outstanding Horticulture Exporter of the Year | Karsten Namibia Agriculture Orange River Production Zone |
| 8. Emerging Horticulture Exporter of the Year | Mashare Irrigation Project Kavango Production Zone |
| 9. Outstanding Small-Scale Horticulture producer of the Year | Emilie Naunyango North Central Production Zone |
| 10. Outstanding Horticulture Trader of the Year | Choppies Supermarket Central Production Zone |
| 11. Emerging Horticulture Trader of the Year | FRESHCO NAMIBIA North Central Production Zone |

SPECIAL AWARDS

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Outstanding School Garden of the Year | John Shekudja Combined School North Central Production Zone |
| 2. Outstanding School Garden of the Year Runner-Up | Origo Primary School Central Production Zone |
| 3. Master Crop Value Chain Actor of the Year – 2023 (Overall NAHA Winner Category) | AVAGRO Central production Zone |

AGRONOMY RUNNER-UPS

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Outstanding White Maize Producer of the Year | Claudia Dohmen Karst Production Zone |
| 2. Emerging White Maize Producer of the Year | Henock Katanga Nangolo Kavango West Region |
| 3. Outstanding Pearl Millet Producer of the Year | Helvi Hausiku Kavango East Region |
| 4. Emerging Pearl Millet Producer of the Year | Paulus Simon Oshikoto region |
| 5. Outstanding Youth Producer of the Year | Masongozi Selma Zambezi Region |
| 6. Outstanding Small-Scale Producer of the Year | Isheya Ilenikuye Rubben Kavango West Region |
| 7. Outstanding Agronomy Service Provider of the Year | Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform: Department of Extension and Engineering Services Namibia |
| 8. Outstanding/Best Grain Processor of the Year | Bokomo Namibia Entity |
| 9. Emerging Grain Processor of the Year | Goal Maize CC Entity |
| 10. Outstanding Grain Exporter of the Year | Bokomo Namibia Entity |

HORTICULTURE RUNNER-UPS

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Outstanding Horticulture Producer of the Year | De Rust Farm - Kalahari Holdings Karst Production Zone |
| 2. Emerging Horticulture Producer of the Year | Linnea Shaetanhondi Karst Production Zone |
| 3. Outstanding Horticulture Youth Producer of the Year | Ataleni Hileni North Central Production Zone |
| 4. Outstanding Horticulture Innovator of the Year | Rosvitha Lauer Kavango Production Zone |
| 5. Outstanding Small-Scale Horticulture Producer of the Year | Chris Coston Karst Production Zone |

Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform (MAWLR), during his keynote address delivered on his behalf by Erich Petrus, the Acting Director of DAPPEES, underscored the recent accomplishments in the agronomy and horticulture sector. Honourable Schlettwein placed special emphasis on the significant milestones achieved in 2022.

"I take pride in announcing that 36% of local agronomy and horticulture production, predominantly comprising horticultural goods like table grapes, onions, tomatoes, sweet peppers, butternuts, dates, blueberries, and watermelons, were successfully exported to international markets," he declared.

Additionally, he highlighted the historic achievement of a record-breaking 98,824 tons of white maize harvested during the 2022 marketing season, resulting in a 52% reduction in imports.

"This is a positive indicator that our crop value chain actors are working hard towards the attainment of food security and food sustainability," he concluded.

THE NAB'S COMMITMENT

Speaking on behalf of the NAB, the NAB Board Vice-Chairperson, Dr Marina Muller, assured participants at the event that the NAB Board remains steadfast in its commitment to formulating and executing policies such as the Crop Disaster and Crop Development Funds for the advancement of the crop industry.

Highlighting the criticality of event, the NAB CEO, Dr Fidelis Mwazi, commended the outstanding individuals and organisations recognised at the 2023 NAHA as the driving forces behind the growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector. Furthermore, he expressed gratitude to the sponsors for their contributions towards making the event a success.

The 2023 awards were made possible by the support, both monetary and non-monetary, from key industry stakeholders, including Mashare Irrigation Project, Rossing Foundation, USAID Africa, NAMDIA, GIZ, Agribank, NASRIA and Starke Ayres.

In attendance was Honourable Bonifatius Wakudumo, the Governor of the Kavango-East region, as well as Her Majesty Queen Kanyetu Sophia Mundjembwe of the Shambyu Traditional Authority, Representatives from Farmers' Associations, the NAB Board representatives, Agribank and USAID Africa Representatives, various agronomic and horticultural producers, traders and service providers, Farmers Unions, and MAWFLR representatives. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture representatives, school groups from the region as well as agricultural enthusiasts from both the private and private sectors were also in attendance. The awards ceremony was streamed live on the NBC Digital News channel and the NAB's Facebook pages.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS







NAB/UNAM Seed Research Project Collaborates with Zambia Seed Companies



NAB and UNAM agricultural experts pictured during a two-day training workshop provided by SeedCo in Lusaka Zambia

In a ground-breaking collaboration stemming from their 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) and the University of Namibia (UNAM) have since embarked on a trial research project in various production zones across the country. The primary aim of this collaborative effort is to cultivate high-quality seed varieties that exhibit outstanding adaptability to the diverse soil and climatic conditions of Namibia, while concurrently showcasing an unprecedented potential for increased yields.

To further enhance the implementation of the project, in April 2023, a delegation of agricultural experts comprising Researchers, Technicians, and Project Coordinators from the two institutions undertook training in areas of breeding, production, cultivation, storage, and processing of high-quality seed varieties in Lusaka, Zambia. The training has been initiated following a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by the NAB in 2022. The assessment aimed to identify specific training requirements for the NAB-UNAM research project staff engaged in seed trials, while offering project coordinators a comprehensive understanding of the seed production value chain and the seed sector.

The training programme in Zambia encompassed a blend of classroom instruction and field observations strategically designed to facilitate more in-depth and hands-on learning. Its primary objective was to provide trainees with comprehensive exposure to diverse agricultural practices, including the production, breeding, and processing of high-quality seed varieties. Additionally, the programme delved into seed multiplication and marketing for key crops such as white maize, soya beans, sunflower, wheat, and sorghum within the Zambian agricultural system.

The training was conducted primarily by SeedCo and ZamSeed, both reputable corporations with significant seed production and multiplication expertise in Zambia. The comprehensive programme covered various

essential topics, including meticulous planning and execution to combat crop pests and diseases, best practices for the identification and management of such issues, precise data capturing, analysis, and meticulous record-keeping for crop trials, crop growth staging techniques, and effective crop management strategies to foster optimal growth and development, among other pertinent subjects.



NAB and UNAM agricultural experts pictured during a two-day training provided by SeedCo in Lusaka, Zambia

In addition to the intensive training programme provided by SeedCo and Zamseed, the delegation also conducted courtesy visits to institutions such as the Zambian Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI), Synergy, and the Agri-Tech Expo Zambia 2023. This further provided the NAB delegation with networking opportunities, allowing them to engage with and discuss possible future collaborations with other agricultural professionals and experts in the field. This allowed them to further explore innovative agricultural

solutions that can be implemented in Namibia, while staying updated on the latest trends and advancements in agricultural technology and practices. Upon successful completion of the training, the trainees were awarded certificates to acknowledge their achievement and proficiency



NAB and UNAM agricultural experts pictured during a site visit to Synergy headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia



Practical learning in progress

Kampungu, the NAB Manager for Research and Policy Development, expressed that Namibia is currently at an infant stage in terms of seed production and multiplication technology. He further highlighted the significance of the training programme in enhancing and capacitating Namibia's agricultural experts.

“Zambia as a host to reputable seed suppliers makes this training collaboration highly beneficial to the NAB/UNAM Seed Research Project and will significantly contribute to effectively addressing the gap in Namibia’s seed production industry by ensuring the availability of high-quality hybrid seeds to support Namibian crop producers in achieving optimal yields,” he said.

“Moreover, by tapping into the knowledge and expertise from some of the best seed suppliers on the continent, the delegation gained valuable knowledge that will be instrumental in fostering sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing agricultural productivity in Namibia, ultimately contributing to the nation’s food security and economic growth”, he concluded.



NAB and UNAM agricultural experts with the seed “Godfather” Prof. Bhola Verma from ZamSeed, pictured on the last day of the training programme in Lusaka, Zambia

With these objectives in mind, the delegation embraced the opportunity to gain insights and skills that will contribute to the advancement of Namibia’s agricultural sector.

REGISTRATION OF HORTICULTURE PRODUCERS AND SUBMISSION OF VEGETABLE PRODUCTION DATA ESTIMATES



01 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 horticulture crops in Namibia are obliged to register with the NAB as a producer or farmer of a controlled product.

Please note: Registration is free of charge.

02 Why do I need to register with the NAB?

The NAB, as mandated by the Agronomy Industry Act and in line with the Market Share Promotion (MSP) scheme rules and procedures, obliges all horticulture producers who are producing intending to sell their horticulture produce, to register with the NAB.

03 What are the benefits of being a registered producer?

Only registered horticulture producers are allowed to market their products to registered traders. Hence, all registered producers are entered into the Agricultural Marketing Information Database (AMID) system and allocated a unique Producer Identification Number (PIN) which can be used by registered traders to verify if a particular producer is registered with the NAB.

The registration enables the NAB to efficiently and effectively facilitate the marketing of locally produced fresh produce.



04 How do I register as a producer?

The 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 office
- (ii) Submit the completed form and a certified ID copy or company registration document to the NAB
- (iii) Receive confirmation of registration (with your unique producer number therein) within 1 - 2 working days.
- (iv) Please contact **Ms Tresia Simon** for any registration queries at email: Tresia.Simon@nab.com.na or on **Tel: 061 - 379 543**

05 Why should I submit my production forecast data?

- As a registered producer, you are required to update the NAB with your actual or expected production volumes per crop planted.
- The provision of submitted production forecast data enables the NAB to generate comprehensive production forecast reports, projected five months ahead.
- These reports serve as a guide for traders in determining optimal sourcing strategies and they aid producers in identifying areas with surpluses or deficits, which in turn empowers producers with planning and making informed decisions.
- This provision also enables the NAB to efficiently manage the opening and closing of borders by determining which specific controlled products should be restricted or permitted for importation.

06 When should I submit my production forecast data?

Between the **7th and 14th** of each month, producers/farmers who intend to market their horticulture products must submit their expected and actual production data to the NAB.

Information required includes:

- (i) Name of the crop planted and the cultivar/variety
- (ii) Estimated hectares planted for each controlled crop (e.g. tomatoes, cabbages) and the date planted
- (iii) Total quantity (tons/ kg/ g) expected to be harvested per crop and date of harvesting
- (iv) Targeted market (informal, formal and/or export) and tonnage to be marketed
- (v) Also, indicate whether you are contracted to supply or not



07 What happens when I do not submit or if I submit unrealistic production data?

Missing or unrealistic production information can cause unrealistic expectations of local production volumes to be marketed in a subsequent month or quarter and hence this may lead to the following scenarios:

- Irregularities and poor implementation of the close and open border periods aimed at creating market access for local farmers.

For example

- *The opening of borders while there are sufficient products available locally results in some farmers who are not contracted to supply the products struggling to sell their fresh produce.*
- *Closing the borders while there is insufficient local volumes of certain vegetable products may cause traders to struggle with sourcing local products and this can potentially result in consumers struggling to source certain horticulture products on the shelves.*
- *It also undermines the overall market facilitation of fresh produce in Namibia (e.g. traders being referred to producers with no products).*

08 How do I submit my production data estimates?

- A farmer should complete the expected and actual production data collection forms. These forms are accessible on the NAB website: www.nab.com.na > Downloads > Data collection > Expected and actual vegetable/fruit production data collection form
- Alternatively, you can submit your data telephonically or via WhatsApp message.

09 Who can I contact regarding submissions of production forecast data?

Contact the following NAB officials for the submission of production forecast data:

1. Ms Paulina Mubiana - **Karst and North Central production zones**
Cell: +264 81 300 3320 or Email: Paulina.Mubiana@nab.com.na
2. Mr Patrick Lubanda - **Kavango and Zambezi production zones**
Cell: +264 81 289 5454 or Email: Patrick.Lubanda@nab.com.na
3. Ms Selma Uahengo - **Central, South and Orange production zones**
Cell: +264 81 226 5234 or Email: Selma.Uahengo@nab.com.na



Championing Agriculture Integrity: The NAB's Battle Against Cross-border Smuggling



What is Cross-border Smuggling?

The illegal movement of goods across national borders is known as cross-border smuggling. In the context of agronomy and horticulture products in Namibia, it refers to the illegal movement of controlled agronomic and horticultural goods into or out of the country. This involves the unauthorised transportation of products across borders without complying with relevant regulations, duties, and taxes. In this article, we shed light on cross-border smuggling, its consequences, and the efforts being made to combat this illicit practice.

Drivers of Cross-border Smuggling

Economic gains serve as the primary motivation for individuals engaging in cross-border smuggling. By evading import or export duties, smugglers reduce their costs and increase profits by selling the products at lower prices, thereby undermining legitimate Namibian businesses.

Challenges and Impacts on Namibia's Agronomy and Horticulture Sector

The smuggling of agronomy and horticulture products gives rise to several problems. Firstly, it undermines Namibian laws, regulations, and policies, thereby creating an uneven playing field for legal businesses. Secondly, it poses a risk to food safety and quality standards as unregulated products of unknown origin enter the market, thus potentially jeopardizing the health of citizens. Additionally, smuggling results in lost revenue for the country, as duties and tariffs go unpaid, and hence hindering the growth and development of Namibia's agronomy and horticulture sectors.

Although the exact figures of the losses incurred annually due to the cross-border smuggling of agronomic and horticultural products are challenging to determine precisely, most smuggled products have an average value below N\$10,000. The regions that witness heightened smuggling activities include the Zambezi region, notably involving white maize from Zambia. Limited surveillance resources in these areas contribute to the prevalence of smuggling activities.

The Importance of Legally Documented Flows

Legally documented flows of agronomy and horticulture products are of utmost importance to safeguard Namibia's infant industry, ensure fair trade for industry enterprises, and maintain food safety standards for the benefit of citizens' well-being.

The penalties and consequences for engaging in cross-border smuggling are governed by several legal instruments, including the Agronomic Industry Act, Act 20 of 1992, Customs and Excise Act, Act 20 of 1998, Fruit and Plant Protection Act of 1992, and the Noxious Insects Act of 1934. The application of these laws ensures that those caught engaging in smuggling activities face appropriate legal consequences.

Public Involvement in Combating Smuggling

Civilians and the general public play a critical role in the fight against cross-border smuggling. By remaining vigilant and promptly reporting any suspicious activities involving controlled agronomic and horticultural crops, individuals can aid authorities in addressing smuggling incidents. The Namibian Agronomic Board has set up a "Report Smuggling SMS line" (SMS 79500), which the public can use to report incidents of smuggling, with each SMS costing N\$0.40.

We urge the public to collaborate with authorities such as NamRA, the Namibian Police, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry, and the Namibian Agronomic Board, in reporting suspected smuggling activities. Together, we can protect Namibia's agronomy and horticulture sector, foster fair trade practices, and safeguard the well-being of our citizens.

The cross-border smuggling of agronomy and horticulture products poses significant challenges to Namibia's agricultural sector. It is through collective efforts, public vigilance, and strong enforcement of laws that we can effectively combat this illicit practice and build a sustainable and thriving agronomy and horticulture industry in Namibia.



Report Smuggling
Via SMS

NAMIBIAN AGRONOMIC BOARD

This platform should only be used to report incidents of suspected cross-border smuggling of agronomic and horticultural products.

How to report an incident:
Message Format:
Report **SPACE** type the incident you would like to report.

NB: The message should include the exact location and the type of product suspected to be imported - **send to 79500**

Ts & Cs Apply

- Each SMS costs N\$0.40
- Maximum 160 Characters / letters per SMS

Report
Smuggling of White Maize from Zambia to Mobola Camp-Zambezi River

The NAB Shines at Agricultural Show Exhibitions

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) made an impressive debut at agricultural exhibitions during the second quarter of the financial year. The participation kicked off at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair (OATF), which ran from the 25th of August to the 2nd of September 2023.



Moments from the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair that took place from 25 August to 2 September 2023.

Following this successful start, the NAB continued to make its mark at the Windhoek Agricultural Show held from the 22nd to the 30th of September 2023. The NAB exhibition stand at the Windhoek Agricultural Show garnered recognition as it was awarded the bronze medal for the best indoor exhibition stand.



Moments from the Annual Windhoek Agricultural Show that took place from the 22 to 30 September 2023.

Both exhibitions provided a networking platform for the NAB to connect and engage with the broader industry stakeholders. Visitors to the NAB stand had the opportunity to interact directly with the NAB's dedicated team members who addressed queries and provided information regarding the NAB service offerings. This was an opportunity to enable direct engagement with stakeholders for efficient resolution of queries and facilitated smoother processes for all involved.

Participation in agricultural exhibitions is part of efforts by the NAB to bring its services closer to the people and further strengthening its stakeholder relations. The success at Ongwediva and Windhoek sets the stage for continued involvement in upcoming agricultural events in all seven production zones, where the NAB looks forward to further enhancing its footprint's impact on the agronomic and horticultural landscape.

EXTENDED OPERATING HOURS AT THE TRANS-KALAHARI BORDER POST

In a significant stride towards enhancing cross-border trade, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is delighted to announce the implementation of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) concept at the Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno Border Post. This monumental step, which took effect on the 1st of April 2023, marks a transformative shift in border operations, with the border post now open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The journey towards the realisation of the OSBP concept began in 2009 when discussions between Botswana and Namibia laid the groundwork for this collaborative initiative. Fast forward to 2017, the Namibian government enacted the One Stop Border Post Act No. 8 of 2017, solidifying its commitment to the project. The Ministry of Finance, in partnership with key stakeholders, including the NAB, worked tirelessly to bring this vision to fruition.

The August 2022 bilateral agreement signed between the two countries paved the way for this historic development. Operating under the framework of the African Union's Agenda 2063, the OSBP concept is set to revolutionise the movement of people, capital, goods, and services, thereby catalysing increased trade and investment across African borders.

At its core, the OSBP concept aims to streamline cross-border trade transactions by consolidating the activities of both countries' border agencies at a single location. This integration allows for simplified procedures, joint inspections, and harmonised operations, ultimately reducing delays and enhancing overall efficiency.

The extended operating hours at the Trans-Kalahari Border Post are designed to significantly improve turn-around times and ensure effective service delivery to agronomy and horticulture traders, producers, and other industry stakeholders. This pivotal change reaffirms our commitment to serve as a world-class regulator dedicated to the promotion of a vibrant, diversified, and sustainable crop industry.

For further inquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Trans-Kalahari border office at 062 560474 or via email at transkalahari.border@nab.com.na



NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

TRANS-KALAHARI BORDER POST TO OPERATE 24 HOURS

AS OF 1ST APRIL 2023



 www.nab.com.na



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



Our *Mandate*

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

Our *Services*

- Boarder Control & Inland Inspections
- Permit Issuance: In-transit, Import & Export
- Registration of Producers, Transitors, Traders & Processors
- Production & Market Facilitation for Controlled Crops
- Value Addition & Storage Facilitation
- Farms & facilities Inspections
- Crop Value Chain Research
- Information & Advisory Services



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