NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

Season's *Harvest*

NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 1 & 2

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EDITOR'S *note*

Liseli Mwilima
Public Relations Officer



Dear Reader

Welcome to this edition of Season's Harvest, a space dedicated to the stories, progress, and people shaping Namibia's agronomy and horticulture landscape.

One central question runs through this issue: **How does Namibia grow more of what it eats, and earn more from what it grows?**

We open by celebrating excellence across our crop sector. The 2026 National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards honored 25 outstanding producers, millers, exporters, and innovators.

Alongside this, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) reinforced its commitment to community development by handing over N$400,000 to young farmers and food security projects in the Omaheke Region.

This issue also addresses critical sector statistics. While Namibia achieves significant fruit exports, only 3% of locally consumed fruit is produced domestically, and imports still fulfill two-thirds of our cereal needs and 90% of our wheat. To bridge these gaps, the NAB's Crop Value Chain Development Strategy (2025–2030), backed by an initial N$250 million, focuses on transforming the sector from seed to shelf.

Inside, you will explore how this strategy is put into practice through target schemes:

- One Farmer, One Solar Centre Pivot Scheme for climate-resilient grain irrigation.
- Fruit & Potato Value Chain Schemes offering direct co-funding to producers.
- Commercial Trials, including promising banana harvests in Etunda exceeding regional benchmarks.

Beyond primary production, we spotlight local agro-processing, food safety controls from border to fork, policy briefs on green hydrogen, and key updates from trade fairs across the country.

Progress in our crop sector is achieved through collective dedication. We extend our sincere gratitude to the producers, processors, traders, and partners driving these achievements. As the year draws to a close, we hope these pages inspire optimism and deepen appreciation for the shared vision powering Namibian agriculture forward.

Happy Reading



NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

CEO's corner



The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) remains firmly committed to building a world-class, diversified, and sustainable crop industry. Achieving this vision requires robust stakeholder engagement, both locally and internationally. These partnerships are essential to ensuring that Namibia's crop industry thrives, fulfilling domestic demand while tapping into international markets.

Currently, Namibia imports 97% of its fruit consumption needs, producing only 3% locally. This disparity is why the NAB has adopted a robust approach to fruit development through the Fruit Value Chain Development Scheme (FVCDS) 2025–2030, driving efforts to significantly boost production over the next five years and beyond. The goal is not only to meet local demand but also to position Namibia as a key player in the global market.

Namibia's unique environmental, political, and economic stability makes it ideal for fruit and crop production. The country boasts excellent infrastructure, reliable water availability, and access to port facilities, all of which provide a solid foundation for expanding exports. By leveraging these advantages alongside strategic initiatives such as the N$250 million committed under the Crop Value Chain Development Strategy (CVCDS) 2025–2030 and targeted solar irrigation support the NAB aims to accelerate the growth of our agricultural output, ensuring that Namibia can supply both local and international markets with high-quality produce.

Engaging local stakeholders, such as farmers, agribusinesses, and government bodies, is critical for driving innovation and addressing challenges unique to Namibia.

By working collaboratively, the NAB ensures that the industry can capitalize on opportunities for growth, particularly in expanding high-value crops and transforming our grain and horticulture sectors.

At the same time, international engagement allows Namibia to adopt global best practices and access advanced technologies. Aligning with international standards like local g.a.p. and GLOBAL G.A.P. not only enhances product quality and consumer safety but also opens new export markets, ensuring that Namibian produce can compete globally.

The NAB's strategic plan underscores the importance of stakeholder engagement in achieving market facilitation, regulatory compliance, and sustainable growth. Through local and international collaboration spanning from smallholder transformation to cutting-edge public-private partnerships in agro-processing and green hydrogen integration Namibia's crop industry continues to grow, driving economic prosperity and long-term food security.

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

Fidelis N. Mwazi (PhD)
Chief Executive Officer

Excellence Across the Value Chain – NAHA 2026

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) has announced the winners of the 2026 National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards (NAHA), recognising the producers, processors, traders, service providers and school gardens whose work has strengthened Namibia's crop industry. This year, 25 awards were presented: 11 in agronomy, covering white maize, wheat, pearl millet (mahangu) and grain processing, and 14 in horticulture, covering fresh produce, innovation, youth, exports, trade, services and school gardens.

In the grain sector, Eahero 129, De Klerk Farming and Katrina M. Kagwe were named the outstanding white maize, wheat and pearl millet producers, while Bokomo Namibia (Pty) Ltd was named Outstanding Grain Processor. AJ De Klerk was one of two double winners, taking both Emerging Wheat Producer and Best Agronomy Youth Producer.

The top agronomy honour, Master Agronomy Value Chain Actor, went to Derust-Kalahari Holdings. In horticulture, Cordova Farming CC was named Outstanding Horticulture Producer and Freshmark Outstanding Horticulture Trader. AvaGro Namibia, the second double winner, received both Outstanding Innovation Producer and Emerging Service Provider. Ongenga English Private School took first place among school gardens, and Keyser Boerdery Trust was named Master Horticulture Value Chain Actor.

With emerging awards in nearly every category, alongside youth, innovation and school garden awards, the results point to a growing pipeline of new talent in the sector. The NAB congratulates all winners and thanks everyone who entered for their contribution to Namibia's food security.

Award	Winner
Outstanding White Maize Producer of the Year	Eahero 129
Emerging White Maize Producer of the Year	Christopher Ndeleki
Outstanding Wheat Producer of the Year	De Klerk Farming
Emerging Wheat Producer of the Year	AJ De Klerk
Outstanding Pearl Millet Producer of the Year	Katrina M. Kagwe
Emerging Pearl Millet Producer of the Year	Paulus Shikongo Sigopi
Outstanding Grain Processor of the Year	Bokomo Namibia (Pty) Ltd
Emerging Grain Processor of the Year	Endambo Mills CC
Best Agronomy Youth Producer of the Year	AJ De Klerk
Best Agronomy Service Provider of the Year	Etunda Green Scheme Irrigation Project
Master Agronomy Value Chain Actor of the Year	Derust-Kalahari Holdings



NAB Invests N$400,000 in Water Infrastructure for Omaheke Communities

In the Omaheke Region, two community farming projects have been held back not by a lack of land, skills or will, but by a lack of water. The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is helping to change that. At this year's National Agronomy and Horticulture Awards, the Board handed over N$400,000 as part of its corporate social responsibility programme: N$240,000 to the Nuwe Hope Project outside Gobabis and N$160,000 to the Skoonheid Community Farm in the Okorukambe Constituency. Both will use the funds for water infrastructure.

The two projects were selected from five community initiatives nominated by the Office of the Governor of the Omaheke Region, after NAB visited each one to see where its support would make the most lasting difference.

Nuwe Hope: growing a new generation of farmers

Just 7 km outside Gobabis, Nuwe Hope spans about 57 hectares, with around 7 hectares already producing cabbage, beetroot, carrots and spinach. About 50 hectares have been set aside for youth crop production. The first 25 young farmers are already growing onions and spinach, and a second group of 25 will follow. Hotels and lodges in the area have shown interest in buying from the project, but limited water has kept production too low to meet that demand. A new borehole and water storage will give the youth room to grow.

Skoonheid: bringing a proven farm back to life

About 110 km east of Gobabis, the Skoonheid Community Farm is home to a San community of between 150 and 200 people. The farm already has a tractor, fencing, drip-irrigation experience and an active management committee, and once grew cabbage, tomatoes, butternut, carrots, watermelon and spinach. But its 15-year-old borehole no longer delivers enough water, and vegetable production has stopped. The farm used to supply a soup kitchen feeding about 49 kindergarten children, and attendance has dropped since the vegetables ran out. Restoring the water supply will bring fresh produce back to the soup kitchen and to households across the community.

Investing in the sector's future

Handing over the funds at the Awards linked the celebration of excellence in Namibia's crop sector with investment at grassroots level. Together, the projects reflect two sides of the same goal: Nuwe Hope is opening doors for young people in commercial farming, while Skoonheid is restoring food security and child nutrition in a vulnerable community. With water in place, both communities have what it takes to feed themselves and their neighbours.





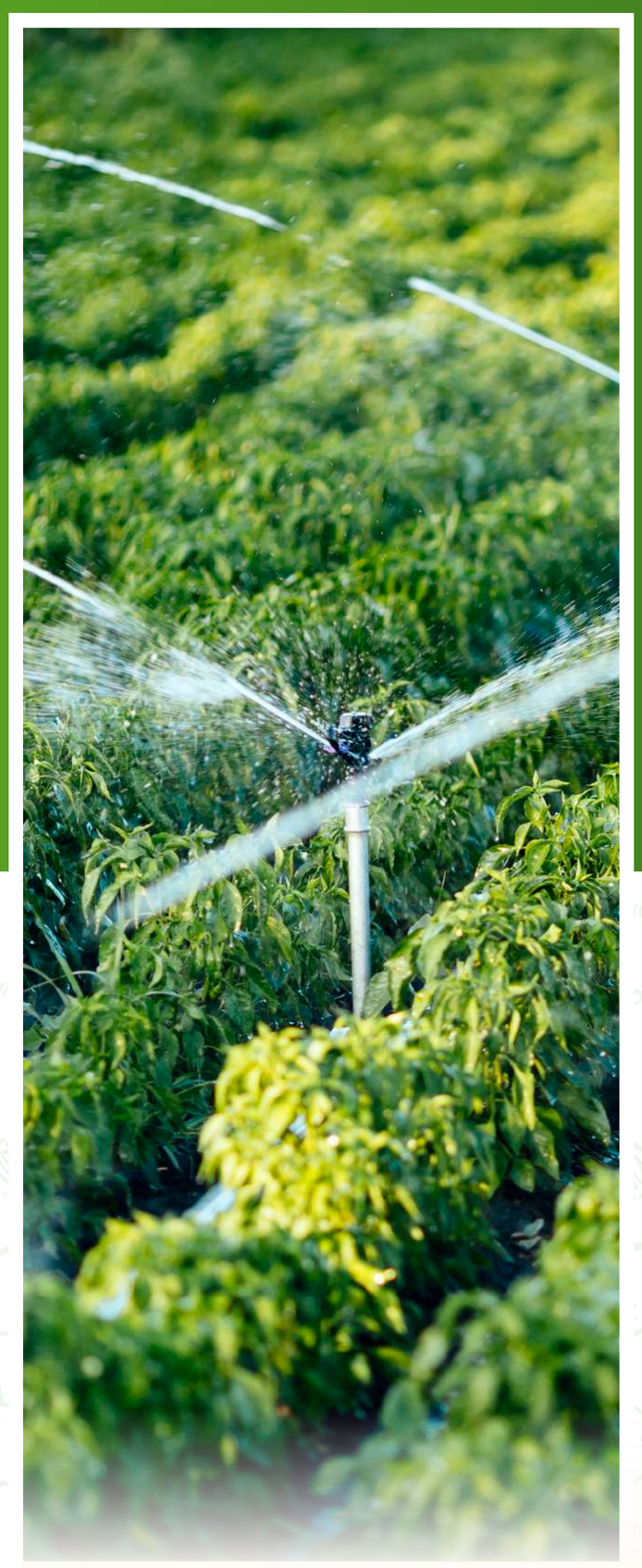
Turning the Tap on Namibia's Grain Future

How the NAB's 50% solar centre pivot subsidy is freeing grain farmers from the mercy of the rains

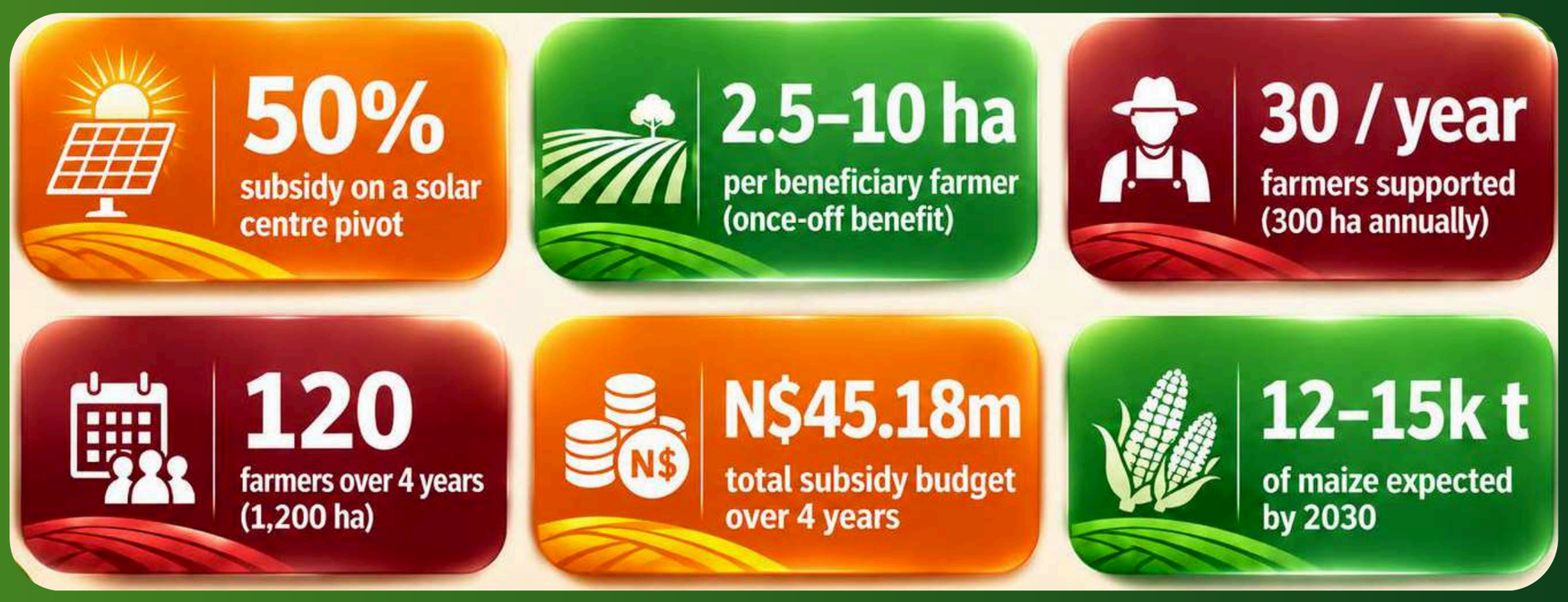
Namibia's grain production is overwhelmingly rain-fed, leaving yields of our staple crops to swing sharply with every drought. According to NAB statistics, about half of the country's white maize, and all of its pearl millet (mahangu), is grown under rain-fed conditions, across the Zambezi, Kavango, North Central, Karst and Central Production Zones. Irrigation is the obvious answer, but buying and installing a system and drilling boreholes are costs most smallholders cannot meet. As a result, the centre pivot, the most widely used irrigation method in local grain production, has stayed largely in the hands of large commercial maize and wheat producers.

The NAB steps in

Through the Grain Irrigation Support Scheme, known as “One Farmer, One Solar Centre Pivot” and run under the Grain Value Chain Development Programme, the NAB pays 50% of the cost of a solar-powered centre pivot for 2.5 to 10 hectares per farmer. Pivots will irrigate white maize and mahangu in summer, with crops such as wheat, potatoes and onions allowed outside summer. Each beneficiary also receives capacity building and mentorship, so the equipment translates into real productivity, higher incomes and stronger food security.

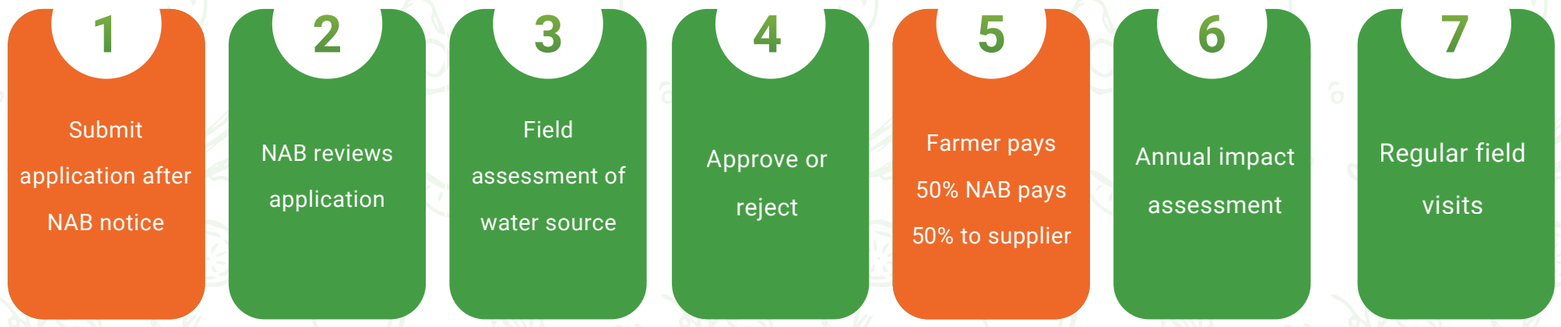


The scheme at a glance



How it works

The scheme is open to new and existing grain farmers in all production zones. Applicants must be NAB-registered Namibian producers with proof of land ownership or traditional allocation, a tested and reliable borehole (with a water permit where required), proof of production funds, and a properly secured field. Each farmer benefits once and signs a five-year agreement with the NAB. On a 10 ha pivot costing about N$753,000, the farmer pays N$376,500 to the supplier and the NAB pays the other N$376,500 directly. Transport, the submersible pump and the main water line are the farmer's responsibility.



From Importer to Grower: How NAB Is Planting the Future of Namibia's Fruit Industry



Namibia sells N$1.8 billion of fruit abroad each year, mostly table grapes and dates, yet buys almost all the fruit it eats from other countries. The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is changing that with the **Fruit Value Chain Development Scheme (FVCDS) 2025–2030.**

N$1.8bn fruit exports, 2024/25	**97%** of fruit eaten at home is imported	**30%** NAB subsidy on seedlings and inputs	**N$13.09m** NAB investment per year

In 2024/2025 Namibians bought 30,824 tons of fruit, and only 752 tons were grown locally. Vegetables tell a different story: since the Market Share Promotion scheme began in 2005, local growers' share has risen from 5% to 47%. Fruit lagged behind because an orchard takes two to nine years to bear its first harvest, a long and costly wait for any farmer.

97% of the fruit Namibians eat is imported

Share of domestic supply, local production vs imports, 2024/2025

Growth in Namibia Imported

Vegetables — 54% Local | 46% Imported

Fruit — 3% Local | 97% Imported

NAB's answer: a 30% subsidy

The FVCDS covers 30% of the cost of getting an orchard of 1 to 10 hectares from planting to first harvest:

- Year one: certified fruit tree seedlings (once-off, first 10 ha).
- Until first harvest: fertilisers, pesticides and fungicides, for up to three years and no later than 31 March 2030.

The farmer pays 70% to the supplier first; NAB then pays its 30% directly to the same supplier. The scheme supports up to 10 farmers and 100 hectares a year across ten priority fruits, including citrus, berries, mango, avocado, bananas and dates. Every fruit producer, subsidised or not, can also draw on NAB training and mentorship, links to finance, and help securing local and export markets.

NAB pays its 30% only after the farmer has paid 70%

How a subsidised purchase of seedlings and inputs works

1. **Apply to NAB** — Form plus soil test results
2. **NAB reviews, approves** — Field assessment checklist
3. **Farmer pays 70%** — To supplier, excl. transport
4. **Proof sent to NAB** — Receipt of the 70% payment
5. **NAB pays 30%** — Directly to the supplier
6. **Farmer collects inputs** — Transport at own cost

Who can apply

Namibian citizens registered (or willing to register) with NAB who have land set aside for fruit, reliable irrigation water, funds for the first year, accredited soil test results, and a willingness to sell commercially under an offtake agreement.

Enquiries: Mr Tangeni Hangula, Fruit Development Officer · +264 81 419 4811 · Tangeni.Hangula@nab.com.na · www.nab.com.na



From left: Mr. Simeon Ndjelekeni (Horticulture Research) and Mr. Gerson Kampungu (Manager: Research and Development) at the banana harvest event at Etunda.

Namibian Bananas Are Bearing Fruit

Three years into the NAB/AVAGRO partnership, local banana trials are delivering harvests, strong yields and a clear case for replacing imports with Namibian-grown fruit.

19,674 banana plants in the ground

12.4 ha under trials & private production

24.9 t harvested by mid-Oct 2026

64 t/ha projected Etunda yield

Namibia imported 10,211 tons of bananas worth N$123.5 million in 2024/25, with almost no local production to show for it. To change that, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) and AVAGRO signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2023 to test whether bananas can grow well, and profitably, in Namibian conditions. AVAGRO's tissue culture laboratory began propagating plants, and the first trials followed soon after. The MoU is due for renewal in November 2026.

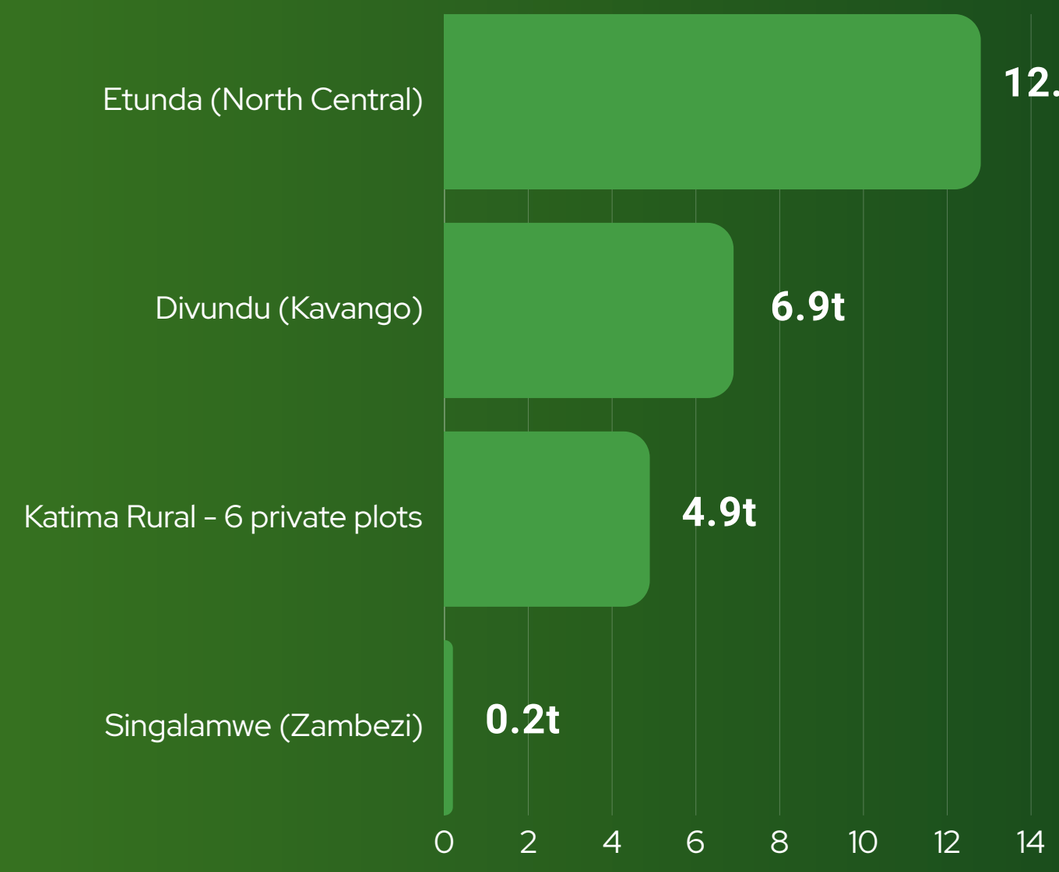
Screening trials were planted at Singalamwe (February 2024), Oshivelo (October 2024), Etunda (January 2025), Divundu and Rundu (April 2025), followed by a second round of Grand Nain trials at Ruacana, Okongo and Nkurenkuru in April 2026. Together with private growers, mostly in the Zambezi Region, 12.4 hectares and 19,674 plants are now in the ground. Project technicians stationed in the Zambezi, Kavango and North Central zones manage the trials and record data daily.



By mid-October 2026, 24.9 tons had been harvested, and that figure is expected to more than double by the end of the 2026/27 financial year as more mother plants come into bearing.



Where the 24.9 tons came from



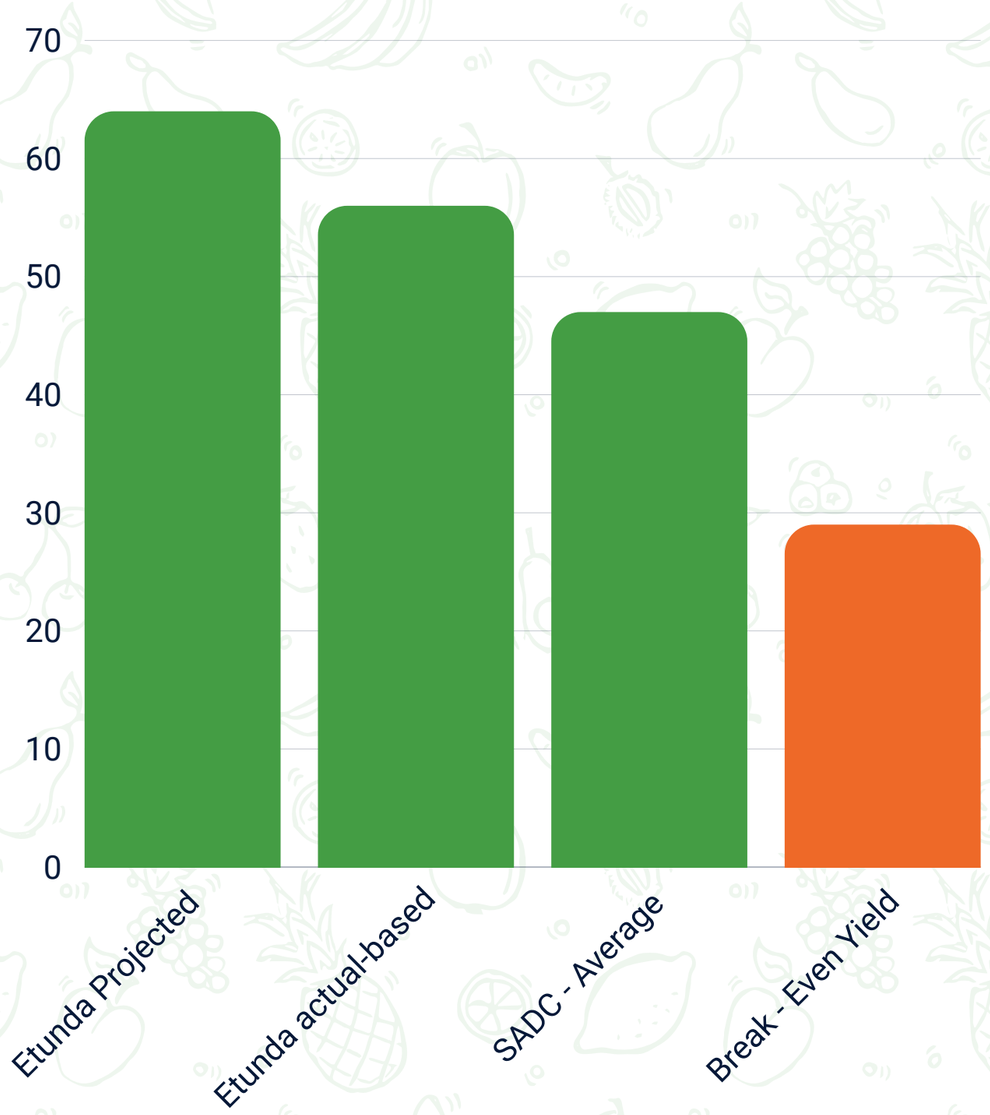
Etunda: the standout site

At the Etunda Irrigation Scheme in Omusati, the Grand Nain variety has performed within or above industry norms on every growth measure. Plants averaged 14 functional leaves at flowering (the norm is 8 to 12), and bunches averaged 10 hands. Projected yields of 64 tons per hectare compare well against the SADC average of 47 tons per hectare, and a preliminary cost analysis points to a healthy profit margin.

ETUNDA AT A GLANCE (per hectare, first 2 years)

- 26.3 kg average bunch weight (heaviest 41.5 kg)
- 10 hands per bunch on average
- N$455,092 estimated cost of production
- N$861,025 estimated revenue at N$15,500/t
- N$366,573 projected profit before tax (≈43%)
- Preliminary figures; costs to be finalised by January 2027.

Etunda beats the regional norm







Project Milestones

1
Nov 2023: NAB/AVAGRO MoU signed

2
Feb 2024: Singalamwe trial planted

3
Oct 2024: Oshivelo trial planted

4
Jan 2025: Etunda trial planted

5
Apr 2025: Divundu & Rundu planted

6
Apr 2026: Ruacana, Okongo & Nkurenkuru planted

7
May 2026: First Etunda harvest

8
Nov 26–Jan 27: 4 new variety trials

Lessons from the field

Not every site succeeded. The Oshivelo trial failed, and frost set back the Singalamwe trial, although it still yielded about 200 kg in October 2026. At Etunda, winter cold and light frost slowed plants on the field edges, strong winds caused some plants to lodge, and moles damaged young plants. These lessons are shaping how future trials are managed: early mole control, frost protection, proper propping, timely bagging and enough labour.

What comes next?

To replace imports entirely, Namibia needs about 160 hectares of bananas. The next steps are already under way:

- A call for trial participants in August 2026 drew 63 applications. Four sites in Zambezi, Kavango, Karst and North Central will plant randomised trials of Williams, Grand Nain, FHIA-17 and Red Banana between November 2026 and January 2027.
- Grand Nain plants for 10 hectares are ready at the AVAGRO nursery in Swakopmund, to be sold to farmers at an NAB-subsidised price.
- These steps will bring the national total to 24.4 hectares, leaving 135.6 hectares still to be planted.

Road to Banana Self-Suffiency



160 ha = self-sufficiency
replaces 10,211 t of imports

Thinking of growing bananas?

Bananas are sensitive to frost and cold, so the project focuses on the northern production zones. Avoid frost-prone spots, especially low-lying depressions.





Potato scheme gains ground: two intakes, 81 growers and nearly 100 hectares

The Potato Value Chain Development Scheme has now supported two intakes of local producers, covering half the cost of seed tubers, fertilisers and agrochemicals. Here is where things stand.

81 producers approved across both intakes

97 ha of potatoes supported in six production zones

N$ 6.2m in input subsidies committed to date

30 t/ha best yield reported so far, Karst zone

The scheme was set up to help Namibian producers grow more of the potatoes the local market buys. Approved farmers receive a 50% subsidy on seed tubers, fertilisers and agrochemicals, within an approved budget of N$3.51 million per intake. The first intake (2025/26) drew 101 applications. Forty-three producers were approved to plant 49.1 hectares, with N$2.81 million committed.

By the latest update, 40 of those producers had received at least part of their subsidy; the other three are awaiting their own supplier payments or partner funding.

The second intake (2026/27) received 44 applications, of which 38 were recommended for 48 hectares and N$3.36 million in support, using 96% of the budget.

The two intakes side by side

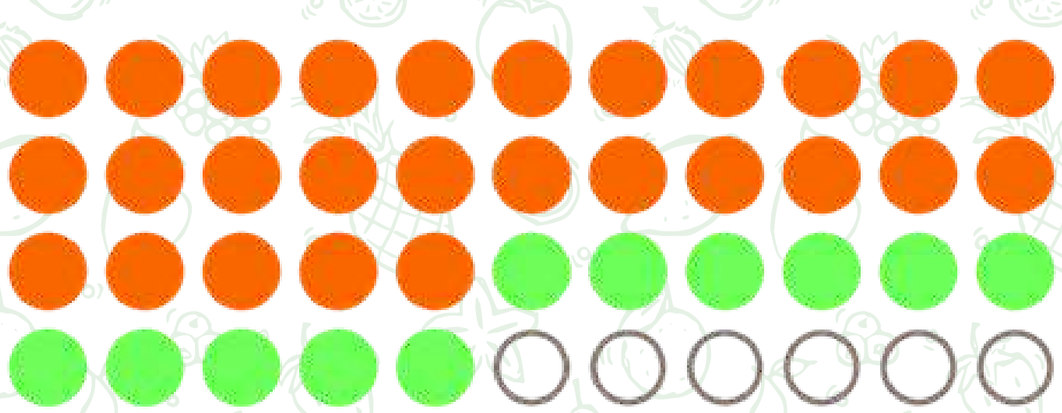
Item	FIRST INTAKE · 2025/26	SECOND INTAKE · 2026/27
Applications received	101	44
Producers approved	43	38
Hectares supported	49.1 ha	48.0 ha
Subsidy committed	N$2.81 million	N$3.36 million

Share of the N$3.51 million budget used

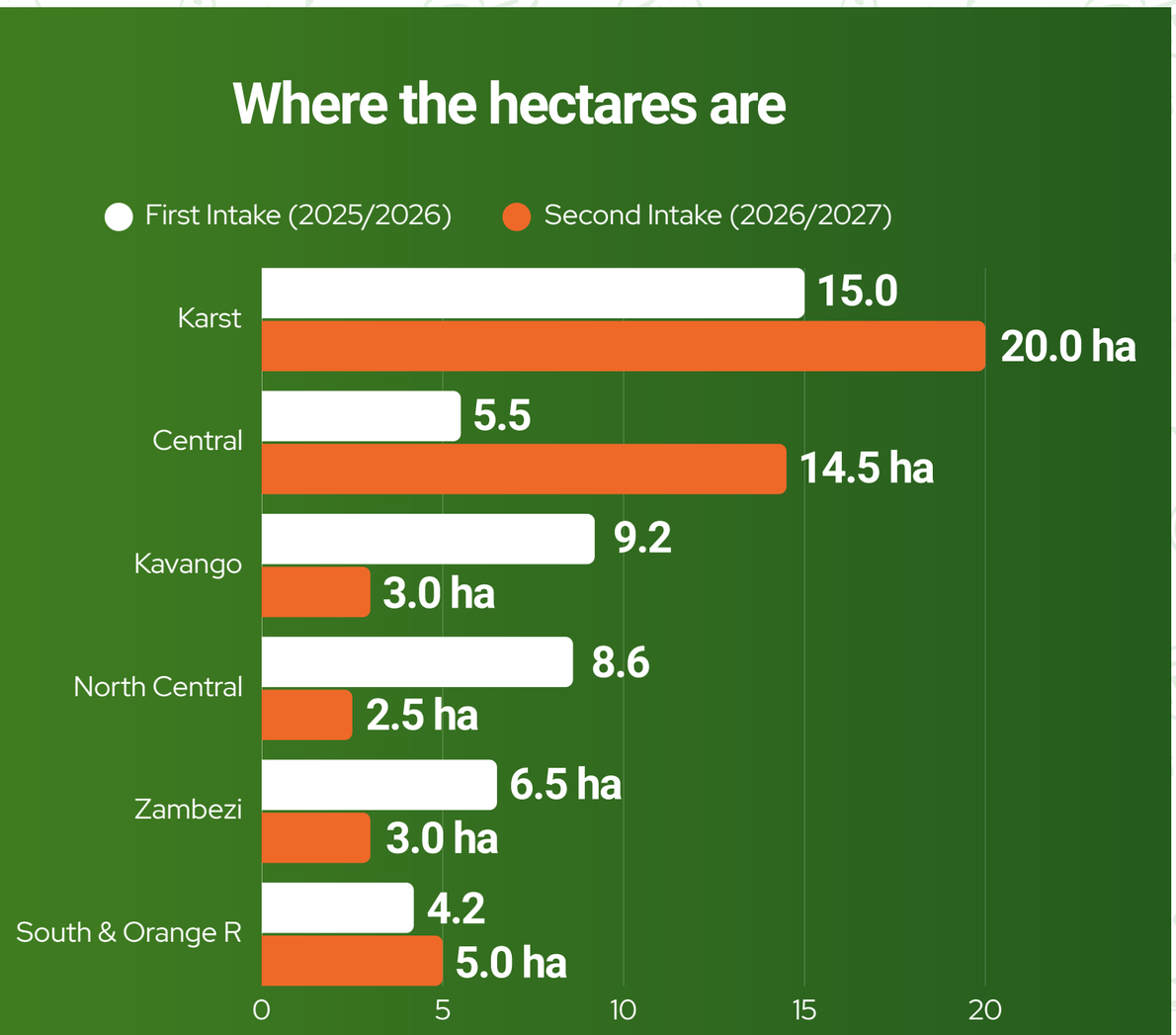


Demand is catching up with the funds available: the second intake drew fewer applications, but larger, better-prepared plantings used almost the full budget. Turn the page for where the hectares are, how the money is spent and early harvest results.

Second intake: all 44 applications



Where the hectares are



Where the subsidy goes

Share of subsidy by input, both intakes combined.

- 27 approved and paid (fully or in part)
- 11 approved, payment or planting pending
- 6 not recommended

Three lacked irrigation infrastructure, two withdrew because they could not raise their own share, and one application was incomplete.



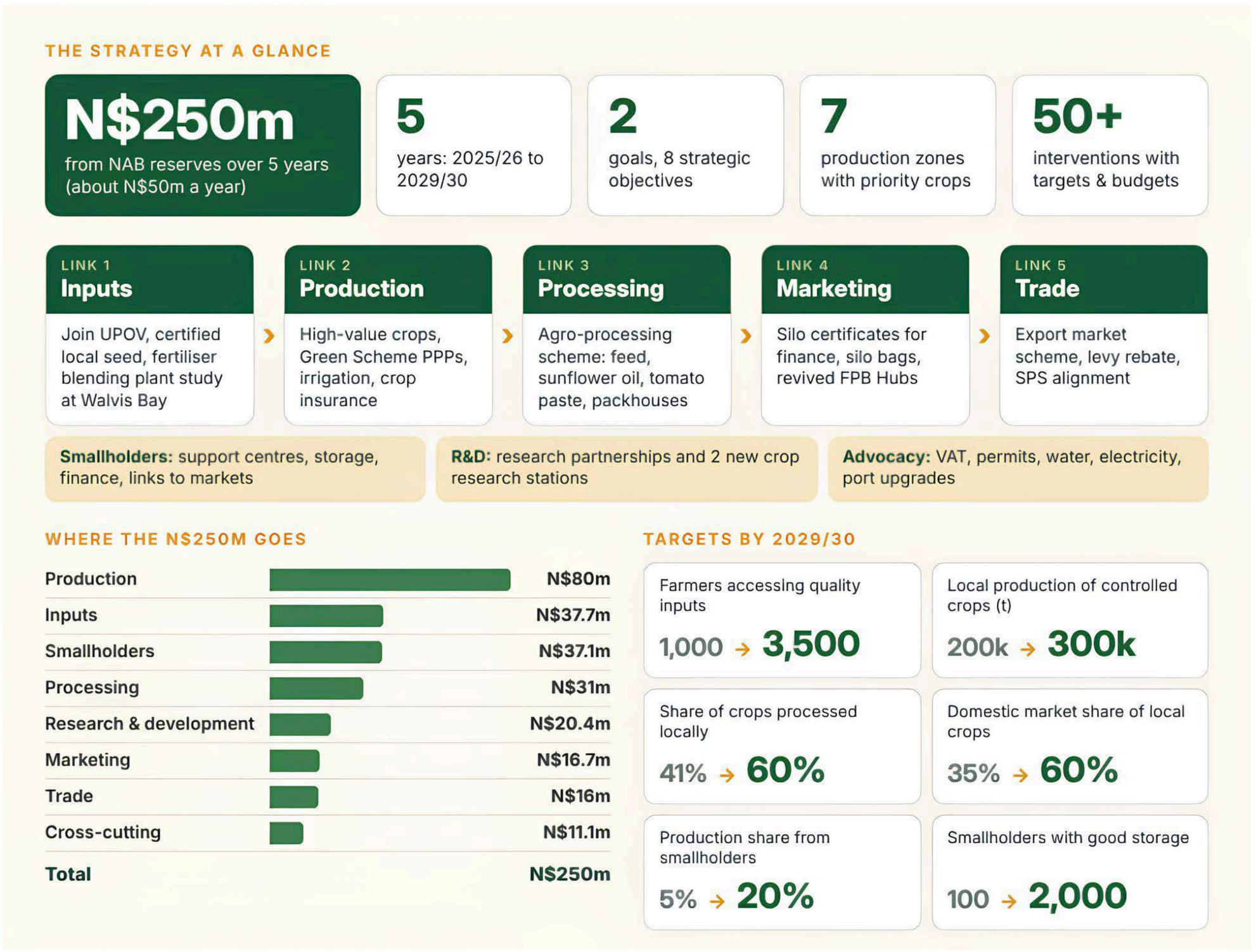
Quality seed is the single biggest cost, averaging about N$70,000 per hectare in the first intake.



From seed to shelf: unpacking Namibia's new Crop Value Chain Strategy

Namibia still imports much of what it eats. Only 11% of the wheat we use is grown locally, local fruit holds just 3% of the domestic market, and cereal imports cover about two-thirds of consumption. Yet only 15% of the land available for fruit is in use, and table grapes, 99% of which are exported, show what Namibian farmers can achieve.

The Namibian Agronomic Board's Crop Value Chain Development Strategy (CVCDS) 2025–2030 responds with a shift from reactive market protection to developing every link of the value chain, from inputs to international trade. The Board has committed N$250 million from its reserves to kick-start it.



What it means for you

- Farmers: better access to quality seed and inputs, storage, finance through silo certificates, and crop insurance.
- Smallholders: support centres, mentorship and a clear path into commercial value chains.
- Processors and investors: an agro-processing scheme and public-private partnerships in high-value crops.
- Consumers: more fresh, locally grown food on the shelves.

"Now is the time for collective action."
— Hubertus Hamm, Chairperson, NAB

Adding Value at Home: Why NAB Is Mapping Namibia's Agro-Processors

Namibia grows tomatoes, maize, wheat and mahangu, yet much of the sauce, flour, pasta and juice on our shelves is processed elsewhere or made from imported raw materials. Closing that gap is one of the biggest opportunities in the crop sector, and it is why the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is working to map, register and support the country's agro-processors.

The sector at a glance

Agro-processing turns raw crops into products with greater value, longer shelf life and wider markets. It contributes about 7.5% of GDP and roughly 70% of manufacturing, and it helps cut post-harvest losses, estimated at 24–30% in Namibia and the SADC region. Yet Namibia remains a net importer: in 2020 it imported about N$1.8 billion in crop-based processed food while exporting only N$112 million.

Where the gaps are

- Grain: Of an annual requirement of about 455,710 tonnes (N$2.7 billion), roughly 419,502 tonnes (N$2.4 billion) is imported, a 92% shortfall affecting maize meal, flour, bread, pasta and mahangu flour.
- Fruit and vegetables: Domestic demand is about N$2.3 billion a year, but local processing remains small-scale and relies mostly on imported produce. In 2021, local output was worth about N$124 million against N$534 million in imports.
- The prize: More than N$6 billion in localisation potential through import substitution, new products and export growth.



High production costs, climate variability, limited investment in facilities and competition from cheaper imports continue to hold the industry back.

Why NAB called on processors to register

You cannot grow what you cannot see. From 14 July to 7 August 2026, the NAB ran the National Agro-Processor Mapping and Registration Exercise, inviting individuals, cooperatives, SMEs, community initiatives and established companies processing crop products to register. The resulting national database will help strengthen value chains, improve market linkages, identify development needs and guide industry planning.

Value addition in action

From 6 to 9 October 2026, the NAB trained 26 members of the Marula Women Association in Tsintsabis to turn surplus tomatoes into jam, ketchup, paste and dried tomatoes. The hands-on training covered food processing, safety, quality control and storage, helping participants reduce post-harvest losses and earn income beyond selling fresh produce.

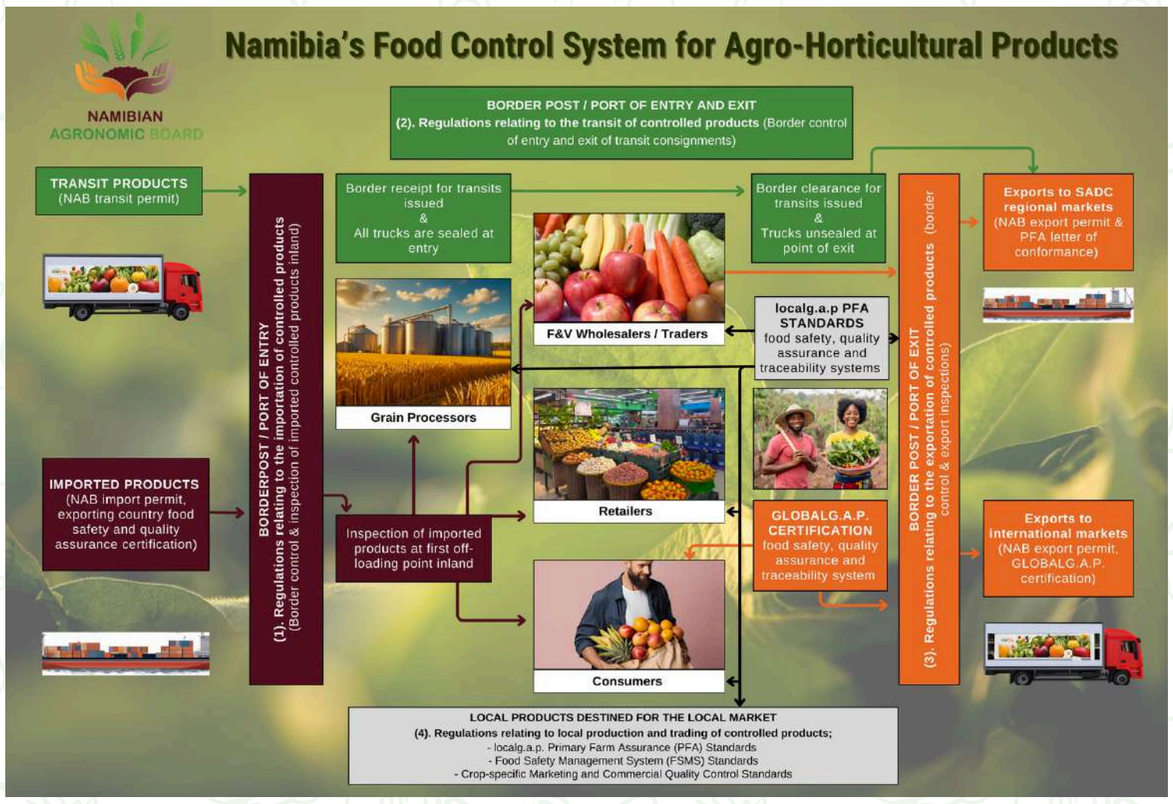
Register. Add value. Grow Namibia.

Enquiries: Ms Mbapeua Karutjaiva, Agro-Processing Officer |
Tel: +264 61 379 556 | Cell: +264 81 627 2616
Email: Mbapeua.Karutjaiva@nab.com.na | www.nab.com.na



Participants produced their own tomato jam and paste, turning fresh produce into market-ready products.

From Farm and Border to Fork



Every apple on a supermarket shelf, every bag of maize meal and every crate of tomatoes has travelled a path to your table. Some of it was grown down the road, some was imported, and some simply drove through Namibia on its way somewhere else. Whatever the route, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) runs a food control system to make sure that what Namibians eat is safe, of good quality and traceable to where it came from. The system rests on four sets of regulations, one for each way a product can move.

Imports: products coming into Namibia

Before a consignment arrives, the importer must hold an NAB import permit, and the product must carry food safety and quality assurance certification from the exporting country. Documents are checked at the border post or port of entry, and the product is inspected again at its first off-loading point inland before it moves on to processors, wholesalers, retailers and consumers.

Transit: products passing through Namibia

Transit goods travel under an NAB transit permit. At the point of entry a border receipt is issued and every truck is sealed. At the point of exit a border clearance is issued and the truck is unsealed. The intact seal shows that the goods were not off-loaded or sold in Namibia along the way.

Exports: products leaving Namibia

All exports need an NAB export permit and pass border control and export inspection at the port of exit. Produce bound for SADC regional markets also needs a PFA letter of conformance, confirming the producer meets the localg.a.p. Primary Farm Assurance (PFA) Standards. Produce bound for international markets needs GLOBALG.A.P. certification, a globally recognised food safety, quality and traceability system.

Local market: products grown and sold in Namibia

Local produce is governed by three sets of standards: the localg.a.p. PFA Standards for good practice on the farm, the Food Safety Management System (FSMS) Standards for safe handling and processing, and crop-specific Marketing and Commercial Quality Control Standards for grading and quality on the market. Namibian consumers therefore benefit from produce grown to the same kinds of standards that regional and international buyers expect.

What this means for you

- Farmers: meeting the localg.a.p. PFA Standards opens the local and SADC markets, and is the first step towards GLOBALG.A.P. and international buyers.
- Importers and traders: secure the NAB permit before the consignment moves, make sure the exporting country's certification travels with it, and plan for inland inspection.
- Transporters: carry the NAB transit permit and keep seals intact from entry to exit.
- Retailers and processors: buy from compliant suppliers and keep records, so that every product on the shelf can be traced.

Safe, quality, traceable food for every Namibian, and a trusted name for Namibian produce wherever it is sold. For permits, inspections and standards, contact the Namibian Agronomic Board.

Moving product	What you need
Into Namibia (import)	**NAB import permit + exporting country's food safety and quality certificate; border control at entry and inspection at the first off-loading point inland**
Through Namibia (transit)	**NAB transit permit; border receipt issued and truck sealed at entry; border clearance issued and truck unsealed at exit**
Out to SADC markets	**NAB export permit + PFA letter of conformance (localg.a.p. Primary Farm Assurance Standards); export inspection at the border**
Out to international markets	**NAB export permit + GLOBALG.A.P. certification; export inspection at the border**
Within Namibia (local market)	**localg.a.p. PFA Standards, Food Safety Management System (FSMS) Standards and crop-specific marketing and quality control standards**



Towards One Crop Authority: NAB Champions Bold Reform of Namibia's Crop Sector

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) has placed institutional reform at the centre of the national conversation on agricultural growth.

Speaking at the Public Enterprises Chief Executive Officers Forum breakfast dialogue with Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in Windhoek on Thursday, 6 August 2026, NAB Chief Executive Officer Dr. Fidelis Mwazi called for the country's crop-sector policies and regulations to be brought together under a single, harmonised framework.

Today, the functions that shape Namibia's crop value chain are spread across several laws and institutions.

Fertiliser regulation and seed legislation, for example, sit under separate frameworks, while producers, processors, traders and investors must navigate multiple points of contact to get things done. Dr. Mwazi identified this fragmentation as one of the key barriers to agricultural development.

"The single most transformative reform that is required is a comprehensive package of institutional and policy reform to enable the agricultural sector to function properly," he told the dialogue.

Under the proposed model, crop-related functions would be consolidated under one institutional authority. This could see NAB evolve into a broader crop value-development authority with a mandate covering:

- *investment promotion*
- *value-chain development*
- *trade facilitation and market access*
- *innovation*
- *farmer support*

Such an arrangement, Dr. Mwazi explained, would give the private sector a clearer and more predictable investment environment, while reducing duplication and gaps across the value chain. For farmers and agribusinesses, it would mean a more coordinated system that supports them from the field to the market.

The call for modern, effective institutions was echoed by other speakers at the dialogue. Hangala Group founder Mr Leake Hangala emphasised that public institutions should be built to work well regardless of who occupies leadership positions, and urged that outdated regulations be modernised to improve decision-making, attract investment and encourage innovation while maintaining accountability.

Alongside institutional reform, Dr. Mwazi called for targeted incentives to make agricultural production and agro-processing more competitive. These include relief on selected agricultural inputs and measures to reduce electricity costs for farmers and agro-processors.

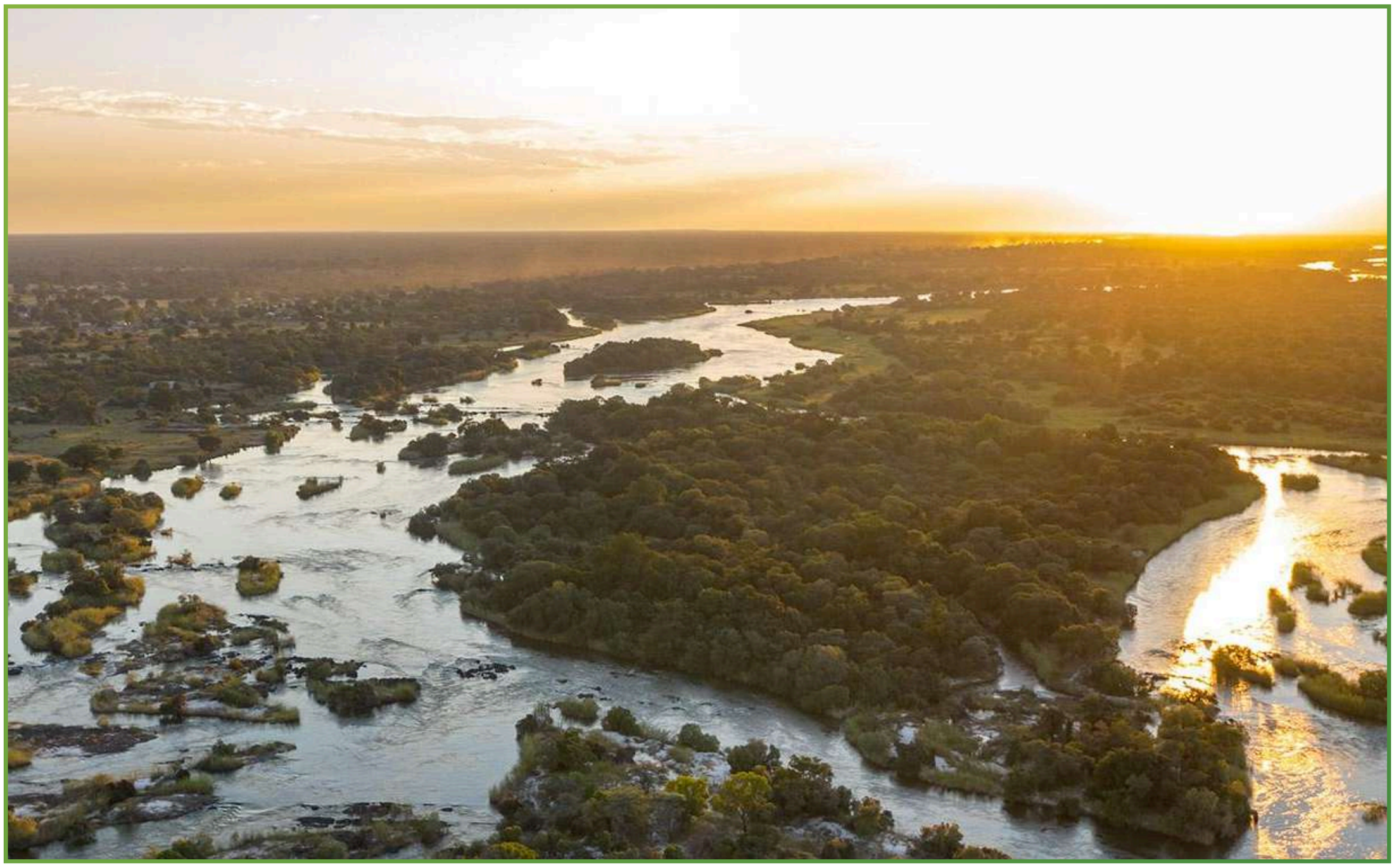
Lowering the cost of production, he noted, would help attract private investment, grow local output and create jobs throughout agricultural value chains.

The proposal comes at a time when Namibia is working to expand domestic agricultural production, reduce its reliance on imported food, strengthen agro-processing and open up new opportunities for private investment. A streamlined regulatory environment is seen as an important enabler of these goals.

NAB's proposal for a single crop authority is its response to that call: a reform aimed at creating a more coherent, investor-friendly and farmer-centred crop sector for Namibia.

NAB remains committed to working with Government, industry and producers to build a crop sector that feeds the nation, creates jobs and competes in regional and international markets. Stakeholders will be kept informed as discussions on the proposed reforms progress.

The dialogue formed part of a wider push by President Nandi-Ndaitwah for public enterprises to deliver tangible results. She has instructed each public enterprise to identify one strategic investment project ready for implementation within 24 months, as well as one reform capable of unlocking its institution. Public enterprises were also challenged to identify the laws, regulations and other constraints that require Cabinet or presidential intervention, and to show how their proposed reforms will translate into jobs and greater participation by Namibian businesses.



NAB Targets Zambezi as Regional Agricultural Trade Hub: Crop Sector

NAB urges Zambezi farmers to grow, organise and export as fruit sector shows room to expand.

Namibia's fruit exports earned about N$2.2 billion last year, yet local farmers supply only 3% of the fruit the country eats. The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) says the Zambezi region is well placed to help close that gap

Namibia currently produces only 3% of the fruit consumed locally, leaving significant room for growth in the horticulture sector and new opportunities to increase exports. This was the message from the NAB at the official opening of the Zambezi Bream Festival and Cultural Expo in Katima Mulilo, where the NAB positioned the region as a future hub for regional agricultural trade.

Speaking at the opening, NAB Senior Agriculture Trade Advisor Maria Immanuel encouraged farmers to apply for the NAB’s fruit development schemes. These schemes offer a 30% subsidy on inputs for high-value fruit production, together with training and market facilitation.

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A growing export sector

Immanuel said the crop export sector grew by 8% last year, generating about N$2.2 billion in fruit exports.

"75% of our fruit export is mainly fresh table grapes, followed by dates and blueberries, mostly exported to the EU and other international markets like the UAE," she said.

Beyond fruit, Namibia also exports vegetables to the region and further afield:

- Tomatoes, mostly to South Africa
- Onions, mostly to Angola
- Butternuts, with growing demand from the European Union

Immanuel added that Zambia has also emerged as a potential market for butternut, an opportunity identified during a master class held as part of the expo.



Ms. Maria Immanuel addressing the audience during the Zambezi Bream Festival & Cultural Expo 2026

From informal trade to organised markets

To tap into these markets, Immanuel said farmers will need to move away from informal trading towards more structured and organised cross-border markets.

"To scale, our farmers cannot operate in isolation," she said. The NAB urges small-scale farmers to organise themselves, and called on constituency leaders to actively help form farmer aggregators.

According to Immanuel, aggregation addresses the challenges of scale, quality control, cold storage and logistics. This would enable local producers to reliably supply domestic supermarkets, local markets and regional export corridors.

Looking ahead

For Zambezi's crop farmers, the NAB's message was clear: the markets exist, at home and abroad. With subsidised inputs, training and organised aggregation, the region can grow its share of Namibia's fruit and vegetable supply and become a stronger player in regional agricultural trade.

Watch me

CLICK HERE!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2crf8An_8I





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Namibia’s sorghum at a glance

Key figures, 2019–2023

4,941 t
average
yearly
production

0.08 t/ha
yield in
2023 —
lowest in
five years

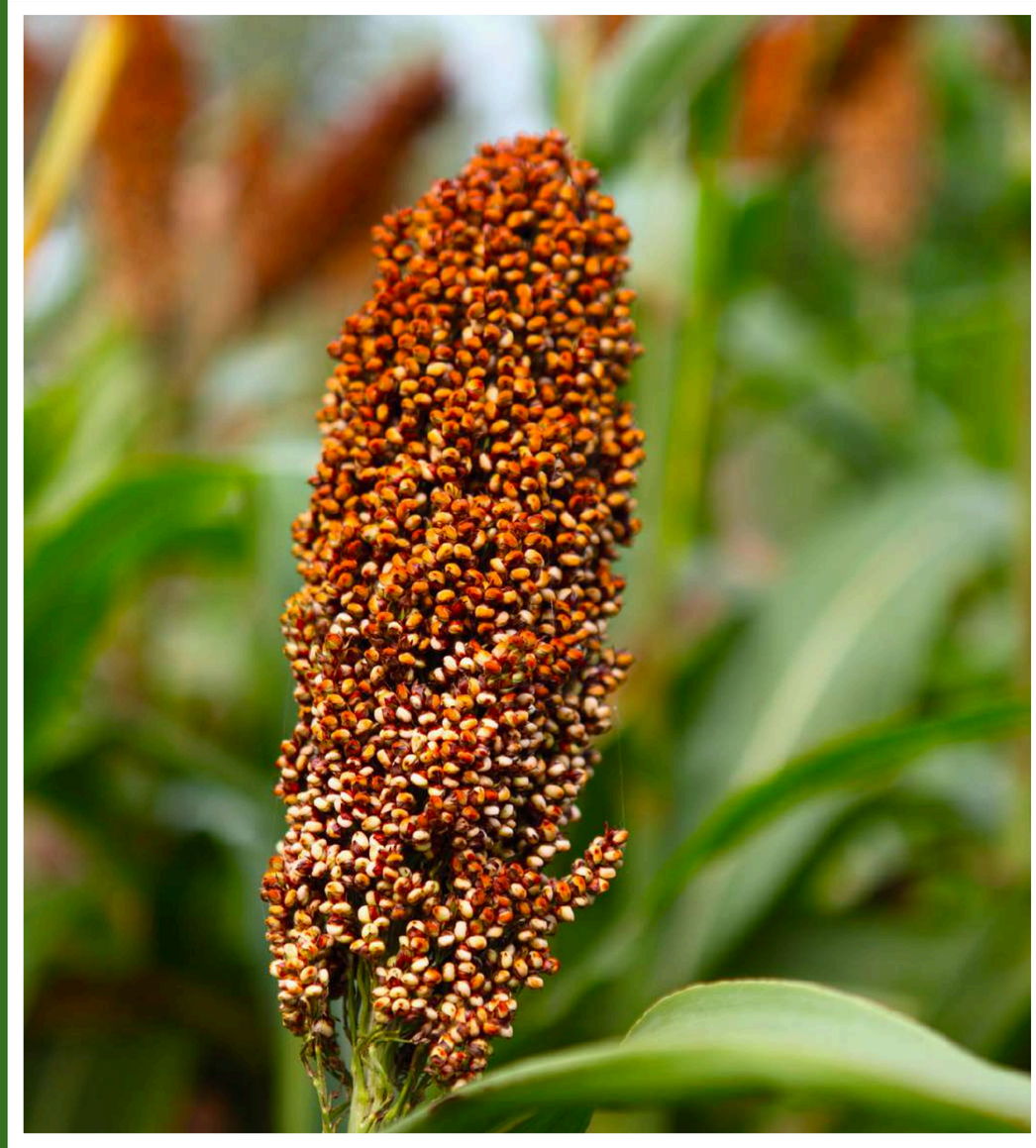
−73%
fall in
output,
2021 to
2023

N$3,513/
t
local
farm gate
price,
2023

A global crop under pressure

Worldwide, sorghum production averaged 58.1 million tons a year between 2019 and 2023, peaking at 60.9 million tons in 2021 before easing to 57.3 million tons in 2023. The United States, Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil and Ethiopia are the leading producers, while Africa as a continent accounts for 45% of global output.

Demand remains strong. China is by far the largest importer and consumer, using sorghum for livestock feed and brewing, and this demand has helped push global farm gate prices up from N$6,125 per ton in 2019 to N$6,802 per ton in 2023. Even so, yields worldwide have stagnated at around 1.4 tons per hectare, pointing to the pressures of climate variability and declining soil fertility.





Africa and the region: growing value, shrinking volumes

Africa produced an average of around 27 million tons a year, led by Nigeria, Ethiopia and Sudan. In Southern Africa, output averaged about 1.4 million tons, with Tanzania the largest producer by a wide margin. Regional yields slipped from 0.87 t/ha in 2019 to 0.71 t/ha in 2023.

A notable trend is that export values in Southern Africa rose steadily, from N$60.9 million in 2019 to N$344.9 million in 2023, even as volumes fell back in the final year. Sorghum is earning more per ton across the region, a signal that well-organised producers can find rewarding markets.



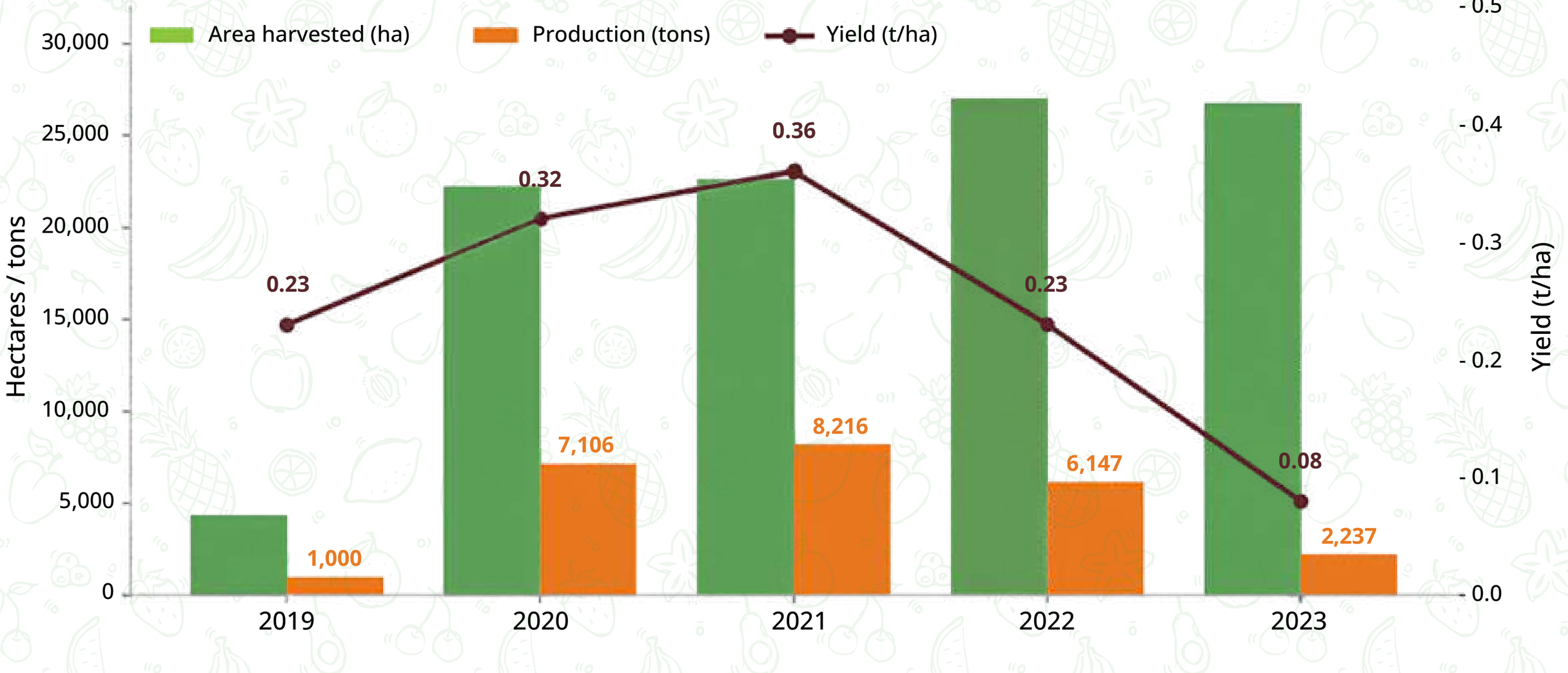
At home: more hectares, fewer tons

Namibia’s sorghum is grown mainly by subsistence and emerging farmers in the north, under rainfed conditions. Between 2019 and 2021, production rose on the back of expanded planting and better yields, peaking at 8,216 tons. Then the picture changed sharply

Farmers kept planting more land, with area harvested reaching 27,017 hectares in 2022 and 26,769 hectares in 2023. But production fell to just 2,237 tons in 2023 as yields collapsed to 0.08 tons per hectare. Over the five years, national output averaged 4,941 tons.



More land planted, less sorghum harvested

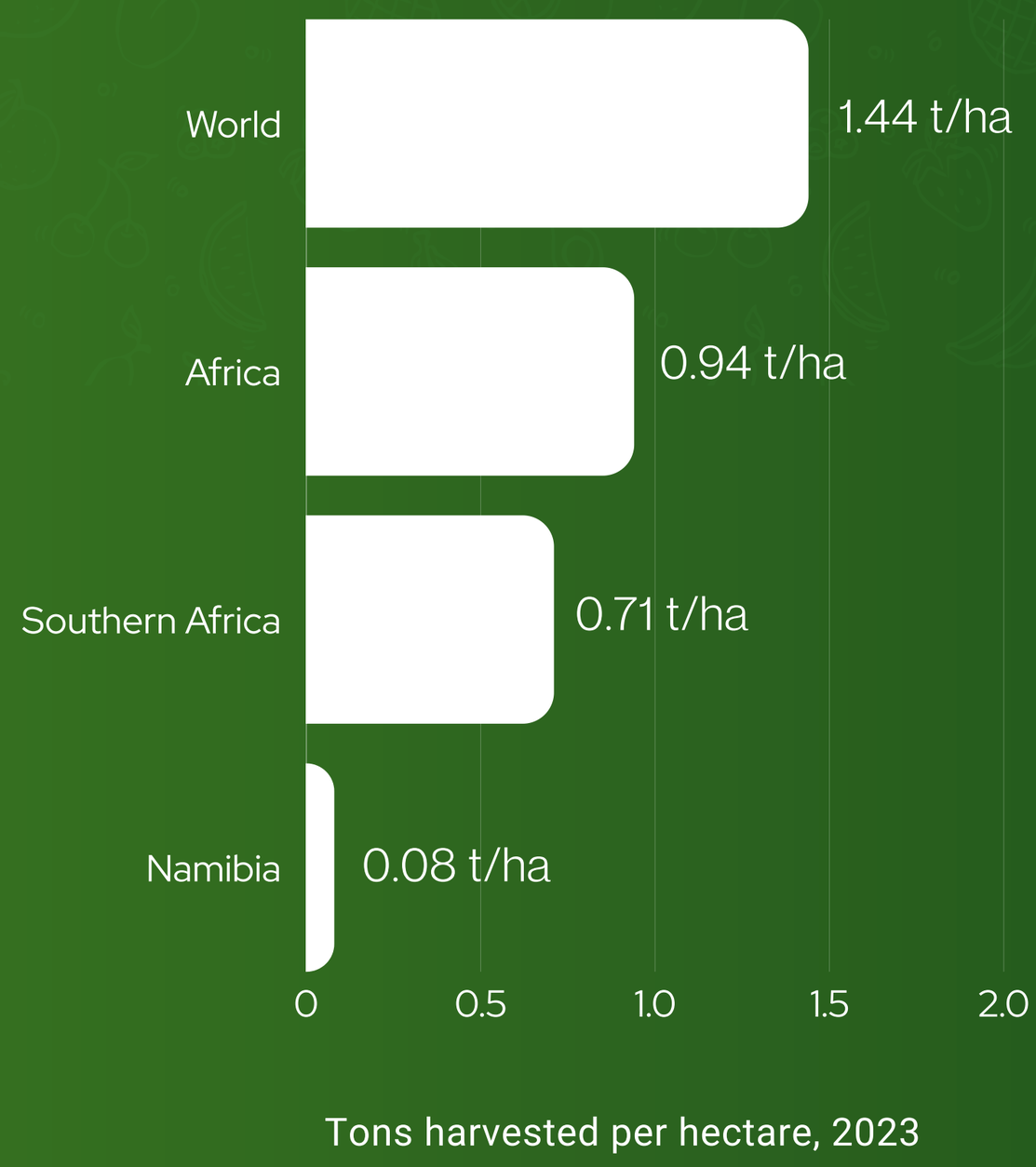


The data shows that declining productivity, rather than a shortage of land, is the main constraint on Namibia's sorghum output.

Yield Gap

Placed alongside the rest of the world, the size of Namibia's yield gap becomes clear. In 2023, a hectare of Namibian sorghum produced roughly one-eighteenth of the global average.

A Namibian hectare produced about one- eighteeth of the world average in 2023

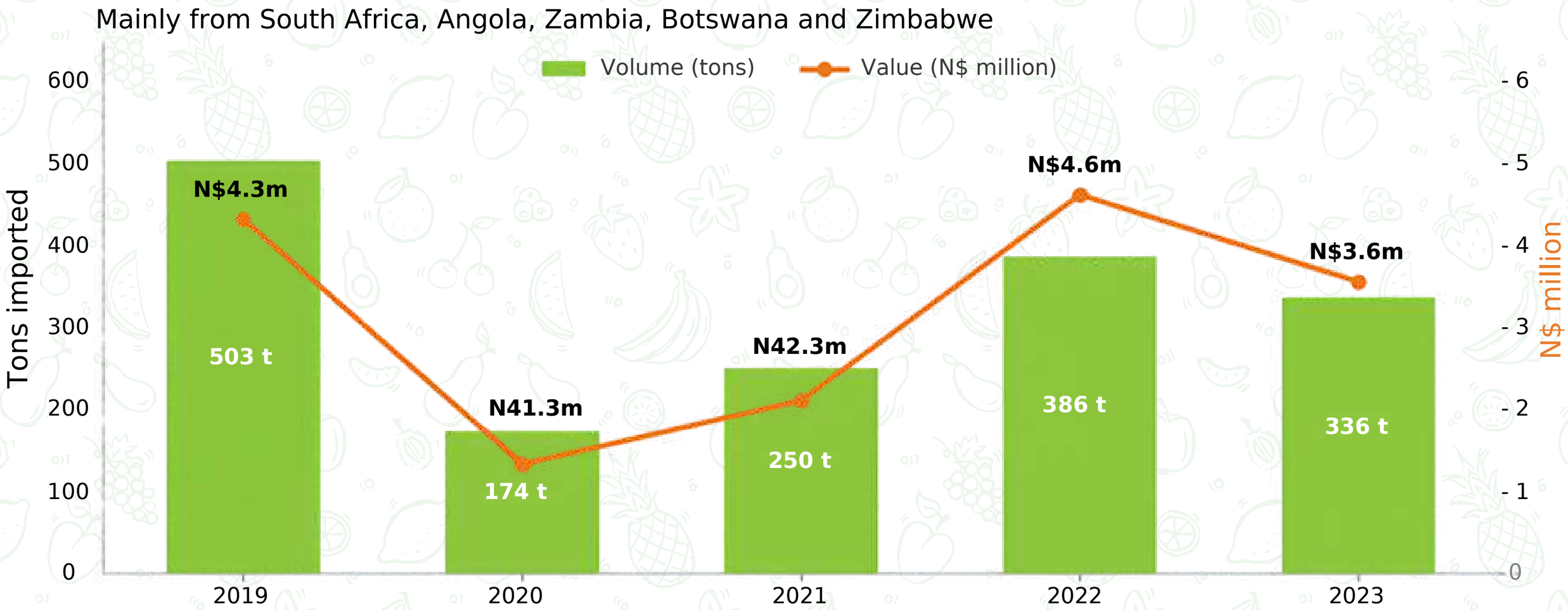




Imports fill the gap

Because local supply cannot meet demand, Namibia remains structurally dependent on sorghum imports, mainly from South Africa, Angola, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Imports peaked by volume in 2019 at 503 tons, and by value in 2022 at N$4.6 million, a rise linked to higher global prices and unfavourable exchange rates. Exports, all to Angola, remain minimal: just 19 tons in 2022.

Sorghum grain imported into Namibia



Average national consumption over the period stood at about 5,259 tons a year, rising and falling closely with local harvests. This underlines both the crop's importance in the Namibian food system and its vulnerability to poor seasons.

Why Namibian farmers earn less

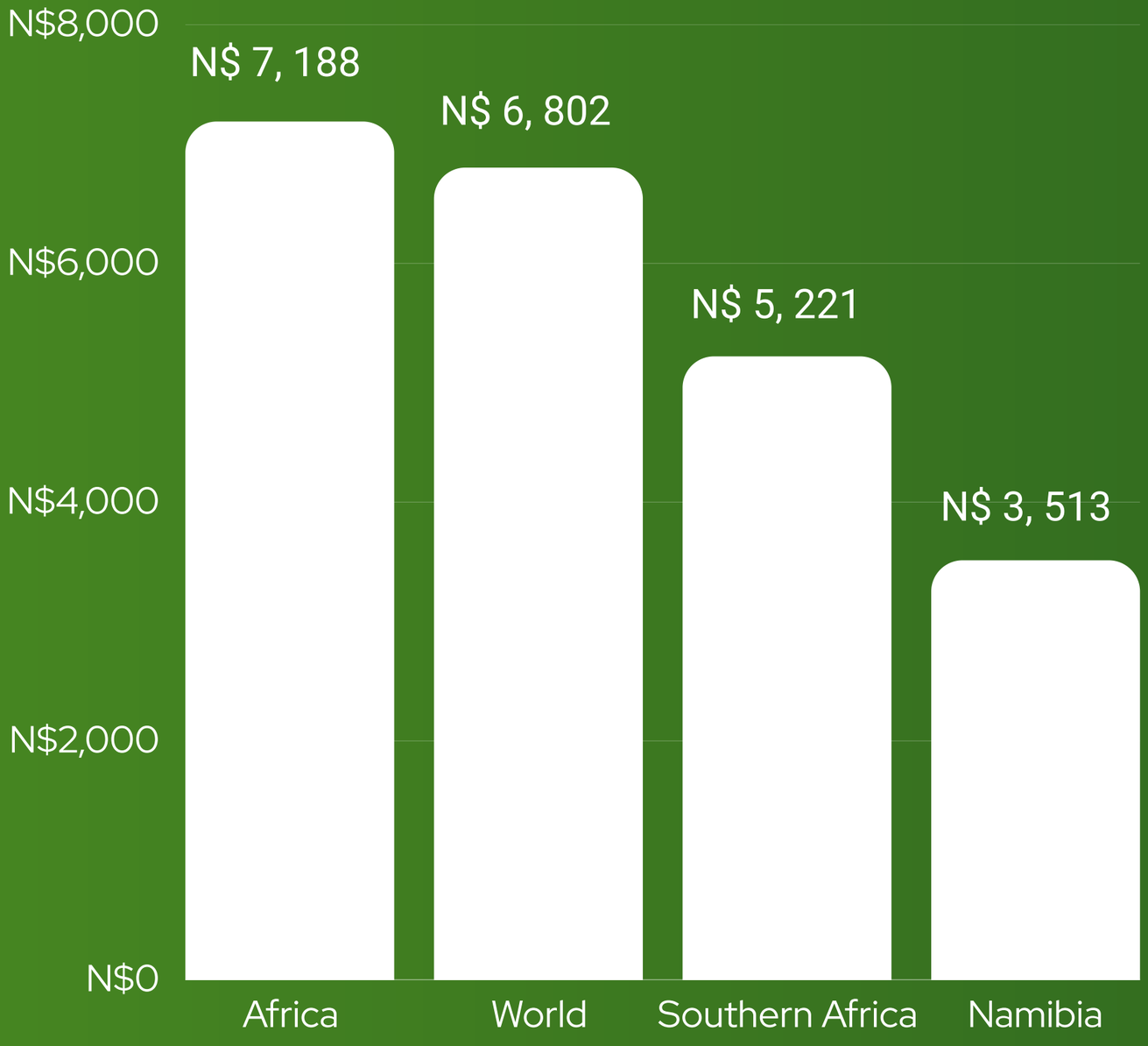
Prices tell a further story. In 2023, the average local farm gate price was N$3,513 per ton, roughly half the African average of N$7,188 and well below the Southern African average of N$5,221. The report links this to the absence of a structured formal market, limited value addition and a lack of reliable commercial off-takers.





What a ton of sorghum earns at the farm gate

Average farm gate prices, 2023



For farmers, this means the combination of low yields and low prices squeezes the commercial case for growing sorghum. For the country, it means value that could be created locally, in milling, processing and packaged products, is being imported instead.

The Way Forward

The report identifies four key opportunities to unlock growth in sorghum production and markets:

- **Farmer support**: the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR) and NAB should support farmers through subsidised improved varieties, input subsidies, production development schemes and structured market access.
- **Better varieties:** developing and disseminating high-yielding, drought-resilient sorghum to stabilise local production.
- **Value chain investment:** coordinated investment in mechanisation, storage, logistics and processing to improve commercial viability and market access.
- **Research partnerships:** working with local and international institutions such as ICRISAT and IITA to advance improved varieties, agronomic practices and post-harvest solutions.



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Four levers to grow namibian sorghum

1

Farmer support

Subsidised improved seed, input support, production schemes and structured market access

2

Better varieties

High-yielding, drought-resilient sorghum to stabilise harvests

3

Value chain investment

Mechanisation, storage, logistics and local processing

4

Research partnerships

Working with ICRISAT, IITA and local institutions on varieties and post-harvest solutions

A crop worth backing

Sorghum has everything going for it in Namibia: it suits the climate, it is part of the national diet, and regional markets are paying more for it. What is missing is the productivity, processing capacity and market structure to turn that potential into income for farmers and import savings for the country.

Through its market intelligence work, the Namibian Agronomic Board aims to provide the evidence that farmers, processors, investors and policymakers need to close that gap, so that more of the sorghum Namibians eat is grown, processed and sold right here at home.



NAB on the 2026 Trade Fair Circuit



Ready to serve: *Ms. Lydia Shifa and Mr. Ngurimuje Kahimunu representing the Namibian Agronomic Board at the 2026 Windhoek Showgrounds.*

From the youth of Rehoboth to the riverbanks of the Kavango, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) spent 2026 taking its services to the people. This year the Board exhibited at four regional fairs: the inaugural Rehoboth Youth Connect Festival & Expo, the 25th Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, the Zambezi Bream Festival & Cultural Expo and the Rundu Annual Trade Fair

Trade fairs matter to NAB because most of the people we serve do not live near our offices. A grower in Katima Mulilo or a young agripreneur in Rehoboth should not have to travel to Windhoek to register, ask about a permit or learn how to sell to local retailers.

At each fair, our stand became a small NAB office: staff registered producers and traders, explained import and export permit procedures, and shared market information on the crops we regulate.



NAB officials engaging with stakeholders at the 2026 Windhoek Showgrounds.



As a statutory body established in 1985 and governed by the Agronomic Industry Act (Act 20 of 1992), NAB's mandate is to promote and develop Namibia's agronomic and horticultural industry. The 2026 fair season let us do exactly that, face to face.



Rehoboth Youth Connect Festival & Expo

NAB was among the first exhibitors at the inaugural Rehoboth Youth Connect Festival & Expo, hosted by the Rehoboth Town Council in late July. The expo set out to link young people with opportunities in education, employment, entrepreneurship, skills and funding, and agriculture was one of its main themes.

We shared the floor with fellow agricultural institutions, including the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia and Agribank, as well as NUST and the Namibia Training Authority. Together, these exhibitors gave young visitors a full picture: training, finance, livestock and crops in one place.

At the NAB stand, our team spoke to school leavers, job seekers and aspiring farmers, particularly from the Rehoboth Townlands. Conversations focused on how to start producing horticultural crops, how to register with NAB, and how local produce reaches formal markets. The message to the youth was simple: agriculture is a business, and NAB is here to help you enter it.





Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair: 25 years, and NAB was there

In August, NAB joined hundreds of exhibitors at the 25th Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, the country's biggest commercial trade event. The silver-jubilee edition ran under the theme **"Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy"** and was opened by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.



The north-central regions are home to many of the country's mahangu, vegetable and Green Scheme producers, which makes Ongwediva one of NAB's most important platforms each year. Our stand drew crop farmers, cooperatives, informal traders and members of the public. Common questions included producer registration, the requirements for moving and importing fresh produce, and how the Market Share Promotion scheme creates space for local growers on retail shelves.



The fair also hosted a Business Forum and business-to-business matchmaking on 24 August, giving local enterprises direct access to regional partners. For NAB, it was a chance to remind traders that compliance and growth go hand in hand.





Zambezi Bream Festival & Cultural Expo

In Katima Mulilo, NAB took part in the Zambezi Bream Festival & Cultural Expo, hosted by the Katima Mulilo Town Council at the Zambezi Waterfront. The festival celebrates the region's prized bream and its cultural diversity, while giving local businesses a platform to grow.





The Zambezi Region has fertile soils, reliable water and strong potential in crops such as maize, vegetables and fruit. It also sits on key border crossings, which makes cross-border trade in fresh produce a constant topic. At our stand, staff discussed producer registration, border control procedures and the risks of moving unregistered or smuggled produce, which undercuts local farmers.

Between the music, food and crafts, visitors found that agriculture had a clear place at the festival. Many left with practical information on how to sell their harvest through formal channels.





Rundu Annual Trade Fair

NAB rounded off its 2026 fair season at the Rundu Annual Trade Fair, hosted by the Rundu Town Council in late October. The fair has grown steadily over recent editions and is now a key platform for business and investment in the Kavango regions.

The Kavango East and West regions are among Namibia's most important crop-producing areas, with large irrigation projects along the Kavango River and many small-scale vegetable growers. Our stand served both groups. Staff handled producer and trader registrations, answered questions on permits, and talked through how local horticultural produce can replace imports in supermarkets.

Rundu also borders Angola, and cross-border trade in fresh produce is part of daily life. NAB used the fair to explain why border control and registration protect both consumers and Namibian farmers.







What we heard, and what comes next

Across four towns and four regions, the same themes kept coming up. Producers want better access to formal markets. Young people want a way into agriculture that pays. Traders want clear, simple procedures. And communities near our borders want protection from smuggled produce that undercuts local growers.

We look forward to seeing you again on the 2027 fair circuit. Until then, NAB's offices and website remain open to all producers and traders of agronomic and horticultural products.

These conversations feed directly into NAB's work. They help us see where our services are reaching people and where we need to do more. NAB thanks the Rehoboth, Ongwediva, Katima Mulilo and Rundu town councils for hosting, and every farmer, trader and student who stopped by our stands.





OUR **SERVICES**

- Border Control & Inland Inspections
- Pernit 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
- Infonnation & Advisory Services

Our **Mandate**

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

Our **Vision**

A globally recognised regulator of a sustainable, agile and innovative agronomy and horticulture sector.

Our **Mission**

To advance the development of the agronomy and horticulture sector through effective regulation and facilitation.

Our Core **Values**

- Integrity
- Proactivencss
- Accountability
- Inclusivity
- Agility
- Sustainability
- Innovation

