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Namibia Agricultural Union

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Annual Report  
**2022-2023**



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Tel: +264 (0)61 237 838  
E-mail: nau@nau.com.na

Private Bag 13255, Windhoek  
Agri House, c/o Robert Mugabe Ave  
and John Meinert St, Windhoek

# NAU

## PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW

by Pieter Gouws, outgoing President of the NAU

2023 was not the predicted third year of La Niña, as indicated by weather forecasters. Yes, it is probably true that if Cyclone Freddy had not disrupted everything, it would have been a particularly rainy year. But, it is what it is, which shows yet again that the greatest certainty is uncertainty.

With the exception of the greater part of the Otjozondjupa and parts of the Omaheke regions, most of the country is again experiencing drought conditions, ranging from severe to critical. The variable and fluctuating climatic conditions compel us as farmers to adopt regenerative farming practices faster and more seriously so as to create a buffer of protection against droughts that seem to be more intense and more frequent. We will undoubtedly have to take greater responsibility because, let's face it, drought assistance from government quarters will not sustain commercial agriculture.

Alternative sources of animal feed requiring less water must be evaluated, and the limited underground water resources, already showing signs of depletion, must be managed with great care and accountability. Deforestation and the restoration of natural pastures remain a top priority. The opportunity to trade carbon credits via carbon sequestration in improved pastures through healthy management practices might be the motivation to stimulate producers towards innovative thinking and eventual growth in Namibia's agricultural contribution to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Regenerative agriculture, with drought-resistant pastures, animals which are suitably adapted, and greater water-holding capacity of healthy soils and soil structures, must remain our highest priority. We must take responsibility for our own adaptability and survival and not merely look for reasons why our position has weakened. Poor management practices have displaced more farmers from the land than political uncertainty.

We have seen a steady growth in members of the NAU and are grateful to say that the membership numbers have increased by 23% over the last 5 years. There are several reasons for this, but the significant number of young farmers entering agriculture is one and presents certain challenges and new opportunities as it seems that more family farms are developing across Namibia. The committee of young farmers was introduced at Congress last year, highlighting their needs and specific limitations. Namibia, as the driest country in southern Africa, does not have the natural resources to diversify on a large scale into crop and horticultural industries. The challenge lies with the financial institutions to seek financing models for these young farmers, who, along with the younger generation of civil servants, emerging farmers and political councillors who were once at school together, can address inefficiency and its impact on growth. The integrity



NAU President: Pieter Gouws

with which the NAU negotiates with the government of the day for the benefit of the entire agriculture sector leads to the recognition of the organisation by the government, but also beyond national borders. The fact that we have no hidden agendas provides confidence and naturally leads to growth in membership.

These fresh winds blowing, combined with the growth in trust and cooperation between the various agricultural unions, are reassuring. It is encouraging to see how resolute and determined our fellow farmers stand together once a relationship of trust has been established. Of course, it is not a given that we will agree on everything, but when it comes to production and marketing opportunities, solid bridges have been built over large gaps. It is obvious that long-term vision, leadership, and apolitical thinking are crucial for success. As with the Meatco-saga, communal and emerging producers united against mining activities in the Stampriet aquifer, making SAUMA stronger, and we have this opportunity to protect our non-renewable, extremely precious, natural water source from potential pollution and short-term financial gain. Every proud Namibian should join SAUMA, as an affected citizen, and contribute financially to this critically important cause. There is a worrisome silence from the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Health, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism. We gladly acknowledge and thank Minister Calle Schlettwein of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform for suspending borehole permits.

In addition, the signing of joint and international water management agreements, of which Namibia is now a part, is encouraging. However, we are still waiting for the long-overdue regulations for the newly implemented Water Act.

The merger of the Ministry of Land Reform and the Ministry of Agriculture does not seem to be delivering the expected success, and it is frustrating that land transactions are sluggish, and that land tax assessments once again have a backlog. This delay will put landowners in a financially precarious position because outstanding assessments over a period of 2 years will have to be paid if and when the correct assessments are released. It has always been the position of the NAU

that land reform must be done in an orderly fashion, and we have pledged our support to ensure that land reform takes place within the constitutional realm with law and fairness as driving factors. It is however quite unfortunate that, during the election year that lies ahead, ammunition for politicians can arise from failed land reform programs, due to poor administration and ineffective bureaucracy. The results of land reform were not supposed to and should never result in lower production, increased crime rate and deterioration of communities. It is, therefore, our responsibility to highlight the problems through our representation on the various regional land reform committees and to the highest authority, but at the same time, bring positive inputs and proposals. Before more land is purchased for re-settlement purposes, the more than 3 million hectares that have already been purchased, should first go into production.

The issue of ineffective state administration has been debated at Exco level, and unfortunately the negative elements overshadow the positive and conscientious civil servants who truly want to make a difference. We recognise those who do make a difference.

The commitment that NAU members have made to provide long-serving employees with a dignified retirement is not progressing as

envisioned. Village councils struggle to provide affordable serviced plots, and the funding proposals by Agribank, aiming to handle this scheme on the same merits as with farmworker housing, are still under negotiation. As responsible agricultural employers, we continue to strive to make farm workers proud employees and give farm labour higher esteem.

The attack on the VCF (Veterinary Cordon Fence) from two fronts - elephants and court proceedings - repeatedly puts Namibia's animal health status under pressure and threatens the country's total economic survival and development. The implications are that funds, which could have been applied more effectively and meaningfully to the benefit of agriculture, unfortunately now must be used to fight court cases and repair critically important structures sabotaged by vandals and elephants on a daily basis. If every Namibian citizen realizes the consequences of losing our current animal health status, it would make matters much simpler, and limited funds could be managed better. My thanks go to the landowners and producers who maintain fences daily, lose infrastructure, and dedicate precious farming time to the protection of the national animal health status and also prevent the further "colonisation" of farms by elephants. The damages occurring and feelings of frustration are immeasurable, and

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**A big thank you to NAU Corporate Members – your confidence in the ability of organised agriculture to create a better tomorrow is well-founded and highly appreciated:**

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## PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW

MEFT will have to take a stand at CITES platforms. The commercial farming area in the northwest cannot absorb the damages of a so-called “endangered” elephant population.

However, the attack on the agricultural sector is not limited to the above actions alone. The NAU, along with NECFU as a co-signatory, undertook a Memorandum of Understanding with the highest authority of NAMPOL to improve rural security. This first round of cooperation endured 2 years of damage due to imposed Covid restrictions. If this can be revived in 2024, all agricultural unions must unite in this matter, and approaching the Ministry of Justice will be the logical next step. Crime is flourishing due to postponed court rulings and the lack of swift and effective handling of poaching and other criminal cases. Along with high interest rates, droughts, reduced livestock numbers, fluctuating prices and slow refund of VAT payments, producers find it difficult to bridge the financial erosion caused by escalating livestock and game theft. It is reassuring to see that where there are success stories of crime prevention and the protection of rural communities, good relations between crime prevention units and the police have been established. The apprehension of 2 of the 5 suspects in the attack on Udo Gärtner north of Grootfontein, within 24 hours after the incident, is a striking example of great cooperation. This was the third attack on an elderly farmer in one month, emphasizing the importance of enhanced farm security. It would be irresponsible not to sharpen our communication (two-way radios), security measures, and relationships with our communities.

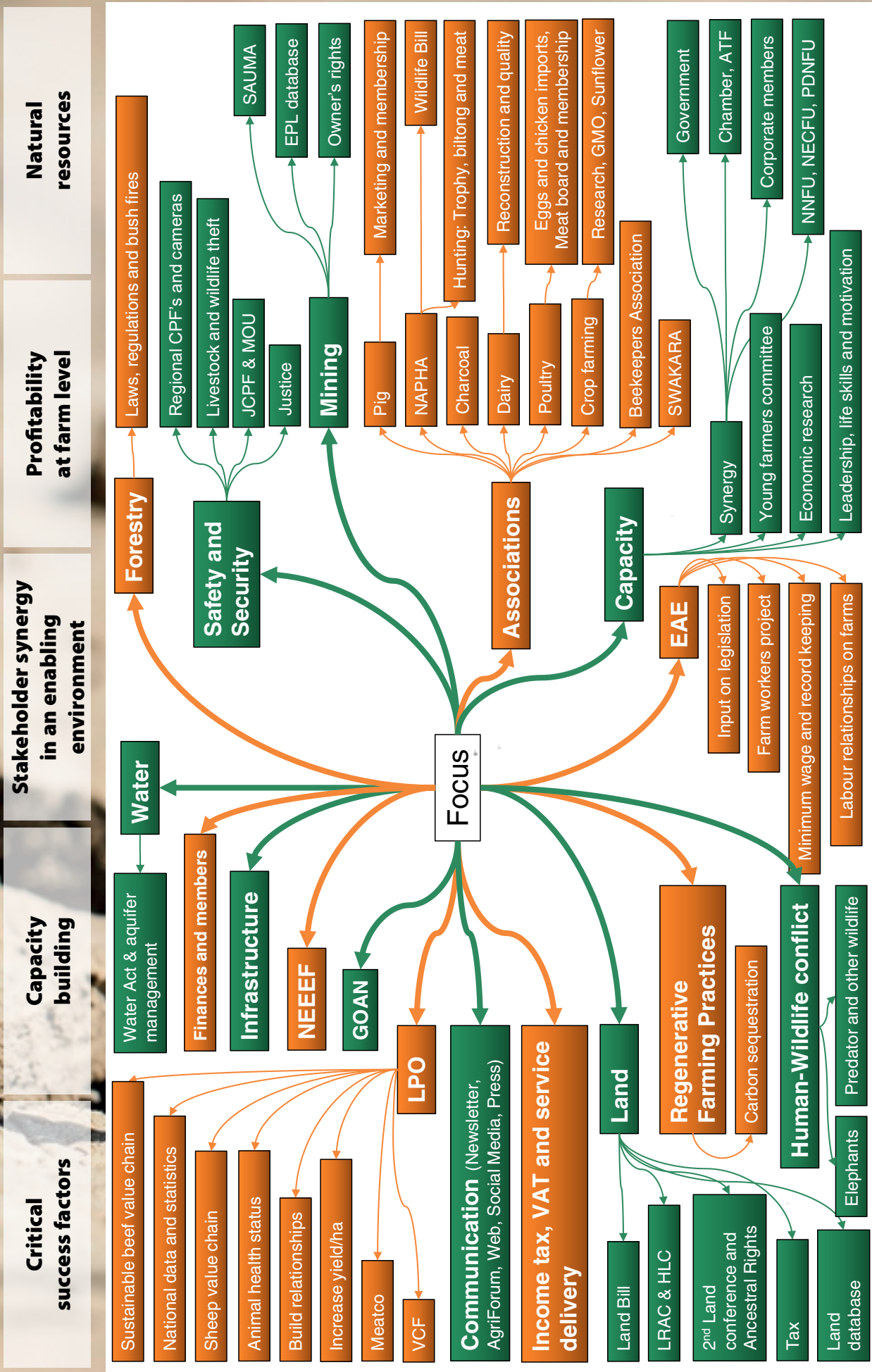
However, it remains a great concern that time and again, our police force regards this opportunity for collaboration as a threat. Our only goal is to support the Namibian police and assist them in performing their role as law enforcers and crime-fighting agents as effectively as possible.

Looking at the situation on the ground, it is easy to lose focus and become pessimistic. However, it is not necessary to drive far to see how things are going in our neighbouring countries and then count the blessings we have in this country, with gratitude. I was privileged to attend the SACAU convention in Polokwane (Pietersburg) in the Limpopo province in RSA. Apart from the formal topics addressed (climate change and young farmers), valuable information was exchanged, and I was deeply impressed by the fact that in Namibia we have a unique opportunity to make a difference. We have good relationships between producers, as well as with most government institutions, we have access to world markets, and good infrastructure. We enjoy good relations across the entire Africa. The negative impact loadshedding has on South Africa is beyond our comprehension, and the challenges that those farmers face, as well as in other southern African countries, astound me. We cannot and should not function in isolation. We can all benefit from cooperation and open dialogue, with an understanding of everyone’s unique situations. According to my faith I believe that we can only experience the blessing of the Lord on our works if we live with sincere gratitude towards Him and primarily concentrate on expanding His Kingdom before building our own.

My term as president of the NAU comes to an end during this Congress. It has been a privilege and an enriching experience to serve the hardworking, passionate farmers of this indescribably beautiful country that can only be described as ‘God’s own country.’ Namibia is a harsh country, a country for men who never give up, but without the love and care of our homemakers, the women in our lives who endure our storms and frustrations, we would never be able to persevere. I am acutely aware of your sacrifices, and therefore, allow me to say a big thank you to every woman situated on a Namibian farm, but especially to my own wife. Thank you for allowing us to live and do what we love. Please forgive our impatience and scolding when drought strangles us or things don’t go as planned; it is not aimed at you. Thanks to farm children who build dreams together and see visions of future generations on beloved farms; it takes understanding to forge new paths with ageing generations. Without loyal workers, we also cannot have time for organised agriculture. The office staff, those who were and those who are currently, your loyalty knows no bounds. Your work ethic knows no limits. The CEO, Roelie Venter, your drive and passion as well as vision and leadership have made it easy for me. Keep it up.

Of course, nothing I have written here would have been possible without the Blessing, Love and Care of my Heavenly Father. I must confess I am a ‘wayward child’ with sometimes much doubt, but time and again, He has come to fetch me and left me ashamed when He accomplished the outcome. May the Lord bless this organisation with its leaders, staff, and every dear member exceptionally, as we produce food for the people in His Creation.

# NAU Vision: To support and promote a conducive environment for sustainable agriculture



# YOUNG FARMERS

## Report on the Young Farmers' Committee

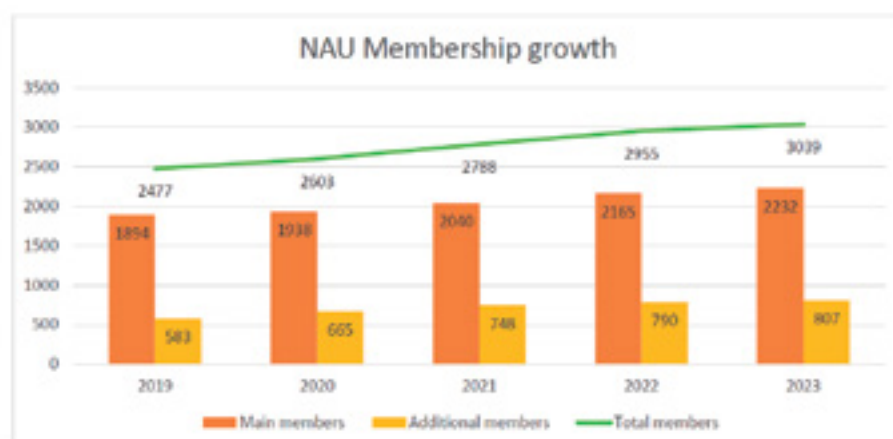


The Young Farmer Committee during its most recent meeting in January 2024, together with speakers during the event.

The Young Farmers' Committee's inaugural task was to identify and engage all young farmers below the age of 40 who are currently involved in farming or expressed a desire to do so. Through their efforts, the committee successfully identified approximately 400 young farmers. However, there may be even more candidates yet to be identified. Among these, about half are already actively participating in organised agriculture, and the committee aims to involve the remaining individuals and their spouses in farming activities.

The 400 identified young farmers represent around one-fifth (20%) of the Namibian Agricultural Union's (NAU) current membership, which stands at 2 230. Given this, it is imperative to integrate these young farmers into the NAU structure to supplement the line of succession. Over the past five years, the NAU membership has shown constant annual growth, ranging from 2% to 5% in its main member category, with even better growth observed in additional members.

However, the past five years have seen slower growth in the number of young farmers (19-40) involved in the NAU. By involving these 400 young farmers, the percentage could potentially rise to 20-



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
LIFELONG MEMBER	103	98	98	96	88
MAIN MEMBER	1685	1733	1836	1962	1994
PENSIONER	106	107	106	107	150
<b>Total main members</b>	<b>1894</b>	<b>1938</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2165</b>	<b>2232</b>
ADDITIONAL MEMBER	583	665	748	790	807
<b>Total members</b>	<b>2477</b>	<b>2603</b>	<b>2788</b>	<b>2955</b>	<b>3039</b>

25% of the total membership. This would represent a significant step in the right direction, particularly in addressing the impending need to replace farmers aged 50 to 90, who currently represent around 70% of the NAU's membership.

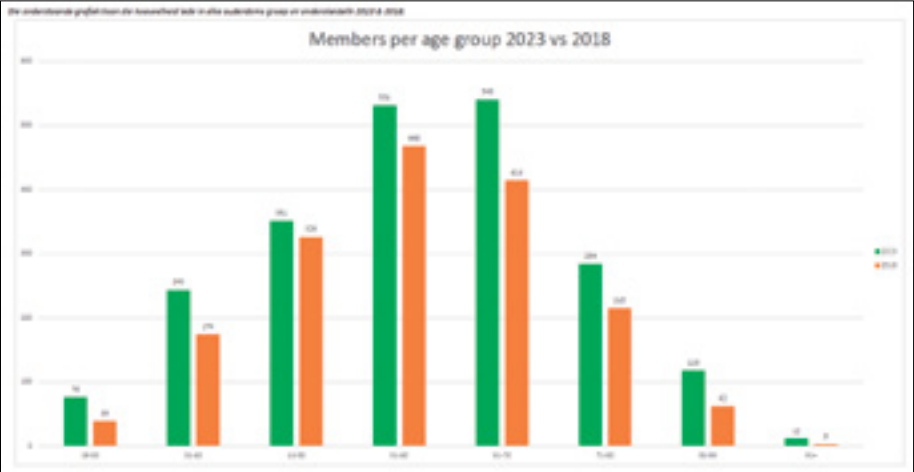
While the identification of young farmers is a positive development, the committee and these young farmers require substan-

tial guidance in the form of mentorship. This presents a significant challenge that necessitates extensive discussions at various levels with all organisations within the agricultural sector. Collaboration and coordination among these entities will be crucial in providing the required support and mentorship to ensure the successful integration and development of the next generation of farmers. \*





The identification and involvement of 400 young farmers is a commendable initial step for the Young Farmers' Committee. Integrating these individuals into the NAU structure will not only contribute to the organisation's continued growth but will also play a pivotal role in addressing the broader issue of generational transition within the agricultural sector. The challenges ahead underscore the importance of collaborative efforts and mentorship programs to empower these young farmers and ensure the sustainability and prosperity of the agricultural community.



\*The Grootfontein-Tsumeb-Otavi Regional Agricultural Union took the initiative in presenting a short course on meeting procedures and the role of the committee members within a farmers' association.

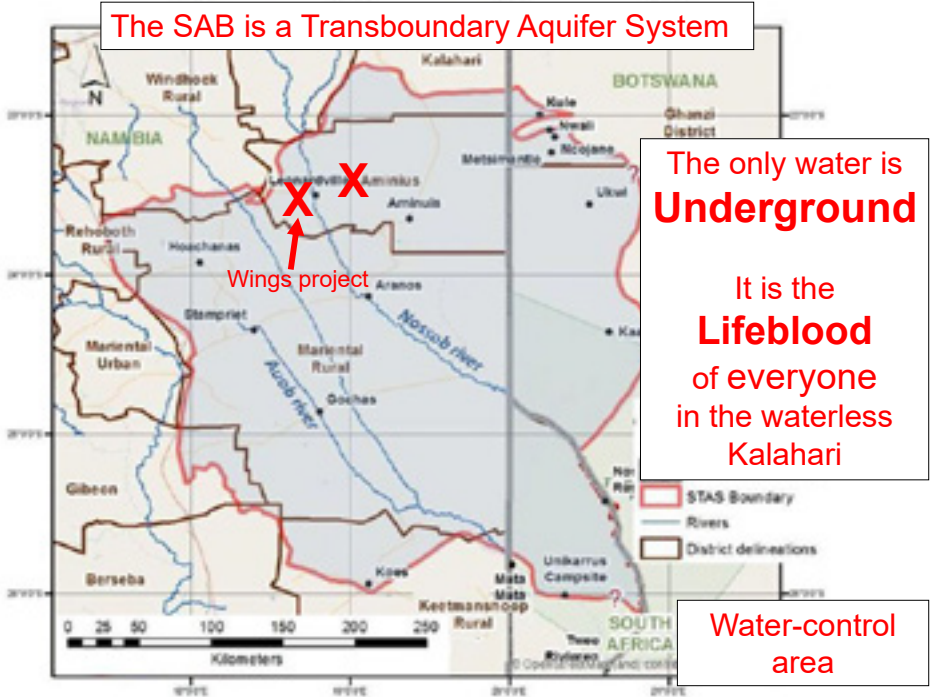
**SAUMA**  
STAMPRIET AQUIFER URANIUM MINING ASSOCIATION

EMAIL: [info@saumanamibia.org](mailto:info@saumanamibia.org)  
 PHONE: 061 - 237 838  
[www.saumanamibia.org](http://www.saumanamibia.org)  
 Agri House Building  
 T14 Robert Mugabe Ave.  
 Windhoek

The Stampriet Aquifer Uranium Mining Association (SAUMA) continues to raise awareness on concerns of pollution resulting from the planned uranium mining in the drinking-water aquifer of the Stampriet Artesian Basin (SAB).

The SAB is a water-controlled area. The underground water is also the only source of permanent, good quality drinking water in this south-eastern part of the country. Humans, animals, agriculture, tourism, etc. are entirely dependent on this water source for their survival. If mining were to be permitted in the SAB, international perceptions will adversely impact Namibia's image as a healthy tourism destination, meat exporter and the like.

SAUMA is convinced that no mining activities – let alone uranium extraction – should be allowed in the fresh artesian water. Mineral exploration and planned mining activities in the SAB must be stopped BEFORE pollution occurs. Ideally, this would be stopped by legislation.



For more information or to become involved, visit [www.saumanamibia.org](http://www.saumanamibia.org).

Regular updates are posted on the various social media platforms.

# OVERVIEW

## Economic overview of the Namibian commercial agricultural sector

### Agricultural Production Cost Inflation and Prices

The agri-inflation for 2023 moved down to 2.8% in the second quarter from 8.7% in the first quarter (Figure 1). The year-on-year changes in fuel prices in the first half of 2022 were above 50%, whereas the Q1-2023 YOY change was 0.62%, and the Q2-2023 YOY change dropped by 7.01%. This had a positive effect on transported items leading to a drop

in prices of items used for maintenance and fixed improvements (-2.8% YOY) and animal health (-3.9% YOY). Feed prices in Q2-2023 also declined, but not to levels below that of Q2-2022, thus recording a positive percentage change of 7.8%. Notably, prices for most inputs descended from their peaks in 2022. Price cuts are more evident when monitoring the quarter-to-quarter changes, especially in the second quarter of 2023 (Figure 2).

### Input Costs and Livestock Prices

Table 1 shows changes in input costs basis points and in average livestock prices for cattle and sheep for the period Jan-June for the years 2019 to 2023. Input costs have been increasing, well above the rise in livestock prices, and reflecting:

- initial market shocks from Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war; and
- the slowing down in input prices underpinned by the exclusion of agricultural inputs from the war-triggered trade embargo as well as the supply capacity expansions in some countries in the northern hemisphere, other than Russia and Ukraine.

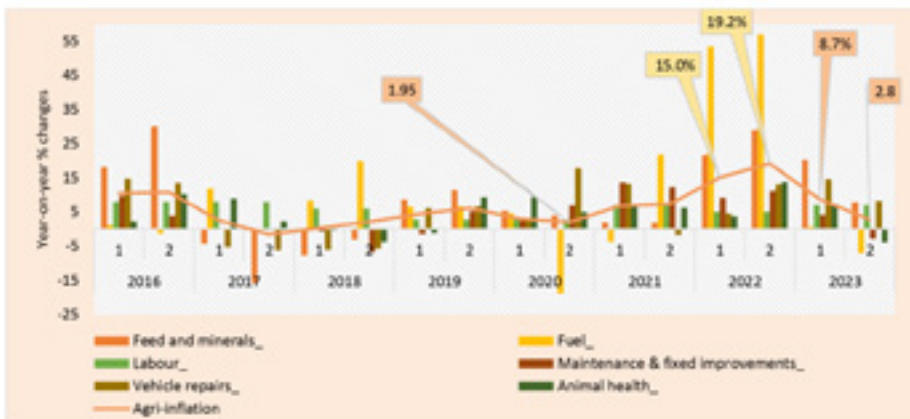


Figure 1: NAU Agri-inflation year-on-year  
Source: NAU

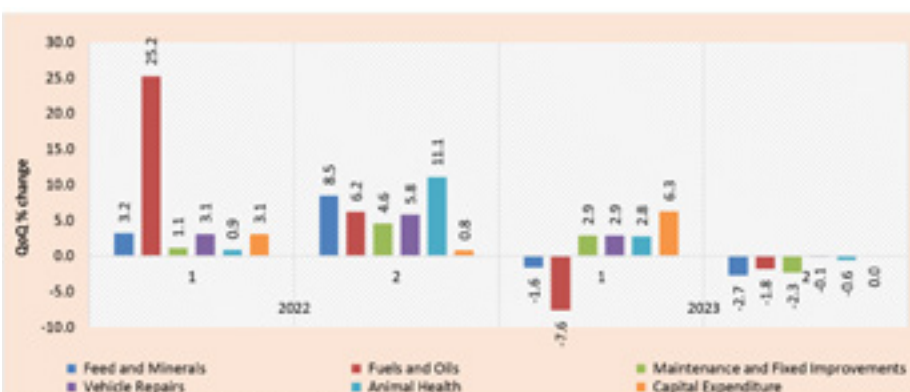


Figure 2: NAU Agri-inflation key drivers quarter-on-quarter  
Source: NAU

Table 1: Average Prices Jan-Jun: Weaners, B2-cattle, A2-lamb

Livestock	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% change 2019-2023	% change 2020:2023	% change 2022-2023
Weaner	24.56	32.92	40.09	38.66	30.21	23.0	-8.2	-21.9
B2-cattle	45.97	47.16	52.63	58.28	59.34	29.1	25.8	1.8
A2-lamb	57.07	69.64	78.07	82.91	80.27	40.7	15.3	-3.2
Cost Basis points	106.97	109.67	117.40	137.49	145.28	35.8	32.5	5.7

Source: NAU

The average price of weaners continued downward after peaking in 2021, experiencing a cut of 21.9% between 2022 and 2023 (Jan-Jun) (Table 1), and consequently dragging down the weighted average cattle price, which dropped by 7.1% in the same period. The weaner price as a percentage of slaughter price (6-months average) also dropped to 50.8% in 2023, recording the lowest in over 10 years, thus signalling a less profitable weaner production system which already is squeezed by elevated production costs.

B2-cattle and A2-lamb prices notably improved since 2020 but slowed down in the first half of 2023.

Figure 3 contrasts trends in slaughter prices (oxen) and weaner prices against total expenses. From 2017 which is the base year, total expenses and slaughter price were on par, both showing an increase of about 44.0%, while weaner prices decreased by about 22.0%, again confirming that weaner production is under severe pressure

## Food Inflation and Agriculture

Contrasting Jan-June 2022 with that of 2023, food inflation went from 6.6% to 13.3%, with major increases occurring in categories such as bread and cereals, and vegetables including potatoes and other tubers (Figure 4), while the rise in the overall annual inflation rate during the same period increased from 5.1% to 6.5% (Table 2). The elevated inflation means consumer buying power remained weak during the review period, affecting demand for, amongst others, agricultural produce.

## Livestock Marketing

With the exception of goats and pigs, livestock marketing was healthy during the first half of 2023 (Jan-June) compared to the same period in 2022.

Figures 5 to 7 provide graphic representation of the cattle and sheep marketed from 2013 to 2023 for the first 6 months of each year.

## Outlook

Slaughter cattle prices are expected to remain unchanged for the next quarter. Weaner prices could remain depressed in spite of positive developments in South Africa's red meat sector, such as the reopening of the Saudi Arabia and China markets to South Africa's red meat products. This is because South Africa's red meat at present largely depends on the low value domestic market whose demand is presently estimated to remain suppressed for the rest of 2023 because of weak consumer buying power. Additionally, and in spite of expectations of lower maize and soybean prices, feedlots are likely to continue paying low prices for weaners as they still face constraining high energy costs. Locally, the weakened grazing conditions could induce a slight increase of weaner supply to the market, which could be another downward pressure on livestock prices.

The ongoing FMD-related import ban on fresh pork products from South Africa will continue to negatively affect their availability locally, especially amidst a weakening Namibian dol-

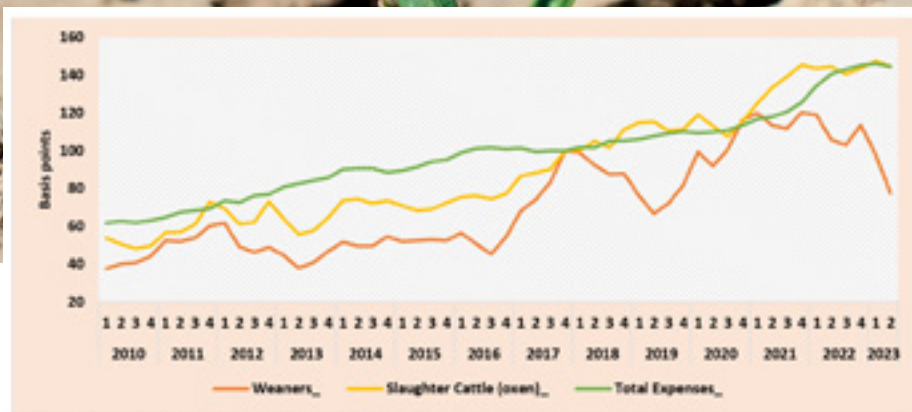


Figure 3: Oxen and weaner prices vs total expenses  
Source: NAU

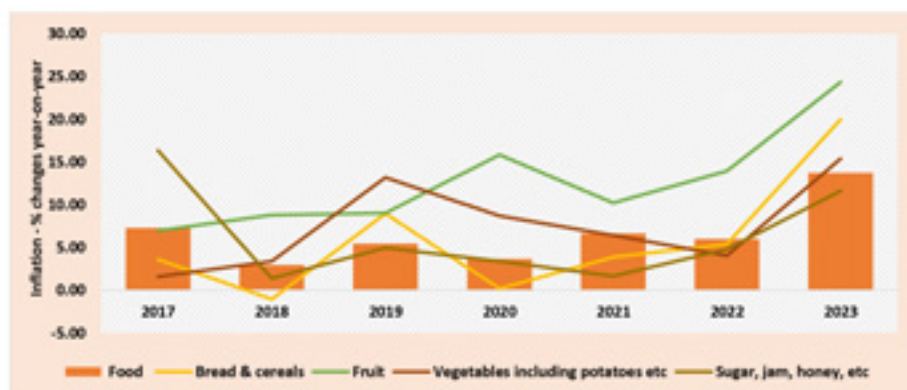


Figure 4: Namibia Food Inflation (Jan-June)  
Source: NAU/NSA

Table 2 Annual Inflation

2022							2023						
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Average 6-months	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Average 6-months
4.6	4.5	4.5	5.6	5.4	6.0	5.1	7.0	7.2	7.2	6.1	6.3	5.3	6.5

Source: NSA

Table 3: Overview for 2023 (Jan-Jun) - Livestock marketing

	Jan-Jun 2022	Jan-Jun 2023	Increase/decrease - %
<b>Cattle marketed (# of heads)</b>			
Live exports	67 262	67 417	+ 0.2%
Export abattoirs	39 127	50 441	+ 28.9%
B&C class abattoirs	19 175	22 265	+ 16.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>125 564</b>	<b>140 123</b>	<b>+ 11.6%</b>
<i>Total local slaughtering in 2023 made up 51.9% of total cattle marketed versus 46.4% in the same period in 2022. Some farmers did emergency marketing due to the drought experienced, thus contributing to an increase in local cattle slaughter for 2023.</i>			
<b>Cattle sold on auctions (# of heads)</b>			
Weaners	65 097	70 056	+ 7.6%
Slaughter cattle	16 120	16 678	+ 3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>88 128</b>	<b>97 435</b>	<b>+ 10.6%</b>
<b>Sheep marketed (# of heads)</b>			
Live exports	268 970	339 310	+ 26.2%
Export abattoirs	18 004	55 708	+ 209.4%
B&C class abattoirs	59 412	50 491	- 15.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>346 386</b>	<b>445 509</b>	<b>+ 28.6%</b>
Sheep auctioned	49 912	50 430	+ 1.0%
<i>Total local slaughter as a percentage of total marketing increased to 23.8% in 2023 from 22.2% in 2022.</i>			
<b>Goats marketed (# of heads)</b>			
Live goats marketed	54 472	55 835	+ 2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58 722</b>	<b>58 017</b>	<b>- 1.2%</b>
Goats auctioned	28 570	34 831	+ 21.9%
<b>Pigs marketed (# of heads)</b>			
Pigs slaughtered	22 872	22 471	- 1.8%



## ... Economic overview

lar against the Euro and the USD, which makes pork imports from Europe, as an alternative source, prohibitively expensive. The pork ceiling price remain fixed at N\$51.03/kg for the next quarter as a mitigation strategy to counter the negative effects of the dwindling South African pork prices.

SAFEX maize and soybean prices are likely to take a fall because of the bumper harvest in South Africa, but that could also be suppressed by anticipations of exports to Zimbabwe (maize) to fill that country's estimated 32% local supply shortage (SA NAMC), and to China (soybeans) due to the recently signed RSA-to-China soybean export protocol (GrainSA, SA NAMC).

Total milk production in 2023 will certainly be below that of 2022, as production figures for Jan-June 2023 show that total litres of milk produced (6.1 million litres) is 22.2% short of the 7.8 million litres produced during the same period in 2022.

Namibian sheep export abattoirs have continued to pay competitive prices since the end of 2022, therefore attracting a significant number of slaughter animals, which potentially could lead to a drop in the share of live sheep exports.

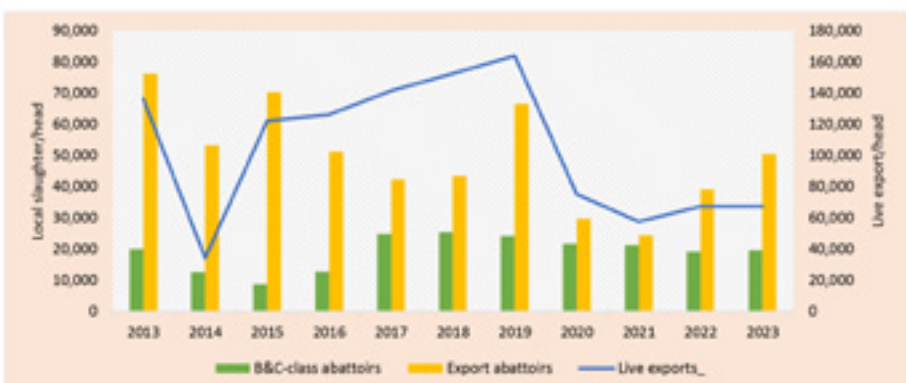


Figure 5: Cattle marketed (Jan-Jun)  
Source: Meat Board/NAU

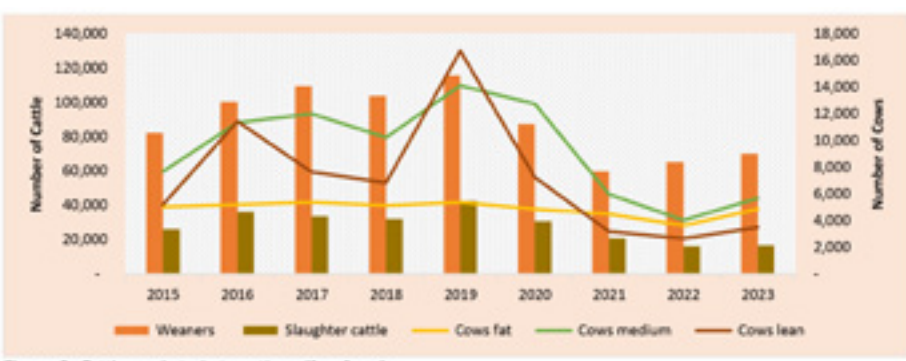


Figure 6: Cattle marketed at auctions (Jan-June)  
Source: LABTA/NAU



Figure 7: Sheep marketed (Jan-Jun)  
Source: NAU/MBN



# FNB Agri – your financial partner in sustainable agriculture



We at the agricultural division of FNB would like to be a financial partner in sustainable agriculture.

We believe in the agricultural sector of Namibia. Moreover, we believe in our farmers. Agriculture contributes to the economy in terms of job creation, as an earner of foreign exchange, rural development and ultimately to economic growth. We understand the challenges, but more importantly we believe in the potential of agriculture.

Our country is currently experiencing low rainfall and this might result in financial stress in your business. For this reason, we want to make use of the opportunity to share some general pointers to ensure the bank understands your business and supports you for the future:

- 1. Plan properly** – what do you need in terms of infrastructure, animals and other operational expenses to keep your business operational.
- 2. Manage your finances** – keep detailed and relevant records. These include stock figures, profitability per hectare and rain fall. Budget for the year ahead and make use of realistic income and expenditure forecasts. Make sure your financial statements are in order, accurate and up to date.
- 3. Be proactive** – talk to your bank in good time about your plans for the year and also about changes you are planning or challenges you are facing.
- 4. Be prepared** – keep all the necessary and relevant documents on hand and ready before your appointment at the bank. All these documents are critically important and will ensure that the bank understands your application or request and will consider it with the merit it deserves.
- 5. Be informed** – keep in contact with people in the industry as well as farmers' unions. This will help you stay in touch with what is happening in the greater farming industry. Read, plan and talk to fellow farmers who have achieved success in certain areas. This knowledge can be valuable in making your decisions.

It is now more than ever, hugely important to make sure you make use of good debt to grow and sustain your business. Good debt is generally described as debt which improves the productive value of your business resulting in increased wealth in the long term.

In simple terms this means that you make more profit by taking up this loan and your financial position will improve over time in terms of the value of your assets (e.g. farm worth more).

#### Examples of good debt include:

1. Acquisition of land. Do, however, take note that the purchase price should be realistic and should ensure economy of scale for your existing farming activities.
2. Infrastructure such as dams, fencing, solar, de-bushing, electrification and even buildings. The aforementioned will increase your productivity, effectiveness and profitability.
3. Centre pivot you use to plant lucerne or maize or anything else, either to generate another stream of income or to be used to round off your animals and to get them ready for the market faster, especially in difficult times.
4. Vehicles and implements you truly need.
5. Sound genetics which enhances the quality of your stock.

Bad debt on the other hand is debt which, among others, finances your lifestyle and adds no value to your wealth (e.g. farm property) over the years. It is also debt you cannot really afford and where there are no prospects that the new asset will pay for itself in the future. On the contrary, this bad debt weakens your financial position and could even put you in a financial difficulty and make you worse off.

#### Examples of bad debt are:

1. Vehicles you really do not need.
2. Overseas holidays which you cannot really afford or any other purchases financed on a credit card.
3. "Bargains" you cannot afford to miss but, which have to be financed. Remember: something is only a bargain if you really need it.
4. Mortgages for a flat or a small house in a complex. Please do your homework and ensure it really is worth your while.

Clearly, there is a place for good and responsible debt in your business. With a sensible loan you can reduce your risks. Here I refer to centre pivots, electrification and water supply.



Christo Viljoen

#### In conclusion, ask yourself the following before considering engaging in debt:

- a. Can I afford the debt comfortably? This means two things
  - Will I make more profit by taking up the loan than the cost involved in the loan (interest and capital)
  - Would I be able to deal with interest rate changes
- b. Will the loan improve my financial position in the long term, and will my farm be work more
- c. Do I understand the risks of the debt and the terms and conditions involved in the loan

We are hoping that this article will be of value to any farmer and will assist in ensuring that his or her agricultural business will grow successfully and will keep on performing financially sustainable in the long term.

Contact us for any advice.  
We understand agriculture and want to help. Come, let's talk.

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# AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

## MANAGEMENT

C. Stoman	Chairperson
H. Förtsch	Vice-chairman
S. Reiff succeeded by	
A. van der Westhuizen	Central
M. Otto	North
W. Kruger	South

## FINANCIAL POSITION

With the help of the NAU financial staff, the management committee was again able to steward the finances carefully and the 2023/2024 financial year should end well within budget. The AEA's total reserves have grown to some N\$320 000 following a decision of the NAU's executive management that the reserves of the AEA may be allowed to grow annually until such reserves are again approximately equal to one year's AEA budget ( $\pm$  N\$400 000).

## EXTERNAL LIAISON

The AEA has input and representation in various bodies, councils and forums:

- NAU Executive Council: Christine Stoman
- Agricultural Labour Forum (NALF): Christine Stoman and Hellmut Förtsch
- Namibia Employers' Federation (NEF): Danie van Vuuren
- Project Advisory Committee for Child Labour (PACC – ILO): Danie van Vuuren
- Khomas Regional Council Development Committee: Danie van Vuuren

## Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation

During the year under review, the then acting executive director of Labour, Adv. Otniël Podewiltz, gave new impetus to topics such as the affirmative action legislation, the proposed national minimum wage and the proposed national pension fund.

The AEA voiced the opinion of commercial agriculture, namely that the affirmative action regulations could be pared down as they make little sense in a sector where the pre-

viously disadvantaged are the main employees. In terms of minimum wages, commercial producers are in favour of sectoral agreements. Agri-employees enjoy a unique situation of housing and food supply on farms, dissimilar to any other sector and should be exempted from the national minimum wage. In addition, the proposed national pension scheme will need to be fair, affordable and attractive, as employees are not keen on subtractions from their wages.

The Ministry welcomed Ms Lydia Indombo as Executive Director on 1 October 2023. The AEA's full management team met with her and requested the restoration of the Namibia Labour Forum (NALF). This Forum was founded in July 2001 and is tripartite in nature: agri-employers (the three unions), the Namibia Farm Workers' Union and the Ministry of Labour, the latter acting as chairperson. NALF had been a very successful forum for consultation and negotiation on labour matters in agriculture until 2015.

## Social Security Commission (SSC) Maternity, Sickness and Death Fund (MSD):

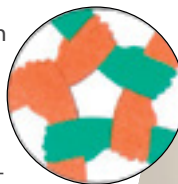
Extension of maternity benefits to 14 weeks is on the cards and paternity leave for fathers is also being debated. Agri-employers will need to plan extra staff and housing to make up for staff being absent for many weeks due to childbirth.

## Employee Compensation Fund (ECF):

Fewer complaints were received from employers concerning late annual ECF assessments and a lack of communication from the SSC. The AEA is looking forward to smooth operations from now on.

## National Pension Fund (NPF):

The proposed National Pension Fund again started receiving attention as from April 2023. Employers from across all sectors expressed their dissatisfaction at the model



Chairperson: Christine Stoman

presented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and demanded insight into the model presented a few years ago by the SSC. It appears that Namibia is heading for a hybrid model combining defined contributions and defined benefits. Whether employees at grass roots level will be enthusiastic, remains to be seen.

## Namibia Employers' Federation (NEF)

Helene Ochs was appointed as acting secretary general of the NEF in place of Daan Strauss who passed away in January 2023. Danie van Vuuren and other NEF board members addressed a high-level delegation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) on 1 February 2023, giving input on job creation in Namibia.

The AEA remains thankful to the NEF fraternity for taking a strong stand on behalf of employers and ensuring balance between employers' and employees' rights.

## INTERNAL LIAISON ADVISORY SERVICES

Regular weekly newsletter and radio contributions keep agri-employers informed on matters relating to the labour field. In addition, management members and the AEA's principal officer attend meetings of regional agricultural unions and farmers' associations



during the course of each year. Telephonic information is regularly sought by the members themselves and exemplary advice has been the forte of the AEA's principal officer. We are thankful to retain the services of Danie van Vuuren for another year.

### LABOUR DOCUMENTATION

The labour scene on commercial farms is relatively peaceful, thanks to the fact that NAU members have access to numerous documents relating to labour relations. This information ranges from labour legislation explained in easy terms, on the one hand, to manuals dealing with housing, health & safety, sound labour relations and so forth on the other hand.

The labour documentation – a set of pro forma documents – can be bought via the NAU website at <https://www.nau.com.na/labour-downloads>.

The sale of these labour documents to members and non-members remains very popular and indicates that employers are keen to apply the correct administrative systems.

### NAU FARM WORKERS' PROJECT

#### Generational Farm Workers:

Resolution No. 7 of the 2018 Land Con-



ference requires the government to develop a policy to protect generational farm workers by providing them with alternative housing or a piece of land. The Minister of Labour requested the Labour Advisory Council (LAC) to draw up a draft policy document. The AEA's position paper makes it clear that farmland should not be subdivided and that generational farm workers and long-service workers should be enabled to own their own land in towns where they may have medical services close at hand in their old age.

#### Retirement benefits:

Retirement provision for farm employees is part of the AEA's Farm Workers' Project and remains a running concern. Since many of the farm workers are unskilled or semi-skilled and do not pay

attention to this themselves, NAU members should initiate the conversation and help the workers with retirement planning. There are numerous annuities to consider.

### MINIMUM WAGE FOR AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEES

The minimum wage was increased on 1 October 2023 and a request was put forward to the Ministry of Labour to have the wage agreement extended to the whole of Namibia's farming fraternity. The wage agreement, signed by the AEA and the Namibia National Farmers' Union (NNFU), will hopefully pave the way to a decent living standard for all farm workers in Namibia.

### TRAINING

#### Training of farm workers:

Agra ProVision made a presentation at the AEA Congress during June 2023 on their range of short training courses that may be tweaked for farm workers. These courses usually vary from 1 to 2 days per course and cover a wide range of topics that include all the farming commodities in Namibia. The AEA furthermore hopes to interest the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) into subsidizing these short courses for farm workers.

Meanwhile, as in the past, informal training is taking place on farms to prepare



## AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

young workers for their job placements. In-house training, guidance, corrective measures and support are ongoing.

### Pre-school education for farm children:

The AEA believes that education, starting with the pre-school phase, is the key to eliminating poverty in rural areas. Agri-employers are encouraged to follow in the footsteps of Amos Meerkat Schools and Character Training Namibia which both play major roles in preparing young ones for life and learning.

### NTA (National Training Authority)

The AEA representative in the Namibia Training Authority's (NTA) agricultural management committee is Eckhart Förtsch who recently took over the reins from retiring Hendrik Botha. There are 160 unit standards for agricultural training which could be presented as short courses. However, the challenge is to find suitable

accredited institutions to offer these courses.

### AEA CONGRESS 2023

The annual congress of the Agricultural Employers' Association took place on 6 June and was attended by 62 delegates from 48 farmers' associations. The theme was *Secrets of Team Building*, with six speakers adding value to the event. They spoke on topics such as practical and financial training for farm workers, motivating farm workers, what mistakes are commonly made when dealing with labour legislation, as well as a banking app (PayPulse) solution for farmers and farm workers.

### CONCLUSION

The Association has been reflecting on succession plans within its managerial structure. Danie van Vuuren retired at the end of 2023 but is thankfully still available on a year contract basis and will continue providing guidance and advice to members.



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# APAA

## AGRONOMY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION



Chairperson: Gerhard Engelbrecht

As per the Namibia Agronomic Board (NAB) report, white maize producers initially forecasted a harvest and marketing of approximately 94 437 tons. However, by the end of the marketing period, they successfully marketed 98 824 tons, surpassing their initial estimate by 4 387 tons. The local wheat marketing season, running from 1 October 2022 to 31 January 2023, witnessed a marketing figure of 24 196 tons, falling short of the projected 29 392 tons. Nevertheless, both white maize and wheat demonstrated record levels of local marketing.

Notably, slightly over 50% of the locally demanded white maize (191 029 tons) came from the local market. In contrast, only 18% of the wheat crops were sourced locally, with the majority being imported.

### Performance by the sector: April 2022 – January 2023

#### White Maize

The white maize marketing season started on 1 May 2022 with the borders closing on 9 May 2022 for white maize importation until 3 December 2022. White maize producers successfully supplied the market with approximately 98 824 tons, while an additional 92 205 tons were imported. 51% of the maize originated from the Karst area, with the North Central region reporting the lowest contribution at 2%. Most of the white maize, approximately 36 102 tons, was sold in June 2022, while the lowest volume (about 1 347 tons) was recorded in December 2022.

In the assessment of the white maize price for the year, the SAFEX Spot weighted average price was used, given that it exceeded the SAFEX five-year average throughout the marketing period. The highest recorded price was N\$7 521.16 per ton in November 2022, with the average for the season standing at N\$6 639 per ton.

#### Wheat

The wheat marketing season spanned from 1

October 2022 to the end of January 2023. The total demand for wheat in 2022 amounted to 139 066 tons, with local producers supplying 17.8% (24 696 tons), while the majority, 82.2% (114 370 tons), was imported. Producers had initially projected a harvest of 29 392 tons but ultimately sold 24 696 tons. The harvest was likely affected by extreme heat in the south (Hardap region) and the absence of a proper irrigation system at the green scheme irrigation project in the Kavango region. Despite these challenges, the harvest showed improvement compared to the previous year. According to the NAB, the increased marketing was attributed to more people planting and some expanding the hectares planted. The largest harvest was in the South, specifically Hardap, accounting for 51%, while the North Central region reported the lowest at 0.5%.

Similar to white maize, the producer price for wheat was calculated based on the SAFEX Spot weighted average price. The highest floor price for wheat was N\$8 328.02 per ton in November 2022, with the average price for the season standing at N\$8 078 per ton.

#### Groundnuts

Groundnut producers had a good season

during the 2021-2022 period as they planted about 700-800 hectares of land and harvested approximately 750 tons at a price ranging between N\$11 000 – 12 000 / ton. However, during the 2022-2023 season the hectares reduced to 150 which might yield 250 tons of groundnuts. The drastic reduction in groundnut production is attributed to late rains and low to no rains received in January 2023.

### Strategic planning for Agronomy sector

The following are the developments under each key point during the period under review:

#### Marketing Environment,

The Agronomy Producers' Association management and the Namibian Grain Proces-

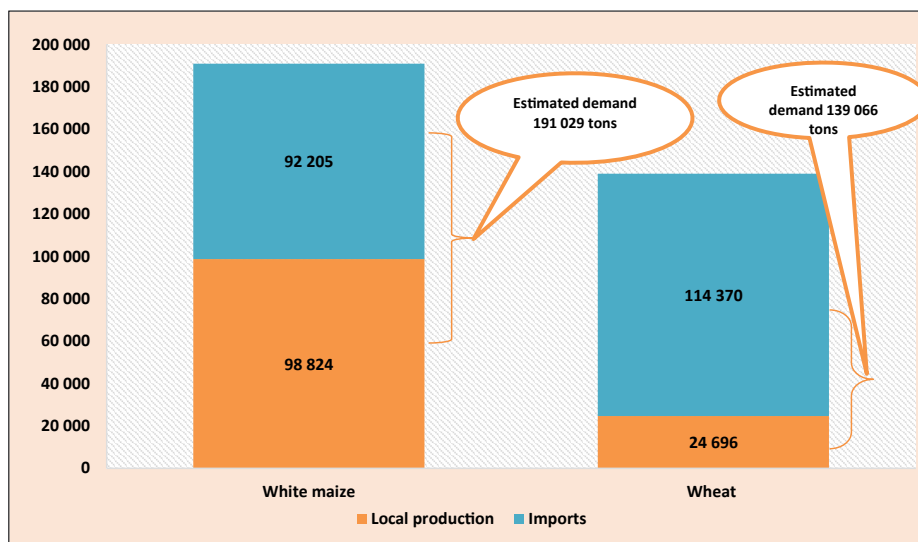


Figure 1: Estimated imports and local purchase of grains in tons for 2022-2023

Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

# AGRONOMY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

sors Association (NGPA) in the presence of the Namibia Agronomic Board had engagements regarding the White Maize and Wheat Marketing season. Some of the outcomes include the addition of the 3.6% levy to the wheat price calculation. Additionally, NGPA proposed new/future grading standards on white maize and wheat for the next marketing season.

The wheat grading standards were accepted by the APA for the next marketing season with minor corrections on the protein content. Regarding the maize grading standards, NGPA will test the new grading standards with producers for the current season, so that producers can get an indication of how they would have performed if the new grading standards were in place.

- Research/information dissemination - The APA takes pride in imparting insight and

knowledge that will contribute towards improving crop production. As a result:

- To prepare wheat producers for the season, the APA hosted a virtual session on managing nutrient needs for wheat under irrigation. Discussions ranged from nutrient uptake of wheat, growth stages of wheat, soil fertility, evaluation of plant nutrients, etc.
- The APA invited soil experts to visit several farms in different areas (e.g. Hochfeld, Grootfontein, Otavi, Kavango etc.) to give advice on soil fertility, plant nutrients, crop monitoring and soil sampling for better yield and production. This session was open to both APA members and non-members, to ensure improved production for all.
- A desk top study was conducted to indicate the status of sunflower seed, oil, and oil cake production globally and locally, and the potential of setting up an oil press

hub and equipment required.

- the APA organised a Sunflower study tour during the week of 12-17 March 2023 to South Africa and made a call to all interested APA members.
- Since 2022, the APA sends out climate reports to producers.

## Management

G. P. Engelbrecht	Chairperson (Grootfontein)
D. De Klerk	Vice-Chairperson (Hardap)
G.H. Eggert	Otavi / Rietfontein / Kombat
L. Hinz	East
D. Kok	Maroelaboom
G. Sievers	Tsumeb/Abenab
G. E. van Schalkwyk	Hochfeld

G.H. Eggert is representing the APA on the Namibia Agricultural Union Executive Council committee.

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### Financial Position

The APA financial positions for year 2021 closed off with a surplus of N\$236 631.00.

### Project funding by Namibia Agronomic Board

Project funding is the government’s financial support made available to all organizations in the agricultural sector based on applications for projects that benefit the broad agricultural community, and specifically the agronomic industry.

The APA projects received a combined amount of N\$1.6 million from NAB for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, of which 50% needs to be utilised by 31 March 2023. Additionally, APA received project funding for the following budgets: 2021-2022 (N\$720 000.00) – contract signed in October 2022, and 2022-2023 (N\$720,000.00) – contract signed in January 2023. According to the contracts, APA has 12 months to spend at least 50% of the allocated funds as of the date of signing.

### Genetically Modified Maize (GMO)

The APA supported one producer in his application process to Ministry of Environment for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and thereafter to the Bio-Safety Council for the necessary permits to allow cultivation of selected GM maize strains in Namibia. The step-by-step process has been outlined and reports are available for producers’ usage.

The APA is supporting a GMO cotton application with NCRST, which will help the association establish a GMO application process template for interested farmers.



# DPA

## DAIRY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

A good number of dairy farmers reduced their cow herd during the drought and some producers left the sector. Therefore, raw milk production dropped from 23.9 million litres in 2018 to 15.0 million litres in 2021, but the sector stabilized in 2022 with an increase in volume of about 3.8% from the 2021 figures (see Figure 1). An improvement in raw milk production together with a price increase toward the end of 2022, which is reflected in Quarter 4 of 2022 as a 5.2% rise year-on-year (YOY), pushed production value by 5.3% (that is, the estimated production value increased from N\$ 93.7 million to N\$ 98.6 million).

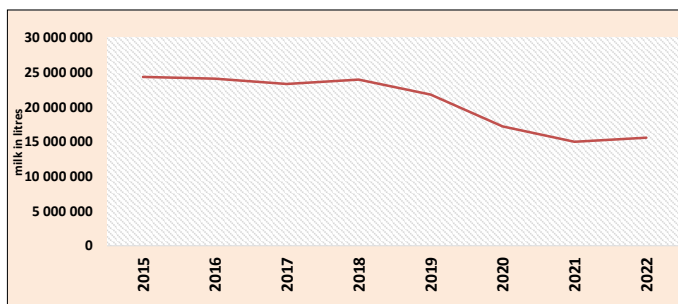


Figure 1: Raw milk production. Source: NAU

Total expenses on average increased by more than 20% for 2022, and this was driven mainly by increases in the price of fuel and feed costs (see Figures 2 and 3). Note: Figure 2 shows a YOY milk inflation and price of an intensive system; however, for an extensive system the trends and changes are closely related. Nevertheless, a drop in the price of fuel and feed in the first half of 2023 left total expense with a positive 25% (YOY) in quarter 1 of 2023 and a positive 2.3% in Q2-2023, which are drops in terms of the milk inflation experienced towards the end of 2022. Prices showed an upward trend of 7.2% in Q1-2023 and 9.9% in Q2-2023.

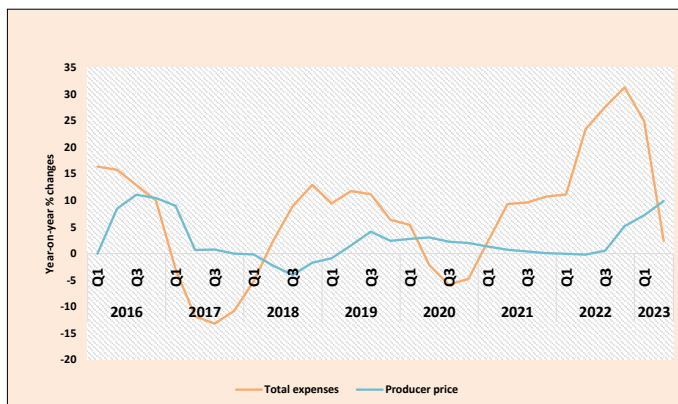


Figure 2: Year-on-year milk inflation vs price (intensive system)  
Source: NAU



Chairperson: Dirk van Wyk

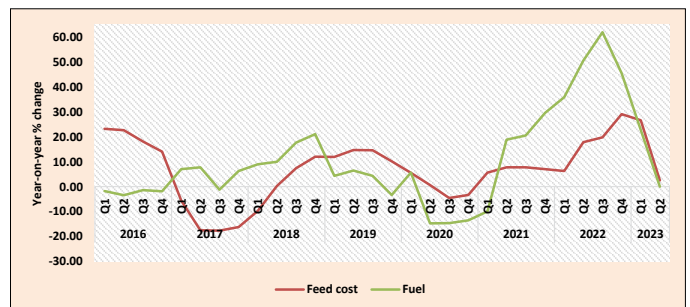


Figure 3: Milk-inflation. Source: NAU

### PERFORMANCE BY THE SECTOR IN 2022 AND EARLY 2023

The production of raw milk stabilised in 2022. Considering the first 6 months of 2022 and 2023, producers produced 6.8% less milk in 2023 (January-June: 7.3 million litres) than in 2022 (January-June: 7.8 million litres), and this is possibly attributed to negative rains.

#### Management

D.J.J. van Wyk	East (Chairperson)
F.P. Duvenhage	East
W. Agenbach	Mariental (Vice-chairperson)
F. Homsek	Mariental

#### Financial Position

The DPA financial position for the financial year 2022-2023 closed off with a negative of N\$ 5 829, whereas it was budgeted to make a loss of N\$ 60 544.



## Milk Price

Producers received a price increase effective October 2022 as follows:

- base price increase - N\$0.20
- Fat content - N\$ 0.03
- Bacteria content - N\$ 0.08

Total increase was = N\$ 0.31 (5%)

Another price increase was effective April 2023:

Raw milk increased with N\$ 0.30 (5%)

- Fat units -N\$ 0.20 per fat unit – butter fat of 3.3% and above
- N\$ 0.15 per fat unit – butter fat of 2.75% to 3.3%
  - N\$ 0.10 per fat unit – butter fat of 2.70% to 2.75%

## Dairy Producer of The Year Event

Producers honoured during the 2022 Gala dinner for high quality milk delivered were:

	Winner	Sponsor
<b>Dairy Producer of the Year</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	DJJ Van Wyk	Namibia Dairies
2 <sup>nd</sup>	FP Duvenhage	Namibia Dairies
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Willie van der Schyff	Polyoak
<b>Lowest Bacterium count</b>	FP Duvenhage	Polyoak
<b>Beste quality milk delivered</b>	Superfarm	Namibia Dairies
<b>Most accurate milk production forecast</b>	DJJ Van Wyk	Namibia Dairies

## MILK QUOTA and ND agreement

A quota agreement between Namibia Dairies and the DPA, which regulates the purchase and supply of raw milk, is renewed annually at the members' meeting. The current quota stands at 600 000 litres per month.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

The **City of Windhoek** made a decision to hand back the process of issuing fitness certificates for milk stalls to the local municipalities.

In an effort to improve dairy standards, **Namibia Dairies** with the support of the DPA, invited Mr. Jompie Burger from SA Standards to visit producers individually and look at the setup of milk stalls. Additionally, Namibia Dairies extended an invitation to all dairy producers to physically attend an information day on quality standards in September 2022. The session shared quality guidelines, how tests are done and how quality will be handled going forward. The aim was to ensure that farmers see and understand the importance surrounding milk quality.

**DPA** proposed and approved a volume incentive based as follows:

- Individual producers make individual investment decisions based on their individual circumstances; therefore, the volume incentive should be done on an individual basis, and participation should be voluntary.
- A 3-year historical actual milk production volume should be used to determine the baseline.
- If a producer increases his volume by:
  - 10%: offer an incentive of about N\$ 1.00 per litre for every litre delivered more than the baseline production.
  - 25%: offer an incentive of about N\$ 1.50 per litre for every litre delivered more than the baseline production.
  - 35% offer an incentive of about N\$ 2.00 per litre for every litre delivered more than the baseline production.
- The current transport arrangements remain, and additional milk produced should be removed by Namibia Dairies.

The **DPA** implored the Meat Board of Namibia to amend the Meat Industry Act to make provision for the declaration of dairy and dairy products as controlled products. The inclusion of the dairy and dairy products under the Meat Industry Act is at an advanced stage. In preparation, the DPA appointed Dr. Koos Coetsee to investigate the different protection mechanisms available and to develop a mechanism suitable for the dairy sector within the framework of the SACU, SADC, WTO Agreements, the existing national legislation, such as the Meat Industry Act, and other relevant national policies.



# LPO

## LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

### A word from the Chairman

The chairmanship of the LPO is only a temporary phase, measured against the long-term goal of the association. I had the privilege of finishing the projects/actions started by my predecessors and so my successors will probably finish the projects or actions started during my term.

The LPO is a lobby organization that is apolitical. Its goal is to influence through dialogue, diplomacy and the presentation of factual data, in order to ensure sufficient markets, fair market access and maximum compensation for the producer.

For over 30 years, Meatco has dominated the livestock export landscape by monopolizing the industry. Unfortunately, the efficiency and management of Meatco has not kept up with the times and development in the industry.

Meatco is unfortunately dominating the agenda of the LPO and for the wrong reason. The LPO already proposed a turnaround strategy in 2011 to align Meatco with the needs of producers and to ensure the institution's continued existence. Unfortunately, Meatco became the plaything of others with an agenda that was certainly not to the benefit of the industry. Currently, Meatco is not a going concern and generates millions of debts annually for which the government has to pay. During 2021, the LPO again made a strategic proposal to the Minister of Agriculture.

Matters came to a head in mid-2022 when Meatco failed to pay producers. The Minister of Finance ordered an investigation and the result was predictable. Politics is still the single biggest obstacle to a workable Meatco. However, the temperature around Meatco rose to such an extent that other bodies and unions began to share the LPO's frustrations. For the first time in history, the LPO to-

gether with the other three agricultural unions presented a strategy and joint position to the Minister.

The business model of Meatco is passé and is definitely not sustainable. This gave entrepreneurs the opportunity to come up with innovative ideas. The Beef Value Chain Forum owes its origins to the 2018 value chain study of the LPO. The resulting investment company, Savanna Beef Processors, is a product of this action. For the first time in history, there are private feedlots supplying domestic as well as export abattoirs with products.

Significant progress is also being made with the development of private export abattoirs in the country, which should encourage competition. With this, the LPO objective of ensuring maximum value addition locally becomes achievable.

The Small Livestock Marketing Scheme was temporarily stopped in 2019 by the Minister of Agriculture. This enabled alternative markets for small livestock without quota controls. Attempts by the LPO to amend this moratorium and to finally scrap the scheme have so far been unsuccessful.

It is with great pride that the LPO can say that it was part of the export investigation for mutton that was also launched in 2019. This is another investigation that took shape in the current export action of Farmers Meat Market, which exports to Norway and Europe and thus paved the way for a diversification in the small livestock market.

The livestock industry has a tremendous challenge when it comes to our animal health status. In the past, the threat was mainly from the north and the veterinary cordon fence (VCF) was the barrier that was focused on and had to be maintained immediately. Meanwhile, the situation in our neighbouring countries has deteriorated so much that our exposure is very large.



Chairperson: Thinus Pretorius

The LPO acted to create a joint forum to help our neighbours improve their health status and traceability. Namibia remains the only African country that may export to any country in the world and we are very proud of that. However, it does not come naturally. It requires great input, monitoring, sensitization and funds to maintain our status.

The LPO has been instrumental in drawing up the government's elephant management plan and also plays a significant role in its implementation. The development and acceptable result will probably take time. At least we are working on a solution and are part of it.

The LPO has a responsibility to facilitate communication between its members and the wider industry. For this reason, the LPO is committed to regenerative agriculture across the country. Profitability, production and sustainability are the cornerstones of agriculture. We are on the eve of an exciting time where carbon sequestration and other forms of land use and conservation are becoming accessible to us.

The success of the Livestock Producers' Organisation does not belong to one person. The LPO works over terms and consists of a formidable team that is representative of the entire country. It was my privilege to be able to keep the chairman's chair warm for four years, which is nothing in the 60-year existence of the LPO. I also hand it over to my successor with a calm heart.

Agricultural greetings  
Thinus Pretorius



## WHO IS THE LPO?

The Livestock Producers' Organisation (LPO) has been in existence for 60 years and is an affiliate of the Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU). The LPO represents commercial livestock farmers in the title-deed areas of Namibia and shares a membership base with the NAU. It currently has approximately 2 200 main members organised into 10 regional agricultural unions and 65 farmers' associations.

The recovery and growth of the livestock sector is of immense significance, given its far-reaching impact on the economy, society and environment. For the LPO, the livelihood of its members is therefore a top priority and there is a constant effort to create an optimal environment in which members can produce. This involves boosting local economies, improving market connections, and ultimately strengthening producers' resilience in the face of challenges.

The LPO endorses sustainable use of all natural resources and provides targeted and effective management information to members, builds relationships with all stakeholders in the industry and ensures maximum percentage of the consumer dollar to its producers.

## TOP PRIORITIES TO GROW THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

Increasing the profitability of livestock production is the cornerstone for rural wealth creation. A robust livestock sector can drive rural development by providing jobs, supporting local economies and reducing urbanisation. The LPO, together with the other agricultural unions, at the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, identified the top priorities in the total agricultural sector that urgently need attention.

These priorities are:

- **Speedy implementation of drought aid**  
According to a 2023 cabinet decision, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAWLR) was instructed to urgently provide drought relief

to Kunene, parts of Erongo and Omusati, Omaheke, Hardap and //Kharas regions. This assistance includes livestock marketing incentives, transport subsidies to and from grazing areas, and the leasing of pasture. The Unions' proposal outlines urgent steps, such as the activation of government abattoirs in the northern communal area by the Meatco NCA subsidiary, the finalisation of application procedures for individual drought support, assistance to farmers backdated to the time of removal of stock due to drought concerns, and the extension of aid to parts of Oshana, Khomas, and Otjozondjupa regions.

- **Resolving the Meatco issue**

The proposed measures for Meatco include transferring ownership of the Rundu and Oshakati abattoirs to the Meatco NCA subsidiary, moving the mobile slaughter unit to Kunene, ensuring timely payments to encourage livestock removal, establishing separate commercial subsidiaries with government support for NCA livestock development, and the search for price parity between northern and southern regions. The focus is on improving profitability, reducing losses and promoting rural wealth creation while addressing future Meatco responsibilities.

- **Effective mechanism for the maintenance of the veterinary cordon fence (VCF)**

Ensuring the survival and growth of the livestock sector depends on improving animal health north of the VCF over the long term, while animal health south of the VCF is maintained in the short term. The neglect of proper maintenance of the VCF poses an ongoing risk, endangering the sector and rural economy. The proposal is to outsource the physical maintenance of the VCF to the Meat Board of Namibia, although the government remains financially responsible and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) retains authority. In addition, a proposal for a special statutory levy has been submitted, subject to extensive consultation, aimed at funding with financial support from producers south of the VKH.

- **Accelerate the implementation of the new Affirmative Action Loan Scheme (AALS)**

In order to strengthen the progress of communal and emerging farmers, who mainly concentrate on weaner production, it is essential to introduce a specialised project that facilitates their transition to ox production. This effort must allow sufficient time and allocate essential resources for a smooth transition. A potential option involves the establishment of small-scale feedlots at communal level, improving the efficiency of this transition process.

- **Implementation of animal health zones in the NCA and south of the VCF**

The implementation of FMD-free zones is one of the best possible options for improvement in the NCA without changing the status of the VCF. Feasibility studies were carried out in years gone by, with corresponding cabinet decisions, but implementation has been lacking. The unions emphasized the need for the speedy implementation of such zones.

The introduction of zoning south of the VCF, similar to Botswana's model, offers significant potential to effectively mitigate the risk of disease spread. By defining separate zones, precise boundaries are set for outbreak management and containment, ensuring that animal health, farmers' livelihoods, and Namibia's overall economy are safeguarded.

- **Restoration of quarantine camps in the northern communal areas**

Quarantine camps function as marketing facilities to meet commodity-based trade, enabling beef from non-FMD-free areas to access markets outside the infected zones. The restoration of quarantine camps in the northern communal areas by the government is necessary to meet this challenge.

- **Speedy implementation of the EDF 11 Livestock Support Project in the NCA**

The EU is working with Namibia's government to expand a livestock support programme in the northern communal areas. The initiative aims to improve in-

# LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

infrastructure, technical capabilities, quality and trade in livestock and meat. The speedy implementation of this project by the MAWLR is desired, especially for those involved in facilitating livestock transport. One aspect is, for instance, the purchase of 4x4 trucks for use at abattoirs, the meat processing plant at Katima Mulilo and at feedlots.

## • Improving Commodity-Based Trade

The use of a commodity-based trade (CBT) has disadvantages. The lack of FMD vaccinations in the protection zone means that animals destined for the market south of the VCF must be quarantined for 60 days before they can be slaughtered. This is a burden for farmers due to increased costs, weight loss and reduced income. Although it is practical for meat and meat products, implementing CBT with live animals is a challenge. Annual vaccination in the protection zone should therefore be implemented to effectively reduce the quarantine period from 60 days to 30 days. Unnecessary restrictive conditions must be removed and the recognition of organised farms as suitable quarantine facilities is necessary. This will streamline the commodity-based trading process and be practical for transporting livestock.

## • Implementation of medium-scale feedlots in the NCA

The implementation of medium-scale feed production and feedlots will significantly improve livestock quality, enabling the desired slaughter weight. Abattoirs north of the VCF will address potential throughput shortfalls by purchasing weaners south of the VCF. These weaners can then be fattened in the feedlots, ensuring a steady supply of livestock within the NCA.

## HERD SURVEY

In 2020, the LPO conducted a member survey to determine the impact of the prolonged drought from 2012 to 2019 on livestock herds. The results revealed an average decrease of 50% in cattle, sheep and goat herds.

A follow-up survey aimed to determine the extent of herd recovery between 29 February 2020 and 28 February 2023. The survey

collected figures from 377 participants. The subsequent comparison indicated the following percentage increase in cattle, sheep and goat herds:

Livestock type	Total herd	Breeding stock
Cattle	52.92	30.65
Sheep	58.01	50.90
Goats	37.34	50.19



## EVENTS IN THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

### Export markets for sheep

Farmers Meat Market (FMM) resumed its commercial operations under the banner of the Hartlief Group in October 2022. FMM had closed its doors in August 2020 due to the low availability of sheep. However, an increased demand for Namibian mutton combined with a greater number of animals that have since been available in the local market, prompted the Hartlief Group to restore the operation of the abattoir.

FMM has gained regional and international certification and has once again become an international player proudly exporting quality Namibian lamb. Since its reopening

in the second half of 2022 up to and including July 2023, the abattoir has already packed 16 shiploads of 20 tonnes each.

A total of 80% of sheep delivered to FMM met the export conditions of 17 kg+ and A1-3/AB1-3. The average slaughter weight of these animals amounts to 19.3 kg per carcass while the average export weight is 20 kg per carcass. The other 20% sheep, which were lighter than 17kg, or had 0, 4, 5, 6 ratings, were mainly marketed in Namibia. 80% of animals slaughtered were Dorper and 20% were MeatMaster. Both these breeds do equally well with grading and weights.

About 60% of an export carcass is exported as boneless frozen lamb meat in 6 different bulk cuts. The other 40% is marketed domestically as frozen products. Boneless lamb meat is sold exclusively to Norway. The first small shipment was also sold to Germany to test the market. Samples were also sent to Bermuda with positive feedback from the market. Exporting boneless lamb to these two markets is now next on the list for FMM. However, it requires some changes and conditions before it can kick off on a larger commercial scale. FMM regularly sells small volumes to RSA. Inquiries have been received from Sweden, Holland, USA (bone-in), China and the Middle East for Namibian sheep. Angola, RSA, Botswana and Seychelles are also keen. Tripe is frozen and sold domestically, as are hides.


### Export value chain

Namibia's cattle export value chain plays an important role in the country's economic growth and social well-being. However, it is essential to sustainably manage the sector, to ensure responsible land use, environmental conservation and animal welfare standards to ensure long-term viability and positive impact. The LPO has a responsibility to help find a solution for the continued existence of this value chain to ensure that its members as price takers receive a fair price for their product.

### Bovine Value Chain Study

The Namibian Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPBD), commissioned by the Ministry of Finance, has launched pro-





ductivity task forces that seek to bring together public and private sector players for various commodities so that they may identify key constraints to productivity in each of the value chains involved. Together with these actors, practical solutions were found for each constraint identified and agreed upon as a priority area of concern. This also applies to the cattle value chain. The World Bank is also involved.

The LPO has representation on the task force dealing with the cattle value chain. Several meetings have already taken place. There was initially no agreement on the main constraints that hamper the value chain, but later six points were identified, namely a lack of data, animal health, productivity of producers, competition between value chains, policy environment (drought policy, water policy, etc.) as well as financing.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

### **AfCFTA negotiations and implementation**

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a trade agreement aimed at promoting economic integration and intra-African trade. It was officially launched on in January 2021 and is considered one of the world's largest free trade areas in terms of participating countries.

While 100% tariff liberalisation is ultimately the target for this trade agreement, all agriculturally sensitive products from Namibia are excluded from the first 90% in the SACU tariff offer. Meat in particular and agricultural products in general are on the sensitive lists of most African states and therefore the AfCFTA offers Namibia very few export opportunities at this stage. The negotiations on the liberalisation of the sensitive lists have yet to begin.

### **SACU-UK EPA Implementation**

The United Kingdom remains a major trading partner for Namibia for agricultural products. Namibia has some challenges with Rules of Origin and Cumulation which make it difficult to take full advantage of tariff preferences in the UK, especially in value-added products, such as processed meat.

Future revisions of plant and animal health standards and food safety standards by the UK carry risks and will be closely monitored. However, currently the UK still applies the EU standards, which Namibia can meet.

### **SACU-EFTA Review and Implementation**

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) agreement is of critical importance to Namibia's meat sector and Norway currently remains the highest value market for Namibian beef. Beef and mutton/lamb can be exported duty-free to Norway under specific market access quotas shared with Botswana. There are some challenges with the revision as well as implementation of the agreement, as Norway is not keen on expanding Namibia's beef export quotas. Norway is under increasing pressure to protect its own producers.

Norway has implemented a customs measure that equates Namibia's and Botswana's quotas to a bone-in equivalent, thus reducing it by 25% as they only export boneless meat. Meetings took place between Norway and SACU on this matter, however, Norway has indicated that they do not intend to rectify the quota. Botswana and Namibia assessed the options available to them and decided in June 2023 to request the SACU Secretariat to formally notify Norway of the intention to engage in dispute resolution under the scope of the SACU-EFTA Free Trade Agreement. Feedback is awaited on Norway's response and on the next steps.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH**

### **Protection of Namibia's Animal Health Status**

The veterinary cordon fence (VCF) is an economic structure that protects the animal health status in the free zone against livestock diseases so that Namibia has access to various foreign markets for its livestock and meat products. If Namibia loses its animal health status for any reason, it will have catastrophic consequences for the country. The LPO is constantly working to help manage the risks regarding the animal health status.

### **VCF Court Case**

During 2021, a political opportunist ap-

proached the court to remove the veterinary cordon fence (VCF). According to him, this fence has a discriminatory effect on the Namibian population by separating the north from the south, as well as the fact that northern livestock producers do not get a good price for their products and the fence prevents them from bringing these products south of the VCF. The NAU joined this court case in October 2022 at the request of the LPO.

### **Maintenance of the VCF & border fences**

The maintenance of the veterinary cordon fence (VCF) poses an ongoing challenge. Elephants continue to damage a significant portion of the fence daily, and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), the Meat Board and the producers who farm adjacent to this fence are struggling to keep up with repairs. The fence's deterioration, together with theft of material, is an urgent concern, as it increases the risk of animals crossing the fence and posing a potential hazard. In response, the LPO mobilizes farmers' associations to regularly monitor fence conditions and report their findings. These reports are promptly shared with the Meat Board, DVS, and the Minister of Agriculture to proactively address issues.

In the midst of increasing foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in neighbouring countries, Namibia is facing increasing pressure from all sides. Proper maintenance of border fences and strict control at border posts has always been extremely important. The LPO provides support to DVS and other authorities by granting access to farms for fence inspections. In addition, the LPO coordinates the procurement of materials for producers who farm along the borders, facilitating necessary fence repairs. This collaborative effort aims to protect Namibia's livestock and prevent diseases that spread across borders.

### **Funding for the maintenance of the VCF and court case**

The LPO is of the opinion that although the Ministry of Agriculture is the responsible institution for the restoration and maintenance of the VCF as well as the maintenance



## LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

of Namibia's animal health status, the industry should not sit back and watch. It must be actively involved in supporting the Meat Board and the Ministry of Agriculture in all actions to protect the animal health status of Namibia.

The LPO, with the help of several partners, is taking the lead in mobilising the industry to get voluntary financial support to maintain the fences and to cover the legal costs of the VCF court case. A public-private partnership will continue to be pursued.

### Alternative to protect the animal health status

DVS has a contingency plan, but its implementation is the Meat Board's responsibility. Zoning and compartmentalisation are driven by the LPO. The Animal Health Committee (AHC) of the Meat Board is the vehicle for this. It is also included as a top priority in the Unions' joint document to the Minister of Agriculture.

### Export requirements and regulations

The new EU regulations, which came into effect in 2022, require livestock producers in the FMD-free zone of Namibia to meet certification requirements in order to deliver animals to EU-approved export abattoirs. Animals delivered to the above-mentioned abattoirs must receive an annual animal health visit from an accredited veterinarian. Producers must also comply with the regulations of the Animal Health Act of 2011. These regulations require that a livestock producer must maintain an up-to-date information file which is

to be made available to state veterinary offices in the relevant regions. The LPO was intensively involved in assisting members to get farm registers up to date and receive visits from state veterinarians.

### Antimicrobial resistance

Resistance to antibiotics has emerged as a significant global concern, leading to increasing pressure on the World Health Organisation (WHO) to regulate antibiotics, making them available only through professional prescriptions. As a result, over-the-counter antibiotic purchases may be limited in the future. The Namibian government is currently considering strict control measures on antibiotic use, which also extends to farm animals.

In 2020, Namibia had launched the Namibian Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan (NAAP) to raise awareness about responsible and effective antibiotic use. This initiative includes training programs led by the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) under the Ministry of Agriculture.

During 2022, a national multisectoral meeting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was organized with the support of Germany's Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI). This meeting aligned with the ongoing One Health collaboration with DVS and the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL). Subsequent meetings were held to evaluate the NAAP, improve private sector engagement and collaboration, and improve national AMR coordination mechanisms. A well-attended workshop for farmers


was also organized by the CVL and the FLI, with active participation from LPO members.

The LPO places great emphasis on the responsible use of antibiotics in livestock and is committed to promoting effective and efficient antibiotic practices among livestock producers. Furthermore, the LPO is actively involved in discussions on stricter antibiotic regulation, to ensure that practical challenges facing end consumers are brought to the attention of relevant authorities, and proactive solutions are sought. Mr Egbert Hoff and Dr Anselm Voigts represent the LPO and work intensively with all stakeholders to ensure that farmers' perspectives are considered in the decision-making processes. The veterinary council has already circulated a draft proposal for stricter antibiotic regulation, and the LPO has provided input through its representatives.

### FMD Emergency Subcommittee

In response to the outbreaks of FMD in Botswana, Zambia and South Africa during 2022 and 2023, the Directorate of Veterinary Services has taken proactive measures to protect Namibia from the spread of FMD from neighbouring countries. To address this critical issue, an emergency subcommittee was established, comprising key industry stakeholders, with the LPO's involvement.

The committee held in-depth discussions on action steps and preventive solutions in the event of an FMD-outbreak in Namibia. Proposed measures included the division of Namibia (SVCF) into different zones, following



Botswana's approach, and the development of a system to encourage immediate reporting of suspected positive FMD-cases by producers. Namibia's existing contingency plan was also reviewed and updated.

In response to the urgency, strong pressure was exerted to implement strict biosecurity measures for vehicles transporting livestock to South Africa and returning to Namibia. In addition, there have been calls for inspection and disinfection teams to be stationed at border posts to oversee the movement of vehicles carrying possible animal products and to disinfect both vehicles and people's shoes. The Meat Board sent teams to the border posts to carry out these tasks, although they later withdrew in February 2023. Nevertheless, the Directorate of Veterinary Services remains present at the border to be vigilant against possible disease spread.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Rabies in Kudu Population

The Kudu Rabies Project commenced in 2016 following instructions from the LPO Congress in 2010 to address the ongoing rabies pandemic threatening the kudu population in Namibia.

Under the guidance of Dr Rainer Hassel and in partnership with various stakeholders, the LPO carried out five years of testing with an oral vaccine used in Europe to vaccinate foxes. Although the tests showed the effectiveness of the oral vaccine, it was observed that the animals required high doses for adequate immunity. The implementation of such high-dose vaccinations in a natural environment posed practical challenges, leading to the decision at the end of 2022 to discontinue this particular vaccine approach.

Meanwhile, the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI) has developed a new recombinant vaccine specially designed to address the rabies problem in Namibia. This new vaccine incorporates a harmless Newcastle disease virus as a carrier to enhance the delivery of a portion of the rabies virus into the animal's body. Armed with this promising solution, the LPO management decided to continue the research.

In 2023, collaboration with UNAM's veterinary school will continue to test the new vaccine. The initial trials will be carried out on Boer goats at the Neudamm campus. If successful, further testing on kudus will follow, heralding potential progress in combating the rabies threat to Namibia's kudu population.

### Bush Feed

During the drought period from 2012 to 2019, farmers faced a shortage of grazing for their livestock, prompting them to explore alternative feeding methods. They turned to abundant bush as an alternative source of fodder, and bush feed provided considerable relief during the drought. However, the use of bush feed has raised several questions and challenges due to limited knowledge about its properties. In response to the farmers' enquiries, the LPO collaborated with the University of Pretoria to launch a bush feed research project. This project aimed to determine, among other things, the optimal levels of bush inclusion, complementary raw materials, digestibility and the impact on rumen microbes.

By 2021, the University of Pretoria had conducted the initial analysis of five bush species: yellowwood, mopani, blackthorn, raisin bush and *gabbabos* (*Catophractes alexandri*). Preliminary results indicated that *gabbabos* and blackthorn stood out in terms of protein percentage and were an adequate protein source for cattle maintenance. On the other hand, *gabbabos* showed excellent digestibility and energy content compared to blackthorn. The observed value of raisin bush is probably overestimated, as cattle typically only consume the leaves. The analysis of lignin was not yet complete, making it challenging to determine the exact availability of various nutrients and minerals.

The project encountered obstacles in transporting Namibian bush samples to South Africa, which caused a temporary delay. Nevertheless, the initiative gained momentum again. The upcoming phase involves analysing rumen fluid and testing seven different ration mixes to identify the one with the best digestion and energy source. The top three ration mixes will be tested at the University

of Steynburg to determine their digestibility and growth performance. After that, the project will expand to carry out similar trials on sheep.

Molatek funded the first round of analyses, while Feedmaster and the LPO financially supported the next set of analyses.

## LIAISING WITH THE INDUSTRY

Continuous communication takes place with all stakeholders in government, as well as the wider livestock industry. In the past year, the Chairman and LPO management held several discussions with officials at different levels of seniority within the relevant line ministries. In addition, there is ongoing engagement with the media, which includes radio, TV, print and social media platforms.

During the reporting period, contact was made with the following bodies:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) at senior level
- Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) at senior level
- State Veterinary Offices at regional level
- Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism
- Governors
- Meat Board
- Namibian abattoirs and agents
- Namibian auction houses
- Local abattoirs
- AGRA
- Feedmaster
- Namib Mills group
- Beef Value Chain Forum
- Media
- NAPHA
- Agricultural Trade Forum
- Local private veterinarians
- LCMAN
- Red Meat organisations of South Africa and Botswana
- FNB
- UNAM School of Veterinary Medicine
- Producer study groups
- Kaap Agri Namibia
- Cirrus Capital

# PPAN

## PIG PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

The first half of 2023 saw a slight decline in pigs slaughtered locally compared to the same period in 2022 (22 872 vs 22 647) which is a decline of 1.0%. However, the average carcass weight increased over the same period by 5 kg and this may be attributed to the cooler weather experienced since March 2023.

Due to the outbreak of FMD in SA, all imports of fresh and frozen meat have been stopped and the ceiling price is locked in at R51.03 to local producers belonging to the PMPS. At this stage there is still no indication when DVS will open the border; however, the industry is looking at how best to handle the situation and is continuously engaged in the matter.

Local pork production still only provides 45-50% of the local consumption and the shortfall must be imported from Europe since the SA-Namibian border closed in August 2022. Germany is currently the biggest exporter to Namibia with 2 038.7 tons imported from January to June 2023. Spain is the second biggest exporter with a total of 960.1 tons imported

during the same period. The total imported from SA, traditionally the go-to-country for pork imports, dropped from 1 863.2 tons in the first half of 2022 to 373.5 tons over the same period in 2023. It must be noted that only cooked and processed products can currently be imported from SA.

Maize prices declined from an all-time high R5 219 (October 2022) to around R3 600 per ton in May 2023, with soya following the same trend – R11 990 (January 2023) versus R8 825 (July 2023). Since maize and soya make up about 80-85% of most pig rations, this lowered the production cost accordingly, but even at these lower prices commercial pig farming is struggling to stay in business.

The demand for breeding stock is a clear indicator that the informal sector is expanding and with the current undersupply of fresh pork this makes small-scale pig farming very attractive. The higher demand drove the informal price to much higher than the current ceiling price, which makes it a more



Chairperson: Gideon Goosen

profitable option for small-scale farmers to diversify their income stream.

The Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia figures don't reflect the effect of the informal sector on the pork market since it can only take the pigs slaughtered at registered abattoirs into account. If we look at the last census done by the Directorate of Veterinary Services, it indicates that the total pig numbers in Namibia is about 83 000 of which 30 400 would be considered commercial pigs.

This, however, does not reflect the PPA membership since there are only 18 members registered at the moment. I would therefore ask all small-scale producers to join the Pig Producers' Association. We can only grow the industry if we have more members and better data to work with. Newcomers wishing to join are welcome to contact the Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) for the relevant information and application forms.



# NAPHA

## NAPHA Annual Report – an extract

During the 2022 trophy hunting season, a total of 7 232 trophy permits were issued to foreign hunting clients. The distribution of permits by country reflects the international appeal of Namibia's hunting experience:

- Germany: 1 101
- USA: 662
- France: 204
- Austria: 158
- Hungary: 121
- Spain: 105
- Denmark: 91
- Sweden: 77
- Romania: 47
- Poland: 39
- Other: 549

A total of 13 705 species were hunted as trophies during the season, contributing to a remarkable revenue of over N\$365 000 000. The top 10 species hunted were:

- Oryx: 2 192
- Springbok: 1 553
- Common Impala: 1 224
- Warthog: 1 182
- Kudu: 980
- Blue Wildebeest: 843
- Hartmann Zebra: 807
- Hartebeest: 619
- Burchell Zebra: 537
- Eland: 528



### 2022-2023 AGM

The 48th NAPHA Annual General Meeting was well attended. The meeting was officially opened by Minister Pohamba Shifeta, followed by various presentations by donors, supporters and affiliates. The gala dinner and auction raised a significant amount, which was naturally welcomed, especially after the Covid pandemic.

Two positions on the Executive Committee became vacant. Harm Woortman and Roysten Wright were re-elected as Exco members.

### NAPHA School of Conservation

With a 61% pass rate in the Trophy Hunting Guide examinations, the NAPHA School of Conservation students outperformed the overall average pass rate of 23%.

Efforts were made to support students who qualified for re-examinations, reflecting the commitment to their success. Following the re-examinations, a Practical Examination Preparation course was organised, resulting in a 100% pass rate for participating students. This success showcases the effectiveness of the school's preparation methods and commitment to student excellence.

Two Hunting Professional Theoretical Preparation courses were conducted due to high demand, with positive feedback from students.

NAPHA continues to promote ethical, conservation-based hunting, facing the anti-hunting fraternities and supporting our members, as well as collaborating with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.



# CAON

## CHARCOAL ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

The charcoal industry successfully faced many challenges in the past year.

These challenges are reflected in the production figures for 2023. There was excellent growth in charcoal exports during the first eight months of 2023. By August 2023, CAoN's members reported production of 102 350 tonnes compared to 92 000 in 2022. The industry was then hit with container shortages and an export block by one of the shipping lines, which caused an overproduction of charcoal. For the period September to November 2023, 3 000 tonnes more were reported than in 2022. The total figure for January 2023 to November 2023 is 147 000 tonnes. The total for 2023 is projected to be 159 000 tonnes which will be an increase of 4 000 tonnes compared to 2022. These figures represent only the export figures of our members. The national figure for charcoal exports is always calculated at 30% above our figures and we can therefore project that approximately 210 000 tonnes of charcoal would have been exported by the end of December 2023.

The Charcoal Association of Namibia also had a couple of highlights during the past year. The main highlight is again (the same as for 2022 and 2021) that no fires were reported at any charcoal production sites. The creation of rules and guidelines, in which CAoN played a major role, is proof that the good cooperation between CAoN and the Department of Forestry (DoF) is instrumental in protecting our environment.

Another highlight for CAoN was the new Forest Environmental Management Plan which was an initiative of CAoN to assist DoF in creating a new management tool – this is a huge step forward for producers and DoF. The new management plan (FEMP) is in pilot phase and already implemented on many farms. The roll-out is taking place and will help producers to manage their forest resource (wood biomass) more efficiently in the future. The FEMP entails a formal bush count on each farm using the Bush Quantification Tool (BQT) or similar formal bush counts as accepted by DoF. The FEMP will be valid for three years and will minimise inspections on farms. The regular inspections were a bottleneck as very often there were no vehicles or fuel available to perform inspections. Producers therefore often struggled to get their permits on time. CAoN will work very closely with DoF to oversee the sustainable harvesting of wood biomass in Namibia.

CAoN also launched the advanced one-day burning technique which minimises charcoal fines and provides higher yields in bigger chunks of charcoal, provided that it is applied correctly in the production process. To assist producers, we have three fully-trained charcoal trainers who travel to farms to teach workers the new method.

The prospects for 2024 are favourable for the industry as we see an accelerated increase in the production of wood vinegar – there are more producers now that have ventured into diversifying their production. We also see an increase in biochar production and we will



Manager: Michael Degé

support one of the major biochar production initiatives in Namibia.

Important statistics and information for 2023:

- Membership of CAoN increased to a total of **1 623** members by end November.
- We have 12 associate members, 2 international members, 22 Namibian processors/buyers as well as 5 South African charcoal processors, buyers and agents.

Our training programme was upgraded in January 2023. From January to November, CAoN trained a total of 657 workers during 32 training sessions on farms.

The following new courses are now also included in our offering:

- Biochar training
- Application of biochar to enrich the soil
- Smoke condenser with one-day burning
- Business training for new entrants into the industry.



# PPA

## POULTRY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

The poultry sector saw good growth among small and medium enterprise farmers. This sector made significant contributions towards improving livelihoods, creating employment, and contributing to the rural economy and the economy at large. Between 2018-2021, the domestic economy had an estimated production value of about N\$1.1 billion, which is a major growth from the estimated production value of N\$850.6 million recorded in 2017. In this context, the percentage contribution of the broiler sector constitutes more than 75%, whereas the egg sector occupies less than 25%.

Imports of poultry meat increased from an estimated quantity of 27,719 tonnes in 2017 to 55,472.6 tonnes between 2018-2022, showing a 100 percent increase. Re-exports of poultry products increased significantly after the implementation of the poultry scheme. In this regard, the importation of products exempted from the scheme, such as poultry of fowls mechanically deboned meat (MDM), also increased. For a country such as Namibia with a small population and very few processors, an amount of more than 500 tons of MDM remaining in the domestic market becomes questionable. Nevertheless, the expansion of the domestic poultry sector (specifically the

broiler sector) is attributable to the quantitative restriction on the importation of poultry products into Namibia, governed under the Import and Export Control Act, 1994.

From the above, the sector is partially protected, as eggs are not included, and despite the quantitative protection, a significant number of imported products are in the domestic market, outcompeting the local products. The Poultry Producers' Association (PPA) of Namibia implored the Meat Board of Namibia to amend the Meat Industry Act to make provision for the declaration of poultry and poultry products (including eggs) as controlled products. The Association is happy that the Livestock and Livestock Products (previously known as the Meat Industry Act) Amendment Bill has been passed.

The PPA, in conjunction with AgriBank of Namibia, had a successful Phase 1 Roadshow covering Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, and Ohangwena Regions in May 2022, with about 500 people in attendance. During the week of 14-17 March 2023, PPA and AgriBank embarked on Phase 2 of the Roadshow, targeting the Southern part of Namibia, that is Karas (Keetsmanshoop), Hardap (Mariental and Rehoboth), and Khomas (Windhoek) re-



Chairperson: Louis Kleynhans

gions. There was a combined attendance of more than 350 people, with Rehoboth topping with about 149 people in attendance. Looking at the demographic data, the youth were well represented.

Furthermore, to develop our poultry sector, the PPA requested the help of Namibia Standards Institute for the development of poultry standards (both eggs and broiler sectors). The tasks undertaken by the Association are made easy by our stakeholders who open their doors for us to engage and find amicable solutions, and we appreciate each and every one of them.



# Regenerative Agriculture

## THE REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION PROJECT

The regenerative movement is a global one with all major economies developing regenerative policies, strategies, goals and incentives committed to a healthier planet, more profitable farms producing healthier foods. The NAU is fully aware of its responsibility to increase awareness and take a lead together with farmers impacting our own value chain. Just as in other countries, farmers are heading this movement with leading global soil scientists explaining what needs to be done to achieve regeneration.

The approaches developed to date regarding cover cropping in the region are well developed; however, the solutions for rangeland management are more elusive and complex. The solutions that are being developed in Namibia by innovative crop and livestock farmers are on the cutting edge of these solutions globally. The NAU therefore decided to document some of these successful regenerative farmers' stories in a booklet entitled *Regenerating Namibia's Livestock Farmers*. Farmers needed to show that they managed to maintain their herds, production, fertility and profitability before, during and after the drought. Farmers reading these stories may well be inspired to develop their own innovations or apply some of the tried and tested methods included in the booklet. This is the start of a long journey of unlearning some of the less favourable habits we have developed, learning what works better and continue learning together to refine the solutions needed for Namibia. Adopting regenerative practices should result in everyone winning – from the farmer to the consumer, to the country as well as the planet.

If successfully upscaled, the entire value chain will become more resilient, more prosperous, produce better quality animals and crops more consistently. The implementation of these practices will also contribute to improved ecosystem services as well as sequester large amounts of carbon – thereby

contributing to climate change mitigation.

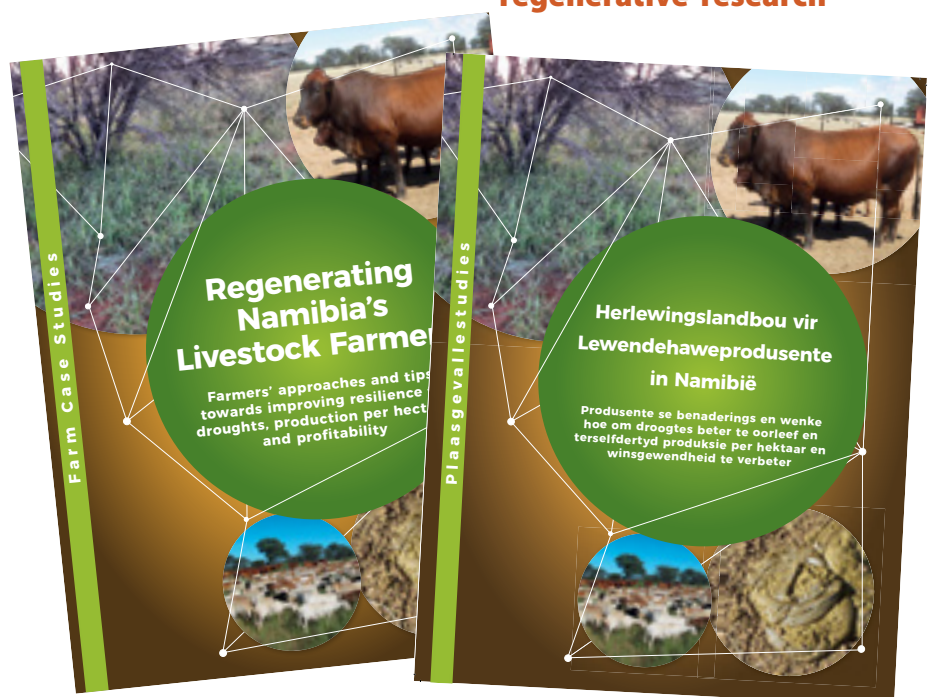
The NAU wants to assist farmers to transition to regenerative practices, but before starting, farmers need to understand where they are now, and need to establish their current production and profitability per hectare. Business modelling based on real-life successful situations will assist interested farmers to make the transition to regenerative practices more successful.

The farmer-focused booklet of 16 on-farm regenerative case studies has been completed. These regenerative practices have resulted in improved resilience to drought, increased production per ha and improved biodiversity. These case study summaries have been completed and can be found at [www.nau.com.na](http://www.nau.com.na). The information included from each case study includes: the farm history, production and fertility rates, economic and ecological resilience during the 2019 drought. Research staff of the Ministry of Agriculture collected and analysed vegetation parameters and took soil samples on

10 of the 20 farms identified, as well as co-authored the final booklet produced. Environmental remote sensing of treatment and control sites was attempted, but requires refinement before being able to monitor changes at the scales needed.

The second part of the project during 2021 dealt with assisting farmers to assess their current production status and then investigate the need for increased profits by adopting combinations of tried and tested management options. The aim of the case studies and business modelling is to assist livestock farmers using conventional methods to investigate the profitability of transitioning to regenerative, more sustainable and more profitable practices. The approach is applicable to the emerging commercial farmers as well as the communal farmers in Namibia. Plans are underway to collaborate with key partners to expand these practices within Namibia.

**To view the case studies booklet visit:**  
[www.nau.com.na/regenerative-research](http://www.nau.com.na/regenerative-research)





# S B M

## SWAKARA BOARD OF NAMIBIA

The years 2020 -2021 were very challenging for the Swakara Industry as the Covid-19 pandemic created havoc on a global scale.

We experienced a global 'shut-down' of almost every sector of the world economy and life as we knew it changed overnight in terms of movement and mass uncertainty of what lies ahead.

All the Swakara pelt auctions during the year were done on an electronic basis, which was a totally new concept to all the buyers, as they could not physically inspect the pelts. Very few orders were received as most manufacturers and retailers first wanted to assess the situation. Very few skins were sold in this financial year, as we also experienced shipment problems with the lack of available airfreight options for the pelts.

The producers experienced a massive cash-flow shortage as pelt sales ceased overnight with very little reaction time. The grazing conditions in most some parts recovered somewhat; however most of the farmers just came out of a severe drought that already crippled the available resources.

### Composition of the board

#### Full board

J Meyer	Chairperson - Swakara Breeders Society
JS Motinga	Vice chairperson - Swakara producers
C Biasako	Swakara producers
WJ Kohlman	Swakara producers
A Klein	Marketing organisation

#### Alternates

A Steyn	Swakara producers
RH Losper	Swakara Breeders Society
TS Miller	Swakara producers
PHK Maritz	Swakara producers
G Husselman	Swakara producers

The goals and functions of the Karakul Board are:

- to develop the Swakara industry to its full

potential, maintain its viability and stability and promote its interests;

- to devise and pursue an effective strategy to increase the demand for Swakara pelts and wool or products made thereof;
- to promote the establishment of a processing and manufacturing industry for Swakara pelts and wool in Namibia and do research in this regard;
- to cooperate as a partner or otherwise with anybody engaged in marketing, manufacturing or distribution for the sale of Swakara pelts or wool;
- to advise the Minister on all matters regarding the production, marketing and processing of Swakara pelts and wool.

### Annual meeting of the Swakara Industry Forum

The Swakara Industry Forum (SIF) was established and approved during September 2012 and replaced the Swakara Producers Forum. The Karakul Board of Namibia organized the Annual General Meeting of the Swakara Industry Forum which took place at Keetmanshoop 24 September 2019.

At this event awards were also given by Agra Limited to the 'Top Ten' Swakara producers and the Agra Floating Trophy was awarded to the best Swakara producer.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD

#### Local promotion

The Board decided to maintain the following local projects in order to increase the number of pelts without losing quality:

#### Keetmanshoop Show

The Karakul Board sponsored the Swakara pelt competition at the Keetmanshoop Show. The winning pelts of the pelt competition were exhibited in the Swakara hall.

#### Training

A voluntary contribution by pelt producers of N\$3-00 per pelt marketed was implemented in 2009. The Swakara Producers



Chairperson: Julene Meyer

Fund is managed by the Swakara Breeders' Society and is used to fund training and research needs of the Swakara Industry.

During the year under review, two beginner and two standard training courses were held at Gellap-Ost.

#### Overseas promotion

##### International fairs

International fairs are the showcase of the international fur trade and it is important for the Board members to attend them. The focus of attending these fairs is to get first-hand information about the international fur trade. This information was shared with all the producers at the annual Swakara Industry Forum.

Board members attended the fur fairs in Hong Kong and Paris during 2019/20.

##### Kopenhagen Fur/ Swakara

##### Joint project

No garments were made through the joint project, although the Board hosted Mr Kim Jones and Edward Crutchley in Namibia through the assistance of Kopenhagen Fur.

The Board also hosted Mr Victor Konstantinopolskaya as Swakara Ambassador 2019 to Namibia for a photoshoot of garments made by their company ASTEL.

# BAN

## BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA



## BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

### **The NAU welcomes the Beekeeping Association of Namibia (BAN) as its newest affiliated partner.**

The BAN Management thanks its members, development partners and sponsors for their support in 2023. Their contributions have not only provided opportunities but have also been instrumental in shaping perspectives and momentum for the growth of Namibian apiculture. Sponsors included Ambassadors for Good, DebMarine, The Pupkewitz Foundation, The Village, FNB Namibia (through FirstRand Namibia Foundation), O&L Group of Companies (Strand Hotel), the Gondwana Collection, Las Vegas self-catering camp and Spar Lifestyle. The support, both financial and through active participation in events, not only strengthened BAN's endeavours but also extended networks for awareness, bee rescue and increased capacity.

Dr Jeff Pettis, the World Apimondia president, emphasised the need to consolidate efforts for apiculture development during the Africa Regional Apimondia in South Africa during 2023. Taking his message to heart, we stress the importance of securing government support and forming synergies between beekeepers and stakeholders to propel apiculture forward. A united voice with a clear aim can advocate for main principles to represent bees, as highlighted by Dr Pettis. The theme of World Bee Day on 20 May, focusing on "sustainable agriculture," further reinforced the global urgency for apiculture

development in 2023.

With the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, BAN proudly announced the establishment of the National Apiculture Advisory Board. Its primary objective is to conduct a national survey of beekeepers, addressing overarching needs across multiple sectors to establish baseline data for development with an updated country report.

Furthermore, Namibia witnessed the success of two major events during 2023, orchestrated by the hardworking women beekeepers and their supporters, firmly placing the country on the global map. The dedicated core group spearheaded innovation and hard work, ensuring the impactful execution of these events.

The first significant event was a Networking Breakfast designed to create awareness and garner local support. Guest speaker, Gwen Lister, delivered an inspiring presentation emphasising the necessity of volunteerism to enhance capacity.

The second major event was a three-day workshop held in October, featuring guest speaker, Dr Hannelie Human, sharing substantial knowledge, with various local speakers delivering presentations alongside practical sessions to enhance local skills.



## WOMEN FOR BEES NAMIBIA



Efficient supplementary  
feeding = profitability



As a truly Namibian manufacturer, Feedmaster has been providing Namibian farmers with high-quality livestock feed with a variety of over 50 different animal feed products since its establishment in 1983.

Feedmaster is invested in extensive research and is intensively involved in organised agricultural activities in Namibia through SME development, training and much more. It is our mission to create optimal and economical feeding strategies for everyone.

Feedmaster educates and strategises with farmers to revisit their management practices to ensure financial sustainability for the near future. The above practices will increase the carrying capacity of farms to increase financial returns and unlock agricultural efficiencies continuously.

Feedmaster provides farmers with a variety of products for cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, horses and even pet foods. These goods are available countrywide making Feedmaster a truly proud Namibian enterprise.

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OF OUR EXPERT TEAM OF  
TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Danie de Lange	081 128 8713	South (Hardap)
Joubert de Wit	081 128 1518	South (Karas)
Richard Peens	081 045 0837	East
Christo van Zyl	081 147 4199	North
Beata Auala	081 396 5383	North
Frank Kanguatjivi	081 127 3029	North and South
Lourens Swart	081 127 8805	Livestock Services
Norbert Neumann	081 232 7027	Central
Markus du Plessis	081 635 4061	SME Development

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