



Annual Report **2020-2021**



**NAMIBIA
AGRICULTURAL
UNION**





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NAU

PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW

The NAU is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year but the planned celebrations of this milestone were halted in their tracks by the Covid pandemic. The impact on the agricultural community, which was initially less affected, intensified this year leaving scars of trauma on our families with much loss of life. We will always cherish and lovingly remember the loved ones we lost in this pandemic.

In this disrupted year, restrictive regulations led to sluggishness, sometimes even stagnation, in the realms of economy, legislation and policy. Liaison within the NAU inevitably exposed the lack of virtual readiness at farmers' association, regional and executive levels and that is precisely why this annual report provides an essential broad-lens summary of the activities of the NAU.

Our government is urgently pursuing the completion and implementation of the Land Bill, based on sound principles. We are of the opinion that thoughtful and thorough consultation and debate are essential for the successful implementation of the bill. Consultation will eliminate uncertainty regarding land ownership, reform, restrictive investment and growth in the agricultural industry and ensure that a meaningful document is tabled in line with our country's constitution.

The NAU continues to support, with certain reservations, the government in its land reform goal (originally set for 2020) of acquiring 10 million ha for title deed owners and 5 million ha for resettlement. Our willingness is confirmed by more than 800 farms currently available for trading. We hope and believe that selected farmers will benefit from this who will deliver responsible, efficient and increased production, and will also contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP), job creation as well as rural economic revival.

Land tax assessments have been outstanding for the past four years. Landowners have about eight years of debilitating drought behind them, followed by a pandemic, so it will be difficult to settle these bills. We will strive to negotiate for possible instalment terms given the emergency marketing, erosion of livestock and current negative cash flow prevailing in agricultural circles.

Improved tax management for farmers is another issue that is receiving attention. Currently, the financial year-end falls on 28 February, which is in the middle of the rainy season and complicates decision-making around finances. Three aspects are being investigated and models are being designed to negotiate with the Minister of Finance.

In 2020, Minister Calle Schlettwein challenged the NAU to increase the GDP of agriculture and grow agriculture as a stabilizing sector in Namibia's economy.

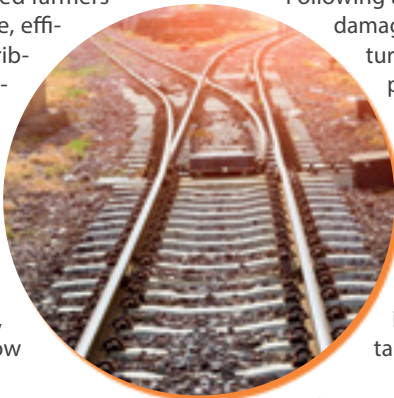
National livestock herds have decreased by 50% compared to 2016 and this offers an opportunity for grazing to recover and the improvement of the resilience of our natural resources. Regenerative agriculture is the latest buzzword and is on the agendas of many locally, in neighbouring countries and worldwide. The reduced carbon footprint along with excellent results and increased production, where applied correctly, is astounding. The increasing participation of producers and the stimulating debates that will take place will definitely have



Mr Pieter Gouws, NAU President

a positive impact on production, carrying capacity and food security.

Human-wildlife conflict due to elephants and predators is a sensitive issue. This is a major challenge for producers because they struggle to absorb large-scale damage and losses and at the same time make an increased contribution to production, rural development and growth. Wildlife and conservation legislation is a source of concern, as is the impact of the government's elephant draft management plan on commercial agriculture. However, we must express appreciation to the Ministry of Environmental Affairs, which, despite international as well as local pressure groups, wishes to address the conflict situation with the sale of identified elephant herds by tender.



Following a good rainy season, wildfires caused tremendous damage, destroyed thousands of hectares of precious pasture, disrupted relationships amongst neighbours and put production conditions under pressure. The causes of fires include negligence in the work situation, non-compliance with charcoal regulations and, in many cases, reckless thoughtlessness. Flammable materials and strong winds also make it difficult to put out fires. We will have to work hard to implement more effective communication systems, better preparation, as well as stronger leadership in areas where there are no farmers' associations to take the lead, in order to eliminate greater frustration.

The search for underground sources of wealth and prosperity is intensifying with the weakening of the world economy, and has shifted the focus to opportunities that lie beneath the surface of our scenic country. Prospectors abound and virtually the entire country is subject to prospecting licenses. Challenges are widely experienced by landowners due to the illegal and unethical behaviour of some institutions. The NAU was forced to seek legal assistance in order to equip members with contracts and negotiation skills.

Much attention has been paid to improving the health status of the national livestock herd, specifically in terms of lung disease and foot-and-mouth disease north of the veterinary line (VCF). Various discussions were held regarding compartmentalization, fencing, zoning and commodity-based trading models, as well as the cost and market access of each. The significant differences that exist in farming practices, animal health management and cultural-economic frameworks north and south of the veterinary cordon fence, together with political aspirations of individuals and their lack of in-depth knowledge of international trade agreements, contribute to an extremely com-

plex and sensitive issue. The NAU will support the Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Schlettwein, and the Meat Board with relevant and necessary data if required during the court case regarding the VCF.

Members of the NAU bravely carry the national importance and benefit of a peaceful and stable future on their shoulders. Their participation includes the financing of and physical participation in actions such as the maintenance of veterinary fences, rural safety and crime prevention, pest control (recent locusts), maintenance of structure and order as well as firefighting far beyond farmers' association boundaries. We do this from sheer necessity, and it has an impact on our primary goal of producing efficiently, providing food security and making economic contributions to growth. It is in the interest of our country, our economy, our progress and the prosperity of all to insist on a reduced civil service with improved, effective service delivery.

Two additional issues on the priority list of the NAU are the essential proposed water legislation and the drought strategy that have both been delayed for a long time. Both have an impact on production potential and opportunities but can also have negative consequences if poorly defined and implemented. With the increasing change in production conditions, we should probably talk about a disaster management strategy rather than a drought strategy.

Progress is being made with the proposed Chamber of Agriculture, which aims to serve as a mouthpiece for everyone involved in agriculture and to achieve unity with a common vision and strategy. The founding meeting was on 1 October 2021.

Farm attacks underscore the need for rural security and cooperation between the community, landowners and NamPol to prevent these events and to arrest culprits. Everyone helps to ensure that our peaceful existence is not threatened. Just as we, as an agricultural community, emerged during the third wave of Covid with beautiful initiatives which spread countrywide and got all communities involved across religious, political and cultural boundaries, so too will we need to unify and stand together to eradicate evil in our country.

My thanks to the persons and institutions with whom liaison took place over the course of the year despite lockdown measures. From the above, it is clear that the NAU takes responsibility for and leadership in many additional spheres, which are not necessarily focused on agriculture. The office staff and management offered much energy and input in exceptional circumstances, fulfilling our responsibility to our members insofar as it was under our control. Special word of thanks to my wife and family as well as my farm workers for their support and allowing me time to serve.

May the upcoming season usher in a blessed agricultural year, may the pandemic soon end and may we as an agricultural community live out our faith. May God give us wisdom and energy to develop our talents and meet the challenges. We know we can, and in prayerful reliance on much-needed guidance from our Leader and Heavenly Father, will continue to build a future together as responsible citizens of our beloved country.

Piet Gouws
President: NAU



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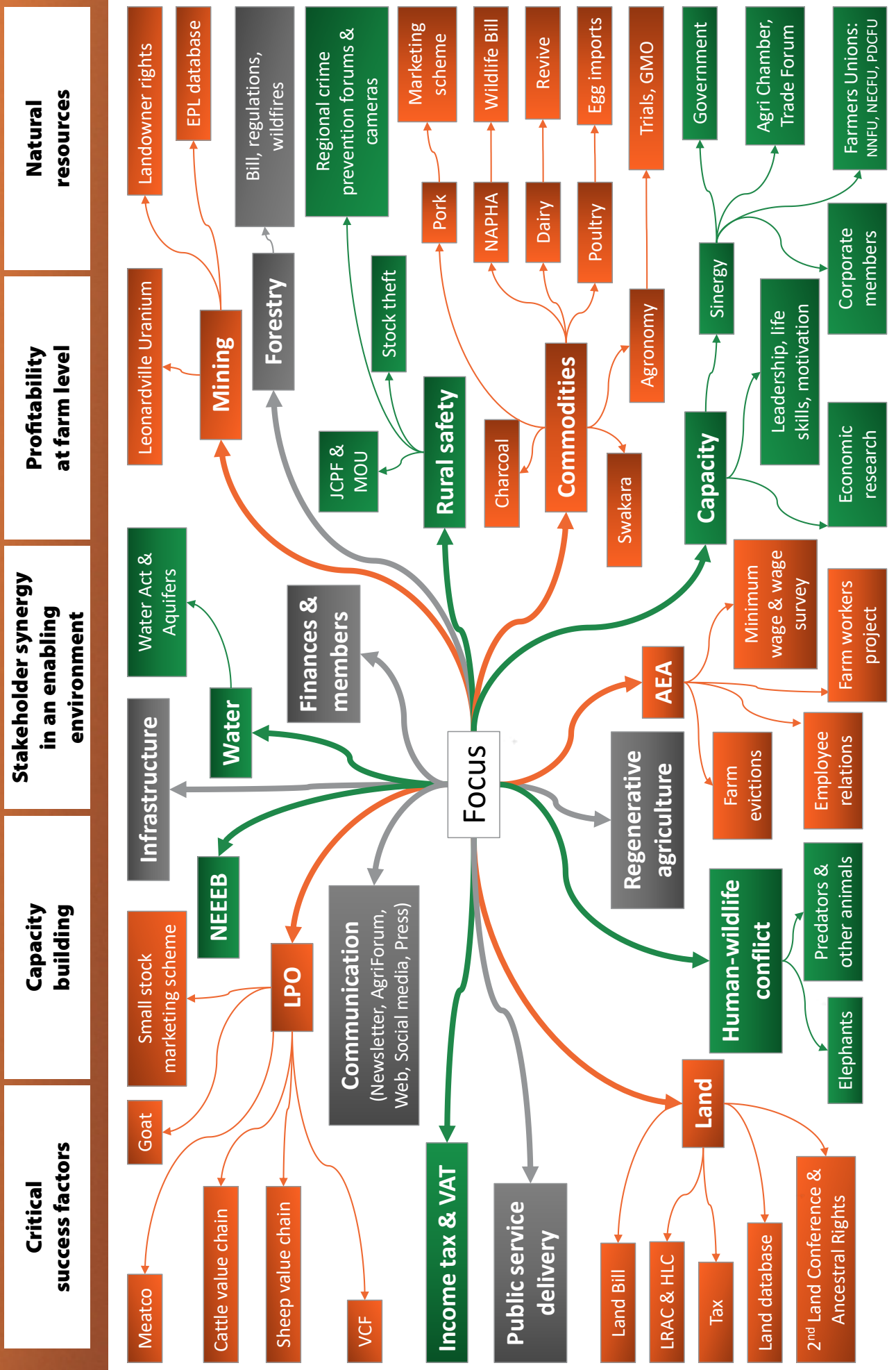
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NAU Vision: To support and promote a conducive environment for sustainable agriculture



OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW OF THE NAMIBIAN COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Since the beginning of drought in 2013, the agricultural debt rose from N\$ 4.5 billion in 2013 (June) to N\$ 7.8 billion in 2020 (June), showing a significant increase in debt level of about 73.7% in nominal terms. Amid the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in 2020, interventions were implemented, among which was the interest rate reduction. Henceforth, a decrease in the interest rate and good producer prices in 2020 left the interest payment as a percentage of gross income at 7.6%, which would have been ideal in a stable production system. The loan repayment ability of farmers was affected, because in 2020 producers began rebuilding their herd after a prolonged drought period that took almost half the number of their livestock. This meant that there were fewer animals available to take to the market to obtain an income. A reduced number of sellable livestock coupled with cyclical debt and long-term debt negatively affects producers' repayment ability.

Covid-19 was declared a State of Emergency, and the agricultural sector was classified an essential service industry, because of the significant role the sector plays in the economy. But that did not prevent the negative impact the pandemic had on the agricultural sector. The international travel ban affected the transportation of pelts by air to auction markets, which led to the cancellation of the April 2020 auction. Furthermore, the ban meant zero tourist arrivals, which also led to the cancellation of excursion bookings, and major financial losses causing some employees to lose their jobs. The slowdown in economic activities affected consumer income, changed their purchasing behaviour and their protein demand, thus negatively affecting the demand for red meat.

Despite the challenges, 2020 commenced on a good note with Namibia receiving good rains in most cattle producing areas, which encouraged producers to start restocking to increase Namibia's national herd.

Table 1: Estimated Namibian agricultural production values

	2018	2019	2020	Increase/Decrease (2019-2020) - %
Cattle	3,634,577,453	3,282,098,920	2,198,713,854	-33.0
Sheep	874,125,973	733,335,432	419,600,598	-42.8
Goats	147,241,813	136,084,633	117,167,621	-13.9
Agronomy	318,816,518	162,663,408	394,846,567	142.7
Dairy	131,017,621	122,219,978	99,066,024	-18.9
Pigs	117,246,384	120,404,381	117,454,766	-2.4
Grapes	673,833,000	810,000,000	1,130,589,460	39.6
Poultry	908,641,667	1,054,426,589	1,060,433,269	0.6
Fresh Produce (Veg and Fruit)	221,566,093	240,274,807	-	-
Charcoal	306,720,000	342,847,080	381,510,000	11.3
Swakara	30,720,027	22,925,616	2,764,923	-87.9
Total	7,364,506,548	7,027,280,844	5,922,147,083	

Source: NAU

Production value of different agricultural enterprises

Table 1 contains production value estimates of various agricultural enterprises defined as the annual output from primary produce marketed in the formal market at actual nominal producer prices. The Swakara sector incurred major losses in terms of production value for three consecutive years, and Covid-19 further added to the sector's woes in 2020. Therefore, at the end of 2020, the sector had 8 354 pelts sold resulting in a production value of about N\$ 2.8 million and a drastic loss of about 87.9% in revenue when compared to 2019.

The cattle and sheep production value dropped by 33.0% and 42.8% respectively, whereas the goat production value for 2020 reduced by 13.9%. Raw milk production decreased to 17.2 million litres in 2020 from 21.8 million litres in 2019, demonstrating a 21.1% decline. This reduction emanated mainly from the 2019 drought that caused low water levels in dams until March 2020, a significant decline in fodder production at the Hardap dam where close to 80% of the milk is produced, and producers ceasing production, which also decreased the supply of raw milk.

A total of about 28 887 tons of white maize and 4 466 tons of wheat were marketed during the 2019/2020 marketing season. However, the tons of white maize and wheat improved to 66 641 and 11 498 tons, respectively. The growth in the tons produced increased the production value of white maize and wheat significantly by 123.3% and 174.3%, respectively, thus, explaining the impressive agronomy production value of 142.7%. The grape sector exported an estimated 8.7 million cartons of grapes (weighing 4.5 kg) in 2020, as opposed to 6.1 million cartons (weight at 4.5 kg) in 2019, hence recording a production value of about N\$ 1.1 billion in 2020 and demonstrating a 39.6% increase in value. Moreover, the charcoal sector's production value increased by 11.3%.

Market Statistics

2019 was an extreme year as producers sold many livestock to survive the drought period. Hence, the analysis compared a 3-year (2017-2019) average to 2020. The marketing of cattle, sheep and goats dropped significantly by 49%, 52.6% and 41.1%, respectively. A low throughput to sheep export abattoirs became unsustainable, leading to the closure of one of the last two existing export abattoirs. Cattle auctioned in 2020 were 26.4% less than the 3-year (2017-2019) average (i.e., 324 577 cattle between 2017-2019, and 238 976 cattle in 2020).



... OVERVIEW

Export abattoirs slaughtered about 97 283 heads of cattle on average between 2017-2019, and 51 992 cattle in 2020, showing a massive decrease of about 46.6% (see Figure 1). B&C class abattoirs procured an estimated cattle quantity of around 79 007 on average (2017-2019 - based on the hide & skins figure) and 37 222 heads of cattle in 2020. The exportation of live cattle declined by about 48.2%, meaning on average 306 340 heads of cattle were exported between 2017-2019 (see Figure 1), and 158 679 cattle were exported in 2020, of which above 90% are weaners. Weaners sold on auctions were on average about 230 117 between 2017-2019, and 162 852 weaners in 2020, signifying a 29.2% decrease in weaners procured (see Figure 2). 81 808 weaned heifers were auctioned between 2017-2019, and 57 137 in 2020 (based on LABTA figures), while 66.3% fewer heifers were exported in 2020 as opposed to the 2017-2019 average, (36 838 heifers in 2017-2019 and 12 420 heifers in 2020). In view of the Meat Board and LABTA data, a decline in the exportation of heifers was expected due to a high demand of breeding material within the domestic market.

Sheep export abattoirs secured approximately 194 510 units of sheep between 2017-2019, and 25 341 sheep in 2020, displaying a major decrease of about 86.8%. The exportation of live sheep did not perform well either as exports declined by 47.7% (i.e., 435 441 on average (2017-2019) and 227 583 live sheep in 2020) (see Figure 3). B&C class abattoirs procured an estimated quantity of around 148 681 sheep between 2017-2019 and 115 548 heads of sheep in 2020. Local abattoirs recorded a goat throughput of 5 018 on average between 2017-2019 and 6 999 in 2020, indicating a growth of about 39.5%. The live exportation of goats decreased by 43.8%, as the average quantity recorded between 2017-2019 was 144 657, and that recorded in 2020 was 81 301 goats. The halt of social gatherings due to COVID-19 negatively affected the import of live goats from Namibia to South Africa.

Namibian livestock producers continue to reinvest in the sector for 2021

Namibian livestock producers continue to reinvest in the sector to rebuild their stock and grow the national herd. As such, marketing remained low for the first half of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. Cattle, sheep, and pigs marketing reduced by 25.2%, 4.7% and 1.3%, respectively. Goats showed a marked increase of 63.8%. On auction, fewer cattle were auctioned in the first half of 2021 (91 302 cattle) than during the same period in 2020 (130 108 cattle), showing a 29.8% decrease.

75 301 live cattle were exported in 2020 (Jan-Jun) and 57 683 in 2021 (Jan-Jun), indicating a drop of about 23.4% of which above 90% were

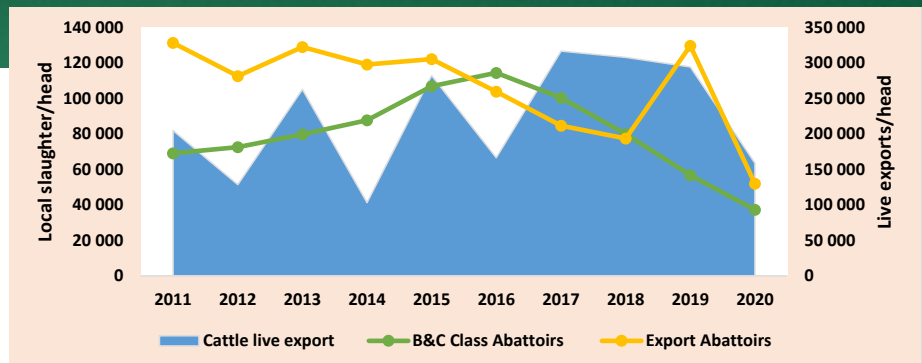


Figure 1: Annual cattle marketing volumes
Source: Meat Board, compiled by NAU

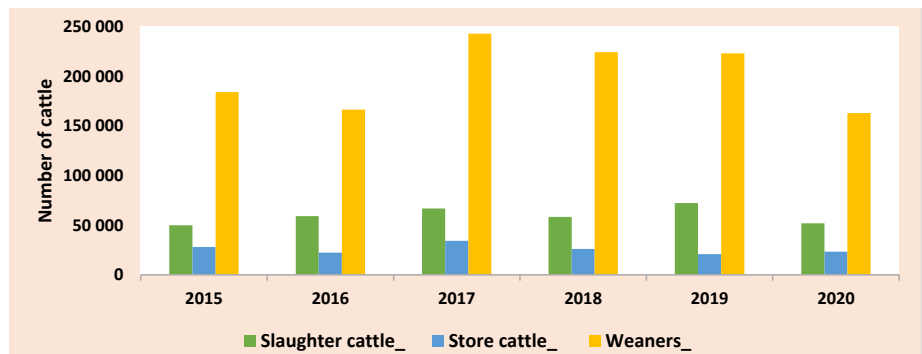


Figure 2: Annual cattle marketing on auctions
Source: LABTA, compiled by NAU

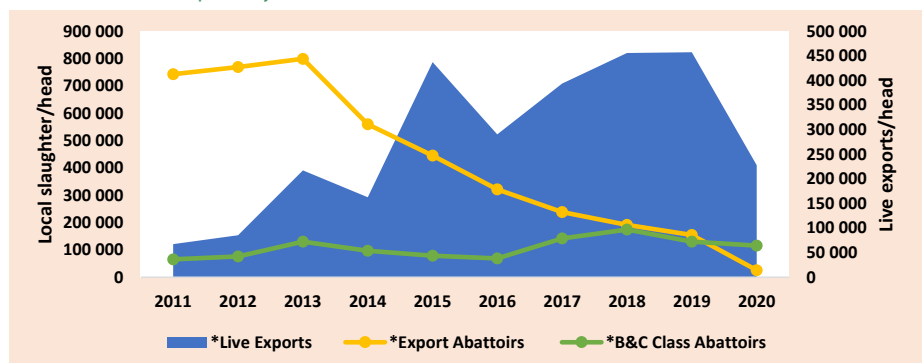


Figure 3: Annual sheep marketing volumes
Source: Meat Board, compiled by NAU

weaners. On auctions, 87 245 were sold in 2020 (Jan-Jun) and 59 635 weaners in 2021 (Jan-Jun), meaning 31.7% fewer weaners were auctioned in 2021. The number of heifers exported as a percentage of those sold on auctions was estimated to be 19.5% in 2020 (Jan-Jun) and 15.6% in 2021 (Jan-Jun), thus indicating more heifers were absorbed by the domestic market.

Export abattoirs received a throughput of 14 436 head of cattle in the first 6 months of 2021, meaning slaughter at export abattoirs contracted by 31.0% on average. The only remaining sheep export abattoir secured approximately 8 193 animals in the first half of 2021. Between the first half of 2020 and that of 2021, sheep exports grew by 19.9%, that is, 142 067 live sheep were exported in 2020 and 170 375 in 2021.

Inflation of agricultural expenses vs prices

The NAU production cost index stood at 110.1

basis points in the 4th quarter (Q4) of 2019, and 113.4 basis points in Q4-2020 (see Figure 4), therefore, demonstrating an annual agricultural inflation rate growth of about 3.1% year-on-year (Y-o-Y). This growth was driven by costs associated to capital expenditure (17.4% Y-o-Y), vehicle repairs (12.9% Y-o-Y), maintenance and fixed improvements (10.0% Y-o-Y), and medicinal costs (7.0% Y-o-Y). Moreover, the depreciation of the Namibian dollar against foreign currencies also contributed to an increase in prices of imported products in 2020.

Livestock producer prices performed well in 2020 as opposed to the 2019 producer prices, because of a high livestock demand in 2020. Again, 2019 was an unusual year due to a high destocking rate, therefore, the assessment compared the base year (2017=100) to 2020. The total weighted cattle price rose by 14.0% from Q4-2017 to Q4-2020, following good weaner prices. The price of weaners improved by 16.3%, while slaughter price

increased by 9.7%. Sheep producer prices increased by 21.0% during the same time frame (Q4-2017 to Q4-2020) (see Figure 4).

NAU agricultural production cost inflation and income view for 2021

The agri-inflation increased by a significant amount of 7.0% in the first half of 2021, as opposed to the same period in 2020 (see Figure 4). This emanated from price increases in fuel (7.7%), maintenance and fixed improvements (12.9%), capital expenditure (17.4%) and medicinal costs (6.6%).

When comparing 2020 (Jan-Jun) prices to 2021 (Jan-Jun) prices, sheep prices improved by 26.0%, and cattle prices grew by more than 17.6% following a 21.8% and 11.4% improvement in the price of weaners and oxen. The production and sale of weaners remained more profitable than growing out weaners to oxen, because on average the weaner price as percentage of slaughter price stood at 76% in 2021 (Jan-Jun).

Profitability of different production systems

Improved weaner prices in 2020 and 2021, left the average weaner price as a percentage of slaughter price above the long-term average of 64%, thus making weaner production profitable. However, slaughter cattle prices recovered in 2021, leading to an improvement in the income for cow-ox producers (see Figure 5). For oxen producers buying weaners to do backgrounding, their profitability remains negative because of a high price at which weaners are purchased. Sheep producers continue to experience positive profitability due to good producer prices in an unregulated market.

Note: The different production systems analysis used average annual prices for the specific years and estimates for 2021, as well as farm-level assumptions. Additionally, impact of drought and resulting herd liquidation were not part of the assumptions. The net surplus per annum hereunder was calculated for an average cattle farm of 7 500 hectare (ha) and a sheep farm of 11 000 ha in a stable production system.

Global inflation on food commodities

The domestic market received a lot of pressure from the global market (see Figure 6 and 7), especially because between 2020 (Jan-Jun) to 2021 (Jan-Jun) food inflation rose by more than 26.1%, due to significant increases in the oil and cereal prices, as well as meat prices. Considering the same timeframe (see Figure 6), oil prices grew on average by 74.8%, due to a rise in value of palm, soy, and rapeseed oils; cereal prices escalated by more than 28.8%, as a result of significant increases in the price of maize and wheat; and meat prices steadily increased on average by 4.3% because of a tight global supply across all meat types and a strong import demand from East Asian countries, mainly China (FAO, 2021).

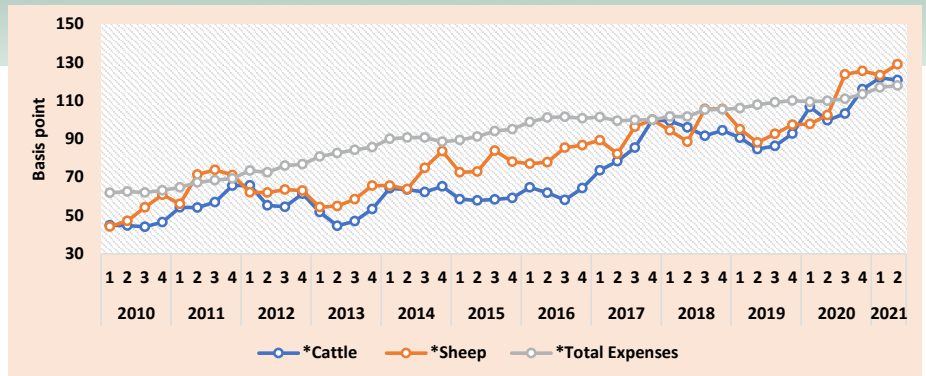


Figure 4: Cattle/sheep income and on-farm expenses
Source: NAU

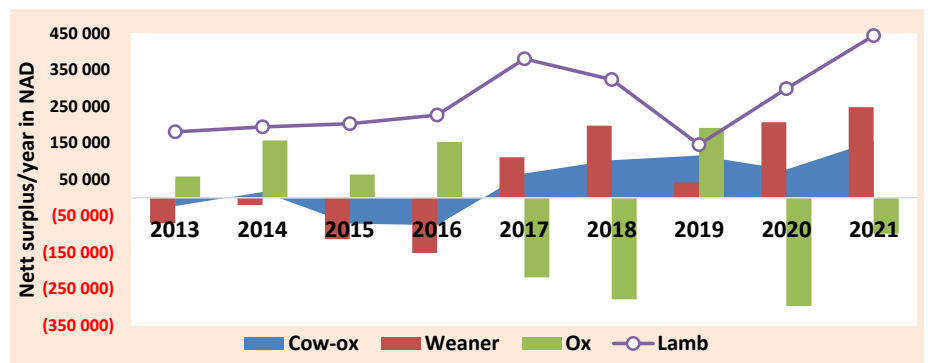


Figure 5: Profitability of different production system – 7 500 Ha/11 000 Ha
Source: NAU

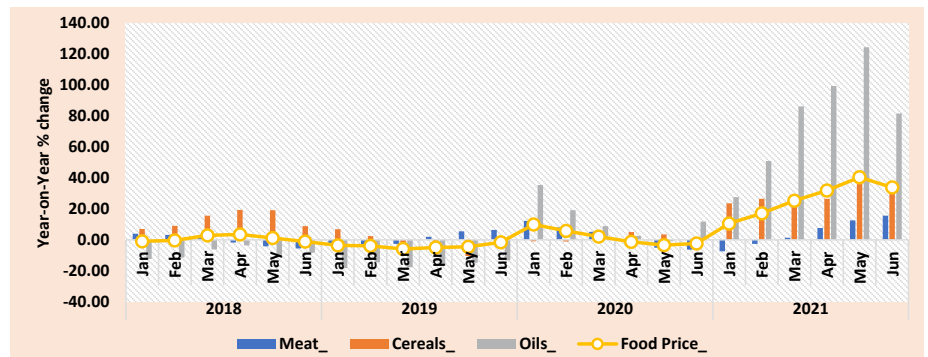


Figure 6: FAO food inflation
Source: FAO, compiled by NAU

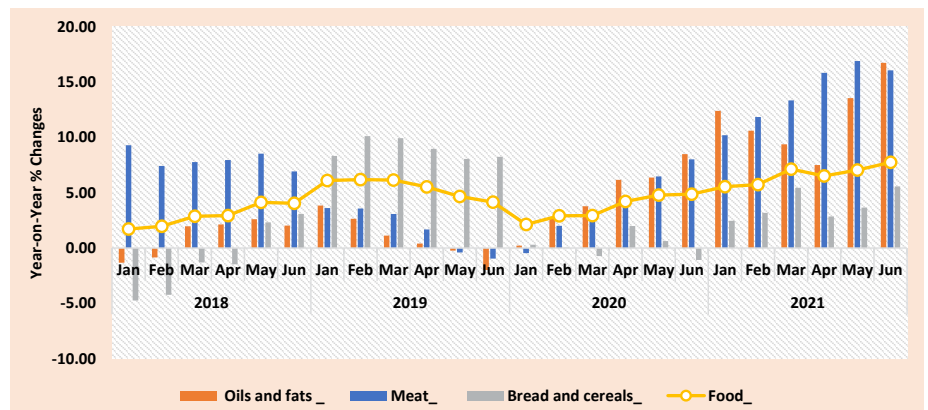


Figure 7: Namibia food inflation
Source: NSA, compiled by NAU

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NAU

STRUCTURE

Affiliations

On 30 June 2021, 66 farmers' associations were affiliated to the NAU.

Management

The Executive Council

Mr. P Gouws - President
 Mr. T Pretorius - Livestock Producers' Organisation
 Mr. G Eggert - Agronomy Producers' Association
 Mr. K Adriaanse - Dairy Producers' Association
 Mr. H Förtsch - Agricultural Employers' Association
 Mr. R Werner - Poultry Producers' Association
 Miss. J Meyer - Swakara Forum
 Mrs. T Dahl - NAPHA
 Mr. E Erni - Southwest Region
 Mr. K van der Merwe - Karasburg Region
 Mr. J van Rooyen - Keetmanshoop Region
 Mr. P J van Wyk - Mariental Region
 Mr. K von Kühne - Gobabis Region
 Mr. E Hoff - Windhoek Region
 Mr. M Hilbert - Okahandja Region
 Mr. G Kahl - Otjiwarongo Region
 Mr. A van Niekerk - Outjo region
 Mr. P Stoman - Grootfontein/Tsumeb/Otavi Region

The Management Committee

The Management Committee mainly deals with personnel matters and other matters as referred by the UR. The Management Committee consists of:



Mr PS Gouws (President)



Mr AM Pretorius



Mr HHT Förtsch



Mr M Hilbert

Regional Meetings 2020

Due to the limitations of the Covid pandemic, the NAU was unable to host the annual congress and hence regional meetings were held in the South, Central and North. The following discussion also took place:

Proposals to realise the vision of growth and food self-sufficiency

The NAU President, Mr. Piet Gouws, outlined the background and way of thinking of the new Minister of Agriculture and why he emphasises food self-sufficiency. The Minister of Agriculture is well informed and he knows what is happening in the industry. During a meeting with the NAU, the minister expressed his concern about underutilised land. He indicated that he was aware of the lack of guidance to producers at production level and that human-animal conflict placed a limit on the potential of the livestock industry. Despite this, the minister feels strongly about the potential of

the agriculture sector. He further expressed concern about Namibia's dependence on South Africa.

Primary agriculture must grow. If this does not happen, there will be no secondary growth in the industry. In the light of the Covid-19 events, more eyes are on agriculture and this opportunity must be seized. The minister challenged the NAU to double the GDP via agriculture by 2030. Namibia must become food self-sufficient, job creation must take place, and Namibians' quality of life must improve.

The NAU supports the minister's vision and has also identified key points for achieving growth in the agricultural sector in real terms:

- Profitability at farm level
- Effective market mechanisms
- Investor confidence
- Creating collateral for communal land
- Effective use of scarce natural resources

MATTERS MANAGED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL /

Human-animal conflict

Together with NECFU and the NNFU, the NAU submitted a report on producers' concerns to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism relating to elephant incidents. An Elephant Management Plan was presented by the Ministry, after which the original plan was refined and adapted by the three representative organisations. Proposals were put forward, emphasising that elephant and livestock producers are not compatible in the same areas. A social media (WhatsApp) group was set up among producers to report damage caused by elephants.

The NAU further met with Minister Shifeta to discuss the aggravating circumstances. The Elephant Conservation and Management Plan issued by MEFT does indicate the incompatibility of producers and elephants, yet does not fundamentally comment on possible solutions to the producers' problems.

Groundwater management

Namibia has limited underground water resources and the finalisation of regulations to implement the new Water Act has been awaited for some time. The NAU had several meetings with the Directorate of Water Affairs to expedite the establishment of a water committee in the Stampriet area, and thus to improve the control and management of this important aquifer.

Synergy between agricultural unions

The co-operation between the three diverse agricultural unions, as well as between the various role players in the agricultural sector, is of utmost importance to grow the Namibian agricultural sector together with the government. The position of the NAU is to seek joint solutions in matters of common interest. Examples of this are the compilation of a joint proposal from all three agricultural unions for the management of the elephant problem, as well as the ongoing collaboration to bring attention to and enhance the implementation of regenerative agriculture in practice.

Much time has also been invested by the NAU to promote the establishment of a Chamber of Agriculture for Namibia. GIS should also be thanked for its willingness to support this process with the appointment of an independent consultant. The founding meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture took place on 1 October 2021.

Land reform

Valuation role

At the close of this Annual Report, land taxes for 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 were still outstanding. The NAU had already applied in



2019 to the Minister of Land Reform for the exemption from payment of land tax for 2018/19 due to the catastrophic drought. No feedback has been received from the Ministry yet. Furthermore, the court ruled that the process concerning the compiling of the 2012-2017 valuation roll had been invalid. Thus, the outstanding land tax assessments will be based on the 2007-2012 valuation roll.

The next step will then be for the Ministry of Land Reform to send out outstanding land tax assessments to all landowners. A period of \pm 3 months will be granted for the payment of outstanding land tax and to apply for a land tax clearance certificate. After this, the process will then begin for the advertising of the 2017-2022 valuation roll on which future land tax will be calculated.

Second National Land Conference

The decisions of the 2018 National Land Conference are at the Prime Minister's office and they are responsible for their implementation. The NAU is represented on the joint high-level committee. This committee provides feedback on the progress of decisions, and has stated, amongst others, that two decisions

taken at the conference are unconstitutional: the abolition of the principle of willing buyer-willing seller, and that an individual may own only one farm. A further decision taken by the conference that land prices should be regulated is a major concern for the NAU, as it negatively affects investments in land, which are necessary to increase production (for example, bush thinning).

Improving the quality of life of farm workers

This project was launched following President Geingob's request during the Second National Land Conference in 2018 to landowners to improve the socio-economic conditions of farm workers in order to overcome poverty. In a survey conducted among members, some undertook to make certain improvements in relation to workers' homes and ablution facilities over a period of three years. There were also businesses to assist workers with retirement planning and retirement housing.

Meanwhile, minimum standards for workers' housing have also been set and made available to members. A code of conduct for Agricultural Employers has also been drawn up for use by members. The project is constantly being monitored and regular feedback is provided to the Ministry of Land Reform to include in their reporting on the implementation of the resolutions of the Second National Land Conference.

Commission of Inquiry into Ancestral Land Claims

A report of the Commission of Inquiry into Ancestral Land Claims, on which the NAU served, was compiled and handed over to President Geingob, after which he released it to stakeholders at the beginning of 2021. (Stakeholders can contact the NAU for a copy.)

Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF)

The ATF represents various role players in the Namibian agricultural sector, including producers, processors throughout the agricultural value chain, marketing boards and agricultural unions. Partners include the line ministries, manufacturers, research institutes and regional organisations. The NAU is a member of the ATF.

The ATF was set up in 1999 by interested role players in the private agricultural sector who wanted to address certain trade issues. Later, the ATF became the mouthpiece for trade-related matters for the entire value chain of agricultural products. This led to the registration of the ATF as a non-profit company in 2003. The

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ATF is funded by membership fees and annual contributions.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry involves the ATF in trade agreement meetings.

During the year under review, the ATF's participation in trade negotiations involving Namibia continued. The objectives and position of the Trade Forum during all the negotiations are based on information and views received from the various agricultural industries and businesses and these are constantly tested and adjusted as the negotiations progress.

New trade agreements that were on the negotiating table during the period include the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (Af-CFTA) and the COMESA-SADC-EAC Trilateral Free Trade Agreement. Both agreements' negotiations have not yet been concluded and will continue. The ATF also participates on a regular basis in implementation meetings of a whole range of existing trade agreements. Committees have been set up at National and Regional level, with the ATF serving as the sole private sector representative on the implementation committees. The agreements affected include the South African Customs Union (SACU), Southern African Development Community (SADC) Economic Partnership Agreements with both the European Union and Britain, as well as the Free Trade Agreement with the EFTA countries (Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Iceland). The latter is currently being renewed and the ATF has submitted views on behalf of the meat industry for better market access and greater business security in the EFTA countries (including larger quotas and lower tariffs). It is hoped that the revision of the EFTA Agreement will bear fruit and that Namibia will be in a better position regarding market access and future security of existing temporary quotas in these lucrative markets.

At the local level, the ATF is involved in all the developments around policy changes and the drafting of new legislation or changes to existing legislation. The industries that are mainly affected by this are the chicken and egg industry, the dairy industry, the grain industry and the fruit/vegetable industries. Many of these net import industries are under great pressure for survival and therefore the ATF focuses specifically on these industries.

The ATF also holds regular meetings with ministers and senior officials in both the agriculture and trade ministries to discuss current affairs of the day and operational issues. A very good

working relationship is maintained, based on openness, dedication, transparency, and a technical/strategic work program. With the help of GIS, the ATF appointed an experienced technical adviser and thus the ability of the ATF to handle the interests of its members was in the process also improved.

Amendment to forestry law and regulations

The amendment of the forestry law and regulations on which the NAU also provided input has reached the final consultation phase. In April 2021, a workshop was attended during which the proposed draft law and regulations were discussed. Most of the input from the NAU was included in the proposed amendments. It includes detailed instructions for the charcoal industry aimed at preventing veld fires. Violators of these regulations who cause veld fires and damage will be held liable to pay damages to those who suffered damage.

The proposed law now also provides for the problem of bush encroachment and thinning thereof, something that is missing in the current law. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required for approval of aerial application of chemicals. Furthermore, all the maximum amounts of fines that can be imposed for conviction of violators of the law and regulations have been significantly increased to serve as a deterrent. The consultants handed over this proposed finalised draft law and regulations to the Directorate of Forestry for consideration and promulgation.

During June 2021, the Namibia Charcoal Association held a meeting at Otjiwa, near Otjiwarongo, which was attended by 30 participants and also enjoyed virtual attendance. A new board has been elected and the new chairman is Mr. Koos Fourie from Otjiwarongo. The most important issue discussed was the prevention of veld fires. It was also noted that charcoal was exported to the USA with high potential for larger exports.

Implementing Rural Safety Strategy

On 5 March 2020, NamPol signed an agreement with NECFU and the NAU on the implementation of the rural safety plan at regional level. The Chief of the Namibian Police, Lt-Gen. Ndeitunga, stressed that agriculture is one of the pillars of the Namibian economy and it is important that the Police protect farmers and their property.

This plan involves the support of the Namibian Police through local crime prevention forums.

Regional Commanders of the Police have been tasked with handling this implementation on behalf of NamPol. The President of the NAU, Mr. Piet Gouws, mentioned during the signing that theft on farms not only harms the farmers, but also destroys jobs and the economy. This signing is seen as a major milestone in the fight against crime in rural areas.

Despite a myriad of actions implemented, crime in rural areas has increased even further over the past year. Experience has shown that crime is brought under control if well-organised crime-fighting forums operate at a local level, cooperating well with the Namibian Police. Management has therefore decided to contract a person who can drive this action full time. Several interviews were conducted and Mr. Eben Benade was elected. The first step was to get the Khomas region's rural security plan in place with a deadline of 1 April 2021, with horizontal liaison between all the regional crime forums and institutions and vertical liaison between the coordinators at national level. The feedback from the Windhoek region was very positive. Liaison between different crime forums and with NAMPOL has much improved.

In April 2021, a visit was also made to the newly appointed Major General Joseph Shikongo of the Namibian Police. Major General Shikongo undertook to reactivate the plan, as well as to inform their 14 regions about it and ensure their cooperation. Furthermore, he undertook to also urgently address the delay in the applications and training of reservists. Another very positive development is that Major General Shikongo announced that he would personally make regional visits to crime forums and farmers' associations. Producers have so far experienced very good support in the fight against crime under his leadership and look forward to good cooperation with and continued support from NAMPOL, in order to realise the common goal of eradicating crime.

Covid-19

On 17 November 2019, the first case of a Coronavirus infection was diagnosed in China. This virus spread rapidly worldwide and from February 2020 the world was brought to a standstill by governments announcing lockdowns. Businesses had to close and people had to stay in their homes.

The tourism and hunting industry was hit the hardest. However, the government announced that essential and critical services may continue and the NAU consistently provided assistance in resolving logistical challenges at roadblocks



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... EXECUTIVE COUNCIL / MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

and by clearing ambiguities with the implementation of regulations with the authorities.

Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic dragged on and at the beginning of 2021, a second wave once again gripped the country. During June 2021, the country was hit by a third wave, this time much worse than the first two outbreaks and many deaths were recorded. Many NAU members were also hit by this third wave and numerous members died. The office of the NAU coped with a minimum of staff for a while as several staff members were affected by the virus.

Several farmers' associations across the country assisted the Ministry of Health; for example, oxygen equipment was donated, temporary clinics were set up, food was distributed, financial assistance was provided, and much more. The NAU would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to all NAU members who were helpful in this regard.

This third wave of Covid also meant that the NAU could not hold a congress and that, in its stead, regional meetings had to be arranged again in 2021.

Prospecting on farms

Increasing prospecting is taking place on agricultural land by various companies and various exploration and prospecting licenses (EPLs)

have been issued on a large part of the total Namibian land area. These companies use environmental consultants to apply for environmental clearance certificates in their behalf. It seems that rules and regulations are not always adhered to. This has led to great uncertainty among producers and has forced certain landowners to contact the NAU to find out what their rights are and what the responsibilities of these companies are.

Several incidents took place in the Leonardville, Witvlei and Dordabis areas. However, the matter is becoming more serious because the larger companies are now insisting that they are acting within their rights and do not want to enter into contracts with landowners. According to the Minerals Act (Prospecting and Mining) 33 of 1992 ('Minerals Act'), section 52 (1) (a) (i) no prospecting may take place without a written agreement between the owner and the licensee, which contains terms and conditions between the parties.

The NAU took up the matter urgently with legal representatives and several discussions took place with the companies concerned, after which it was agreed that individual agreements be drawn up between landowners and the company. Further EPLs are currently being implemented across Namibia and the NAU office spends much time assisting NAU members with advice and gathering further information from role players.

Bodies representing the NAU and industry associations

1. Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF)
2. Namibia Agronomy Board
3. Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution
4. Forestry Council
5. High Level Committee for the implementation of Land Conference Resolutions
6. Kunene/Karas/Erongo Regional Resettlement Committees
7. Land Reform Advisory Commission (LRAC)
8. Lands Tribunal
9. Namibia Agricultural Labour Forum (NALF)
10. Namibia Employers' Federation (NEF)
11. Namibia Qualification Authority (NQA)
12. Namibia Rangeland Forum
13. Namibia Training Authority (NTA)
14. Namibia Water Resources Management Review (NWRM)
15. National Planning Commission (NPC)
16. National State of Environment Report Task Force
17. NUST Council
18. Program Advisory Committee on Child Labour (PACC)
19. Social Security Commission (SSC)
20. Swakara Council
21. Upper Swakop Basin Management Committee
22. Meat Board
23. Water Council



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:



Contact the NAU: +264 (0)61 237 838 • nau@nau.com.na • Agrihouse, cnr John Meinert & Robert Mugabe Ave, Windhoek



AGRIMARK



Agrimark is for people who share a love of the land, people who plant and dig, dream and do. On the farm, in the home and in the outdoors, we're for the enthusiasts and the experts, for the people who love rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty.

Whether you're a farmer, a farmer-in-training or a farmer at heart, from the country or from the city, Agrimark is for you, your friends and your family (even your fur family).

It's a place where a good, honest day's work is respected, where wholesome down-to-earth values are honoured and upheld, and where people like us Plant and Harvest, Dream and Do, Care and Grow.

Ondangwa

Tsumeb

Grootfontein

Outjo

Otjiwarongo

Omaruru

Hochfeld

Omitara

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Windhoek

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Mariental (063) 241 309 • Omaruru (064) 571 418 • Ondangwa (065) 240 483 • Otjiwarongo (067) 300 300
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COMMUNICATION

IMPROVING THE NAU COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Liaison

Liaison with members and all role players remains one of the NAU's highest priorities. This link is not only to provide information, but also to state the NAU's position on various forums and to represent producers' interests. Liaison takes place through print and electronic media, newsletters, radio programs, social media platforms, cell phone groups, visits to and attendance at workshops and other events, interaction on Skype, Zoom and Team Viewer facilities.

AgriForum

AgriForum, the monthly magazine of the NAU, is published by AgriPublishers under the editorship of Mrs. Marietjie van Staden. AgriForum remains very popular and covers a wide range of agricultural themes. All NAU members receive an AgriForum as part of their benefits in participating in organised agriculture. In the past, AgriForum was sent by post to every member, but after many complaints that the magazine was not received on time or at all and due to the high cost, it is now available to members at Agra and KaapAgri branches.

Radio and television programs

Landboumikrofoon on Hartklop FM at the NBC is presented every Saturday at 06:00 by Mrs. Hermien Coetzee, with a rebroadcast on Sunday afternoon at 13:15. This program also remains very popular.

Channel 7 has two programs weekly with sponsorships from First National Bank. One broadcast is on Wednesday afternoon at 14:10 and the other one on Saturdays at 06:00 with a rebroadcast on Wednesdays at 20:00.

Electronic newsletter

The weekly e-mail news continues to be very popular and provides NAU members with important information. The newsletter is also sent to all media and interest groups, who in turn regularly use it as a news source for newspaper articles.

Using the MailChimp system, we can track which articles are of interest to members. This system will be closely monitored to ensure that we provide our members with new information as soon as possible.

NAU website

A new NAU website (www.nau.com.na) is in its final stages of redesign and will be released soon. The new platform ensures visitors more online interaction and interviews can be listened to, *AgriForums* are available electronically and previous newsletters can be called up. Further features are intended to include registrations for congress and other meetings.

NAU email addresses

The domain of the NAU has changed from *agrinambia.com* to *nau.com.na*. The change was made to fit in with the NAU's modern image and to simplify names and keep them short. The *agrinambia.com* domain will be phased out over a period of 24 months.

Liaison with the government and organisations

The president of the NAU, the executive director and also other councillors liaised with the government, semi-state institutions, non-governmental and international organisations on several occasions during the year under review. This liaison includes:

- His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob
- Economic advisors of President Geingob
- The Ministry of Finance
- The Ministry of Health
- The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
- The Ministry of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Tourism
- The Ministry of Public Enterprises
- The Inspector General of the Namibian Police
- The Ombudsman
- The European Union
- AgriBank
- Statistics Agency
- Commissioner of Internal Revenue
- GIS (German Society for International Cooperation)
- The various regional agricultural unions and farmers' associations

Liaison by the Secretariat

Several farmers' associations were visited by the Secretariat at their invitation, but in

order to save costs the visits are coordinated with those of regional representatives and the president. Several ministries were visited and workshops and meetings attended.

Liaison by regional representatives

Regional representatives liaised continuously with farmers' associations, regional agricultural unions and regional councils as part of their duties.

Non-governmental organisations, semi-governmental organisations and other organisations

Several meetings and workshops were attended on the following topics, among others:

- Land reform
- National Grazing Policy and Strategy
- Five-year plan of the Road Authority Fund
- International trade
- Climate change
- Rural development
- Power supply
- Water Act
- Crime

Regional Liaison

SACAU (Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions): The Executive Council of the NAU decided to renew its membership of SACAU. SACAU's Annual General Meeting to be held in South Africa in May 2020 was postponed until further notice due to the Coronavirus. A virtual meeting did take place.

AgriSA: No personal contact was made with AgriSA during the reporting period.

Planning and participation

Due to the Covid Pandemic, no Planning Session for the EC members took place in 2020. Nevertheless, ongoing dialogue ensured that the mission and goals of the NAU were kept in mind. It was a demanding period like probably never experienced before in the existence of the NAU. With gratitude for everyone's input, it can be reported that the NAU is looking forward to the next 75 years with enthusiasm and zeal.



DAS GROUP



DAS Commodities (Pty) Ltd – South Africa & Australia

DAS Commodities is focussed on supplying the animal feed and fertiliser industries with a diversified range of quality products and services, aiming to play a definitive value-added role in any transaction both in local and international markets. This includes the sourcing and marketing of products together with providing logistical services. Since DAS Commodities originated from the high demands of production, our team knows exactly how to handle production lines and similar suppliers to provide our customers the right quantity of the highest quality product, every time. DAS Commodities markets a diversified range of selected products and services to a diversified range of customers, within the feed and allied industries.

The head offices of the two affiliates are in Stellenbosch, South Africa and McLaren Vale, South Australia. DAS Commodities has an international perspective in both commodity sourcing and trading, and boasts with strong associations in Europe, China, and South America.



Exigrade Feeds (Pty) Ltd

Exigrade Feeds has produced and distributed a high-quality fishmeal for over fifteen years successfully without fail. Since 2005 Exigrade diversified into three main areas of business namely:

- Production of High-Quality Steam Dried Fishmeal
- Procurement and trade of raw materials for Animal Feed, Fertiliser and Mining Industries in Southern Africa
- Procurement of used oil, filtering the oil, and re-using the clean LFO

Exigrade Feeds produces High Quality and Low Temperature Meals and is focused primarily on terrestrial (pig and dairy cattle) and aquaculture. Our fishmeal is produced in land-side factories and carefully processed with steam drying processes to ensure the retention of maximum nutrient values for the end user.

Exigrade Feeds is the biggest exporter of premium quality fishmeal in Namibia, with its customer base being mainly Asian countries. Our high-quality product is internationally recognised and accredited with several international licencing bodies.

The company operates from two production points in Namibia, namely, Lüderitz and Walvis Bay. The trading infrastructure and administrative base is situated in Walvis Bay and operates throughout Southern Africa. The company has an international perspective with strong associations in Europe, China, and South America.

DAS Group Introduction:

The DAS Group originated out of the synergy of several projects concerned with the production and trading of raw materials in the animal feed and fertiliser sectors. The power of these companies lies within the synergy between them, as they are primarily monitored from one administrative basis in Stellenbosch, South Africa. With a combined pool of expertise these affiliated companies serve with one ethos: **EXCELLENCE STARTS HERE**. Additional benefits include knowledge of cross-disciplinary sectors, which enables the DAS Group to share expertise and leverage of high-quality products not only for feed and fertiliser markets, but to expand to industrial, mining, and pharmaceutical sectors with ease.

For further reading please see below for an in-depth look at each company.



Mimosa Farming (Pty) Ltd

Mimosa Farming Pty Ltd was established in 1991 and is a Namibian company with its administrative offices based in Namibia.

The main concerns of Mimosa Farming are:

- Mimosa Farming – Game Farming
- LW Wagyu – Wagyu Cattle Farming
- Desert Wagyu – Wagyu Marketing
- Mimosa Hunting Safaris – Professional Hunting
- Llamrai Arabian Stud – Arabian Horse Breeding

The farming activities take place on the Farm Lauwater Wes, a registered game farm.

Game Farming and Professional Hunting:

Mimosa Farming Hunting Safaris operates on the Farm Lauwater Wes that stretches over 7 403 hectares of land. We are registered at the Namibian Tourism Board since 2016.

There is an extensive range of game species on the farm that include Waterbuck, Sable antelope, Roan antelope, Lechwe, Giraffes and a rich variety of birdlife.



Llamrai Arabian Horse Stud

Llamrai Arabian Stud was started by **Sarel du Toit** and **Janke Kleefstra** in June 2010 as a joint venture in Namibia. The stud was established to fulfil a life-long dream, passion, and a vision to ensure quality horses for the purpose of showing and endurance abilities. The main goal is to breed beautiful endurance horses that will have stamina and good looks. The horses have all been chosen for their beautiful and gentle temperaments.



LW Wagyu:

Intro to Wagyu Beef:

Wagyu cattle were originally Japanese draft animals and used in agriculture, selected specifically for their high endurance and energy levels. These traits are a result of the intramuscular fat (IMF) percentage found in Wagyu cattle. The high IMF is what makes Wagyu beef so full flavoured and popular.

There are four breeds of Wagyu in Japan

– Japanese Brown, Japanese Black, Japanese Polled and Japanese Shorthorned. The colour of



Wagyu ranges from red to black. In Namibia there are two breeds of Wagyu namely the Japanese Black and the Japanese Brown (Akaushi). Wagyu can be classified in the following pedigree classes:

- Fullblood wagyu
- Purebred wagyu
- Crossbred wagyu (F1/F2/F3)

The marbling content of Wagyu Beef contributes to the qualities of tenderness, flavour, and juiciness of the meat. The grading of the marbling content is known as the Marble Score (MS), which is measured by a specialised carcass camera.

The marbling score of Wagyu Beef averages between MS4 and 8 which is very rare in other cattle breeds. Marbling scores can be categorised as follow:

Grading:

- 5 Quality grades: Grade 1 (poor) to 8+ (highest quality)
- Silver: MS Grade 3 – 4
- Gold: MS Grade 5 – 7
- Platinum: MS Grade 8+

Wagyu Cattle Breeding:

Mimosa Farming is one of the first Namibian farming operations that established a Wagyu farming concern. This created an opportunity for a more profitable cattle farm and resulted in LW Wagyu being one of the first registered Wagyu studs in the Namibian commercial industry. Wagyu cattle is bred and raised for the specialist meat market locally as well as internationally and for the commercial meat market in Namibia.

The cattle are free roaming, grass-fed and finished off in our own feedlot to ensure the quality and consistency of our wagyu beef product. LW Wagyu feedlot is also available to other Wagyu breeders to finish off their oxen to ensure the highest quality standards expected.

The Stud:

LW Wagyu was founded in 2017 with the first imported Wagyu breeding animals and genetics from South Africa arriving in October 2017. During March 2018 the first-generation Wagyu cattle from certified embryo animal was born. Since 2018 numerous AI programs were conducted where semen from top genetic bloodlines was imported for the conversion of Mimosa Farming's total commercial herd to Wagyu genetics. The program's first phase started in February 2018. LW Wagyu uses the Japanese Black Wagyu Cattle and genetic material for breeding. Currently the commercial herd consist primarily of Crossbred and F1 Wagyu breeding cows and oxen. By end 2018 the use of Wagyu bulls, imported semen and impregnation of fertilized embryos have replaced previously used standard breeding bulls.

Stud Breeding and Commercial Production:

High standards are a priority for LW Wagyu Stud, as to provide the Namibian market with world-class genetic material to make real contributions to improve Namibian meat quality. The goal is only achievable with the help of existing expertise, which is readily available through World Wagyu Breeders Association.

Currently F1- to F4 – male animals are bred for the export market. The goal is to produce 26 to 34-month-old animals with a carcass weight of between 400 and 500 kg. Finishing off cattle to reach the target carcass weights requires specific feeding programs. This enables reaching targets of desired marbling scores and carcass weights. The market objective is creating our own export channels which will enable exporting the slaughter animals to the South African, European Union and Middle Eastern markets.

Facilities

On Lauwater Wes, there are excellent facilities than enables the breeding of Wagyu cattle. These include the following:

- Veterinary station – currently in process
- Weighing station
- Cattle enclosures
- Feedlot
- Irrigation and planting of own lucerne/maize crops for the feedlot

Lauwater Wes Farm (LW Wagyu) and the feedlot facilities are inspected by independent governing bodies and monitored to ensure compliance with required standards and regulations.

Registrations

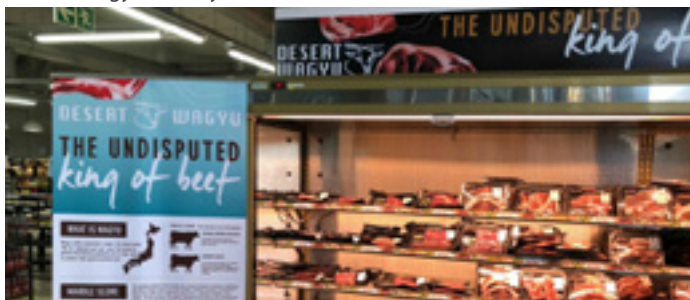
- WAGYU CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY OF S.A. – Membership number **8195898**
- NAMIBIA WAGYU BREEDERS' SOCIETY – Membership number **F10003**

Desert Wagyu:

Desert Wagyu is a Namibian registered company focused of the marketing of branded Wagyu products.

It was established in 2019 and originated out of the demand of Wagyu farmers in Namibia to market and supply their quality product in the value chain from start to finish. Our quality is guaranteed by the Farmer Assured Beef Brand (FAN) endorsed by the Namibian Meat Board, Namlits for traceability, and quality assurance according to Certified Wagyu Beef.

These entities are built around the core values of sustainability, authenticity, traceability, and quality of product under the supervision of the Namibian Wagyu Society.



Wagyu beef is a niche beef product which requires skill, dedication and careful craftsmanship to produce a beautifully marbled wagyu beef in the arid conditions of Namibia, limited resources and stretched expectations. This consists of following the full Wagyu Beef Value Chain. The value chain includes superior genetic selection, good management, breeding, feeding, and finishing, slaughter and processing, marketing, and sales. It is here, in the Namibian environment, that we craft our Namibian Wagyu, by carefully selecting the right genetics and adopting appropriate breeding standards to bring a niche, incomparable Wagyu beef product to the market.

Desert Wagyu incorporates Wagyu from various commercial farmers who complies and prescribes to the quality protocols governed by the various governing bodies.

Emphasis is placed on the quality of all our products.

Desert Wagyu implements Wagyu beef quality insurance protocols that is subject to third-party annual audits and inspections for breeders, as well as educational programmes along the value chain.

Partners are strategically selected to support us to uphold the high-quality standards that is Wagyu beef production, procurements, processing, and packaging.

What does Desert Wagyu's Quality Assurance Protocols mean to our consumers:

- Humanely farmed – our farmers rear cattle with their hearts first
- Guidelines and mentorship are provided to participating farmers
- Authentic Wagyu beef – all our products are DNA verified by Unistel Laboratory to confirm the Wagyu genetic content
- The Namlits system enables us to trace our products from farm to plate
- Original Namibian reared Wagyu cattle – all cattle are born and bred in Namibia

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

01 March 2020 to 28 February 2021

The Agricultural Employers' Association (AEA) is an affiliate of the Namibia Agricultural Union and focuses on sharing expertise concerning labour matters with fellow NAU members.

Management

Chairman	Mr HHT Förtsch
Vice-chair	Mrs C Stoman
Central	Mr C Knye
North	Mrs C Hellinghausen
South	Mr W Kruger
Secretariat	Mr D van Vuuren

Ministry of labour and social welfare

The AEA committee paid a visit to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Development and Employment Creation, Honourable Utoni Nujoma, to share the current labour issues in agriculture with him. The AEA's 2020 Wage Survey was presented, detailing the current scenario in terms of agricultural remuneration. His attention was drawn to the fact that the real average pay on commercial farms in 2019 was 69% higher than the minimum wage for farm workers. Also discussed were the envisaged increase of the minimum wage for farm workers, as well as the required revival of the Namibia Labour Forum (NALF) where joint labour issues are discussed.

AEA congress 2020

For the first time since the inception of the Association in 1972, an external factor such as the Covid-19 pandemic caused meetings and the Congress to be cancelled. However, members were informed of the most vital labour news via electronic means as well as the regional conferences that took place during November 2020.

Financial position

The management committee took great care to manage the finances with meticulous discipline as in the past. The 2020/2021 fiscal year ended with total equity of N\$272 051.

Labour documents

The AEA's helpful documents concerning labour matters remain as popular as ever, indicating that employers go to great lengths to apply fair labour practices and implement the correct administrative systems.

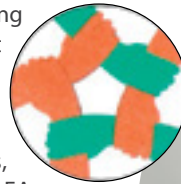
AEA secretariat

The AEA's advisory service concerning labour administration and the application of

REPRESENTATION OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS ON VARIOUS BODIES

NLU Executive Council	Mr H. Förtsch
Namibia Labour Forum (NALF)	Mr H. Förtsch, Mrs C. Stoman and Mr C. Knye
Namibia Employers' Federation (NEF)	Mr D. van Vuuren
ILO's Advisory Comm for Child Labour	Mr D. van Vuuren
Ad-hoc Committee to handle Farm Evictions	Mr D. van Vuuren

the Labour Act is aimed at promoting best labour practices to ensure that labour relations in the commercial sector remain healthy. Liaison with members re labour matters was managed daily via telephone calls, emails, and personal visits to the AEA office. The AEA also strives to help members solve labour disputes as quickly as possible.



Chairperson: Hellmut Förtsch

NAU farm workers' project

During the October 2018 NAU Congress, the NAU had committed itself to the Farm Workers' Project for the period January 2019 to December 2021. The aim was to actively contribute to the improved welfare of farm workers and to help with their retirement needs. Many NAU members had committed themselves to the project.

In the 2020 AEA Wage Survey, provision was made for respondents to provide feedback on their progress with the Farm Workers' Project. Nearly half of the respondents indicated that they had made improvements to the housing and/or ablution facilities during the 2019/2020 financial year. An additional 44% of participants indicated that they plan improvements in future. Meanwhile, the Farm Workers' Project was extended to 2023 to make up for the time lost due to the drought and the Covid-19 pandemic.



Generational farm workers

Towards the end of 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform requested the NAU's help in registering generational farm workers – those who have been living and working on farms for generations. The Ministry wished to create a profile concerning such workers, following on one of the resolutions of the Second National Land Conference. The resolution determined, amongst others, that policy should be created to protect such farm workers in their old age by providing either alternative housing or a section of farmland. The NAU and the AEA, however, do not support the provision of farmland for retirement purposes, but rather focus on helping with alternative



housing to ensure a dignified retirement. The AEA liaised with Agribank concerning possible financing of retirement homes in other centres than farms.

AEA wage survey 2020

This survey indicated, amongst others, that wages paid in 2019 were 69% higher than the current minimum wage. Data from 603 voluntary participants, which included 5 340 farm workers, was processed. The average value of the basic wage of a farm worker (cash and rations) amounted to N\$2 367 per month in 2019. This represented an increase of 10.7% compared to the 2018 survey. Of this amount, the monthly cash wage was on average N\$1 754, with the value of the rations amounting to N\$613.

According to this survey, the average total remuneration package per farm worker, once the value of other free benefits has been added, totalled N\$3 660 per month or N\$18.77 per working hour, proof that the remuneration packages of farm workers on the commercial farms of our members are healthy and competitive.

Two farmers' associations managed 100% participation in the Wage Survey and thus a comparative study was undertaken to compare their statistics with their regions and nationally. The results showed that the figures all correlate, putting aside fears that members who pay lower wages are disinclined to participate in the survey. It transpired that the 2020 Wage Survey was sufficiently representative of all our members.

Minimum wage

The government's Wage Commission, tasked with setting a national minimum wage for Namibia, was presented with an exemption request by the AEA, representing all three the agricultural unions (NAU, NNFU and NECFU). This exemption request was based on the agricultural sector's unique remuneration package as set out in the Labour Act and the Minimum Wage Agreement, whereby farm employees are given housing, rations and various other benefits free of charge.

Child labour

The USA Embassy published their human rights report in 2020, which included child labour in Namibia. Although Namibian school dropouts may work as from the age of 14, they may not, according to the Labour Act, do any dangerous work. As there was no clarity concerning dangerous work on farms, the AEA defined the concept in detail and added the information to the Afrikaans summary of the Labour Act, for the sake of its members.

Training of farm workers

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, education at rural state schools was hugely disrupted during 2020, affecting farm worker children negatively. Some agri-employers lent a helping hand to the children with their homework during this time. Undoubtedly, the effects of the pandemic on the future workforce will be felt by all employers in years to come.

Unfortunately, the National Training Authority (NTA) is not interested in financing short courses for farm workers. They do, however, finance apprenticeship training in agriculture and request agri-enterprises to offer practical training to apprentices.

At grass roots level, informal in-service training is thus provided by farmers to their staff in terms of health and safety as well as task-related training.

Early childhood development for farm workers' children

Promoting the Amos Meerat Schools on farms is part of the AEA's vision, together with the Farm Workers' Project (described above) which aims at improving the socio-economic living conditions of farm workers and their families. The participation of commercial farms is mostly hampered by a lack of suitable caregivers/potential students.

Health matters

Medical aid funds in Namibia are too expensive for farm workers and no national medical scheme exists. Meanwhile, the Khomas Loyalty Fund offers affordable medical insurance to farm workers, giving them access to private GP's and related services at a few hundred dollars per month, in certain Namibian towns. This is a positive development which may bear fruit in future.

Social Security Commission (SSC)

In terms of the MSD Fund and Employee Compensation Fund (ECF), the AEA is looking forward to enhanced service delivery after the introduction of a new electronic communication system which should make it easier for members to do business with the SSC. Members are encouraged to liaise with the SSC via e-correspondence to avoid the present unnecessary delays and penalties.

National Pension Fund (NPF)

The agricultural fraternity is still patiently awaiting the outcome of the proposed National Pension Fund. The Ministry of Labour has contracted new consultants of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to assist with this matter.

Namibia Employers' Federation (NEF)

As an affiliate of the NEF, the AEA supported the Employers' Federation's urgent court application challenging the constitutionality of the new 2020 labour regulations of the Ministry of Labour. These regulations suspended certain provisions of the Labour Act, meaning that it would be illegal to dismiss or retrench employees irrespective of the financial position of the employer due to the Covid-pandemic. The Supreme Court's verdict was that the regulations are unconstitutional and invalid. The AEA and the NEF view the verdict as a victory for the justice system and in the best interest of the employers, employees and the economy of the country. The Ministry of Labour has appealed against the verdict.

General

The past year was again characterised by stability and peace in terms of labour on commercial farms, with very few disputes. The AEA enjoyed good co-operation with its members throughout the year and had interactive participation at many levels. The AEA was also thankful that so few members and their work force suffered at the hand of the Covid-19 pandemic up until February 2021.



Chairperson: Gernot Eggert

General overview of the agronomic sector

Varying rainfall patterns, amongst others, determine the kind of harvest Namibia will reap. The rainfall patterns pose either a positive or negative impact on the planting season. During 2019/2020 good rains were received across the various production areas, which resulted in a bumper harvest especially for the eastern region. However, the 2020/2021 year started off slow with little to no rains, which negatively impacted soil moisture and discouraged planting, but after good rains fell the prospects improved for another bumper harvest.

The 2019/2020 marketing season had been a smooth one, due to the established conducive marketing environment between producers and millers as well as the protection of both producers and millers. The protection mechanisms were implemented as tools to safeguard primary production and guarantee that millers have a competitive advantage on maize meal finished products. The borders were closed for importation of white maize grain between 1 June and 19 October 2020.

It is vital to maintain stakeholder relations to ensure sustainability of the industry and

growth across the value chain, therefore the APA would also like to extend their gratitude towards the Namibia Agronomic Board (NAB), Namibian Grain Processors' Association (NGPA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) for coordinated and constructive efforts to sustain the agronomic industry.

Table 1: Statistics on planted hectares (ha) and harvested (tons) (1 April 2020–31 March 2021)

White maize	Planted Hectares (ha)		Harvested (tons)		
	Dry land (81%)	Irrigation (19%)	Dry land (56%)	Irrigation (44%)	Total
Zambezi	6 250	0	5 793	0	5 793
Kavango	0	1 410	0	6 017	6 017
North Central	66	394	128	3 154	3 282
Karst (Maize Triangle)	6 729	1 161	25 613	13 791	39 404
Central	2 050	634	5 951	6 194	12 145
South (Hardap & vicinity)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15 095	3 599	37 485	29 156	66 641

Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

Sectoral Performance

White Maize

White maize is one of Namibia's staple food crops for human consumption. The total domestic demand for white maize stands at 150 000 tons per annum, which is equivalent to an average domestic demand of 12 500 tons per month. White maize is currently produced in six production areas, namely Zambezi, Kavan-

go, North Central, Karst (Maize Triangle), Central and South (Hardap). It is produced under rainfed and irrigation conditions, mainly planted from October to December, and harvested from April to October each year.

Table 1 shows that the largest number of hectares of white maize under rainfed conditions was planted in the Karst area (6 729 ha), followed by Zambezi (6 250 ha) and Central (2 050 ha) areas. Kavango (1 410 ha) planted the most irrigated hectares, followed by the Karst area (1 161 ha) and Central (634 ha). Due to water shortages experienced at the Hardap dam during the 2019/2020 planting season, there was no white maize planted in the South.

As for 2020, there has been a good harvest of white maize, with producers marketing 66 641 tons of white maize between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. Because of good rains received, 44% (29 156 tons) of maize came from irrigated areas and 56% (37 485 tons) came from rainfed production areas. 28 887 tons had been marketed during the 2019 dry marketing season versus the 66 641 tons in 2020 – a marked increase of 131%.



Wheat

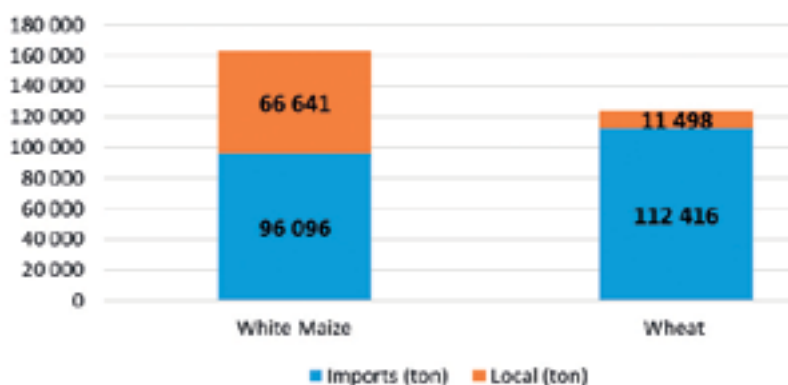
Wheat is a cereal grain crop and in Namibia it is only produced under irrigation. The total domestic demand for wheat stands at 118 824 tons per annum, which is equivalent to an average domestic demand of 9 902 tons per month. Wheat is planted during winter-time (May to end July) and harvested from October to December each year. Wheat is produced in six production areas namely Zambezi, Kavango, North Central, Karst (Maize Triangle), Central and South (Hardap). The official marketing season of wheat lasts from November to January each year.

Table 2: Statistics on planted hectares (ha) and harvested (tons) (2020)

Wheat	Planted (hectares)	Harvested (tons)
Zambezi	0	0
Kavango	402	1 891
North Central	0	0
Karst (Maize Triangle & vicinity)	168	1 005
Central	37	183
South (Hardap & vicinity)	1200	8 419
Total	1 807	11 498

Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

Total Imports vs local purchase tonnage April 2020 - March 2021



Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

For the marketing season 2020, the total planted hectares were 1 807 with 11 498 tons obtained from those hectares and marketed to millers between 01 October 2020 and March 2021. The South (Hardap region) recorded the highest marketing tonnage of 73% (8 419 tons). Considering the statistical reporting for the 2019 year, when 4 466 tons of wheat were marketed versus the 2020

figure of 11 498 tons, wheat marketing improved considerably by 157%. Figure 1 below further depicts a comparison between white maize and wheat, imports and local tonnage for 2020.

Groundnuts

Over the past 10 years, groundnut cultivation has steadily grown as there is a stable



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market and predetermined price before marketing season. The 2020 year was characterised by good rainfalls resulting in a good harvest. About 480 hectares were planted and approximately 385 tons of groundnuts were harvested. With the expectation of better years ahead, groundnut producers are confident that more hectares will be planted.

Strategic planning for the agronomic sector

the following key functions were identified to serve as tools of major focus to continuously drive the sustainability of the agronomic sector. These functions form the regular agenda points. The following developments took place during the period under review:

Marketing environment

The APA continually engaged other stakeholders in order to maintain a conducive and fair market environment for both producers and millers through instruments such as the Marketing Agreement.

Policy environment

The NAB in conjunction with other stakeholders in the industry drafted the *National Drought Support Programme for Surplus Rained Grain Production*. The policy was submitted to the Ministry to be incorporated in the National Drought Policy.

Research/information

The NAB is in the process of engaging producers to perform trials on sesame seeds.

Financial position

the APA financial position for the year 2020 concluded with a surplus of N\$ 131 994.77.

Project funding by the Namibia Agronomic Board

Project funding is the government 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. However, to date the

Management

GH Eggert	Chairperson (Otavi/Rietfontein/Kombat)
D de Klerk	Vice Chairperson (Hardap)
JJ Blaauw	East
D. Kok	Maroelaboom
G. P. Engelbrecht	Grootfontein
G. Sievers	Tsumeb/Abenab

project funding for 2019/2020 is still awaiting approval by the MAWLR, and this has resulted in the non-execution of planned activities such as information sessions, training and capacity development, amongst many others. The APA has engaged the NAB on the negative impact this has had on the agronomy industry at large.

Genetically modified maize (GMO)

Geo Pollution Technologies, on behalf of the members of the Agronomic Producers' Association, had applied in 2019 for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for the environmental release of genetically modified maize (GM Maize) in Namibia.

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The APA was granted the environmental clearance certificate in December 2020 and is currently busy with the process of lodging an application with the Bio-Safety Council for the necessary permits to allow cultivation of selected GM maize strains in Namibia.

Stakeholder engagements

National Agronomy Advisory Committee (NAAC)

The APA serves as a member of the National Agronomy Advisory Committee administered by the Namibia Agronomic Board. The committee deliberates on key issues with-

in the industry such as creating a conducive marketing environment, curbing outbreaks of pests, and strives to recommend solutions and matters for decision-making to the board. During the financial year 2020 three meetings took place.

The Namibia Agronomic Board

In February 2021 the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform extended the term of office of the current NAB board members for a period of three months, ending 30 April 2021 or until such a time as the minister appoints a new board. The appointment of new board mem-

bers will be done in accordance with Section 8 of the PEGA (Public Enterprises Governance Act) 1 of 2019.

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DDPA

DAIRY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

Introduction

The Namibian dairy industry is of strategic importance to food security, nutrition and local agri-processing. Apart from the potential benefits of food and nutrition, the industry provides supplementary income and productive employment to families.

The period under review has been one of the most difficult in the history of the industry. During this period the dairy industry found itself in the middle of a severe crisis caused by factors such as competing with cheaper imports, ever skyrocketing fodder costs, the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying weak economic situation. Although good rains were received across the country and there was plenty of lucerne available, the cost of additional inputs required to boost milk production unfortunately remained high, thus negatively affecting milk volumes.

The crisis is and has always been beyond the control of the local industry, and the dairy stakeholders knocked on government doors

for aid. Role players initiated activities such as information sharing, providing technical support, training and on-site orientations as well as looked at ways to bring communal dairy producers on board. However, the role players realized that for the Namibian dairy industry to survive, government support is key. Therefore, the industry is hoping and has been keenly waiting on government's position on the requested immediate and long-term support mechanisms. Unfortunately, regarding the requested immediate N\$2.00 per litre subsidy, the government is not able to assist the industry due to financial constraints. A lack of governmental support has resulted in dairy farmers leaving the industry at an alarming rate. This has further caused a decrease in raw milk production, and thus a critical low supply of milk to the processor.

Over the years, the dairy industry has been limping, however through collective and collaborative efforts of all stakeholders the industry has strived to remain relevant. There



Chairperson: BF Adriaanse

was good progress on the 2020 proposed bill governing the control of the importation and exportation of dairy products and dairy product substitutes. The legislation was passed by the National Assembly in March 2020, thereafter by the National Council with amendments in June, however, the process came to a halt and to date the envisaged bill has not yet been finalized.

Performance by the sector

The dairy sector is cost intensive and 71% of the production costs is feed, hence a very significant cost item. Comparing the sector's performance for the past years (see Figure 1 below), it is evident that the drastic decline in raw milk volumes started in 2020, and this is attributable to the current crisis that the sector is in. Figure 2 depicts the monthly production with obvious fluctuations in raw milk volumes.

Direct Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to take its toll on the agricultural sector as whole. Increasing feed costs continue to negatively affect producers, and in this Covid-19 era it has been identified that Namibia, being a net importer, can no longer safely rely on imports. This is due to trade wars; some countries opt to satisfy their home needs and only export the surplus. This practice has also had an impact on the rise in commodity prices.

Management

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Mr BF Adriaanse | Mariental (Chairperson) |
| Mr DJJ van Wyk | East (Deputy Chairperson) |
| Mr CW Strydom | East |
| Mr P Van Wyk | Mariental |

Figure 1: Annual Raw Milk Production 2015 - 2020



Figure 2: Annual Raw Milk Production July 2020 - May 2021



Financial Position

The DPA financial position for the 2020/2021 fiscal year concluded with a deficit of N\$158 775.00.

Milk Price

There was no price increase for the period under review.

Dairy Producer of The Year Event

Unfortunately, for the period under review, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and all the uncertainties surrounding it, there was no Dairy Producer of the Year award. The DPA management took a decision to ease our sponsors from their usual loyal support, be it in kind or financially, during this difficult year.

Milk quota and the Namibia Dairies Agreement

The internal DPA milk quota functioned well, and producers were informed timeously on their individual quotas. The Namibia Dairies quota of 1 million litres was adjusted as the company could not process more than 800 000 litres per month, therefore, a decision was taken in July 2020 to freeze 200 000 litres for the next 12 months, subjected to review in July 2021. The contract is still to be signed by all parties.

Stakeholder Engagements

During the period under review, the dairy industry role players took the initiative to knock on government doors for support. Honourable Minister Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, welcomed the industry role players and expressed his concerns, indicating that as the dairy



sector is unable to stand on its own, industry protection is essential. The positive outlook is that the Minister and his team are keen to safeguard the Namibian dairy industry through government support.

As a way forward, a task team comprising of the necessary stakeholders was constituted (NAU, NNFU, DPA, ATF, ND, NTF, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform) to examine possible measures and present a comprehensive report to the minister for consideration and to work towards the sustainability of the sector. The report was presented towards the end of 2020 and numerous engagements have subsequently transpired.

The current situation is that the crisis is out of control and the possibility of the dairy industry facing total extinction is a reality, therefore, serious intervention is still needed at all levels. The Task Team is currently continuing to deliberate and work on the issues to be addressed around the possible short-term measures to accommodate the current crisis and long term-measures to revive and sustain the industry before final re-submission to the Ministry.

Application for the Dairy Voluntary Local Sourcing Scheme

The Dairy Voluntary Local Sourcing Scheme was retracted on 8 December 2020, due to the current circumstances that the dairy industry is facing.

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LPO

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ORGANISATION

A Word from the Chairman

Every new year has its own challenges and 2021 was no exception. The world is still being held hostage by the corona virus and all its mutations. This challenge got us in its grip in early 2020 and we started getting used to a new order. However, we were not prepared for the devastating impact that the disease would have on the agricultural sector.

We pay tribute to those who have prematurely passed on, for their contributions to Namibian agriculture and to their respective communities. We commemorate their memory. May they rest in peace. For those who are still struggling with the disease, we pray for recovery. For our farmers who have lost loved ones and are struggling to return to a semblance of normality, our deepest sympathy.

As we saw in 2020, agriculture as an industry performed relatively well in the bizarre shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the official figure of the Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA), agriculture's contribution to GDP grew from 4.5% in 2019 to almost 6.6% in 2020. Primary livestock production accounted for more than 55% of this figure. Seen in this light and given that agriculture supports more than 70% of the population

in one way or another, our industry is a core pillar in the country's economy.

Grazing conditions in the country have improved dramatically, with the exception of the northwest and deep south. The herd-building process, which started in 2020, will continue as funding becomes available. Unfortunately, this is a slow and arduous process. Prices for small stock as well as large stock are good, and the market is relatively lively.

Regenerative agriculture, a project of the LPO, has also experienced challenges as a result of the pandemic, but we anticipate that it will become an indispensable part of our management in the future in order to make farming competitive again and also keep pace with global activities.

2021, with its travel and meeting restrictions, soon forced us to alternatives and internet communication to farms had to be hastily upgraded for leadership to remain accessible on the various media platforms that became available. We used Zoom, Whatsapp and Messenger and the work was done.

The LPO has been trying for several years to get the Small Stock Marketing Scheme



Chairperson: Thinus Pretorius

abolished. Although the scheme has not yet been officially abolished, we managed to include the idea of abolishment in the proposals submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, via the Meat Board and Monassa report. However, the law has yet to be annulled by parliament, but we trust that our voice has been heard after 16 years. Furthermore, the LPO, in collaboration with Hartlief, is conducting a study to investigate alternative markets as well as alternative marketing methods. The purpose of this study is to identify the international marketing opportunities for small stock and to determine whether these opportunities would enable a Namibian export abattoir to compete in an unregulated market.

The challenges in the large stock value chain are enormous and have the potential not only to bring the entire industry to a standstill, which will be catastrophic for the en-



tire agricultural sector, but also the Namibian economy as a whole.

Efforts to maintain Namibia's status as a disease-free zone are under sustained pressure from several quarters. Controlling foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is becoming a significant problem due to the porous borders with our neighbouring countries and the lack of control over movement of livestock from these countries. The state's proactive actions in the past are turning into reactive actions. Every year we see how this infestation creeps alarmingly closer to the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) which is the only barrier between the Northern Communal Areas and the areas south of the VCF.

The status of this fence is under siege by elephants that break this line on a daily basis, and one could say they "destroy at will". The years-long successful conservation of the elephants is turning into a conservation embarrassment. What is extremely worrying is that although the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism acknowledges that this is a significant problem, no concrete actions are being taken to control the problem. After an on-site investigation on this line, I became aware of the never-end-

ing repairs being done by the neighbouring farmers in these areas. Apart from the man-hours lost, it also has a huge financial impact on these producers. Some producers have also already electrified their border fences from their own funds, in an effort to continue production. I would like to express my gratitude to these farmers for their selfless and sustained efforts to ensure that all Namibian farmers (SVCF) are able to continue marketing their products unhindered throughout the world. This is precisely why the LPO supports the actions of the Meat Board to introduce an additional levy, in order to assist DVS to help finance essential services. After inspecting the line and having discussions with the producers, the only workable option seems to be the electrification of the VCF, and it was decided to support the Meat Board with the introduction of an additional levy.

As if the onslaught on the VCF is not enough, there are unfortunately political opportunists who politicize the status of this animal health line in the media and unnecessarily squander valuable energy and funds to drive their own agenda. Even US producer organizations have made requests to their government that meat imports from Namib-

ia be stopped over the risk of FMD. The LPO contacted this organization directly and also took a stand in the media on this.

It is critically important for the LPO that all three current marketing pillars of large stock compete in balance with each other. Efforts to place control on the export of live cattle have forced the LPO to take a clear stand.

The developments at Meatco, that pillar which adds the highest value, are approaching a breaking point if drastic and urgent action is not taken. The LPO is working tirelessly to return this segment to the lucrative trajectory it was in the 90's and to restore producers' confidence in the export abattoir.

If we look at all the forecasts and models, 2022 promises to be a good rainy year and with the world's protein supply under pressure, relatively stable prices can be expected.

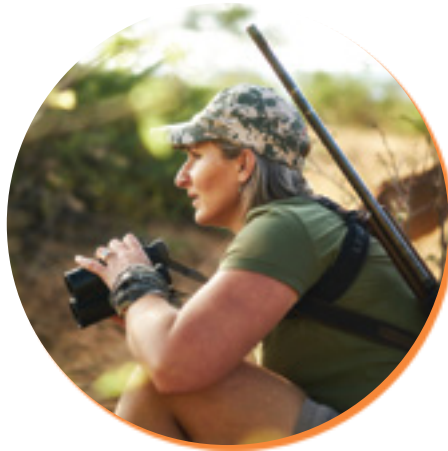
If current interest rates are maintained and crime can be minimalised, food production will remain an industry with great potential.

Thinus Pretorius
Chairman



NAPHA

NAMIBIA PROFESSIONAL HUNTING ASSOCIATION



Extracted from the full report

When the Corona virus broke out, no one could have envisioned it to last as long as it did – and still does. The impact this pandemic carried has negatively affected the entire tourism sector – locally as well as internationally. Foreign arrivals into Namibia decreased from 1 681 000 during 2019 to approximately 192 000 in 2020, accounting for an estimated 89% decrease. Of the 2020 arrivals accounted for, 81% were recorded during January to March 2020, thus before the outbreak.

This substantial decline in tourist arrivals can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, having resulted in the closure of borders from March until September 2020.

Generally the annual high season for hunting tourism is from April to September, where equally 70% of the business activity occurs. As the Namibian borders were closed during that time, close to zero hunts could take place. Some outfitters adjusted their packages and restructured their business model to cater for the local tourism market by either diversifying their products or lowering their prices to merely cover costs.

NAPHA, being part of FENATA, was greatly involved with the Tourism Revival Initiative, aiding tourism arrivals once the borders could be reopened by September 2020.

A survey among NAPHA members during September 2021, showed that, compared to 2019, an estimated 20% of trophy hunters visited Namibia during 2020. By August 2021, this figure rose to 35%. The official statistics remain to be received from the MEFT Permit Office.

Both the NAPHA office and the Exco were under extreme pressure, but focussed on the following strategic matters. Exco members were allocated one specific strategic matter to prioritize and report back at Exco meetings. These matters were:

- Hagen Denker: African Wildlife Stewardship Program
- Axel Cramer: Communal Conservancy Outreach Program
- Danene van der Westhuyzen: Economic survey - Wildlife Economy
- Harm Woortman and Bernd Garbade: NAPHA School of Conservation (formerly under the ERPHAN banner)

Additional matters that were focused on included

- Covid updates and development throughout Namibia
- Legalisation of crossbow hunting in Namibia
- Obtaining financial benefits for NAPHA members
- Marketing and lobbying of NAPHA
- One With Nature Exhibition

Annual General Meeting - 2020

During 2020 no AGM could be held due to the health and safety regulations enforced by our government. At the time, gatherings were limited to 50 persons per event.

NAPHA Exco

The following positions were reconfirmed:

President: Danene van der Westhuyzen
 Vice-President: Axel Cramer
 Treasurer: Harm Woortman
 Exco member: Hagen Denker
 Exco member: Bernd Garbade

Over and above general agenda points, various strategic points were discussed and acted upon during the course of the year, of which the most significant were:

- Regulations to the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill
- African Wildlife Stewardship Programme Trust/Namibia's own Age-Related Trophy (ART) Measurement System
- Code of Conduct & Good Hunting Practice Guide
- Conservation Pins
- Medical Aid Group Benefits
- NAPHA School of Conservation
- NAPHA Surveys

During July 2021, the office tried obtaining a picture of the potential tourism recovery in Namibia, specifically in the Conservation Hunting sector. While the official MEFT Annual Trophy Hunting Report is only released later in the year, we initiated a brief survey enquiring amongst members on their number of hunters during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

From previous MEFT reports, we know that in the past few years the number of hunting clients were:

- 2016: 4,990
- 2017: 4,705
- 2018: 5,337
- 2019: 5,032

Namibia closed all borders during March 2020, and with that tourism decreased with up to 90%. The average decline in hunters reported was 80.67%. Approximately 30% of respondents declared a full 100% loss in hunter count for 2020.

Declines in hunting tourism from the NAPHA survey indicated the total hunter count could be as low as approximately 1,000 hunting clients during 2020.

Despite the ongoing and constantly changing rules and regulations, hunting increased somewhat during 2021 and to date showed some recovery. The total reported hunters reported by August 2021 had returned to 35.21% of the 2019 baseline level.

Further strategic topics handled were:

- NAPHA Online Map
- NAPHA E-Library
- NAPHA First Aid Refresher Courses
- Promoting our members' products
- New NAPHA Website
- Member benefits

Various Matters addressed with the MEFT:

- Leopard Tag allocation
- Legalisation of Crossbow Hunting
- Lion Conservation & Management Strategy
- A Namibian Success Untold - Rhino Conservation
- Stakeholder Engagement Workshop to celebrate three decades of conservation in Namibia
- Integrated Approach to Proactive Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict and Wildlife Crime in Hotspot Landscapes in Namibia - United Nations Development Fund and MEFT

MEFT 2020 Tourism Statistical Report launched

Following the meeting assessing the Tourism Revival Initiative, the Honourable Minister invited the stakeholders to attend a brief ceremony for the official release of the 2020 tourist arrival statistics. Over the last few years, the total foreign arrivals were:

- 2016: 1 574 149
- 2017: 1 608 018
- 2018: 1 659 762
- 2019: 1 681 336
- 2020: 192 026

The 2020 figure represents a decline of 88.6% from the previous year, of which 81% visited Namibia between January and April. The top 10 tourist markets to Namibia were: South Africa, Angola, Germany, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, UK, USA, France, Switzerland.

MEFT Trophy Hunting Report 2019

This report states that Namibia had a total of 5,032 conservation hunters for 2019, which is a slight (5.7%) decrease from 2018 (5,337). Hunters came from 49 different countries, the USA and Germany accounting for 55% of all visiting hunters. 23,873 trophies were hunted of which 16,043 were horned species; 6,338 were non-horned species and 318 animals belonged to the Big Five. The remaining number comprised of birds, reptiles and amphibians as well as aliens and exotic species.

The top three hunted species are:

- Gemsbok (3,959)
- Warthog (2,794)
- Springbok (2,333)



NCA

NAMIBIA CHARCOAL ASSOCIATION

The charcoal industry, too, has had a challenging time during the Covid-pandemic. The year started with exceptional rainfall in many areas which led to a shortage of good, dry charcoal. Farmers were very grateful for the rain. The market demand for Namibian charcoal is rising year-on-year and more and more farmers turn to charcoal to secure a better income. In many areas farmers cannot rely on livestock and general farming produce anymore and have turned to charcoal to fill the gaps in their budget. Many farmers have reported that without charcoal income they would no longer be able to keep their farms.

The NCA documented record exports during the months of May, June and July 2021 and the industry was set for another record year. This came to a severe halt when unrest unfolded in South Africa and harbours were severely affected. The unrest had a detrimental impact on Namibia, as very few vessels could sail to Europe, let alone stop at our Namibian harbour to load charcoal containers. To make things worse, a container with charcoal caught fire in our Walvis Bay port. Shipping lines immediately halted all exports until the NCA had talks with them and agreed on specific processes to allow charcoal exports to resume.

The month of August recorded the lowest exports for charcoal and September 2021 was no exception. As SA harbours started to export their produce again, producers were still impacted as fresh produce received pri-

ority over charcoal which is seen as a low commodity. Many Namibian and South African processors were severely impacted by this, as charcoal is for many a cash-driven industry and processors had to take up credit to pay their producers. This led to disgruntlement amongst many charcoal workers as they demanded to be paid as soon as charcoal is loaded on the farms.

Towards November charcoal exports picked up again (under difficult conditions due to shortage of containers) and export levels returned to those of 2020. The NCA's projected figures now show that we, under very difficult circumstances, have met our 2020 export figures. An estimated 210 000 tonnes of charcoal could be exported. The majority of the charcoal exports went to Europe and Middle East; 40% of charcoal was exported to South Africa. Provisionally stated, the exports to Europe, the Middle East and other international countries therefore amount to N\$550 million; to SA the export value is calculated at N\$160 million.

During the dry winter months many veld fires were recorded in Namibia. Naturally charcoal was immediately blamed for this. We can safely report that most fires were not caused by charcoal burning on farms. As the veld fires started, many criminals took the opportunity to set farms alight so that they could poach on neighbouring farms as all the farmers were busy fighting fires. Poach-



ing has increased in Namibia and many farmers lost stud animals and expensive game to poaching activities. The losses amount to millions of Namibian Dollars.

The NCA again can report a membership growth, as many new entrants into the charcoal industry have seen the importance of working closely with the association to support them. Membership figures grew by 58 members in 2021, bringing the total to 1 405 members. We also had to suspend many members.

Despite all the challenges – wet charcoal, container shortages, unrest in SA, poaching, veld fires – the industry weathered the storm and we are looking forward to a good 2022 where new markets have opened for Namibia, giving more export opportunities to new entrants into the market. The industry will have to adopt a more disciplined approach and the NCA is confident that with the activities planned for 2022, the industry will see accelerated growth and provide valuable income to many more Namibians.



DDA

POULTRY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

Bird Flu

Due to the Bird Flu outbreak in South Africa and Europe, poultry imports from those countries were banned until further notice. On the meat side, the ban enables the local producers (commercial and informal) to bring their stock levels to normal.

In terms of egg production, new day-old chicks for layers need to be imported from both South Africa and Europe. This forced the producers to once again source new suppliers from Zimbabwe or Zambia, which are both costly. The breakout in Europe was being well managed which led to the hope that imports would resume soon. The South African border would hopefully follow later.

State Veterinary Services (DVS)

The PPA, together with Namib Poultry Industry, took the initiative to sponsor and enable DVS to employ unemployed UNAM graduates, with the aim to supply extra help at the country's borders to control the importation of poultry products. Unfortunately, the initiative was turned down due to logistical reasons.

Avimune Namibia

Avimune is a new company in Namibia which supplies veterinarian support to the local poultry industry. We are very pleased to finally have a local doctor and expert in the field of poultry, and welcome Dr Kerstin Voigts to the fold.

Investigation into illegal imports

An investigation into illegal imports of poultry undertaken in 2019 was completed, according to a source in the Ministry of Finance, yet the results are still being awaited.

Feed

Increases in the cost of feed continue to aggravate producers' input costs, with increases in June and again in August. This forced both chicken meat and egg producers to re-evaluate the price of their products. Consumers undoubtedly have also felt the pinch.

General

Many potential producers are expressing interest in joining the industry, especially as broiler producers. Gaining access to markets remains the challenge. There is a company planning to develop mobile slaughter abattoirs and offering to buy the chicken meat from the producers, or alternatively offer to slaughter on behalf of the producers.



Chairperson: R Werner



DORKPA

PORK PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

As we all know, Covid-19 changed the world and the way in which we conduct business and will probably continue doing so in the foreseeable future. We therefore could not meet for our annual general meeting, but herewith some feedback on the pig industry of Namibia.

The Pork Marketing Scheme was implemented in 2012 under the infant industry protec-

tion scheme and was due to expire in September 2020. After consultation with the LPO and the pork producers, the Meat Board extended the scheme for another 8 years. It was decided to change the basis of the calculation of the ceiling price since the concern for the processors and importers was that the incentive should not be added to the transport and slaughter fee, but only to the pork price. This was agreed but on the basis that we look at the other costs as well since these have been unchanged for the last 8 years. The Meat Board therefore contracted an expert to examine the value chain and recommended the changes in the formula accordingly. We started the year on a high with a ceiling price of R41.54 but this steady declined to R37.19 in July 2021. When the new calculation took effect in August, we saw a rise to R38.72.

China has been rebuilding their pig industry since it was decimated in 2018 -2019 due to African Swine Fever (ASF). This is one of the biggest drivers of the extremely high feed prices the world is experiencing. All indications are that this is going to persist for the foreseeable future, and the only way to stay in business would be to become more efficient on-farm. Since ASF is also en-

demio to Namibia, we have seen a few outbreaks north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) but they have had little effect on the market as a whole.

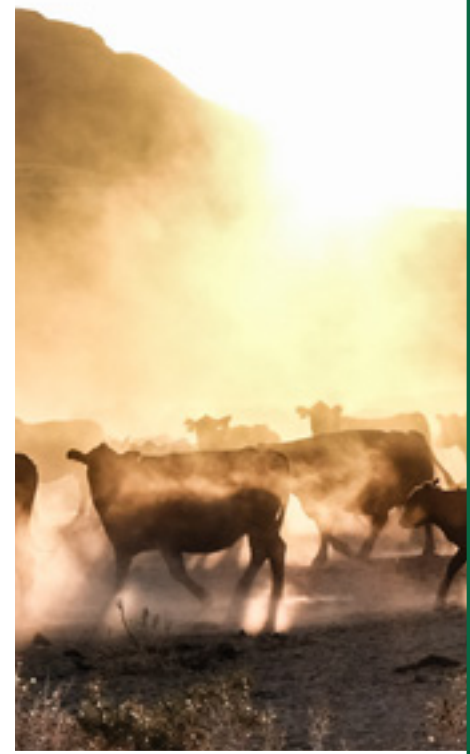
The January to July 2021 slaughter statistics as presented by the Meat Board during July-August 2021 indicate a decline in the number of pigs slaughtered, but the value of the pork sector has improved, which can be attributed to the better pork price compared to Jan-July 2020. Local production vs imports is still about 45:55, but since the dramatic drop in the pork price in South Africa, imports will probably increase over the next few months. South Africa is the biggest exporter to Namibia with 69% of imports originating from SA and the rest from Europe.

Even though the Meat Board indicated that, following the vet health questionnaire received for the period ending Dec 2020, 4 000 respondents had indicated that they keep pigs on their farms, the membership of the PPAN only increased from 9 members at the end of 2020 to a total of 13 in August 2021.

To improve the ability of the NAU and PPAN to assist local farmers in future, we urge all pork producers to join the organisation. In these trying times we understand that the cost of a full membership of the PPAN is not feasible and therefore the entrance fee was lowered to N\$500 per year for new entrants.



Your strategic partner in Agriculture



For the past 41 years, Agra has been synonymous with agriculture in Namibia. While we strive to offer the market the very best in innovation, reliable products and personal service, we also aim to remain an excellent investment opportunity for our shareholders.

We have successfully adapted to the new normal and we will continue to lead the way in providing solutions to the fast-changing agricultural environment. We are proud to serve Namibian farmers and to provide all Namibians with an opportunity for a better life.

