

Food Security Situation in Namibia

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Mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF)

- To promote, develop, manage and utilize agricultural, water and forest resources.
- MAWF is guided by
 - The Namibian Constitution
 - Vision 2030
 - National Development 4
 - SWAPO Party Manifesto 2009
 - Strategic Plan 2008/9 – 2012/13
 - Millennium Development Goals

Background

- Vision 2030 commits the Government of the Republic of Namibia to devise programmes and projects to ensure food security (at national and at household levels).
- MAWF Strategic Plan identifies key strategic issues for national and household food security.
- National food security in Namibia is guided by the following key policies
 - National Agricultural Policy (1995)
 - National Food and Nutrition Policy (1995)
 - National Drought Policy and Strategy (1997)
 - Green Scheme Policy (2008),
 - Namibian Agricultural Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy (2011)
 - Draft Namibian Agricultural Policy (2012)
 - Other Relevant Legislations
- The Ministry has been implementing programmes and development projects that are aimed at increasing food production in Namibia.

Green Scheme Programme

- Programme aims to encourage the development of irrigation-based agronomic production.
- Green Scheme has a total land allocation of 9,429 hectares (ha) of which 3,435 ha are under production in the Karas, Kavango, Caprivi and Omusati regions.
- The Programme makes provision for Small Scale Farmers, occupying a total of 825 ha.
- Produce includes maize, wheat, rice, vegetables, bananas, dates and grapes.

- MAWF has set a target of putting 27,000 ha of land under irrigation over a 30 year period.
- Green Scheme Projects location and size of land allocated:
 - Orange River Irrigation Project (300 ha), (Karas Region),
 - Tantsjeskoppe Irrigation Project (1,000 ha) (Karas Region),
 - Hardap Irrigation Project (130 ha), (Hardap Region),
 - Etunda Irrigation Project (1,200 ha), (Omusati Region),
 - Shadikongoro Irrigation Project (1,000 ha), (Kavango Region),
 - Ndonga Linena Irrigation Project (800 ha) (Kavango Region),
 - Mashare Irrigation Project (200 ha) (Kavango Region),
 - Uhvungu Vhungu Irrigation Project (600 ha) (Kavango Region),
 - Shitemo Irrigation Project (1,000 ha) (Kavango Region),
 - Musese Irrigation Project (1,000 ha) (Kavango Region),
 - Sikondo Irrigation Project (800 ha) (Kavango Region),
 - Kalimbeza Rice Project (229 ha), (Caprivi Region).

National Horticulture Development Initiative

- Development of Fresh Produce Hubs at
 - Rundu (Kavango Region) – nearing completion
 - Ongwediva (Oshana Region) – nearing completion
 - Windhoek (Khomas Region) – to commenced
 - For marketing of fresh produce, sorting, grading, branding, packaging and distribution in domestic and external markets
- Market Share Promotion
 - To increase the share of locally produced fruits and vegetables in the domestic market
 - The share has increased from 32 per cent (2010) to 37.5 per cent (2011)
- Orchard Development
 - To promote planting of fruit trees in various communities
 - 70,000 trees are planted of which 38,000 are fruit trees
 - 18 orchards with 8 trial plots established, covering 230 ha

Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DLCPP)

- The programme aims to promote food security at household level through
 - provision of improved seeds and fertilizers as well as plowing and weeding services
- DLCPP is being implemented in the crop growing regions
 - Kavango
 - Caprivi
 - Oshikoto,
 - Oshana
 - Ohangwena
 - Omusati
 - Northern Part of Kunene Region
- In 2011/12 financial year, 15 294 subsistence farmers benefited from the programme.

Kalimbeza Rice Project

- MAWF continued to develop Kalimbeza into a fully-fledged rice production project.
- The development objective is to promote the commercial establishment of rice production.
- To complement the production, the Ministry plans to construct a 2 x 700 metric tons (mt) rice silos.
- The long-term plan is to increase the market share of Namibian rice to an estimated 7 500 mt, equal to the amount consumed in Namibia per annum.
- The Ministry envisages the development of further rice irrigation projects at Bambi and Nkurenkuru (Kavango Region).

National Strategic Food Reserves

- National Strategic Food Reserves are supported by the Green Scheme and the Dry Land Crop Production programme.
- Facilities for food reserves are constructed to guarantee national food security during natural crises such as floods and droughts, as well as to stabilize food prices due to, among others, inflation.
- Government has constructed silos with a total storage capacity of 14 000 mt at
 - Katima Mulilo (6 000 mt) (Caprivi Region),
 - Rundu (4 000 mt) (Kavango Region),
 - Okongo (500 mt) (Ohangwena Region),
 - Tsandi (3 000 mt) (Omusati Region) and
 - Omuthiya (500 mt) (Oshikoto Region)
- Silos at Okongo and Omuthiya will be upgraded to a capacity of 3 000 mt each.
- Namibia will hold 20 000 mt of food reserves at any time.
- MAWF plans to have Food Reserves with a 60 000 mt capacity, equivalent to four months for emergency food relief.

Livestock Production, Improvement and Animal Health Programme

- Surveillance and animal disease control
 - Identification of crossing points for animals between the borders of Namibia and neighboring countries
 - Construction of internal fences (Bwabwata Fence separating the high risk areas [food and Mouth Disease - FMD] of the Caprivi Region and West of the Mukwe Constituency in the Kavango Region)
 - Vaccination of cattle in Namibia and Southern Angola
- Marketing of livestock products from the Northern Communal Areas
 - Upgrading of abattoirs (Outapi and Eenhana)
 - Bull scheme – to improve cattle breeds
- Namibian Livestock and Traceability System
 - Ear tagging (to date 830 000 cattle tagged)
 - Submitted a dossier to the World Organisation for Animal Health to declare the larger area of the NCAs to be free from FMD

Food Security Situation

- Recent crop assessment mission to the crop growing regions revealed that
 - current harvest may be sufficient up to November for 50 per cent of households in the Omusati and Oshana regions
 - household food security situation is much better in the Oshana and Oshikoto regions due to good harvests
 - food relief is ongoing in the regions, targeting households that were affected by floods and heavy rains.

- Forecast for national grain production for 2012 is 165 795 mt
 - 87 600 mt (white maize)
 - 63 700 mt (sorghum and pearl millet)
 - 14 500 mt (wheat)

- Area to be planted for the 2011 / 2012 crop season is estimated at 311 638 hectares.

- Cereal food supply and demand
 - Food balance indicates that;
 - 188 600 mt of grain is available for domestic consumption
 - 101 000 mt (white maize)
 - 63 900 mt (pearl millet and wheat)
 - 23 700 mt (wheat)
 - A shortfall of 125 100 mt of coarse grain has been noted
 - Pearl millet and sorghum deficit is not likely to be met with expected imports
 - White maize is used as a substitute product to meet the needs of consumers of pearl millet

Conclusion

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry will continue to expand its programmes and projects in order to fulfill its mandate of ensuring food security in Namibia.