ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION IN IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN NAMIBIA

“TOWARDS A FOOD SECURE NATION”
- within the context of National Development Plan (NDP4)

22 August 2012
Polytechnic of Namibia Hotel School
OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Introduction
2. Current Crops Production Status
3. Factors for consideration to improve crops Productivity
   - Opportunities
   - Challenges
4. Conclusion
INTRODUCTION

- **Goal of Agriculture**, is to increase production of crops (maize, mahangu, wheat, rice, sunflower and legumes) by *increasing their productivity* and *water use efficiency* (rain-fed or irrigation); and improving food security through development, adoption and dissemination of sustainable technology.
POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) suggest 6% growth. However, on the positive note crop production in Namibia have grown by at least 10% since independence.

- Green Scheme Policy
- Dry-Land Crop Production Programme
- Namibia Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy.
- Conducive environment (Agronomic Industry Act, Floor price which is a safety net)

- How to change agriculture productivity
  - Increase farm income by increasing productivity
  - Economic of scale (decreasing costs in farming)
Crop Production Status: Area Planted (ha)
Crop Production Status: Total Production (ton)

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Irrigation vs Dry-land
FACTORS TO PROMOTE CROP PRODUCTIVITY

i. **Opportunities for increasing Crop Productivity**
   - Research and technological innovation
   - Seed production and inputs supply system
   - Maximum utilisation of labour and technology (e.g. CONTIL)
   - Farm mechanization
   - Crop diversification (rice, legumes and sunflower)
   - Develop climate change mitigation strategies
   - Crops or inputs insurance
   - Incentives for surplus producers
   - Integrated nutrient management
   - Market (prices), transportation, storage and processing
   - Global high food prices (short term? Long term can trigger investment in agricultural land)
   - Agricultural training and education: making careers and business in farming related field interesting
FACTORS TO PROMOTE CROP PRODUCTIVITY (CONT'D.)

ii. Challenges for increasing crops productivity
- Increase in food demand and food safety (e.g. Mycotoxins)
- Global warming and Climate change (water shortage, drought, floods)
- Increase in oil prices
- Global financial crisis
- Capacity to innovate, develop appropriate technologies
- Management practices (small scale farmers and part-time farmers)
- Post-harvest management (up to 30 % losses)
- Soil degradations
- Availability of labour (willingness to do farm work)
- Pest management (including quelea birds)
- Soil improvement (e.g. Transportation of kraal manure and procurement and sustainable application of fertilisers)
- Increasing agricultural exports (small domestic market)
Way Forward and Conclusion

- Technological innovations should be amplified across the entire Agricultural supply chain.
- Strong institutional support structures and incremental changes to existing farming practices are key to success of Agricultural productivity.
- Continue establishing production, marketing and storage infrastructures (even at household level).
- Continue Agricultural research e.g adoption of high yield varieties which are drought, floods, Salt & pests resistant.
- Continue with participatory agricultural extension (collaboration among all stakeholders).
- At the current pace, I see Namibia in 10 years time achieving food self sufficiency level.
I THANK YOU

PRESENTED BY
LUNGAMENI LUCAS
COMMODITY MANAGER: MAHANGU