

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION IN IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN NAMIBIA

“TOWARDS A FOOD SECURE NATION”

- within the context of National Development Plan (NDP4)



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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

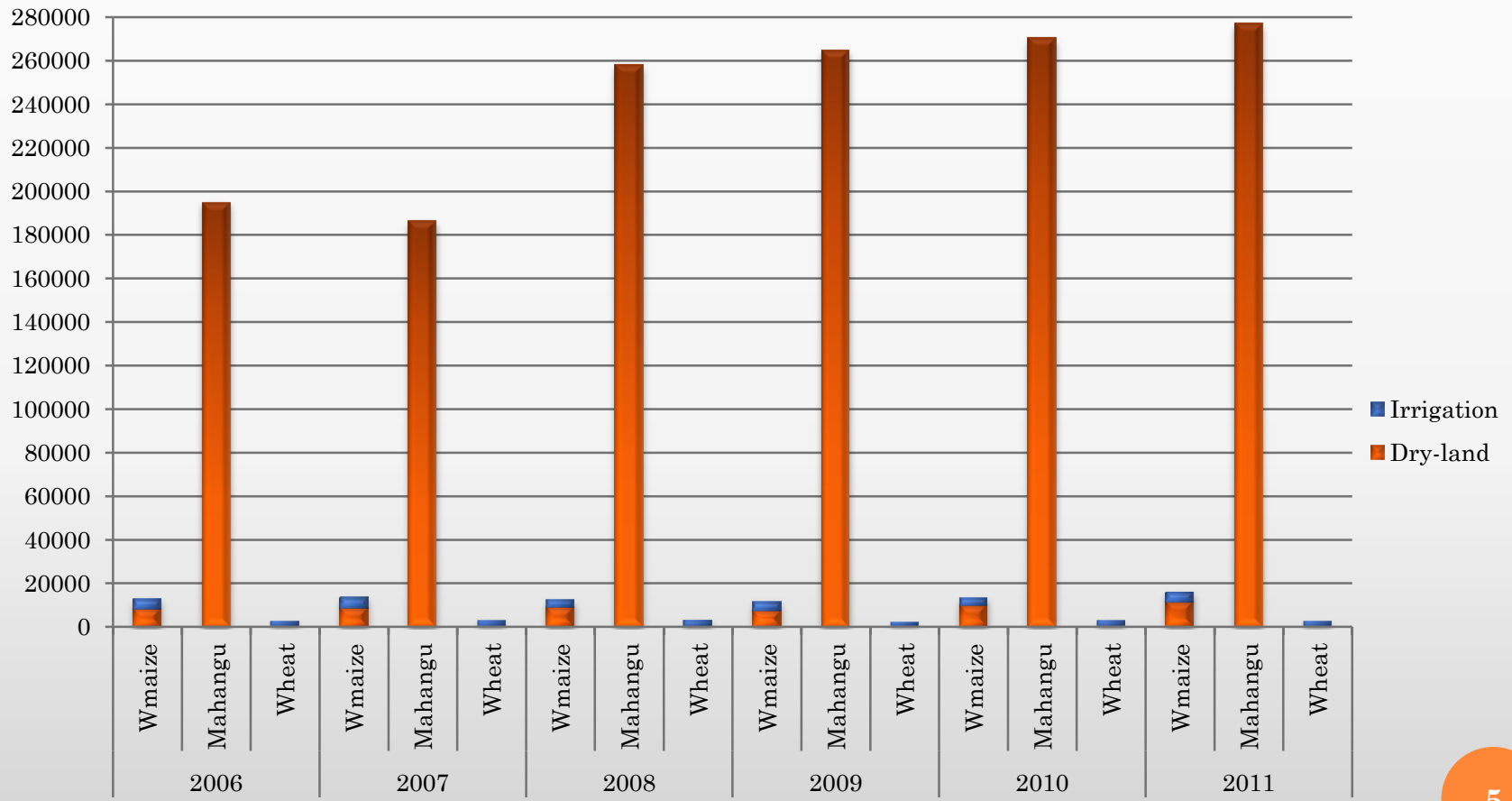
- **Goal of Agriculture**, is to increase production of crops (maize, mahangu, wheat, rice, sunflower and legumes) by increasing their productivity and water use efficiency (rain-fed or irrigation); and **improving food security** through development, adoption and dissemination of sustainable technology.

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

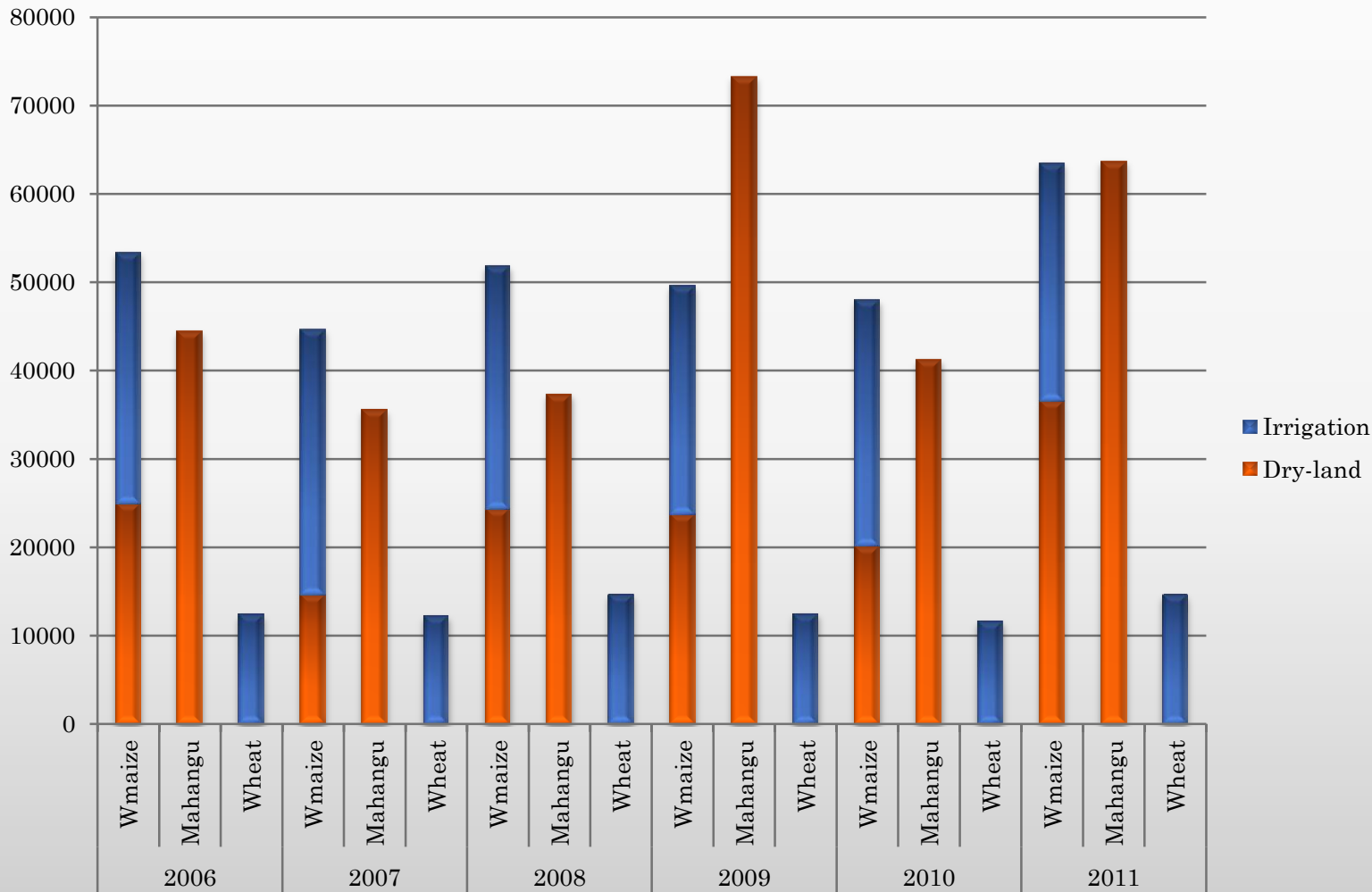
The Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) suggest 6% growth. However, on the positive note crop production in Namibia have grown by at least 10% since independence.

- 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)
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- 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)



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 (CONTD.)

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

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