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)

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 (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

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