



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND
FORESTRY**

**Presentation on AGRARIAN REFORM
FOR**

**THE 2ND NATIONAL LAND CONFERENCE , 1 - 5
OCTOBER 2018, WINDHOEK**

By: P.W. MISIKA PERMANENT SECRETARY

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. State of Namibian Agriculture by 1991
2. Focus Issues
 - 2.1 Agrarian reform
 - 2.2 Veterinary Cordon Fence
 - 2.3 Support to farmers
3. Challenges
 - 3.1 Agrarian reform
 - 3.2 Veterinary Cordon Fence
 - 3.3 Support to farmers
4. Recommendations
 - 4.1 Agrarian reform
 - 4.2 Veterinary Cordon Fence
 - 4.3 Support to farmers

Focus Issues

- Agrarian Reform
- Veterinary Cordon Fence
- Support to Farmers (including Pre and post resettlement farmers)

- Agricultural sector in pre-independent Namibia was administered in two tiers
 - White, and
 - Black tier administrations

- The livestock sector was divided by the VCF into two parts
 - Northern part, mainly comprising communal areas (animal disease endemic)
 - Central and southern part comprising commercial and communal areas (animal disease free areas)

Agriculture in 1991 (Conti)

‡ In the northern communal areas:

- Agricultural extension services were mainly focused on rain-fed crop and staple food production
- Crop production land under irrigation was merely 2,000 ha
- Livestock breeding and preservation of indigenous breeds took place at Livestock Development Centers
- (Alex Muranda, Mashare, Sachinga and Tsumkwe)

‡ In the central and southern areas:

- Agricultural extension services were mainly towards livestock production
- Horticulture production was practiced at insignificant levels mainly in the maize triangle and Hardap scheme
- Namibia imported most of its horticultural requirement from South Africa

‡ Access to potable in rural areas within a radius of 2.5 km was a meagre 43%

2. Focus Issues

2.1 Agrarian Reform

- Government started consolidating agricultural activities in the country at independence
- Reforms initiated include:
 - Development of Legal, institutional policy and strategic frameworks
 - Development of human resources
 - Establishment and strengthening of institutional capacities for agricultural extension and research services throughout Namibia
 - Coverage of agriculture research and extension services was extended to the entire country
 - Improving Animal Health Status
 - Increasing and improving Market Access

2.1.2 Green Scheme Programme

- Development of irrigation based agronomic production in Namibia increase crop and horticulture production under irrigation
- Land under irrigation increased from $\pm 2,000$ ha at independence to $>11,000$ ha
(5,600 ha under irrigation on State land)
- Vision 2030 aims to put 27,000 ha of land under irrigation
- Development of projects at Katima/Liselo, Zone, Neckartal, Tandjeskoppe and Etunda Phases 7 and 8 will add $\pm 5,500$ ha to a new total of 17,500 ha
- Potentially $\pm 50,000$ ha of undeveloped land in Namibia could be irrigated

Agrarian Reform(conti)



Agrarian Reform(Conti)

2.1.3 Fresh Produce Business Hubs

- FPBHs constructed at Rundu and Ongwediva
- Construction of the Windhoek FPBH is on hold due to budgetary constraints
- National annual demand for horticultural produce is about $\pm 74,000$ tons
- $\pm 24,000$ tons is produced locally and the difference of $\pm 50,000$ tons is imported
- FPBH aimed at reducing reliance on imports for fresh produce

Agrarian Reform (conti)



Agrarian Reform(Conti)

2.1.4 National Strategic Food Reserves

- To ensure national food security
- At any given time, the country has enough food stock to feed its people whenever natural or man-made disasters strike
- Benefits grain producers marketing
- NSFR also used to stabilize market prices for grains in the event of sudden market price hikes
- Existing NSFR capacity is 22,900 MT distributed across five grain producing regions of the country,
 - Zambezi (7,400 MT), Kavango East (4,000 MT), Oshikoto (4,000 MT) and Ohangwena (4,500 MT)

Agrarian Reform(Conti)

- Adequate to sustain Namibia for a period of 3 months only
- V2030 target is 67,000 MT by year 2030, sufficient to sustain the nation for a period of 12 months
- Additional capacity of developed during the



2.1.5 Agriculture Technology Centers

- Two (2) ATCs constructed at Ongwediva and Rundu
- The ATCs operations include research and technology adaptation, manufacturing, maintenance and repair of agricultural machinery and implements

Agrarian Reform(conti)

2.1.6 Construction of Agricultural Development Centres

- A total of 144 ADC constructed in all 14 regions
- ADCs provide advisory services and training on technical and management skills to farmers

2.1.7 Agricultural Research and Development

•MAWF is engaged in the following research programmes and projects:

✓ **Crop Production Research**

- Mutation breeding for Supa and Angola rice varieties improvement in Namibia
- Developed and released high yielding and drought resistant pearl millet, sorghum, Bambara groundnut and Cowpea through mutation breeding

Agrarian Reform(conti)

✓ **Livestock Production Research**

- Improvement of milk production of indigenous Sanga cattle at Sonop Research Station.
- Multiplication strategy of the Gellaper sheep
- Investigation on the lethal gene in white Swakara sheep (Karakul) at Gellap-Ost Research Station
- Evaluation of carcass characteristics of the Namibian indigenous goats

Agrarian Reform(conti)

✓ **Rangeland and Pasture Research**

- Fodder bank grazing system at Sandveld Research Station
- Browse Estimate by Canopy Volume (BECVOL) in Mopani Savannah
- Establishment of a cultivated pasture at Okapya Livestock Development Centre
- Forestry principles for sustainable wood harvesting, Northern Namibia.
- Gradual thinning of woody plants to achieve Savannah equilibrium.

Agrarian Reform(conti)

2.1.8 Improvement of Animal Health

- To improve marketing of livestock north of the VCF, MAWF undertook the following:
 - Annual vaccination and tagging 88% of 1,6 million cattle against FMD and CBPP
 - Constructed veterinary clinics at Outapi, Eenhana, Omuthiya, Okakarara and Epukiro
 - Constructed 4,200 crushpens
 - Constructed 54 Veterinary Rural Extension Centers
 - Constructed border offices, houses and animal handling facilities at Ariamvlei, Noordoewer, Buitepos, Oshikango, Mahenene, Kasamane, Katwitwi, Wenela, Swaartboidrift, Oronditi and Dobe.

Agrarian Reform(conti)



Agrarian Reform(conti)

2.1.9 Enhancing Market Access for NCA Livestock

- MAWF established quarantine facilities in:
 - Zambezi(Kopano and Sachinga)
 - Kavango East(Matumbo Libebe)
 - Oshikoto(Oshivelo and Okapya)
 - Ohangwena(Okongo)
 - Omusati(Omutambo Omahwe)
- Upgraded and is constructing abattoirs at Outapi, Eenhana, Rundu and Ongwediva meat processing plant
- Planning to upgrade the Opuwo abattoir and constructing meat processing plant at Bukalo
- Trained over 60 Namibian veterinarians
- Supported the establishment of the Namibian Veterinary School at UNAM



2.2 Veterinary Cordon Fence(VCF)

- NCA FMD and CBPP status remains unchanged
- So far, three schools of thought to address this:
 - Removal of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF)
 - Translocation of VCF to northern border with Angola
 - Creation of Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) and CBPP (known as lung sickness) free zones within a 30km km zone on both the Namibian and Angolan side, in line with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards
- Pros and Cons of options
 - Namibia's FMD Free zone will lose its disease free status, if VCF is removed immediately
 - Will lead to loss of market access to regional and international lucrative markets
 - Trans-locating the VCF to borders with Angola is the most plausible
 - It is costly and will take time to secure the adequate financial resources for the construction of border VCF
 - There is a need to establish the exact coordinates of the borderline which would require representatives from Namibia, Angola and observers from SADC and AU
 - Require buy-in, cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders
 - Astronomic costs including regular disease surveillance, border patrols, fence maintenance, personnel to man the border gates and the erection of quarantine facilities
 - Area was a war zone, hence need for demining before the construction of VCF may delay the process.
 - Third option requires vaccination against FMD and CBPP in Namibia's Protection zone and 30 km into Angola for a stretch of \pm 600 km, intensive surveillance, animal identification and traceability on both sides, ability to detect disease rapidly, ability to respond to disease outbreaks effectively, ability to prevent disease incursion, demonstration of the absence of the disease through surveillance
 - Vaccinating animals in the Protection zone and 30km into Angola for a stretch of \pm 600 km is too costly for Namibia and unsustainable

2.3 Support to Farmers

2.3.1 Cooperative Loan Guarantee Fund

- MAWF established CLGF to facilitate access to credit for cooperatives, through loan guarantees
- Administered through the Agribank

2.3.2 Small Stock Distribution and Development Project

- SSDDP implemented in communal areas of all 14 regions
- Provides quality core breeding flock of suitable local goats to selected vulnerable households
- Targets 20 selected small scale communal rural households
- Since inception, 60 farmers benefited through allocation of 1260 goats

Support to Farmers(conti)

2.3.3 Affirmative Action Loan Scheme

- Aided previously disadvantaged communities access to commercial agricultural farmland
- AALS complemented by the North-South Incentive Scheme (NSIS)
- NSIS facilitated movement of AALS beneficiary communal farmers north of VCF to commercial farms south of VCF
- NSIS also aimed at assisting animal off-take of the rangelands in areas north of VCF
- Through AALS, 1008 farmers resettled on 5,968,644 ha.

Support to Farmers (Conti)

2.3.4 Dry Land Crop Production Programme

- DCPP implemented in all the crop growing regions of the country, namely Zambezi, Kavango West, Kavango East, Omusati, Oshana, Oshana, Kunene, Otjozondjupa and Omaheke
- Provision of subsidized fertilizer, improved seeds, ploughing and weeding services to communal farmers

2.3.5 Conservation Agriculture Programme

- To reduce and reverse land degradation
- Mitigate the impact of climate change through the adoption of Conservation Agriculture (CA) practices
- Basis for sustainable crop production and improved food security at national and household level
- CA implemented with support of cooperating partners in all crop producing regions

Support to Farmers(Conti)

2.3.6 Namibia Agricultural Mechanization and Seed Improvement

Project

- NAMSIP, a 5 year project is funded through African Development Bank Loan
- To improve household food security, nutrition, job creation, household income and livelihoods of rural people
- Aims to increase agricultural production and productivity
- Supports agricultural production through mechanization and certified seed systems
- Agricultural scheme will be implemented in 14 regions of Namibia
- Seed systems development scheme will be implemented in Kavango East, Kavango West, Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto and Zambezi region.

Agrarian Reform(conti)

2.3.7 Climate Resilient Agriculture in three of the Vulnerable Extreme northern crop-growing regions

- CRAVE implemented in Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West
- Funded through a grant by the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF)
- Complementing the Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Programme
- Capacitates beneficiaries to acquire skills and knowledge to adopt conservation agriculture and climate-resilient agricultural practices

Support to Farmers(conti)

2.3.8 Nurseries

- Seedling nurseries established to produce seedlings for shade and fruit trees
- Seedlings sold at subsidized prices as well as donated to the public
- Seedlings planted in GRN orchards and woodlots for demonstration and research trials

2.3.9 Orchards

- Several orchards established to produce fruits to contribute to national food security
- Orchard increase the vegetation cover
- Some orchards used for research trials to investigate adaptability of the trees to the environment
- Management of the orchards to be handed over to communities and other relevant institutions for their sustainable management

Support to Farmers (Conti)

2.3.10 Rural Water Supply

- Access to potable water in rural areas improved from 43% to the current 85% within a radius of 2.5 km

Support to Farmers(Conti)

2.3.11 Pre and Post Settlement Support Services

- MAWF developed and implemented the Capacity Building Strategy for Resettlement Farmers 2017-2022 to improve the capacities of resettled farmers to increase yields and market orientated production
- Specific Desired Outcomes:
 - Established system for programmes and projects planning in support of resettlement farms;
 - Strengthened Capacities of resettled farmers in technical and managerial skills for achieving sustainable and commercially viable production;
 - Strengthened capacities of training and advisory services of various stakeholders to support resettlement program.

3. Challenges to Agrarian Reform

3.1 Commercial Agricultural Sub-Sector

- High Production Costs of Imported agriculture production inputs
- Bush encroachment- High costs of bush thinning, diverting much needed resources from actual production
- Reliance on rainfed agriculture
- Climate change- droughts, prolonged dry spells and floods
- Land and soil degradation
- Poor rangeland management practices,
- Lack of markets for agricultural produce.

Challenges to Agrarian Reform (conti)

3.1.1 International Market Concentration

- Reliance on traditional agricultural export markets
- This, despite market access opportunities created by Government through Free Trade Agreements
- Emerging threat to sustainable long term existence of the livestock subsector
 - Exodus-style exportation of livestock on hoof

3.1.2 Decreasing Productivity of Livestock Farmland

- Overgrazing
 - overstocking on smaller portions of subdivided agricultural farm units
 - Bush encroachment
 - Poor rangeland management

3.1.3 Change of Agricultural Land Use

- Conversion of livestock and crop farms into game farms, lodges and real estates
 - Country's population and demand for food is increasing

Challenges to Agrarian Reform (Conti)

3.1.4 Access to Existing Formal Distribution Chain Market

- Domestic formal market dominated by distribution chains/cartels linked to producers in countries of origin
- Where retailers/distributors are compelled to source regulatory quotas locally, they tend to source exclusively from the well-established local commercial farmers, effectively excluding of small scale or previously disadvantaged farmers
- Domestic market largely made up of previously disadvantaged communities

3.1.5 Dilapidating Farm Infrastructure

- Successful commercial farming partially depends on good infrastructure on the farm
 - Including water, fencing, machinery and implements
 - Some resettlement farms have aged or dilapidated infrastructure

3.2 Challenges of Support to Farmers(conti)

3.2.1 Uneconomically Viable Farming Units

- Most resettled farmers settled on uneconomically viable farming units due to
 - Poor quality of the land
 - Small land sizes
 - Dilapidated or non-existent infrastructure

3.2.2 Pre and Post Resettlement Farmer Support

- Inadequate training and poor access to production finance for Resettlement Programme beneficiary farmers
- Hence, many beneficiaries not farming successfully

Challenges (conti)

3.2.3 Inflated Farm Prices

- Prices for commercial farmland have been increasing since independence
 - Current market prices are no longer equivalent to actual value of the commercial farms
 - Unprecedented pressure on new AALS farm owners to settle land acquisition loans, leading high default rates

3.2.4 Practice of Subdividing Agricultural Land to Service Land Acquisition Debt

- Highly inflated farm prices
- Led to increased number of applications to subdivide agricultural land
 - With a view to settle land acquisition loans
 - Subdivided uneconomically viable farm portions create financial pressure to new farm owners

3.2.5 Access to Finance for Production Inputs

- Lack of collateral by communal farmers impedes their access to production loans
- Non-collateral loans products by Agribank assists with permanently employment

4. MAWF Recommendations (Conti)

4.1 On Agrarian Reform

4.1.1 High agricultural production costs

- Government should actively support initiatives aimed at fodder production in the country
- 20%-30% of land under Green Scheme irrigation should be reserved for fodder production
- Support communal farmers to produce fodder both under irrigation and rain-fed conditions
- Implement the HPP strategy for establishing a fertilizer mixing plant should be prioritized through PPP
- Encourage farmers to venture into commercial bush utilization and value addition operations
- Encourage stakeholders to establish feedlots

4.1.2 Research and Development

- Strengthen research and development collaboration and cooperation with tertiary institutions, private sector and development partners to improve agricultural production and productivity, value addition and markets access

4.1.3 International Market Concentration

- Encourage exporters of Namibian agricultural produce and Processed Agricultural Products (PAPs) to develop and diversify markets for their agricultural produce and PAPs in all markets secured by Government
- Tighten regulations aimed at curbing exodus-style exportation of livestock on hoof, in order secure sufficient throughput at local abattoirs and meat processing facilities
- Strengthen border inspection and control to prevent smuggling of Namibia's livestock resources

4.1.4 Decreasing Productivity of Livestock Farmland

- Farmers should be encouraged to stick to the carrying capacities of their farmlands
- Prohibition of subdivision of agricultural land into uneconomically viable units should be fully enforced

MAWF Recommendations (Conti)

4.1.5 Change of agricultural land use

- At least 80% of total agricultural land in Namibia should at all times be reserved for livestock and crop production purposes and that it should never be reduced

4.1.6 Marketing of Namibian agricultural produce and PAPs

- Tighten border inspection and control to ensure effective implementation of regulatory marketing schemes, such and Market Share Promotion (MSP) for horticulture, Close and Open Border Periods for controlled grains produce, etc.
- Devise new market regulations to support the growth at home of the meat, leather, dairy, poultry industries

MAWF Recommendations

4.2 On VCF

- Focus on alternatives that will nullify the adverse effects of the VCF at its current position
 - To facilitate market access for \pm 1.6 million cattle, 680 752 goats, and 432 800 sheep from the NCA
- Devise solutions that will improve the animal health status, quality of NCA livestock and ensure that Namibia has a single and fully integrated livestock industry
- Adopt and implement the commodity based trade as approved by the OIE
 - Construct and complete the upgrading the abattoirs at Rundu, Eenhana, Opuwo
 - Construct and complete of meat processing facilities Bukalo and Ongwediva
 - Operationalize Oshakati and Katima Mulilo abattoirs

MAWF Recommendations (Conti)

- Rehabilitate existing quarantine facilities for efficient disease control
- Adopt compartmentalization disease free status approach by establishing and implement disease free livestock compartments in the NCA, to include some parts of Kunene north (Sesfontein area), Oshana (Ombuga area), Omusati (Omutambo Mawoe area), Kavango-west (Karikubis and Mangetti-east farms) and Oshikoto (Mangetti-west and Onalusheshete farms)
 - This would result into gradual inclusion of semi-commercial farms and other FMD and CBPP low-risk areas in the NCA into the FMD free zone
- Allow movement of cattle not vaccinated against FMD that have undergone 90 days quarantine from the NCA to south of VCF for direct slaughter at export approved abattoirs
- Construction of the VCF along the Namibia/Angola border is the most plausible long term solution for achieving FMD and CBPP freedom recognized by OIE
- **NOTE:** It is important to note that the existing VCF should not be removed, as it can be used to control disease outbreaks

MAWF Recommendations (Conti)

4.3 On Support to Farmers

4.3.1 Uneconomical Viable Farming Units

- MLR should always consult MAWF on the subdivision of acquired resettlement farms to ensure that sizes of resettlement farm portions are economically viable
- MLR should prioritize the development of farming infrastructure on the resettlement farm portions, prior to resettlement

4.3.2 Pre and Post Resettlement Farmer Support

- The function of training resettled farm beneficiaries should be transferred from MLR to MAWF to ensure effective imparting of farming knowledge and skills to beneficiaries
- Resettlement farm beneficiaries should be provided with subsidized production machinery and implements
- Resettlement farmers should be encouraged to form cooperatives in order to access production loans through the Cooperative Loan Guarantee Fund

4.3.3 Access to finance by communal farmers

- Communal farmers should be encouraged to form cooperatives in order to access production loans through the Cooperative Loan Guarantee Fund

MAWF Recommendations (Conti)

4.3.4 Pre-and Post-Settlement farmer Support

- Make adequate budgetary provision for the implementation of the pre and post settlement farmer support strategy

4.3.5 Implement the HACCIADEP commodity value chain

development schemes

4.3.6 Use government purchasing power as a market facilitation for

agricultural produce to stimulate sustainable agriculture production

FAO Quote

“The eradication of hunger and poverty , and the sustainable use of the environment, depend in large measure on how people, communities and others gain access to land, fisheries and forests. The livelihood of many, particularly the rural poor, are based on secure and equitable access to and control over these resources. They are the source of food and shelter; the basis for social, cultural and religious practices; and a central factor in economic growth”

I THANK YOU