



STATEMENT BY HONOUR J MUTORWA, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY (MAWF) ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE 2013/14 NAMIBIA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE (NCA) - COMMUNAL SECTOR RESULTS, AT SAFARI HOTEL, NAMIBIA 25th NOVEMBER 2015.

- Director of Ceremonies;
 - All Ministers present;
 - The FAO Country Representative, Dr. Babagana;
 - Members of the NSA Board of Directors present;
 - Acting Statistician General, Mr. Sikongo Haihambo;
 - Management and staff from MAWF;
 - Management and staff from NSA;
 - Distinguished Invited Guests;
 - Members of the Media;
 - Ladies and Gentlemen.
1. It gives me great pleasure to be here with you, this evening, to present to the Namibian nation, residents and visitors in and to our Country; the results of the 2013/2014 Namibia Census of Agriculture (NCA).
 2. The Agricultural Census is a large-scale statistical operation for the collection of data and information about the state and structure of agriculture in our country, which is a vital sector for the Namibian

economy. When resources permit, the standard census would be carried out similar to the Population and Housing Census, i.e. every ten years (decade).

3. Information from this Census gives our policymakers and planners an understanding of the status quo, as well as progress and future prospects of agricultural industries, products, and our farming practices.
4. It will also help farmers, policymakers and others involved with the industry to determine strategies to ensure sustainable farming.
5. The successful completion of the Namibia Census of Agriculture (NCA) in the communal sector has been, without any doubt, the result of the comprehensive collaborative efforts between the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), made possible through the technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.
6. The agricultural and forestry sectors are and will most certainly remain a major sources of livelihoods for the very vast majority of our Country's population, who are still largely dependent on subsistence agriculture. The sector's contribution to the country's export earnings, in the form of live animals, meat and meat products, as well as grapes has been very enormous.

7. Since independence in March 1990, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has given top priority to the development of agricultural and human resources, with particular emphasis on the communal areas, in order to ensure food sufficiency, combat unemployment, and reduce dependency on food imports. Thus, the strong connection between the agriculture census and annual survey undertakings, as tools for monitoring and evaluation of the agricultural performance and agricultural planning.
8. Given the status of agriculture and its importance to the national economy, the successive development plans have emphasized an imperative need to maximize returns and to give increased attention to the rural areas.
9. The NDP 4 recognizes the importance of the Agricultural sector, by rating it as one of the key priority areas for development, hence the production of agricultural statistics – a necessary vital planning tool!
10. **Director of Ceremonies**, The provision of relevant, timely and accurate agricultural statistics is needed to monitor and track the impact of government policy related to rural development in general, agricultural products trade, strategic stockpiles, food security and farmer outreach programs, among others.

11. **Ladies and gentlemen**, the report we are about to release to the public reveals some salient features of the Agricultural Communal Sector as reported by the respondents, and include the following findings among others:

- An estimated agricultural households population of 907 715 was made up of 490 149 (54.0%) female and 417 566 (46.0%) male headed households.
- The results further revealed that about 8 040 agricultural households received extension services in the selection of crops, followed by 7 899 that received services in farm management and 7 621 that received extension services in livestock husbandry. Most of the extension services were provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
- The census also showed that 31 720 agricultural households received information through the radio. A large number of agricultural households (58.6%) are located within 1 km to facilities and 11.3 percent of the households were more than 10 km to facilities.
- With regard to farm management, the results showed that households that reported to have used fertilizers on their crops mainly applied organic fertilizers. The majority of those using organic fertilizers, applied them on millet / mahangu.
- Local varieties of seeds were used by 143 411 holders which makes them the most type of seeds used in the agricultural

households. The reasons for not using improved and/or hybrid seeds were attributed to non-availability, and non-affordability and a lack of knowledge about these types of seeds. The results further revealed that the major activities involved in by the communal agricultural households were Crop production and Livestock husbandry

- The results shows that the production of crops were mainly for own consumption. Millet / mahangu recorded the highest volume consumed (79 424 tonnes), followed by maize (11 132 tonnes) and sorghum with 4 512 tonnes. Millet recorded the highest post-harvest losses of 24 437 tonnes, of which 22 824 tonnes were lost in the field.
- The census reported that out of 159 484 agricultural households, 39 percent of them were engaged in livestock farming. A total of 872 228 cattle were reported to be owned. The census further recorded 1 618 204 goats and 163 905 sheep.

12. ***Ladies and gentlemen***, these results are meant to enable us to make informed decisions in our respective planning initiatives, I therefore urge the staff of our Ministry to increase our collective and individual efforts, in addressing the shortfalls, revealed by the census results and in the same vein, urge the NSA to extensively disseminate the results, as contained in the Report, so as to ensure evidence based planning of the Agricultural sector as well as monitoring of sectoral policies and programmes.

13. The importance of a census of agriculture cannot be overemphasized, especially in the context of the contribution of the agricultural sector to the national economy in terms of GDP. Mindful of this, the 2013/14 NCA was designed taking into consideration:

- *The Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) and Vision 2030;*
- *The Millennium Development Goals and Indicators;*
- *Poverty monitoring and analysis;*
- *Food security and vulnerability monitoring and analysis;*
- *Measuring the role of women in agriculture;*
- *Agricultural planning and policy formulation;*
- *Improving current agricultural statistics for benchmarking;*
- *Providing baseline data for monitoring agricultural development projects; and*
- *Providing data for private sector use.*

14. Thus, a credible census of agriculture should provide information which helps in assessing the type of development required and the optimum allocation and utilization of resources among various projects/programs needed for this purpose. It primarily zooms in on characteristics of holdings, the structure of agriculture and the social, economic and institutional factors that influence and limits production,

15. The benefits to be derived from the NCA data are manifold and include, but not limited to:

- *Policy decision making for sustainable socio-economic development;*
- *Monitoring the performance of the agricultural sector in Namibia;*
- *Monitoring the progress made towards NDP's national and sectoral objectives;*
- *Identification of various vulnerable target groups for Poverty alleviation/reduction interventions;*
- *Examining the status and participation of women in food and agriculture related activities;*
- *Crop and livestock research;*
- *Rural development planning;*
- *Agricultural marketing;*
- *Agricultural Greens-scheme initiatives;*
- *Agricultural conservancy development;*
- *Early warning and food security monitoring; and*
- *Water and aquaculture interventions.*

16. Ladies and gentlemen, I am reliably informed that with the kind technical assistance provided by the FAO, the 2013/14 Namibia Census of Agriculture has followed the guidelines set by the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA 2010) to enable the countries to carry out their national agricultural census using standard international concepts, definitions and methodology.

17. The programme assists countries by providing guidelines to generate internationally comparable figures on variables defining structure of agriculture, such as number and area of farms by size, number of livestock by type and age/sex classification, land tenure and land use, crops grown and agricultural inputs. FAO encourages countries to develop their programmes of censuses and surveys, keeping in view their priorities, practices and resource availability within the framework of a modular approach advocated in WCA 2010.
18. Therefore, I strongly believe that the information gathered from the 2013/14 Agriculture Census exercise would generally aid decision makers in the formulation of sound economic and social policies to identify target groups for government assistance, construct models to stimulate the impact on individual groups of the various policy options and to analyse the impact of decisions that have already been implemented and of the economic situation on living conditions of agricultural households in Namibia.
19. ***Distinguished guests***, I find this to be the perfect juncture to inform you that: the Commercial Sector Agriculture census is in full swing! The stage of enumeration has been completed and data processing has commenced. This census covered commercial farming units in the entire country, including resettlement farms.
20. On behalf of the MAWF, I would like to congratulate the staff of the NSA and MAWF for a credible work done.

21. The Ministry is grateful for the continued valuable assistance, received from all the data providers, particularly the communal farmers, who cooperated very favourably with the field staff and made available the needed statistical information.
22. The Ministry remains committed to championing the provision of accurate, reliable and timely agricultural data and information, for effective decision-making and research purposes.
23. Finally, my profound appreciation goes to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the unwavering financial and technical expert support.
24. I now have the singular honour to declare, the 2013/14 NCA Communal Sector Results duly launched.

Thank you for your attention.