



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

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10 January 2017

Media response – The Namibian Newspaper

1. How many people benefited from the scheme?

In 2016/17 financial year the Ministry did not invite farmers to submit claims; hence no claims were processed in 2016/17 financial year. However, in 2015/16 financial year the Ministry processed in total 7777 claims.

2. How much money was spent on to benefit the farmers?

Livestock marketing N\$94 061 349-00, Lease of grazing N\$186 698 4-00 and N\$445 230-00 on Transportation subsidies.

3. Can you tell us per category, how the farmers benefited e.g those who hired transport or leased grazing etc?

Lease of grazing 143 farmers benefited, Transportation 83 farmers benefited.

4. How many farmers did the scheme aim to assist and how much money was pumped into making the scheme a success?

The scheme was targeted to benefit approximately 8000 farmers. The total amount of N\$96 373 563-00 has been spent on livestock marketing, lease of grazing and transportation subsidies.

5. What kind of marketing was done to ensure that the farmers are all aware about the scheme?

- MAWF officials from the Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and engineering Service held a series of meeting with farmers in the regions.
- Radio announcement (NBC)
- TV advertisement (NBC)
- Newspapers (a number of Public Notice, Media release were placed in local newspapers and a series of media conferences were held at MAWF head quarter.

6. Can you also tell us how many livestock are in the country, like how many cattle, goats and sheep? Also please tell us how many of them have died to date?

We can only provide you with the number of livestock as per the latest census which was contacted in December 2015;

Cattle: 2770545

Sheep: 1973393

Goat: 1868535

7. Can you also tell us why most farmers find it difficult to sell their livestock and what the ministry has done to encourage them?

There is a general decrease in prices for weaners and thin slaughter cattle due to the poor body condition and limited marketing opportunities especially in the Northern Communal Areas. However cattle which are in good body condition are getting better prices due to low throughput and high demand as many farmers cannot sell some of their cattle which are in poor body condition.

The government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has introduced measures such as Livestock marketing, assist with Lease of grazing and subsidies Transport cost for farmers when moving livestock for either grazing or marketing purposes.

8. Is there anything you would like to add?

Please farmers should take note that the scheme can only be introduced after a state of emergency has been declared in terms of drought.