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## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

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19 January 2017

### **Media response – NAMPA**

**Question 1: We are currently in the last quarter of the financial year, what are the ministry's plans/scheme to assist commercial farmers?**

With financial crunch that the government is experiencing with the cash flow it is very difficult to specify special assistance to commercial farmers. Any support and assistance that is provided by the MAWF is provided to all farmers in the country. The ministry will continue with the implementation of capacity building programme for commercial farmers, building of marketing infrastructure and construction of Agricultural Development Centres to bring services closer to farmers.

**Question 2: Do we have farmers that produce animal feed? If yes, how many of these farmers are registered and are there support programs for these farmers from the Ministry?**

No farmer in Namibia is currently producing animal feed. Although farmers prepared their own mix but from the readymade feed. If there are farmers producing animal feed for commercial purposes, farmers are advised to contact the Ministry-Plant Health Control, Agricultural Inputs division for testing of their feed to determine if they are conforming to the requirements of the country and if there is no residue.

**Question 3: Lastly, what message or mechanisms does the ministry have for farmers (commercial/communal) to ensure high crop yield with current rainfall received so far?**

Farmers are advised to implement Conservation Agriculture since there is little rain. This will help the soil to retain soil moisture for a longer period and allow crops to grow or reach maturity. At the same time farmers that are very late should plant short season variety crops that mature in the shortest period possible with little water requirements. Farmers are advised to plant drought tolerant variety and plant only certified seed.

Yours sincerely,