



# MY COUNTRY MY RESPONSIBILITY



Annual Report  
**2023-2024**

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# NAU

## PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW

by **Thinus Pretorius, President of the NAU**

The Namibia Agricultural Union consists of 66 farmers' associations across the country, representing 10 regions. Our Executive Council therefore encompasses these 10 regional representatives plus the representatives of another 10 affiliations and commodities under the NAU umbrella. Furthermore, the NAU office has 10 staff members, functioning as the backbone of our organization.

2024 certainly left its mark on us and its impact will linger for some time. As at the end of December 2024, most of the country had received below average rain which fell here and there with large and very warm intervals. Very limited water flow means our water availability from dams is under tremendous pressure – a stern reminder of how dependent our country is on rain.

However, not all was negative and true to our Namibian nature, plans were made. Herds were decreased early in the season and a scramble arose for the acquisition of roughage and fodder. Unfortunately, the animal health status of our southern neighbour did not make matters any easier and still remains a tremendous challenge, which also has its share of bureaucracy.

The NAU negotiated together with its sister unions for drought relief measures for our producers. Relevant institutions and authorities, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Finance and medical funds were approached. To reflect the Executive Council's solidarity with its members, a rebate of N\$1 000 per NAU member was granted on membership fees. It was more of a gesture than an improvement of members' financial position, but I am grateful that we were able to offer the rebate. The office also distributed weekly motivational videos with the aim to give our members perspective in these challenging times. The feedback received was very positive.

What stood out for me in 2024 was the cooperation achieved between the various agricultural unions. This gives incredible momentum and impact to the unions especially with the government and media. Let us trust that we are pursuing the same goal, namely a healthy, thriving Namibia. May this confirm that our democracy has reached maturity and that we can indeed work together across social boundaries.

The sudden passing of our president, Hage Geingob, shook the nation to its core and a feeling of unity arose in this country. The fact that the NAU was invited to provide a contribution during his funeral service at his private residence, together with the opportunity to convey our members' condolences to his widow and family, speaks of recognition and respect for the NAU.



NAU President: Thinus Pretorius

Still on the political front, Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah opened the annual braai competition in Gobabis and afterwards gave the NAU delegation the opportunity for a personal conversation. We reminded her that the government is our main partner and that there is a great responsibility on the shoulders of the government to keep the economy in the country running and to uphold a safe and sustainable environment. Mutually, the need for discussion on a regular basis was expressed.

The NAU was asked to provide input to the State Owned Enterprises (SOE) Ministry as well as the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), after the dire state of finances at Meatco came to light and producers were not paid within the agreed time. Various discussions were held regarding a turnaround plan for Meatco. It is indeed encouraging to see that the strategy is bearing fruit, despite a long road ahead.

Another first is the participation of the Union in the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) case in which the MAWLR and the Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPBN) act as first and second defendants. The case is scheduled to be heard early in 2025 after completion of a complicated pleading process, with the complainant being obliged to pay certain costs of the defendants.

Crime remains a major source of concern for the NAU and methods and ways to curb this evil are constantly being examined. Unfortunately, some of the executors of law and order are deficient or apathetic in the search for a solution to the problem. However, good progress has been made with the development of a crime app and we hope to be able to start tests during 2025.

Much attention was given to the new Water Act as well as to prospecting and exploration activities in the Stampriet Aquifer. The NAU continued to support the Stampriet Aquifer Uranium Mining Association (SAUMA) to protect producers' interests in the provision of healthy drinking water. A lot of time, patience and money was invested in this matter during the year.

The journey of the Zimbabwean farmer who walked and travelled by horse from his farm in Zimbabwe to Windhoek captured the imagination of our members. He mirrored the epitome of injustice, abuse of power and powerlessness. It made me realize anew how lucky we are in this dry land. We have a constitution that protects us from abuse. This makes us the only country in Africa where property rights are guaranteed in the Constitution and cannot be changed with a 100% vote in parliament.

With that comes a responsibility. It is indeed everyone's duty in this country to handle our democracy and peace responsibly. It is the duty of each of us to keep our place of residence clean and manageable. For 35 years, we have succeeded in creating a unique place in Africa, where peace, mutual understanding and respect prevail, envied by the world. Therefore, each of us carries a responsibility to contribute, to make a difference. We no longer have the luxury of being mere spectators. We must be influencers and can only do so if we are united and informed.

I am a proud Namibian farmer and am honoured to be part of an agricultural family like this.

Politics and agriculture share braai festival stage ... NAU president Thinus Pretorius and president-elect Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah who addressed an audience of approximately 660 people during the official opening of the NAU Agribraai on June 14. "The president-elect's actions meant a lot for agriculture in the country," the chairperson of the Omuramba Farmers' Association and this year's host of the braai festival, said.

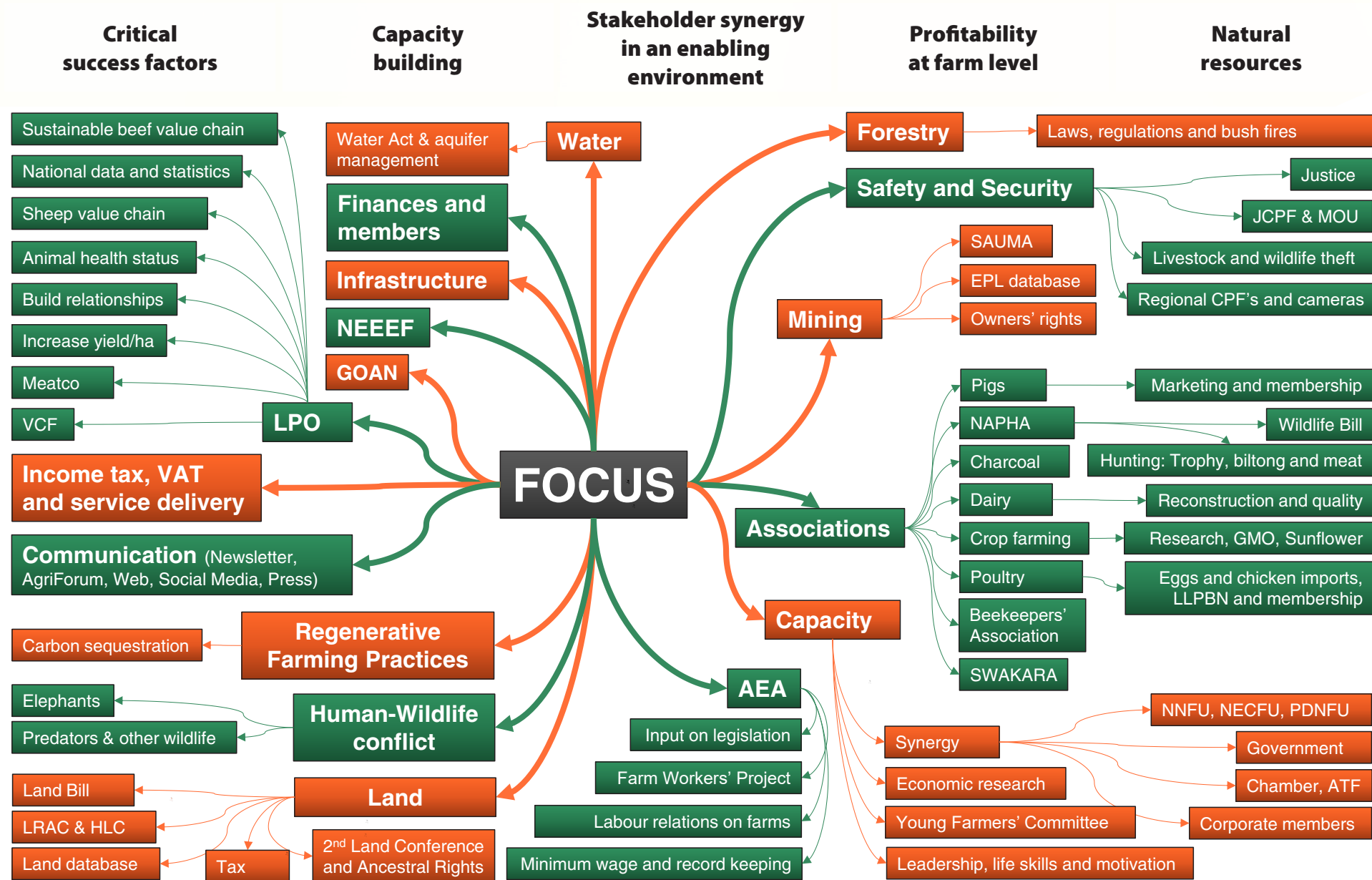


Above: A celebration of the longest-living member of the Windhoek Farmers' Association ... Justus Meiburg (centre) received a gift from chairman Frederik Voigts (left) for his achievement of 67 years of membership while NAU president Thinus Pretorius (right) looked on during the festive dinner on 13 April. Justus turned 92 years of age in October, is still going strong and still an active member of the farmers' association.



Key stakeholders during the opening ceremony for the signing of a strategy for the transformation of the agri-food sector, known by the acronym as STAS.

# NAU Vision: To support and promote a conducive environment for sustainable agriculture



# OVERVIEW

## ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

### Inflation of agricultural production inputs

From 2022 to 2023, agricultural inflation (Figure 1), declined YOY (year-on-year) from 15.51% to 2.38%. This decline was driven by the decline in feed, mineral as well as fuel prices. 2022 had been a year filled with great burdens fuelled by the Russia-Ukraine war which had resulted in inflationary pressures in fuel and feed prices. In 2023 however, fuel prices reduced causing an offset in agri-inflation.

### Estimated value of formal primary agricultural production

During 2023, the livestock sector experienced a value decline in the goat sector by 12.63% whereas the cattle and sheep sectors experienced growths of 17.28% and 36.84%, respectively. Increases in the sheep sector can be attributed to the increase in live exports as well as local slaughter, compared to the previous year's levels. Increase in prices offered by sheep export abattoirs contributed to the increase in supply of sheep numbers for slaughtering. Within the cattle subsector, marketing of cattle was mainly influenced by live exports and export abattoir slaughter. Furthermore, the declines experienced in the goat sector is mainly due to the overall decline in the average price of goats.

The dairy industry on the other hand recorded a 5.88% growth in production value, attributed to price increases. The poultry sector grew by 14.50% in value from the previous year, of which 18% of the value was contributed by egg production. It is noted that the number of layers decreased YOY by almost 20% due to the outbreak of Avian Influenza in South Africa, which influenced the availability of layers and as a result, affected the production stock of small-scale producers.

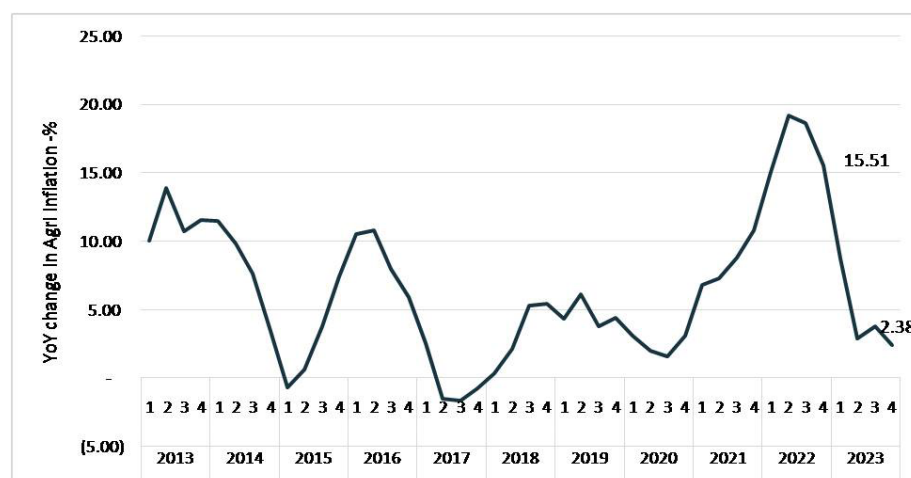


Figure 1: YoY change in Agri-inflation 2013Q1-2023Q4

Source: NAU

Table 1. Estimated Production Values – N\$

	2021	2022	2023	Increase/Decrease (2022-2023) - %
Cattle	2,514,088,915	2,831,936,754	3,321,319,033	17.28
Sheep	544,730,947	744,415,380	1,047,589,923	36.84
Goats	148,648,874	200,120,034	174,852,247	-12.63
Agronomy	547,025,535	856,306,483	512,740,426	-40.12
Dairy	93,661,305	98,586,414	104,386,028	5.88
Pigs	135,537,461	135,721,781	174,032,712	28.23
Grapes	758,479,619	1,140,170,153	1,198,855,040	5.15
Poultry	1,202,421,385	1,342,535,822	1,537,242,637	14.50
Fresh Produce (Veg and Fruit) <sup>1</sup>	559,249,340	828,051,300	862,643,765	4.18
Charcoal	420,000,000	506,000,000	528,000,000	4.35
Swakara	6,821,133	1,779,472	4,195,466	135.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,930,664,513</b>	<b>8,706,788,279</b>	<b>9,465,857,276</b>	<b>8.72</b>

Source : NAB/LLBP/NAMIBIA DAIRIES/NAMIB POULTRY/SWAKARA/CAoN/NAU

<sup>1</sup> Fresh Produce (Veg and Fruit) statistics exclude data for Q4 2023. Data was unavailable at the time of this publication.

The Charcoal production value increased by 4.35% on a YOY basis. This increase is attributed to the increase in average price per ton received in 2023, which grew by 9.09%. The Swakara industry witnessed an increase in the production value growing from N\$1 779 472 to N\$4 195 465 mainly attributed to an increase in average pelt price growing from the 2022 average price of N\$328.68/pelt to N\$530.87/pelt in 2023. The increase in pelt prices were mainly driven by the price of white pelts.

### Input costs and livestock prices

Figure 2 shows the trends in nominal livestock prices and agricultural inflation. Since 2017, production costs have been on an increasing trend, growing by almost 60%, putting continued pressure on livestock profitability. Weaner prices dropped nearly 20% compared to prices received in 2017 nominally, while slaughter cattle and sheep prices grew by 33% and 2 % respectively. De-

## ... ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

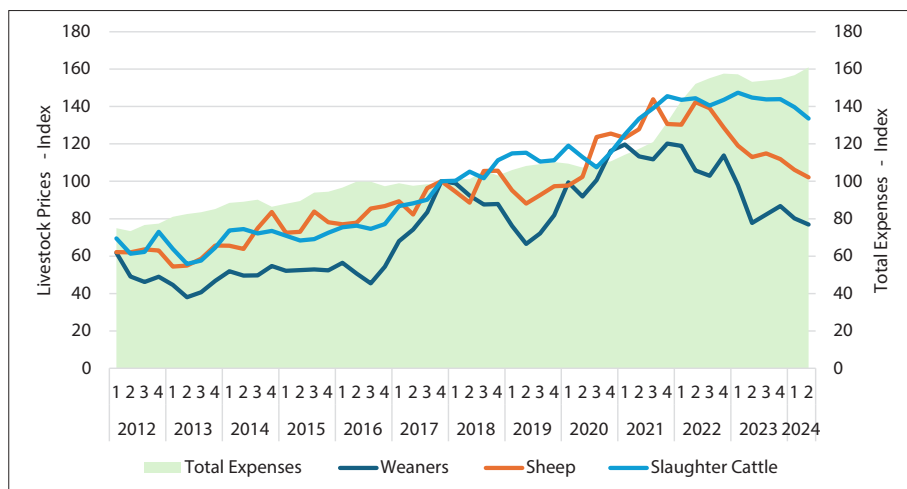


Figure 2: Production Cost Index and Livestock Price Trends 2006-2024 (2017=100)

Source: NAU

spite these increasing trends, the real prices reflected in figure 3 reflect the reality that production costs continue to inhibit profitable returns.

When adjusted to real prices (Figure 3), the gap between the production costs and farmer returns widens, reflecting that farmers are worse off due to the rise in production costs. Extreme variability is seen in weaner

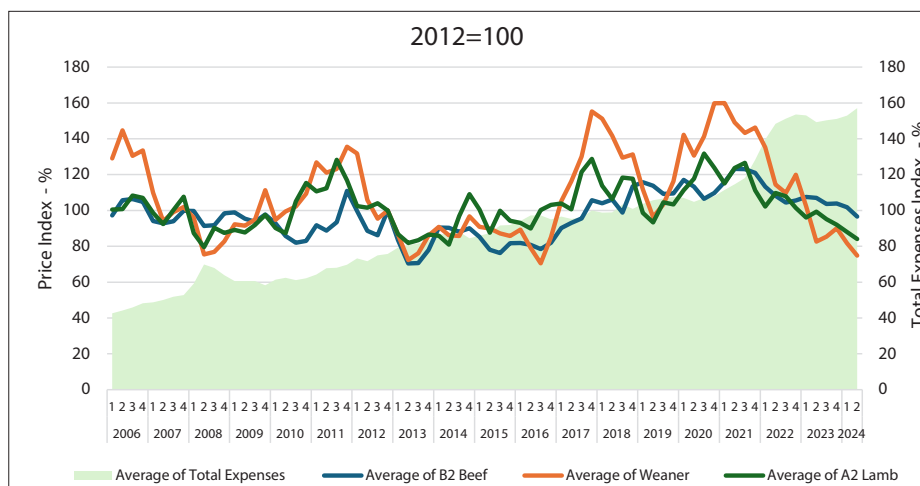


Figure 3: Real Livestock Price and Production Cost Index Trends

Source: NAU

	2022	2023	%Change
No. of cattle slaughtered	111,105	150,573	35.52
No. of cattle exported on hoof	139,613	151,808	8.73
<b>Total Marketing of Cattle</b>	<b>250,718</b>	<b>302,381</b>	<b>20.61</b>
No. of sheep slaughtered	157,066	199,220	26.84
No. of sheep exported on hoof	424,807	600,201	41.29
<b>Total Marketing of Sheep</b>	<b>581,873</b>	<b>799,421</b>	<b>37.39</b>
No. of goats slaughtered	7,492	5,692	-24.03
No. of goats exported on hoof	136,076	145,842	7.18
<b>Total Marketing of Goats</b>	<b>143,568</b>	<b>151,534</b>	<b>5.55</b>

Table 2: Total Marketing 2022 versus 2023

Source: LLPBN

and A2 lamb prices which reflects correlation between the two commodities. Both lamb and weaners are predominantly exported to South Africa and prices are influenced greatly by their market dynamics. Due to the current economic climate in South Africa, consumers are leaning towards alternative (more affordable) protein sources, like chicken and pork. This decline in demand from our main market is reflected in the current price trends. On the other hand, real B2 prices remained on the same level as that of 2006.

### 2023 Livestock Marketing

Drought conditions experienced in 2023 led to an increase in marketing, increasing pressure on local prices. Cattle marketing grew by 20.61% compared to the 250 718 heads marketed in 2022. This was mostly fuelled by the increase in slaughter capacity by export abattoirs which grew by 35.52% from the previous year. Most live exports (weaners) went to South African feedlots, while the rest were exported to Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe for farming and breeding purposes.

Live sheep exports, predominantly to South Africa, grew by 41.29% while local slaughter increased by 26.84%. The rise in the number of sheep slaughtered was driven by the increase in slaughter capacity at export abattoirs, which increased by 158.12% compared to 2022. Goat marketing remained low, increasing by a mere 9.51% due to an 11.36% increase in live exports.

### 2024 Livestock Marketing Statistics

Table 3 shows the marketing of the first 11 months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Cattle marketing continued an upward trend growing by 21.49% compared to the same period in 2023. This growth was mostly attributed to an increase in live exports, which grew by 19.20% while export abattoir slaughter grew by 30.03%. This was due to herd liquidation based on drought

conditions. The effects of drought are further seen in the increase of cattle at auctions, where slaughter cattle increased by 77.10%, with a total of 75 081 slaughter cattle being auctioned during the first 11 months of 2024.

The sheep sector recorded a 5.40% increase in live exports compared to the same period in 2023. Live exports were destined for South African abattoirs in the Northern Cape, which were on average offering higher prices compared to Namibian abattoirs. The rest were exported to other neighbouring SADC countries. Contrastingly, slaughter activities however declined by 17.48% at export abattoirs and 3.33% at B&C class abattoirs. Despite the fact, that farmers want to support local abattoirs, limited slaughter opportunities were available, as local markets were over-supplied. This has forced farmers to export more sheep on the hoof.

The goat sector saw a decline in the number of live exports, falling by 1.89% compared to the same period last year. Local slaughter remains low. Live exports were mainly to South Africa.

## Pigs and Dairy

YOY, 10.53 % more pigs were marketed during the first 11 months of 2024, bringing the total marketed number to 45,914 pigs. 65.86% of pigs were locally slaughtered at Mariental Abattoir, while 29.36% were slaughtered in Tsumeb. 70 pigs were exported live during this period to Botswana. The pork ceiling price remained fixed at N\$51.03 per kg.

Milk prices (Figure 4) increased by 7.49% reaching an average price of N\$7.45/litre during the first 11 months of 2024 compared to the average price of N\$6.93 /litre recorded during the same period last year. Milk production grew by 8.54% increasing from 13 714 345 litres in the first 11 months of 2023 to 14 885 017 litres in 2024. This is mostly attributed to Namibia Dairies increasing their dairy herd. It is important to note that prior to the rise in prices experienced in September 2022, milk

	Jan - Nov 2023	Jan - Nov 2024	% Change
<b>Cattle marketed (heads)</b>			
Live Exports	145,044	172,899	19.20%
Export Abattoirs	99,597	129,508	30.03%
B&C Class abattoirs	42,167	46,036	9.18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>286,808</b>	<b>348,443</b>	<b>21.49%</b>
<b>Cattle Sold at Auctions</b>			
Weaners	128,343	137,026	6.77%
Slaughter Cattle	42,395	75,081	77.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>170,738</b>	<b>212,107</b>	<b>24.23%</b>
<b>Sheep marketed (heads)</b>			
Live Exports	571,192	602,031	5.40%
Export Abattoirs	84,119	69,418	-17.48%
B&C Class abattoirs	98,937	95,645	-3.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>754,248</b>	<b>767,094</b>	<b>1.70%</b>
Sheep Sold at Auctions	86,984	154,640	77.78%
<b>Goat marketed (heads)</b>			
Live Exports	128,132	125,705	-1.89%
B&C Class abattoirs	5,228	2,435	-53.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,360</b>	<b>128,140</b>	<b>-3.91%</b>
Goats Sold at Auctions	66,742	64,815	-2.89%
<b>Pigs marketed (heads)</b>			
Live Exports	168	70	-58.33%
B&C Class Abattoir	41,371	45,844	10.81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,539</b>	<b>45,914</b>	<b>10.53%</b>

Table 3: Marketing Statistics Overview 2023 v 2024 (Jan-November)

Source: LLPBN

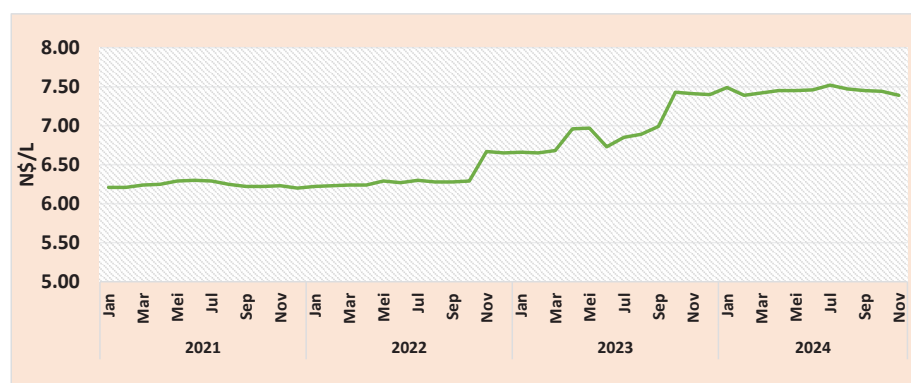


Figure 4: Raw Milk Price Trends

Source: Namibia Dairies

prices had remained relatively flat since 2019. This, paired with rising production costs, influenced the ability of producers to maintain production.

## Agronomy

Due to continued insufficient rainfall and water shortages, Namibia's agronomic outlook for the 2024/25 production period remained bleak. White maize production dropped significantly to 32 280 tons, marking a 51.84%

decline compared to the 2023/24 season. This sharp decline reflects the ongoing impact of poor rainfall. Similarly, local wheat production suffered a dramatic decline, with only 2 984 tons produced in 2024/25, a staggering 83.72% decrease from the 2023/24 season's 18 328 tons. This reduction was largely attributed to low Hardap Dam water levels, which suspended irrigation supply. As a result, wheat imports rose to 126 654 tons, covering 97.7% of local demand,

# AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

**LANDBOUWERKGEWERS  
VERENIGING**

Geaffilieer by die NLU



**AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS'  
ASSOCIATION**

Affiliated to the NAU

The past year was again characterized by stability and peace on commercial farms, with very few labour disputes. The Agricultural Employers' Association (AEA) has consistently experienced good co-operation from members with interactive participation at all levels. Over the years, the AEA has established itself well as one of the most important employers' organizations in Namibia, providing input and protecting the interests of commercial farmers and agriculture.

## **MINIMUM WAGE**

### **Minimum Wage for Farm Employees**

October 2023 saw the introduction of the latest wage agreement between the NAU/AEA and the Namibia Farm Workers' Union, whereby the minimum wage increased to N\$ 6/hour or N\$ 1,170/month in cash while the additional ration value increased to N\$ 650/month. This agreement was subsequently published in the Government Gazette and extended to the entire agricultural sector. The agreement stipulates that negotiations for adjusting the minimum wage must be done annually from now on.

### **National Minimum Wage**

Meanwhile, the Namibian Cabinet announced on 2 June and gazetted on 7 August 2024 that all sectors are to pay a national minimum wage (NMW) as from January 2025. Agriculture is to phase-in over three years and ration and housing benefits are to remain as part of the package. All four the Namibian agricultural unions objected in a joint plea for exemption. Negotiations with the Ministry of Labour will need to continue in 2025.

## **PROPOSED NATIONAL PENSION FUND**

Despite several consultative sessions with the Ministry of Labour on the proposed national pension fund, the Ministry is intent on introducing an ILO-led fund not supported by employers in any sector of Namibia.

## **REPRESENTATION OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS IN VARIOUS BODIES**

The AEA management team is represented in various bodies, councils and forums: NAU Executive Council, Agricultural Labour Forum (NALF), Namibia Employers' Federation (NEF), Technical Working Group on Generational Farm Workers, National Training Authority, Project Advisory Committee for Child Labour (PACC – ILO) and the Khomas Regional Council Development Committee.

## **NAU FARM WORKERS' PROJECT**

### **Retirement Opportunities for Farm Employees**

Facilitating retirement homes for farm workers in centres other than on farms, remains a priority of the AEA. The Agribank undertook to discuss the provision of subsidized home loans to employers with the Ministry of Agriculture, as their current mandate is limited to farming land only.

### **Retirement Benefits for Farm Employees**

Since many farm workers are unskilled or semi-skilled and do not pay attention to retirement planning themselves, employers are encouraged to initiate the conversation



Chairperson: Christine Stoman

and help them with the details. The provision of farmland for retired workers is not supported.

Workers from the communal areas mostly have a home to which they can relocate upon retirement. Employers are encouraged to help workers obtain a residential plot in the town or settlement of their choice if they do not already have one. It then offers them a property where they can retire. A savings plan or retirement policy for workers, preferably from a young age, is an added solution.

## **Generational Farm Workers**

The AEA is represented on the Ministry of Labour's technical working group tasked with drawing up a policy document on the welfare of generational farm workers. Progress has been slow. The AEA's position is that retirement facilities for workers should be arranged elsewhere than on productive farmland.

## **Health Services to Farm Workers**

The poor service at state clinics and hospitals that farm workers experience, remains a major challenge and the AEA often receives complaints from members in this regard. Great distances are driven with workers only to find that chronic medications for blood pressure, blood sugar control, etc. are not available. Contraceptives are also quite of-

ten not available. The AEA remains in contact with the Ministry of Health regarding such services in the countryside.

## **LIAISON WITH MEMBERS OF THE NAMIBIA AGRICULTURAL UNION**

Regular contact was made with members via the weekly electronic NAU Newsletter, the *AgriForum* magazine, radio talks as well as the NAU website. Management also undertook visits to the various regions during which members were brought up to date on all the current challenges on the labour front.

### **Best Labour Practices**

The sale of pro forma labour documents to members and non-members is as popular as ever, indicative of the fact that employers are keen to follow correct administrative systems. Sales of memory sticks containing these resources have proven particularly popular among our growing number of young farmers.

The AEA's advice service to members on best labour practices and the application of the Labour Act is

aimed at promoting fair practices, thereby ensuring that labour relations in the commercial agricultural sector remain healthy.



### **TRAINING**

Short courses for farm workers have improved since Agra ProVision's very welcome involvement.

Similarly, the AEA is pleased with the involvement of both the African Child Development Trust and the Meerkat Schools with their emphasis on training pre-schoolers, as the Association firmly believes in Early Childhood Development.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION (SSC)**

There were few problems reported by members regarding the SSC's Maternity, Sickness and Death Fund (MSD). The biggest challenge

is that many workers in Namibia do not have IDs, and struggle to obtain them from Home Affairs. Without this they cannot open any bank accounts or receive benefits from the SSC.

## **NAMIBIA EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION (NEF)** **Job creation is being stumped**

The AEA, together with other employers, remains concerned about the lack of employment creation in Namibia. Warnings were issued that over-regulation of labour, which is currently a priority on the agenda of the Ministry of Labour, will instead cause job losses and dampen job creation. Although there were no further developments concerning NEEEF, the Ministry of Labour unilaterally amended Affirmative Action (AA) regulations so that small employers with 10 and more workers now also have to comply with the administrative red tape of filling out AA forms and submitting reports.

### **Long-awaited amendments to Labour Act**

The next draft Labour Act was completed two years ago by a task force of role players after consensus was reached by all interest groups. Yet the Ministry of Labour then unilaterally made new controversial amendments, unacceptable to employers and also unconstitutional. The matter remains on the desk of the Labour Advisory Council (LAC) which must make the final recommendations which will go to the cabinet for approval.



# APA

## AGRONOMY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION



Chairperson: Gerhard Engelbrecht

### White Maize

Namibia produced about 98 824 tons of maize in the 2022/2023 season and imported 92 205 tons of maize, meaning local production surpassed imports by 7.2%, leaving the total demand for white maize at 191 028 tons.

Poor rainfall and market dynamics negatively affected the production of white maize for the 2023/2024 season. As a result, the recorded figures of white maize for 2023/2024 stood at 67 747 tons, which is 31.4% less than was marketed during the same period in 2022/2023. Production in the Karst and Central areas decreased by 52.6% and 29.9% respectively, while in the South maize production increased by 20.8%.

During the 2024/25 production period, low rainfall continued to negatively affect white maize production, and only 32 280 tons of white maize was produced, down 51.84% from the 2023/2024 production period.

The white maize price per ton was N\$7 386.06 in the 2024/25 marketing season, showing an improvement of 28.77% when compared to the 2023/2024 season.

### Wheat

Namibia recorded a local wheat production of about 18 328 tons for 2023/2024, indicating a decrease of 25.8% from the 2022/2023 period, and a further 83.72% drop in the 2024/2025 period, when only 2 984 tons of wheat was locally produced. This was mainly influenced by the low Hardap Dam water levels, which suspended irrigation supply. Wheat imports were estimated to be 126 654 tons in the 2024/2025 season, constituting 97.7% of local demand.

For 2024/2025, producers received on average N\$7 453.03/ton, demonstrating an improvement in price of 6.88% from the previous season.

### Groundnuts

The production of irrigated groundnuts increased, leaving the estimated production for

the 2024/2025 season at 4 000 tons, and the price at N\$17 000 per ton. A good number of producers diversified to groundnut production, hence the estimated production increased significantly by 233.33%.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE AGRONOMIC SECTOR

The following are developments during the period under review:

### Marketing Environment

In the presence of the Namibia Agronomic Board, the APA negotiated with the Namibian Grain Processors' Association (NGPA) for wheat producers to receive a 3.6% levy (i.e. arrears/arrears of salaries) on the marketing during the 2022 season. In value, farmers received about N\$292/ton, worth N\$ 7.1 million as 24 195 tonnes were marketed in 2022.

Producers received a refund from Namib Mills on transport valued at N\$856 000 and did not have to pay about N\$807 000 for silo bags used during the 2022 marketing season.

In 2023, for the first time, management negotiated no deductions for silos and transport, which led to farmers saving. In addition, producers were able to deliver maize when needed.

On APA's request to NAB, Namib Mills was allowed to import maize used for instant porridge on a regular basis during the 2023 marketing season when borders were closed for imports. This made space available for Namibian maize at Namib Mills Otavi and kept silo bags to a minimum, allowing producers to cut down on unnecessary costs.

### Research/information dissemination

The APA strives to disseminate relevant information geared to improving crop production, such as:

By conducting maize trials, new cultivars have been evaluated, and issues related to seed quality have been identified which management is in the process of addressing.

The APA invited soil experts (6-11 August 2023 and 18-22 February 2024) to various farms in different production areas (e.g. Marien-

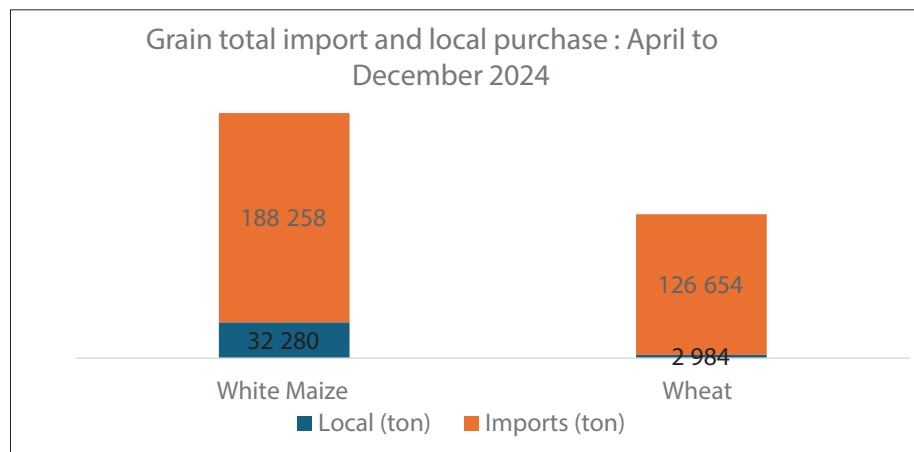


Figure 1: Estimated imports and local purchase of grains in tons for 2024/2025  
Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

# AGRONOMY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

tal, Hochfeld/Summerdown, Grootfontein, Tsumeb, etc) to advise on soil fertility, plant nutrition, crop monitoring and soil testing for better yield and production.

Dr Andre Nel was invited to advise members on trials and trial designs. He visited Namibia from 17-20 October 2023, and saw trials in the following areas: Hochfeld, Summerdown and Grootfontein.

Since 2022, APA has been sending climate reports to producers.

The association purchased four weather stations, which arrived in October 2024 and

were installed at Abenab, Mariental, Summerdown and Grootfontein, enabling farmers to receive detailed site-specific advice on irrigation scheduling, frost protection, weather forecasting and ideal spraying times.

The APA subsidized 50% of costs for producers to send soil and leaf samples to SGS to better analyse and determine nutrient contents and deficiencies in soil and leaves.

Francois Wahl and Dirk Prinsloo were appointed as the Association's consultants in Nov 2023 to provide advisory services on maize, wheat, groundnuts, other grain crops, as well as trials supported by the APA. These consultants have been a great asset and help to APA and producers at large. They conduct-

ed field visits and consulted on the interpretation of soil, water, and climate data; water quality and its impact on production; irrigation scheduling; fertilizer spraying programs; seed quality and its impact. They further assisted with the design of trials and gave advice regarding seed trials in different production zones to assess the yield and performance of various seed varieties.

## GENETICALLY MODIFIED MAIZE (GMO)

The APA is supporting a GMO cotton and maize application for an environmental release with NCRST (National Commission on Research, Science and Technology), which will help the Association establish guidelines for the GMO application process for those farmers interested in commencing.

# LPO

## LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

### Challenged by drought

The past year was marked by challenges. Livestock producers once again faced a drought in 2024 necessitating Namibia's President, Dr Nangolo Mbumba, to declare a state of emergency. In many ways, this drought was experienced as being even harsher than before due to large parts of the country's pastures already being less than optimal. Producers could also not yet fully restock their herds and recover economically following the 2019 drought.

Producers therefore received the presidential declaration of the drought as a state of emergency with gratitude. This announcement started the necessary protocol to address the drought in all regions, unlocking the budgeted N\$825 million for relief measures.

It is essential however, to improve the efficiency of administrative processes to speed up the distribution of support. In order to move forward, it is crucial that support is matched to the prevailing economic conditions.

### Marketing

Emergency marketing began early in 2024 and all appropriate marketing channels were utilised to the maximum, resulting in livestock prices plummeting to a record low during March. International lamb exports have not yet resumed, which put sheep producers in a difficult position as they now mainly depend on the South African market.

Despite its challenges, Meatco still played an important role in assisting producers with cattle marketing. We express our gratitude to the Meatco board, who continues to remain available to consult with the LPO and the wider industry. The LPO also express-

es its appreciation to the Namibian government for reallocating funds within the national budget to support Meatco, to ensure that it can continue to operate in the best interest of our country. However, it is critical that Meatco maintains independence in this highly competitive commercial environment.

The LPO welcomes additional marketing opportunities which contribute to healthy competition, local value addition and possible job opportunities within the livestock industry that may arise in future.

It became clear throughout the year that the LPO needed proactive marketing intelligence within the livestock industry to improve its strategic decision-making capabilities. As Namibia's red meat product forms a fraction of the world market, competition in the top markets is of crucial importance to maximise the benefits for producers. Therefore, the LPO will focus on building capacity in this area in collaboration with international partners.

### Animal health status

The LPO is continuously involved in the industry to maintain Namibia's animal health status. A representative task force is currently developing a business proposal aimed at improving and maintaining the veterinary corridor fence, improving the animal health status in the northern communal areas and implementing sub-zoning proposals in the recognised disease-free zones.

### Losses need to be curbed

Livestock losses due to predators and theft worsen the already critical situation facing farmers. Annual reports from LPO members on these incidents, along with the associated value of these losses, are alarming.



LPO Chairman: Jako van Wyk

In a dynamic market environment where consumers are increasingly aware of the product's origin, predator control becomes more challenging. The LPO's role is to ensure that proposed changes to pest control legislation are consistent with our farming conditions and market environment.

### External and internal liaison

In general, good cooperation is experienced within the industry, and the LPO management strives to build relationships and foster trust with all stakeholders.

Finally, it should be noted that the success of any organisation depends on the active participation of its members. The management as elected representatives, as well as the members, represent the LPO collectively. While management does play an important role, the chairman's effectiveness depends on the involvement and support of each member. The members' involvement by attending meetings, sharing insights and contributing to a collective pool of knowledge, directly influences the direction and performance of the entire organisation.

# DPA

## DAIRY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION



Chairperson: Dirk van Wyk

### Strangling input costs

From 2021 to 2024, raw milk production reached about 15.4 million litres on average (see Figure 1). Considering 2023 vs 2024, the production of raw milk increased by 9.32% (2023 = 14.9 million litres vs 2024 = 16.4 million litres) with one of the last two intensive producers leaving the industry. On average, the milk price for 2024 increased by 6.88% from the previous year's price. The estimated production value increased from N\$ 104.4 million in 2023 to N\$ 122.5 million in 2024, displaying a growth of 17.34%. Feed prices continue to remain a challenge, keeping the price-cost relationship under pressure (see Figure 2).

### Unsustainability

By 2023, the number of producers in production had dropped to nine extensive farmers in Gobabis, where three stopped delivering to Namibia Dairies. Furthermore, two gave notice and stopped producing early in 2024, as dairy production became unsustainable. The slow increase in prices had weakened farm profitability to unsustainable levels.

The DPA had implored the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN) (previously known as Meat Board of Namibia) to amend the Industry Act to make provision for the declaration of dairy and dairy products as controlled products. Finally, dairy and dairy products are now gazetted under the Livestock and Livestock Product Act, which was eventually gazetted on 13 December 2024.

### Currently dormant

As of 31 October 2024, the DPA became dormant with cost saving measures being implemented. The NAU is involved with administrative and supportive duties on an hoc basis and we are hopeful that the dairy sector will grow and increase again in future.

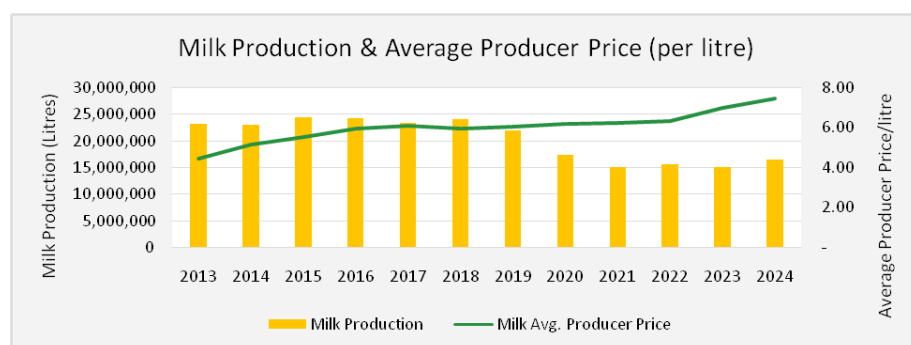


Figure 1: Raw milk production and price/L

Source: NAU

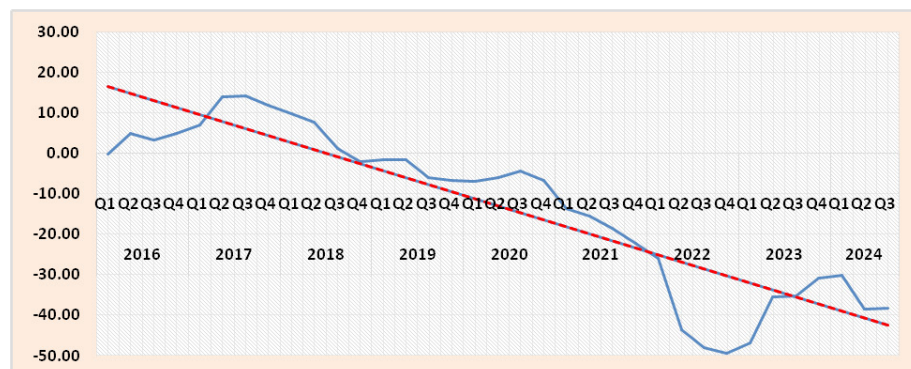


Figure 2: Raw milk profit margins

Source: NAU



# DPAN

## PIG PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

### Costly intensive operations

There are many farmers in Namibia who are interested in producing pigs. Others have already become producers. However, pig production is an intensive system and intensive farming enterprises in Namibia are cost intensive. This is probably part of the reason why producers struggle to grow the industry to its full potential. The main cost-driver is feed and this is especially true in Namibia, which is a net importer of feed. Maize and soya constitute about 60 and 20% of most pig rations, making this sector very price sensitive. With feed prices on the rise, the only way to stay profitable would be to become a more efficient pig producer.

### Pork marketing scheme

The border for fresh and frozen meat is still closed for imports from South Africa due to Foot and Mouth Disease. The pork ceiling price is maintained at N\$ 51.03 for producers participating in the pork scheme. Early in 2024, the European Union questioned the relevance of the pork marketing scheme, which is administered by the Livestock and

Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LL-PBN) as it contradicts the ideals of the free trade agreements Namibia has signed.

### Exports and imports

Namibia slaughtered 45 844 pigs from January to November 2024 which is a 10.81% increase compared to the same period in 2023. Namibia also exported 70 animals as breeding stock to Botswana this year. Meat exported as processed products to Botswana and SA between January and October 2024 amounted to 203 tons. There is still no abattoir in the Windhoek area, but a new abattoir in Outjo was registered with the Livestock and Livestock Products Board offering private slaughter service to the public. Of the 45 844 pigs slaughtered, 1 774 were slaughtered at the Outjo abattoir..

January to October 2024 imports totaled 5 524 tons, which averaged 552 ton per month of which 64% was offal, 20% cooked and uncooked processed pork and the rest were cuts. Germany and Spain are the biggest exporting countries with a total of 2



Chairperson: Gideon Goosen

647 tons and 1 130 tons imported respectively. A first for Namibia was the import of pig carcasses from Botswana totaling 246 tons between January and October of this year.

The above indicates that Namibian production covers about 41% of local consumption thereby indicating scope for local production expansion. For the first 8-12 months after border closure, Namibia experienced a boom in the pig industry and producer prices outside the pork marketing scheme rose as much as N\$ 65 per kg. With the drought and the emergency marketing of cattle and sheep since February 2024, coupled with the amount of pork being imported and the economic pressure on consumers, the industry saw a decline in the demand for pork leading to producer prices outside the scheme dropping to around the pork ceiling price of N\$ 51.03 since processors used beef and mechanically deboned meat as a cheaper alternative in processed goods.

### Animal health status

No further local outbreaks of African Swine Fever this year could be an indication that farmers are increasingly aware of the risks and probably maintain better biosecurity on their farms.



# NAPHA

## NAPHA Annual Report – an extract



NAPHA President: Axel Cramer

### Historical milestone

A significant milestone was reached this year: Five Decades of Conservation. Half a century of commitment to protecting Namibia's wilderness through ethical, responsible hunting. It is not just the history of NAPHA, it is our legacy and it reflects a deep responsibility for our land and its future. We look at the past season with pride, but more importantly, we look forward with purpose.

### Looking to the future

The Young Hunter's Committee was started to nurture the next generation, ensuring that Namibia's hunting future is in the hands of ethical, responsible individuals who respect our values.

NAPHA also launched the Taxidermy and Shipping Agents Group, empowering key players in the sector, acknowledging their crucial contribution to our community. These are not just actions – they are investments in the future, investments in our legacy.

Significant strides were made in upskilling previously disadvantaged Namibians (PDNs), by broadening training opportunities, like the PDN Course, where hunting craftsmanship is built that truly represents and benefits Namibians.

### External and internal liaison

On the world stage, NAPHA continues to carry Namibia's torch proudly. We were invited to the Safari Club International (SCI) in the US, Jagd & Hund in Germany, and Hohe Jagd und Fischerei in Austria, which reinforces Namibia's commitment to ethical hunting. The Namibia Evening at Jagd & Hund and the presentation held at SCI were a success, reminding the world of the value of conservation hunting. Namibia remains a model for sustainable wildlife management.

Together with our partners we have successfully resisted the proposed trophy import ban in Germany, a proposal that could have hurt Namibia's nature conservation efforts. Discussions on this topic continue in the UK.

Focusing inward, we are improving the membership application process to make it simpler and more accessible. Membership is the foundation and a growing membership means a stronger community.

NAPHA continuously works to raise funds to benefit initiatives that directly support our mission and members. Our commitment to the community has never been stronger.

The preparations for this year's 50th Anniver-

sary AGM have been substantial. This AGM celebrated the achievements of our community, honoured those we have lost, and looks ahead to the work we will continue.

### Raising awareness

Our Age-Related Trophy (ART) Measurement System podcasts with John McAdams, our expanding social media presence, and the growth of NAPHA's ART Top 10 entries are all helping to raise awareness and support for conservation hunting.

We have worked hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT), securing a place on the Communal Concession Group and strengthening ties that enhance our voice on important policies.



# CAoN

## CHARCOAL ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

### Continued growth

CAoN is a non-profitable Section 21 company managing and promoting the interests and affairs of charcoal production in Namibia.

By 2024, membership of CAoN had increased to a total of 1,623 members, the bulk being charcoal producers. The membership also includes 24 Namibian processors/buyers, 5 South African charcoal processors/buyers, 2 international buyers and 11 associate members. CAoN's main source of income is membership fees, deducted from producers and paid over by processors on a monthly basis.

### Internal and external liaison

The CAoN office rendered charcoal-related services daily to members visiting the office or communicating via email, the web page or by telephone. Support was also rendered where challenges were encountered with permits or deals between producers and processors as well as international buyers.

CAoN regularly liaises with the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT), as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) to provide input for policy frameworks and solve matters for our members. Many meetings were also held with international investors and stakeholders who are interested in increased bush utilisation in Namibia. Stakeholders were from France, Belgium, Germany, Middle East and South Africa.



### New development

On 24 June 2024, CAoN successfully introduced a new department to its portfolio namely Technical Advisory Services. These services include, but are not limited to:

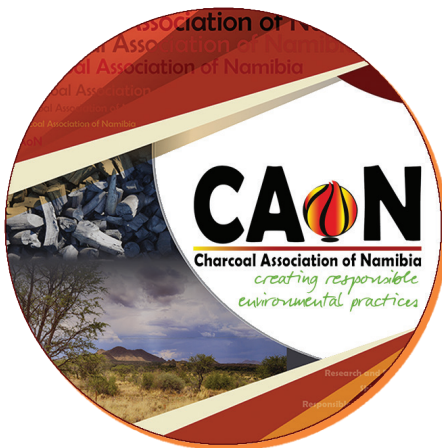
- In-person stakeholder engagements
- Bush quantifications + FEMP compliance
- Production advice and training
- Factory and production site inspections
- Forestry and environmental compliance, guidance and support
- Training for managers and supervisors
- Start-up advisory services
- Contractual and labour-related advisory service

### Training

During the past year, CAoN has provided training in charcoal burning techniques to a total of 385 workers of which some were trained by means of on-farm training sessions whilst the rest were trained at the CAoN Training Centre outside of Otjiwarongo. The training programme had been upgraded in November 2023 to include enhanced weathering guidelines as well as producing charcoal under hot weather conditions.

The following new courses are now also available:

- BioChar training
- Smoke condenser with one-day burning



Chairperson: Koos Briedenhann

- Business training for new entrants into the industry.

In June 2024, CAoN kickstarted a journey to a 'healthier' biomass industry in the Kunene Region with Bush Quantifications on 3 pilot farms on the outskirts of Outjo, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry. Since then, the following milestones were reached:

- 19 FSC and non-FSC farms were visited
- 33 farmers/producers received training and guidance on FEMPs and BQTs
- A total of 475 samples were collected

Much has been achieved during the past year and the challenges facing the industry over the years to come, will be addressed. Charcoal is here to stay.



### Costly and competitive

Indeed 2023 came with challenges and achievements. The challenges experienced in 2023, as with other years, were feed costs and poultry meat imports. Engagement with Government, specifically since 2022, assisted in reducing the influx of eggs as the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) enforced stricter border control measures also leading to a slight decrease in poultry meat imports.

### Onboarding with the LLPBN

Adding to the Association's achievements, Poultry and Poultry products including eggs, were gazetted under the Meat Industry Act, which is now known as the Livestock and Livestock Products Act. This legislative change mandates the Livestock and Livestock Product Board of Namibia (LLPBN) to regulate the poultry sector and to ensure that the sector realises growth, therefore contributing to Government's national objectives of increased production and value addition.

### Import woes

Around midyear of 2023 South Africa suffered a severe outbreak of bird flu, resulting in the closure of Namibian borders for importation of poultry products. This greatly disrupted the supply of day-old chicks (DOC) and point-of-lay chicken for local producers. Farmers had to look for alternative suppliers

and this increased the price by 50-100% for a DOC, causing the price of eggs on the market to surge. As a local industry, building a hatchery to meet local demand seemed like an opportunity, however, it requires large investment and markets beside Namibia.

The bird flu crisis gave Namibian producers an opportunity to export to SA. Unfortunately, that could not happen as South African authorities required detailed information such as number of birds, farm location, disease and movement controls for about 3 years, which Namibia had not kept in much detail as poultry were not prescribed animals. However, this fast-tracked the urge to get the industry organised, and the effort by DVS to get everything into place is commendable. As of May 2024, Namibia resumed live poultry bird imports from South Africa.

### Looking into the future

During 2024, the Namibia Standards Institute sent out standards for poultry meat on public enquiry. These standards are currently at ratification stage and are set to be gazetted January 2025.

There were various developments throughout 2024 with new players entering the poultry market. Khadila Poultry, situated in Osona outside Okahandja, placed their first chicks on



Chairperson: Louis Kleynhans

04 October 2024 and slaughtered their first birds on 04 November 2024. Khadila is set to produce over 400 metric tons per month, which can greatly improve local production and lower the dependence on imports within the poultry sector. Adding to improved local production, other key players have also expanded production.

### Growth in production

The production value of the poultry industry was N\$ 1.74 billion, growing by 13.47% from the N\$ 1.5 billion recorded in 2023. Poultry was estimated to be the second largest contributor to the agricultural production value in 2023, following the cattle sector that recorded about N\$ 3.2 billion.



### Swakara Pelt Sales

The Swakara industry experienced a positive year in 2024, marked by strong auction results and renewed global interest. The March 2024 Saga Furs auction in Helsinki, Finland, saw a 90% sales rate, with black pelts averaging N\$453 and white pelts reaching an impressive average of N\$1 294. The highest price achieved was N\$3 175 for a lot of KFlat Platinum white pelts. The improved market performance was well received by producers, reflecting increased confidence in the fur industry.

The next Swakara auction is scheduled for March 2025. Due to late and sporadic rainfall affecting lambing schedules, there was no September 2024 auction. However, ongoing negotiations with two international fashion houses helped to stabilize pricing of pre-auction sales of white pelts. To date, the Swakara Board has received about 7 000 fresh pelts in preparation for the March 2025 auction.

### Swakara Industry Forum (SIF)

The annual Swakara Industry Forum took place on 17 September 2024 at Schützenhaus, Keetmanshoop, with international guest speaker Kari Huotari providing insights into global market trends. During the event, Lovedale Farming was awarded both the Grand Champion Swakara Ram and White Champion Ram titles. Additionally, Mr Garrick Husselman received the prestigious Golden Lamb Award for outstanding service to the industry. The next forum is scheduled for 11 September 2025.

### Swakara Breeders' Society

The Swakara Breeders' Society held its annual Elite Ram Auction on 18 September 2024. A total of 19 rams were sold, averaging N\$6 763.16, with the highest price reaching N\$17 000 for a White Ram. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place alongside the forum, allowing breeders to review progress and plan industry developments.

As of 31 July 2024, the Society had 11 registered breeders managing 1 364 registered Swakara sheep.

### FURMARK Audit and Certification

Swakara producers continue to adhere to the FURMARK global certification and traceability standards for sustainable fur production. Farm audits were conducted in April and May 2024, and records were submitted to NSi for third-party evaluation. Physical inspections of six selected Swakara farms commenced on 28 October 2024, ensuring continued compliance with international animal welfare and sustainability standards.

### Swakara Wool

The Swakara wool sector has shown promising growth, with exports to South Africa resuming in 2023. In addition to the existing and well-established Swakara carpet weavers, a new operation started in Stampriet, which resulted in an increased demand and price for Swakara wool.

### Global Fur Market Trends

The international fur market continues to recover. At the May 2024 Saga Furs auction, 96% of 3.8 million mink pelts were sold, demonstrating sustained demand. However, fox and Finn raccoon pelts faced weaker sales, with only 50% of offerings sold. Mink prices increased by an average of 6% compared to March 2024, providing optimism for continued market recovery. The September 2024 auction reaffirmed this positive trend, with strong demand expected in key markets such as China, South Korea, Turkey, and Europe.

Kopenhagen Fur held its final auction in 2024, marking the end of an era for one of the industry's most iconic auction houses. A charity auction of 50 mink pelts raised N\$5.6 million, with proceeds donated to



Chairperson: Julene Meyer

SPES, a charity supporting underprivileged communities in Namibia.

### Conclusion

The Swakara industry is steadily strengthening, with rising pelt prices, increased wool demand, and enhanced sustainability standards through FURMARK certification. The industry remains focused on strategic global engagement, ensuring long-term growth and stability for Swakara producers.



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