



Welcoming Remarks
By
Mr. Adolf Muremi, NNFU President
At the AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

8 October 2025,

Windhoek

WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB RESORT.

On Behalf of Namibia's Farmers' Unions

1. Your Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia,
2. Honourable Minister Inge Zaamwani-Kamwi, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform,
3. Distinguished leaders of the four Farmers' Unions,
4. Representatives from government, the private sector, and our development partners,
5. Members of the media,
6. Farmers and invited guests,
7. Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

On behalf of the four Farmers' Unions the Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU), Namibia Agriculture Union (NAU), Namibia Emerging Commercial Farmers Union (NECFU), and the Previously Disadvantaged Namibia Farmers Union (PDNFU) I extend our warmest welcome to you all at this Agricultural Outlook Conference 2025.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to have Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, with us today. Your presence, Madam President, reflects your continued dedication to the agricultural sector and to the farmers who feed this nation. I can remember, our consortium of the four unions met with your

Excellency at least two times last year while a Vice President. We are deeply grateful for your visionary leadership and open-door policy, which the unions have experienced firsthand through engagements with your office.

We equally acknowledge and appreciate the presence of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, whose stewardship remains critical to shaping the policies, regulations, and interventions that sustain this vital sector.

Allow me also to recognize:

- The Presidents and leaders of our fellow Farmers' Unions,
- Representatives of the government, private sector, and academia,
- Agricultural experts and researchers,
- Our generous sponsors and partners,
- Members of the media,
- And most importantly, the farmers themselves the heartbeat of Namibia's economy.

This conference is a collaborative initiative of the four Farmers' Unions, designed to create a platform for forward-looking dialogue, innovation sharing, and capacity building.

Our theme, “Harvesting the Future,” encapsulates our shared vision: to build a resilient, inclusive, and thriving agricultural landscape in Namibia. It calls on all of us government, private sector, civil society, and farmers to unite in reimagining agriculture not just as a means of survival, but as a powerful engine of economic growth, food security, and job creation.

To start off, we commend the Government of the Republic of Namibia for its ongoing commitment in providing an enabling environment for farming. The support extended during times of drought, regulatory efforts, and policies that promote trade and sustainability are all highly valued

Likewise, the farmers unions and its members as private sector play key role to ensure contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and employment creation. This one of the main reasons why we arranged this Agricultural Outlook Conference as a platform for stakeholders across the agricultural sector to engage in forward-thinking discussions, share innovative ideas, and equip farmers with practical insights applicable to enhance their operations. This is mainly to improve knowledge and practice that will contribute to the production and profitability of farmers, which eventually can contribute to GDP, employment creation and food security and/or food sufficient of this country.

However, as we look toward the future, we must also address the realities confronting our sector. As I stand before you, I have both concern and hope for our sector's future. Our nation's agricultural landscape faces unprecedented challenges. On one hand we are severely challenged by natural disasters such as the recurrent drought given the aridity of Namibia. While we appreciate the government's drought relief initiatives, there are implementation gaps require urgent review. We need structures and platforms that allow for regular, meaningful dialogue – not just during crises, but in planning for our sector's future as well as joint implementation. Human Wildlife has become a major issue that threaten both crop and livestock production, especially these areas where destructive games have increased.

Our goal is not just survival, but growth. Agriculture's contribution to our GDP can and must increase. But this requires a fundamental shift in focus toward production efficiency. We cannot achieve this while farmers struggle with:

1. Bush encroachment that reduces our grazing capacity, groundwater, and biodiversity
2. Limited access to markets and infrastructure such as road, especially in the Northern Communal Areas.
3. Human–wildlife conflict, which continues to devastate crops and livestock, particularly in communal areas.

4. Recurrent droughts and climate variability that threaten productivity and livelihoods.
5. Insufficient investment in agricultural research, innovation, and mechanization.

These challenges require collective action and strategic investment not temporary responses during crises, but long-term, sustainable solutions rooted in partnership and evidence.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Namibia's economy. Every dollar invested in agriculture multiplies across our national economy; every hectare restored strengthens food security; every collaborative effort builds resilience and reduces dependency.

We therefore urge the Government to:

- Prioritize greater investment in agriculture in the national budget,
- Institutionalize inclusive consultation with farmers' unions during policy and budget formulation,
- And align national agricultural strategies with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Kampala Declaration 2035, which calls for a minimum of 10% public investment in agriculture.

If we aspire to transform the agri-food systems of Namibia, we must treat agriculture as a strategic pillar of national development not as a social welfare sector.

Equally, we as Farmers' Unions recognize our responsibility to lead from the front by improving production efficiency, promoting sustainable practices, empowering youth and women farmers, and contributing actively to the implementation of the National Development Plan 6 (NDP6), Vision 2030, and the national food security agenda.

Your Excellency, Honourable Minister, distinguished guests as we embark on this conference, let us engage with open minds, bold ideas, and a shared commitment to action. The time for waiting has passed; the time for transformation is now.

In closing, I wish to express sincere appreciation to Her Excellency, Dr. Nandi-Ndaitwah, for her continued accessibility and leadership. We are inspired by your example, and we look forward to the same spirit of partnership from the entire fifth administration.

Let us harvest the future together for our farmers, our economy, and our nation.

I THANK YOU ALL!