



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform

BUDGET MOTIVATION STATEMENT

VOTE 37: AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM

BY

HONOURABLE INGENESIA INGE ZAAMWANI, MP

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND LAND REFORM

08 MAY 2025





“A nation that cannot feed itself is not truly independent, and that reliance on imported food undermines the Country’s sovereignty and dignity of the people.”

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

1. I rise to introduce and motivate Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform for the 2025/2026 Financial Year. Before I do so, allow me to pause and honour the visionary leadership of our fallen hero, the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma. His voice shall continue to guide us as he stated that “A nation that cannot feed itself is not truly independent, and that reliance on imported food undermines the Country’s sovereignty and dignity of the people”. May His Soul continue to rest in everlasting eternal peace.
2. The Ministry would like to extend its appreciation to the former Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Honourable Ipumbu Shiimi, and the former Director General and Minister of Economic Development, Honourable Obeth Kandjoze for their unwavering commitment, dedication and distinguished service to the Republic of Namibia.
3. Let us appreciate Her Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, for her exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the agricultural sector. Her dedication and strategic vision was clearly demonstrated during her visit to the Green Scheme Projects, where she emphasized the importance of bringing all projects into full production and encouraged the use of renewable energy to reduce production costs. Her call resonates well and stands as a powerful reminder for all of us to prioritize food security at the national level. We are equally grateful to His Excellency, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia, for his steadfast support and motivation to ensure that our country is food self-reliant. Together, their visionary leadership continues to inspire and guide us in the optimal utilization of the Green Scheme projects, ensuring maximum food production and improve the well-being of our people.



Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
visiting green schemes in the Kavango Region



Former President Nangolo Mbumba
visiting green schemes in the Kavango Region



*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,*

4. I wish to inform this August House that I am motivating this vote against the backdrop of a year that is marked by a state of emergency which was declared in June 2024. The 2024/2025 Financial Year ended with normal to above normal rainfall patterns for larger part of the country. However, this rain season was accompanied by flooding in the northern regions (i.e. Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kavango East, Kavango West and Zambezi) as well as infestation of pests, particularly army worms and locusts in the Zambezi region respectively. This situation added pressure to the prevailing state of emergency, in particular the resources required to attend to the three emergencies mentioned above. It is worth noting that, although the country experienced dry spells and erratic rainfall during January 2025, the wide spread heavy rain received across many regions in February 2025, resulted in the replenishment of both surface and underground water sources, revitalized grazing areas, improved livestock conditions, and enhanced crop germination offering the much-needed relief to farmers.



Maize field destroyed by fall armyworm and locast in Zambezi Region

5. *Honourable Members*, it is well known that Namibia holds the distinction of being the driest country in Sub-Saharan Africa. This unfortunate climatic condition renders our nation susceptible to the effects of climate change and variability. As a result, a critical sector such as agriculture, is increasingly exposed to climate-related natural disasters including droughts and floods that are not only occurring more frequently but are also growing in intensity. The agriculture sector, in particular, bears the effect of these impacts, as it supports directly or indirectly the livelihoods of approximately 70 percent of the Namibian population. The effects of climate change have, regrettably, become a persistent and defining feature of our national reality. This remains a serious concern for the Government, particularly given that erratic rainfall patterns resulting from these adverse climatic conditions disrupt the effective implementation of agricultural production programmes, such as the Dry-Land Crop Production Programme, which rely entirely on seasonal rainfall. Consequently, these unfavourable conditions undermine our capacity to enhance food production, thereby limiting our ability to ensure national food security and hindering progress toward achieving our national goal of food self-sufficiency.

6. As we may all be aware that some part of the country experienced an outbreak of lumpy skin disease, I am pleased to inform this august house that the Ministry in collaboration with other key stakeholders acted promptly and interventions were undertaken to contain and manage the outbreak. Honourable Members, despite these challenges, there remains cautious optimism for a better yield compared to the previous season.
7. This situation serves as a critical wake-up call for Namibia to re-evaluate its food production systems and urgently adopt innovative, climate-smart strategies aimed at enhancing the agricultural sector's resilience and responsiveness to the impacts of climate change and variability. The current challenges clearly underscore the need for a strategic shift towards sustainable, adaptive practices that can secure long-term food security. By taking such steps, Namibia aligns itself with the recently adopted Kampala Declaration (2025–2035), which advocates for transitioning from traditional agricultural production models to a more integrated and sustainable agri-food systems.

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,*

8. Allow me to appraise this August House on the distinctive nature of the budget I am about to motivate. This Ministry was established following the directive from Her Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, during the appointment of the Cabinet when she specifically stated that “Fisheries and Marine Resources have been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to improve the management and sustainable development of our fisheries and aquatic resources for the benefit of our national economy”. She emphasised this by stating that “In any case what is produced in agriculture and fish are all food we eat, the fish, they live in water and we need water for agriculture, land, we also need land for aquaculture, and we need land for other food production” The Ministry diligently carried out this directive. This process resulted in the absorption of Vote 22 into Votes 37 and 38. The mandate of this Ministry is to promote the sustainable and equitable development, management and utilisation of agriculture, living aquatic, water and land resources. This is guided by a **Vision to Build a Prosperous, Competitive, and Self-Reliant Food Secure Nation**. It is now my honour and privilege to motivate the allocation budget for Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform.

Given the context outlined above, I am motivating a total budget of **Two Billion, Five Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 2,569,216,000)** for the 2025/2026 Financial Year for Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform. At this point, it is important to highlight that the budget allocation includes a portion from former Vote 22 and 37.

9. The new allocation I referred to consists of **Two Billion and Fifty-Three Million, Six Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 2,053,616,000)** for Operational Expenditure, representing 80 percent of the total budget allocation. In addition, the proposed



development budget under this allocation amounts to **Five Hundred and Fifteen Million, Six Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 515,600,000)** which represents 20 percent of the total budget allocation to this vote.

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,*

The core mandate and functions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform are field-based which require human resources, vehicles, machinery and equipment to deliver goods and services such as production inputs, veterinary services, and provision of Agricultural and Fisheries extension services to the grass-roots level.

10. Honourable Members, in alignment with the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2025/2026 to 2027/2028, Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform comprises of four (4) key programmes namely:

- (i) Agriculture Development
- (ii) Land Reform and Resettlement
- (iii) Land Administration
- (iv) Policy Coordination and Support Services.

Inclusively, **One Billion, Four Hundred and Ninety-Five Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 1,495,439,000)** representing 58 percent is earmarked for the development of the agriculture sector; **Three Hundred and Twenty-Three Million, and Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 323,006,000)** accounting for 13 percent is dedicated towards land reform and resettlement; whereas, **One Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine Thousand, Namibia Dollars (N\$ 154,989,000)** equivalent to 6 percent of the total budget allocation is for land administration. Furthermore, **Five Hundred and Ninety-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand, Namibia dollars (N\$ 595,782,000)** which represents 23 percent is devoted towards policy coordination and support services.

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members*

I will now provide a summary of key achievements attained during the 2024/2025 Financial Year as well as an outline of planned activities and development projects proposed for funding under these programmes during the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

10.1 Agriculture and Fisheries Development

This programme lies at the heart of our national food and nutrition security objectives. It plays a pivotal role in the delivery of field-based services aimed at enhancing agricultural production and productivity. Moreover, it is instrumental in building the necessary capacity to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary standards, an essential prerequisite for gaining

and sustaining market access, as well as for diversifying markets for our crop and livestock products at the national, regional, and international levels. Furthermore, this programme entails sustainable management of Marine and Inland Fisheries through research. It is also important to underscore that this programme holds significant potential for job creation, provided that an enabling environment particularly infrastructure and support services is effectively developed and maintained.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To contribute to national food and nutrition security, through the provision of effective and inclusive fisheries, agricultural extension and veterinary services as well as the development of agri-food value chains within the sector;
- To enhance animal and plant health by implementing annual vaccination campaigns, conducting disease surveillance and providing diagnostic services to combat the outbreak of diseases such as the Foot and Mouth Disease, Lung Sickness, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), locust infestation and other pests;
- To increase agricultural production and productivity by promoting the adoption of innovative, climate smart and productivity enhancing technologies through research and development, and
- To promote sustainable management of Marine and Inland Fisheries, including aquaculture through research aimed at to improving knowledge for the responsible development and utilization of living aquatic resources.

This programme consists of the following Main Divisions:

- (i) Veterinary Services
- (ii) Agriculture Research, Development & Vocational Training
- (iii) Agriculture Production & Extension Services
- (iv) Agricultural Engineering
- (v) Marine and Inland Fisheries Research

***Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,***

I will now elaborate on the achievements and provide an outline of planned activities under various Main Divisions:

10.1.1 Veterinary Services

10.1.1.1 During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the following activities were implemented under this Main Divisions:

- ✓ As part of efforts to enhance animal health annually, the Ministry conducted extensive vaccination campaigns across the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs).



- ✓ A total of Three Hundred and Nine Thousand One Hundred and Sixty-Five (309 165) heads of cattle were vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the infected zone, while Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand and Ninety (225 090) heads of cattle received FMD vaccinations in the Protection zone. Additionally, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Twelve (864 512) heads of cattle were vaccinated against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in the entire NCA.



Vaccination against foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease



Opuwo slaughterhouse to be upgraded to a C-class abattoir

- ✓ A total of One Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand One Hundred and Fourteen (123 114) pets were vaccinated against the Rabies virus in the NCAs as part of efforts to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030, in line with the global “Zero by 30” initiative. These activities are critical in safeguarding livestock health, public health and sustaining the livelihoods of farming communities.
- ✓ A total of Twenty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Three (25 823) individuals participated in farmer training initiatives aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills in animal health.
- ✓ The Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) maintained its status as a World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) recognized reference laboratory for Salmonella in the region and is accredited for 14 testing methods.
- ✓ The Ministry is collaborating with Meatco to operationalise the Eenhana and Outapi abattoirs.
- ✓ Under the Livestock Support Programme (LSP), the project to upgrade the existing slaughterhouse to a C-class abattoir in Opuwo, Kunene Region, was officially handed over to the contractor on 27 January 2025 in order to commence construction.

All these efforts are aimed at improving the animal health status north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, thereby contributing to the gradual elimination of its negative impacts

10.1.1.2 During the 2025/2026 Financial Year, a total of **Four Hundred and Fifty-Five Million Eight Hundred and Seventy-Eight Namibia Dollars (N\$ 455,878,000)** is allocated to Veterinary Services to implement the following activities:

- Conduct annual vaccination campaigns against CBPP & FMD and Rabies in the NCAs to control and improve animal health status;
- Procure FMD & CBPP vaccines, and other required material for conducting annual vaccination campaigns;
- Conduct farm inspections for animal disease control and compliance with trading partners' import requirement international standards;
- Procure diagnostic materials and support the maintenance of the equipment at Central Veterinary Laboratory;
- Renovate, upgrade and equip State Veterinary Clinics to meet the requirements for registration with the Namibia Veterinary Council and for efficient delivery of veterinary services in various regions of the country;
- Construction of veterinary clinics and offices in various regions of the country to improve service delivery;
- Beef Value Chain development in the NCA to enable the operationalization of the abattoirs;
- Upgrading of quarantine facilities and multipurpose farm infrastructure at Katima Mulilo in Zambezi and Omutambo-Omawe in Omusati region under the Livestock Support Program, and

- Completion of specialised loose equipment installation at the Ongwediva Meat Processing Plant.

10.1.2 Agriculture Research, Development & Vocational Training

10.1.2.1 During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the following activities were carried out under this Main Division:

- ✓ Fifteen (15) SWAKARA farmers were trained on pelt judging at Gellap-Ost;
- ✓ Twenty (20) community members were trained on mushroom production at Mashare.
- ✓ Twelve (12) Laboratory staff were trained on Internal Auditing and Root Cause Analyses, and Corrective Actions as per ISO 17025;
- ✓ Conservation efforts on 27 indigenous and strategic livestock breeds continued through the implementation of breeding plans. Livestock breeds are maintained through annual breeding programme data capturing of breeding values which are critical during auctions which potential buyers can scrutinize prior to bidding for livestock. Similarly, 1,400 plants accessions were collected. The accessions are maintained for highly viable seeds through testing for vigour e.g. germination prior to storage.



- ✓ Thirty-Seven (37) tons of Foundation seeds and Eighty-Four (84) tons of Certified seed produced, processed and distributed to the Agricultural Development Centres with support from the Namibia Seed Improvement and Mechanisation Programme (NAMSIP) which is co-funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).



Process of producing Certified and foundation seeds

- ✓ Procured a Contractor for the rehabilitation of irrigation systems at Mashare Agriculture Development Centre and Mannheim Crop Research Station to support the multiplication of seeds.
- ✓ The bid for the procurement of the building materials to construct a mushroom house at Mashare has been awarded. This facility will be used to produce and also assist in teaching people who want to venture into mushroom production.
- ✓ Upgrading and Maintenance of Farm Infrastructure, and Improvement of Irrigation Systems on Farms and Training Institutions, under this project the following activities were implemented:
 - Renovation of one staff house at Mashare and construction of staff accommodation at John Pandeni completed.
 - Borehole drilled and installed at Sonop Research Station
 - Construction of new Security House at Mannheim Research Station completed.
 - Bid for the drilling and installation of new boreholes at Sandveld and Gellap-Ost Research Stations awarded.
- ✓ Development of Livestock Breeding and Marketing Infrastructure in Communal Areas (*Agriculture Infrastructure Development*)

This project entails construction of auction and rehabilitation of kraals, and fencing that are in Communal Areas. However, during the period under review, the following activities were carried out at Gibeon district for the construction of an auction kraal:

- New designs for the Auction kraal were completed and approved;
- Completed bid documents for the appointment of the Consultant, and
- Awarded the contract for the development of the Bill of Quantities for the construction of the auction kraals.
- ✓ The Extension and Renovation of National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) Infrastructure

- Through this project, the Ministry paid membership contribution to Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) to facilitate research on climate adaptation and resilience and ensure that Namibia continue to benefit from data and information repository for early warning, evidence based planned and decision making.

10.1.2.2 During the 2025/2026 Financial Year the Agriculture Research, Development & Vocational Training is allocated a total of **One Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Five Hundred and Ten Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$183,510,000)**. In order to continue with Agriculture Research, Development and Vocational Training related activities, the Ministry will execute the following:

- Procurement of fencing materials for the upkeeping of farms and to improve security;
 - Procurement of a laboratory Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) Spectrometre for the analyses of soil samples;
 - Procurement of Contractors on a 36-months contract for maintenance of laboratory equipment for efficient and reliable sample analysis.
 - Complete the applications for Tsumis Arid Zone Agricultural Centre and Mashare Agricultural Development Institute for accreditation as training providers at Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA).
 - Providing training to learners in Vocational Education Training in animal and crop husbandry.
 - Continue with the production of foundation seed and multiplication of certified seed at the research station, Sikondo Green Scheme Project and selected seed producers.
 - Continue with the conservation of indigenous livestock breeds and collection of accessions of indigenous plants that are used for further breeding.
 - Development of new crop farming technologies and restoration of degraded rangelands through conducting scientific and applied research.
- ✓ Upgrading of Farm Infrastructure, Improvement of Irrigation Systems on Farms & Training Institutions.
- Most of the farms have dilapidated infrastructures that requires major renovations. However, emphasis will be given to the maintenance and revamping of infrastructure at Tsumis Arid Zone Agricultural Centre, Sonop, Okashana, Bagani, Mashare, Omatjene and Omahenene Research Stations.
- ✓ Development of Livestock Breeding and Marketing Infrastructure in Communal Areas
- The ministry will commence with the construction of a new auction kraal in Gibeon District, Hardap Region.

- ✓ Extension and Renovation of National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) Infrastructure
 - The ministry will finalise the signing of the contract with Consulting Engineers to proceed with development of bidding documents for the renovation of NBRI and the construction of SASSCAL Building.

10.1.3 Agriculture Production & Extension Services

10.1.3.1 During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the following activities were carried out under this Main Division:

✓ **The Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP)**

DCPP is a government subsidy programme approved through Cabinet Decision No. 20th/07.11.06.012. The programme is designed to benefit cereal producers in the 10 crop growing Regions of Kavango East, Kavango West, Zambezi, Kunene North, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Otjozondjupa and Omaheke. The programme is complemented by the Cereal Value Chain Development Programme. These programmes are aimed at enhancing crop production and productivity as well as increasing food security and employment creation through the provision of subsidized agricultural inputs and services. Through this programme, the Ministry renders subsidized ripping, ploughing, planting, and weeding services to cereal producers.

- ✓ During the 2024/2025 a total of 79 582 cereal crop producing farmers benefited from the DCPP subsidized tillage mechanized services (ploughing, ripping, planting, and weeding) and inputs (seeds and fertilizer) of which 32 566 are male while 47 016 are female. This translates to 66% of the targeted 120 000 cereal producers.
- ✓ This programme is set to benefit from the current roll-out of the Namibia Seed Improvement and Mechanisation Programme (NAMSIP) with the financial support from the African Development Bank (AfDB). Through this programme, the Ministry carried out the following:
 - Procured Agricultural Inputs (Fertilizer, Pesticides and Herbicides); certified seed from seed growers; 34 sets of fodder equipment (Mowers, Hay Rakes and Balers); 15 Four Wheel Drive single cabin vehicles with modified steel canopies; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Engineers and Farm Machinery Operators (FMO); Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand litres (287 000L) of Bulk Fuel for ploughing services;
 - Secured a total of 816 tons of organic fertilizer (kraal manure) from Okapuka Feedlot which was delivered to Okashana (456 tons) and Omahenene (360 tons) Crop Research Stations in order to enhance the soil structure and improve soil fertility;
 - Procured a total of 831 Water Tanks with a capacity of 10 000 Litre each with

Tank Stands to be installed at identified community water points across the country; 460 Steel Water Troughs; 210 Plastic Water Troughs, and 38 Bull/Ram Fertility Testing Kits;

- Created employment for 252 contractual Farm Machinery Operators of which 244 are male and 8 are female;
- Created seasonal employment for 773 workers of which 342 are male and 431 are female, and



Contractual Farm Machinery Operators during graduation at MADI



DCCP tractor ploughing a field in Okatyali Constituency



DCPP Tractors

- The 38.6 tons of foundation seed produced during the 2023/2024 Cropping season, benefited a total of 737 seed growers comprising of 328 male and 409 female. Whereas, 107 tons of certified seed produced during the 2023/2024 Cropping season benefited 20 908 farmers of which 7 869 are male and 13 039 are female.

✓ Horticulture Support and Value Chain Development Programme

Government continues assisting farmers along the horticulture value chain which is aimed at enhancing horticulture production and reducing importation of vegetables and fruits. During 2024/2025 Financial Year, a total of Twelve Million Namibia Dollars (N\$12,000,000) was allocated to this programme, benefiting 1 904 horticulture producers of which 983 are male while 921 are female producers. Furthermore, a total of 1 015 horticultural producers comprising of 500 male and 515 female are now producing for the market.

✓ Poultry Value Chain Development Programme

The Ministry continue assisting farmers along the poultry value chain. This programme aims at providing poultry producers an entry point to diversify their income earning and create employment opportunities through training across the poultry value chain in order to improve their socio-economic condition. In addition, the programme has a potential to create jobs and reduce poverty at household level, with special attention to women and youth. Through this programme, Government provide subsidy to poultry producers on breeding and production stock, feeds, equipment, and poultry housing among others.

During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, a total budget of Five Million Namibia Dollars (N\$5,000,000) was allocated for the programme. As a result, 529 poultry producers benefited from the Poultry Value Chain Development subsidy programme of which 234 are male while 295 are female poultry farmers.

✓ **Dairy Value Chain Development Programme**

The Ministry continue to assist small scale dairy producers through provision of subsidy along the dairy value chain and capacity building. The aim is to mainstream small scale milk production into the national milk production channel. Through this programme, Government provide subsidy on dairy production stock, milking machines, construction of milking Parlours, feeds, value addition technologies among others. The total budget

of Five Million Namibia Dollars (N\$5,000,000) was allocated for the programme during 2024/2025 Financial Year. The programme was implemented in Hardap, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa and Zambezi Region, where a total of 101 dairy farmers benefitted of which 27 are male and 74 are female.

✓ **Small Stock Distribution and development in Communal Areas (SSDDCA)**

This is a revolving project aimed at providing quality core breeding flock of suitable local goats to selected vulnerable households countrywide to gain a sustainable means of income generation as well as to boost food and nutrition security. The programme has benefited a total of 739 farmers since inception. During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, this project was allocated Six Million Namibia Dollars (N\$6,000,000). As a result, a total of 840 goats were distributed to 40 farmers, of which 20 farmers are in Otjozondjupa

and 20 in Omaheke regions respectively. This brings the total number of farmers who benefitted from this project to 779 beneficiaries.

✓ **Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Programme for Namibia (CA)**

The Ministry continue to promote Conservation Agriculture and other Climate Smart Agriculture practices in all 14 regions of the country to enhance food production and mitigate the negative impact of climate change.

During the 2024/2025 Financial Year this programme was allocated a total budget of Six Million Namibia Dollars (N\$6,000,000). With this, the following activities were carried out:

- 38 demonstration plots were established to show case the principles of conservation agriculture to farmers, and
- 5 913 farmers were advised on Climate Smart Agriculture including Conservation Agriculture and Good Agricultural Practices of which 2 418 are male and 3 495 are female farmers;

10.1.3.2 For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, a total of Five Hundred Thirty-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$534, 960, 000) has been allocated towards **Agriculture Production and Extension services**. With this allocation the Ministry plans to implement the following key programmes and agricultural value chains:

- Provision of subsidy on tillage mechanized services and inputs (seeds and fertilizer) through the **Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP)**, complemented by the Cereal Value Chain in the 10 crop growing regions.
- Provision of subsidy to horticulture producers in the 14 regions of the country on seeds, fertilizer, pesticide, irrigation materials, water pumps, tanks among others, through the **Horticulture Support and Value Chain Development Programme**.
- Continue promoting climate smart agriculture practices such as Conservation Agriculture (CA) through the second **Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Programme (2025/2026 – 2029/30)** across the 14 regions of the country.
- Continue with **Small Stock Distribution and development in Communal Areas (SSDDCA)** project, by distributing goats to 40 beneficiaries targeting Omusati and Erongo regions.
- Continue with the provision of subsidy to dairy small-scale producers on dairy breeds, feeds, milking machines, value addition technologies and construction of milking parlours through the **Dairy Value Chain Development Programme**.
- Continue with the provision of subsidy to farmers on breeding and production stock, veterinary medicines, construction of poultry housing, among others through the **Poultry Value Chain Development Programme**.

10.1.4 Agricultural Engineering

10.1.4.1 During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, a total amount of One Hundred and Five Million Namibia Dollars (N\$ 105,000,000) was allocated this Main Division and the following key activities were carried out:

- ✓ Aging irrigation infrastructure were repaired and maintained at various at Green Scheme projects;
- ✓ New tractors, production inputs and implements were procured for use at the Green Scheme projects, as a result Twenty-four hectares (24 ha) of sunflowers were harvested from Shadikongoro Plantation.





Executive Director harvesting sunflower at Shadi Kongoro Green Scheme



Cold pressed Sunflower Oil from Shadi Kongoro Green Scheme



Newly renovated center pivots



Newly procured state of the art tractors for the green schemes

10.1.4.2 For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, the Agricultural Engineering Main Division has been allocated a total budget of **Two Hundred and Ten Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$210,665,000)** to carry out the following activities with the aims to contribute to the national food security:

- Development of a comprehensive maintenance plan for the Green Scheme Projects;
- Maintenance and repair services for all the Green Scheme Projects;
- Renovation and upgrading of the farm infrastructure;
- Development of additional irrigable land of about 600 hectares within the fenced off land at the Green Schemes;
- Construction of solar power plants for small scale farming units at Etunda, Sikondo, Musese, Shitemo and Shadikongoro Green Scheme Projects;
- Procuring consultancy services for the design and development of the irrigation system for the 500 hectares within immediate proximity of the Neckartal Dam Phase 2 Irrigation Project.

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members*

It is important to underscore that the Green Schemes were transferred back to the Ministry in a dilapidated state and requires substantial recapitalization to bring them back to full production. Therefore, there is a need to allocate more funds for the operation of these green schemes while at the same time fulfilling its mandate to support small scale farmers at those projects, thus creating employment and improving the livelihoods of the communities.

10.1.5 Marine & Inland Fisheries Research

This programme aims to redress the developmental and economic challenges by improving revenue generation and continue to improve the management of marine resources.

The programme deals with the management of the utilization of fish stocks to prevent overfishing and wasteful use of resources and is conducted through monitoring and research within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and along the 1500km long coastline. This programme determines the biomass of all commercially exploited marine resources and provides scientific advice on the sustainable harvest levels and other relevant management measures.

Additionally, the programme conducts a series of marine and coastal environment research in order to monitor and assess climate and anthropogenic impacts potentially affecting the marine resources. Routine coastal monitoring and data collection is also conducted along the entire Namibian coast to assess the annual status of the seal and line fish resources.

10.1.5.1 During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the following key activities were carried out under the previous **Vote 22**:

- ✓ All routine scientific surveys and field activities were successfully conducted during the 2024/2025 financial year and the necessary data was obtained for the continuity of the time series trends as well as to monitoring the state of the coastal and marine environment.
- ✓ These trends and biological parameters are critical in determining the population dynamics and abundance of our commercially important stocks, such as hake, monk, horse mackerel, pilchard, deep-sea red crab, rock lobster, orange roughly and seals. These data sets are further analysed to obtain best scientific advice for the setting of the annual Total Allowable Catches (TAC) for the sustainable utilisation of these species, as prescribed by the Marine Resource Act of 2000 and several international instruments.
- ✓ Obtained data from the research scientific surveys which is used to determine the biomass of all commercially exploited marine living resources and provide scientific advice Senior Management and the Marine Resources Advisory Council on the sustainable harvest levels and other relevant management measures.



- ✓ The certification obtained by the Marine Stewardship Council (MCS) in 2020, was audited during the 2024/2025 financial year which continues to give Namibian products access into lucrative markets.
- ✓ In terms of development projects, the Ministry commenced the process of renovating the National Marine Aquarium in Swakopmund, and which is expected to be completed during the 2026/2027 financial year.
- ✓ Through the Inland Fisheries Management, the subsector contributed an estimated 2 500 tonnes of fish during 2024/2025 financial year, for food security and income generation to 280 000 riparian community members who are dependent on subsistence inland fisheries activities in the rural areas.
- ✓ The Ministry conducted eight (8) biological surveys on Zambezi, Kwando, Kavango and Orange Rivers, Naute, Neckartal and Hardap dams during 2024/2025 financial year and undertook applied research and socio-economic surveys on various water bodies to determine the status of inland fisheries in the country.
- ✓ Namibia is currently a leading nation in Africa regarding sustainable tenure of inland fisheries resources for the benefit of our rural small-scale fishers.
- ✓ Since 2016 to date, the MFMR gazetted 20 fishing areas as community managed fisheries reserves covering a total area of 2500 hectares.



Former Minister Hon. Derek Classen visiting Epalela Fish Farm in Omusati Region

10.1.5.2 For the 2025/2026 Financial Year the Marine and Inland Fisheries Research Main Division has been allocated a total budget of **One Hundred and Ten Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 110,426,000)** to carry out the following activities with the aims to contribute to the national food security:

- The Ministry will continue with the process of gazetting additional small-scale community fisheries management/protected areas (Fisheries Reserves) in Kavango East and Kavango West Regions as well as four community fishing areas in Zambezi Region. This will bring the total number of community fishing areas to 27, empowering small-scale fisheries in governance, tenure and equitable access to fisheries resources;
- Conduct scientific surveys for marine species and the marine environment;
- Evaluate data from commercial fishing operations for scientific purposes;
- Modelling and stock assessment, and
- Promote regional and international co-operations.

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members,*

10.1.6 I will now move to **Land Reform Programme.**

This Programme addresses land acquisition for resettlement purposes to the previously disadvantaged Namibians, including the Special categories of people such generational farm workers and landless farmers in corridors.). In particular, the Ministry is tasked with the implementation of the Resolutions of the Second National Land Conference (NLC). Out of One Hundred and Seventy-Six (176) resolutions by the Second National Land Conference, to date Twenty-Five (25) resolutions are fully implemented One Hundred and Thirty-Four (134) resolutions are ongoing, of which Sixteen (16) of these resolutions, measures were already in place to address them prior to the convening of the Second National Land Conference. These resolutions are the core-mandate of the Ministry amongst others acquisition of commercial agricultural land for resettlement purpose. I must also indicate here that the majority of the Resolutions will only be completed once the Land Bill is enacted into a law.

This programme consists of the following Main Divisions:

- i. Resettlement and Regional Programme Implementation
- ii. Land Reform



***Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members***

Before, I highlight on the key achievements under the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, I would like to inform this August House that funding resource constraints, market price considerations and high number of farm offer withdrawals limit the scale and speed of land acquisition.

10.1.6.1 I will now outline the Ministry's key achievements for 2024/2025 Financial Year under this programme. The Ministry with resources at its disposal has implemented the following activities:

- ✓ Eight (8) farms were acquired for resettlement, with a combined size of 30 097.6430 hectares at a cost of Eighty-Six Million Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Eight Namibia Dollars and Forty-Four Cents (N\$ 86,958,308.44).
- ✓ Two (2) farms with a combined size of 11,026.8059 hectares were also acquired at a cost of Twenty-Eight Million Four Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-One Namibia Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents (N\$ 28,004, 661.26) were acquired for the resettlement of generational farm workers.
- ✓ One (1) farm measuring 166.0479 hectares was acquired around Neckartal dam at a cost of One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Namibia Dollars and Ninety-Two cents (N\$ 127,985.92) for irrigation purposes.
- ✓ Additionally, two commercial farms totalling 8,132.9469 hectares were acquired in the Khomas Region at a cost of Thirty-Three Million Eight Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand and Ninety-Nine Namibia Dollars (N\$33,859,099.00) and converted into communal land. This marked a historic milestone, as Khomas was previously the only region in Namibia without communal land. On 9 December 2024, the newly established communal area was officially handed over to the Khomanin Traditional Authority for administration. The land will be used for allocating land rights and grazing rights, establishing commonage for livestock, and enabling the Khomanin community to sustainably utilise the land for food production, income generation, and the preservation of cultural practices and traditions.



Khomanin Traditional Authority

As part of the communal land expansion initiative, the Ministry acquired farms totaling 31,056.1198 hectares at a cost of Sixty-Six Million Nine Hundred and Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Three Namibia Dollars and Ninety-Three cents (N\$66,909,803.93). This strategic acquisition aims to increase land availability for traditional communities to alleviate grazing pressure on existing communal areas and enhance agricultural productivity, among other socio-economic benefits.

- ✓ Otjimbingwe communal area is expanded with 15,160 hectares.
- ✓ Ovitoto communal area is expanded with 9128.32 hectares, and the Aminius communal area has been expanded by 6,767.6098 hectares.
- ✓ This significant development aimed at improving community access to land, enhancing agricultural production, and releasing grazing pressure on existing range lands.
- ✓ A total number of Six (6) beneficiaries were resettled, and
- ✓ A total of 7 396 Communal Land Right registrations were ratified by Communal Land Boards nationwide, continuous registration of communal land rights is critical in strengthening the security of land tenure in Communal areas.

***Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members***

One of the transformational reform that was undertaken during the 2024/2025 Financial Year is the introduction of the Land Bill in Parliament. on the 13th March 2025 after it was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL). However, the Land Bill was introduced towards the end of the 7th Parliament. And hence the Bill could not be discussed as planned because the term of the 7th Parliament came to an end. Honourable Members I wish to inform this August House that the Land Bill will be re-introduced to this House during this Financial Year. The Land Bill aims to enhance and promote equitable access to land, particularly for the landless, farmers in corridors, women and youth. Additionally, the Bill prohibits foreign nationals from owning land or being allocated customary land rights. The onus will be upon us to support the Land Bill in order to ensure that there is balanced land distribution.

10.1.6.2 For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, a total amount of Three Hundred and Twenty-Three Million and Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 323,006,000) is allocated to the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme in order to execute the following activities:

- Support Land Reform Programme which encompasses various initiatives, including land acquisition for resettlement purposes targeting all categories particularly youth, women, and generational farm workers; expansion of communal land, and urban land reform through the implementation of the Flexible Land Tenure System. Honourable Members I wish to comment the Minister of Finance for allocating a Hundred Million Namibia Dollars (N\$ 100,000,000) in 2025/2026 Financial Year to acquire agricultural land for the resettlement of landless farmers in corridors.
- Continue with the development of the Integrated Regional Land Use Plans for Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kunene,



- Erongo and Khomas regions;
- Finalise the revision of the resettlement criteria in order to commence with the implementation of the reviewed 2023 National Resettlement Policy.

***Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members***

10.1.7 I will now move to the **Land Valuation & Estate Management programme.**

Honourable members, besides the obvious Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform functions, this Ministry is responsible for property valuation, land surveying, land mapping and deeds registration by virtue of hosting the offices of the Valuer-General, Surveyor-General and Registrar of Deeds.

This programme consists of the following Main Divisions:

- i. Valuation & Estate Management
- ii. Land Survey & Land Mapping
- iii. Centralised Registration

***Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members,***

10.1.7.1 During the 2024/2025 Financial Year the following activities were implemented:

- ✓ The Namibian Council for Property Valuers was inaugurated on 06 March 2025, in order to regulate, manage and reduce the high property rates in the country;
- ✓ Satellite Imagery access service was procured for production of various mapping products, and for preparation of Regional and Constituency boundary maps in preparation for the upcoming elections. To download and archive satellite imagery, modern ICT infrastructure were installed, and spatial data management platforms were procured;
- ✓ In addition, various modern surveying and mapping equipment, as well as off-road vehicles were acquired for demarcation/field validation of regional and constituency boundaries;
- ✓ Furthermore, consultancy Services for operationalizing and commissioning of Thirty (30) Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) country-wide were procured to modernize the Geodetic referencing infrastructure;
- ✓ Moreover, the Office of the Surveyor General commenced with digitization of farm, farm portions, townland and communal land boundaries to accelerate service delivery through publication of cadastral and mapping data and information on digital platforms;
- ✓ The Office of the Surveyor-General also provided technical support to the Boundary Delimitation and Demarcation Commission during regional consultation meetings, and it further supported the Namibian Police and Defense forces efforts towards landmines and bush clearance activities on the Namibia-Zambia land boundary (between Katima Mulilo and Singalamwe).

- ✓ Another critical project being spearheaded by the Ministry is the delineation of the Namibia's Continental Shelf which is aimed at extending Namibia's subsea territorial rights beyond the default 200 nautical miles;
- ✓ The defence of Namibia's claim is still on-going, where modest progress was made thus far as the United Nation's Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) acceded to the fact that sufficient scientific and technical evidence was presented for Namibia's claim, and
- ✓ The Office of the Registrar of Deeds commenced with the development of the computerized Deeds Registration System (CDRS) with the view to speed up the registration of immovable properties in the deeds office.

10.1.7.2 For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, a total of **One Hundred Fifty-Four Million and Nine Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 154,989,000)** is allocated to the Land Valuation & Estate Management Programme. This allocation will be used to carry out the following key functions:

- Preparation of 2025-2030 Agricultural Commercial Land Valuation Roll, to update and bring the land tax values to the market related unimproved site values;
- Drafting of the Valuation Bill, to support and provide legal backing for the Office of the Valuer General as principal advisor and custodian of all government valuation matters;
- Development of the Agricultural Commercial Land, Rating Valuation and Taxation System to support the administration and the imposition of land tax administration on Agricultural Commercial Land. The systems will aid in preparation of the valuation roll and computerize the land tax administration;
- Demarcation, field validation and map production of Regional and Constituency boundaries;
- Affirmation of the land segment of the Namibia-Zambia boundary from Katima Mulilo to Singalamwe;
- Installation and Commissioning of additional Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) in towns and villages earmarked for housing programs to accelerate serviced land delivery;
- Modernization of geodetic and mapping infrastructure, and production of maps, including aeronautical charts in collaboration with Namibia Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA). The Surveyor-General's Office will further assist NCAA with surveying airports to ensure compliance with international standards;
- The Continental Shelf Defense team will continue to defend Namibia's claim before the UNCLCS, and when necessary enlist the assistance of scientific and technical experts, and
- Finalize and launch the Computerized Deeds Registration System (CDRS)

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members;*

10.1.8 I will now move on to the last programme on **Policy Coordination and Support Services**.

This programme is responsible for creating an enabling environment within the Agriculture and Land sector through policy and regulatory functions and supervision. In addition, the programme also includes the promotion of agri-food marketing system and support services for the field-based functions. This programme also supports the sustainable management of living aquatic resources in the areas of aquaculture, operations, compliance, scientific research, aviation, technical services and administrative areas.

10.1.8.1 During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the following activities were implemented:

- ✓ The Ministry successfully developed the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), well known as Strategy for the Transformation of the Agri-Food Sector (STAS). The STAS was launched on 06 November 2024 alongside the signing of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) compact for Namibia.

Honourable Members, the Strategy for the Transformation of the Agri-food Sector (STAS) is a vehicle for the implementation of key developmental priorities within the Agri-food sector. This strategy is aligned with continental priorities under Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Following the conclusion of the Malabo Declaration in January 2025, Namibia joined fellow AU Member States in endorsing the Kampala CAADP Declaration alongside its Ten-Year Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035). It is important to highlight that STAS is well aligned to the Kampala declaration and it serves as a guiding instrument for the integration of sustainable and resilient agri-food systems into our national development plan.

- ✓ Conducted Regional Stakeholder consultations on the Agriculture, Water and Land Disaster Risk Management Strategy, which aims at mainstreaming disaster risk reduction measures with a view to ensure preparedness, response, recovery and enhance resilience.
- ✓ Developed a draft Livestock Marketing Strategy (LMS) that will serve as a framework to guide the marketing of livestock and livestock products in the country.
- ✓ The Ministry through the division of Cooperative Development and Regulations provided business advisory services to registered cooperatives and as a result, 75% of registered Cooperatives are now conducting viable businesses.
- ✓ implemented the second phase of the Government employment redress programme to ensure that the ex-fishermen that participated in the industrial action of 2015 are absorbed by the companies within the industry. To date, a total of 2 400 ex-fishermen have been absorbed through this program.

10.1.8.2 For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, a total of **Five Hundred Ninety-Five Million and Seven Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ N\$595,782,000)** is allocated to the **Policy Coordination and Support Services Programme**. This allocation will be used to carry out the following key functions:

- Conduct feasibility study for the establishment of small-scale agro-processing facilities in all 14 regions
- Maintenance of the Ministry's capital infrastructure;
- Management of information systems;
- Fleet management and maintenance;
- Implementation of the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), well known as Strategy for the Transformation of the Agri-Food Sector (STAS);
- Finalisation of the Revised Drought Management Policy and Strategy;
- Finalisation of the Disaster Risk Management Strategy for the Agriculture, Water and Land sectors,
- Conduct both regional and national stakeholder consultation on Livestock Marketing Strategy

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members,*

In closing, I wish to underscore that, in light of the unfavourable climatic conditions I initially highlighted, agricultural production under irrigation is no longer a mere option but it is the most strategic course of action. It remains the most viable pathway available to us to significantly boost food production, maintain optimal stock levels within the National Strategic Grain Reserve Facilities, and ultimately safeguard national food security while reducing our dependency on food imports.

In this regard, we humbly appeal to Honourable Shafudah to kindly lend a sympathetic ear when we present our request for increased resources. These resources will be needed for the effective implementation of the Green Scheme Programme and to strengthen service delivery to our farmers who are equal and vital partners in ensuring food availability across our nation.

I extend my deepest appreciation to our President, Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah for her visionary leadership, direction and guidance. In the same spirit, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Honourable Ericah Shafudah, Minister of Finance, and Honourable Kaire Mbuende, Director General of the National Planning Commission and Minister of Economic Planning, with their dedicated teams for supporting our budget submission under this vital Vote.

I express my deepest appreciation to Honourable Carl-Hermann Schlettwein, the former Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, for his steadfast contributions which has really ensured that agriculture production is increased through the management and operation of our green scheme project, and that land is equitably allocated to previously disadvantaged landless Namibians. During his tenure, he facilitated the home coming of the Batswana



of Namibian descent and facilitated the creation of the communal area in Khomas region. During Honourable Schlettwein's leadership and support, critical initiatives and programs were enabled, contributing to food security, job creation, and economic empowerment across communities. The Ministry will forever remain indebted to him for his invaluable role in strengthening the resilience and sustainability of this vital sectors. Similarly, I extend our appreciation to Honourable Derek Klazen, former Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for his hard work and commitment towards ensuring equitable management of our living aquatic resources. We extend same to Honourable Anna Shiweda and Honourable Sylvia Mokgone. Their leadership laid the foundation for our continued operations. Our appreciation also goes to Ms Annely Haiphene, the former Executive Director in the former Ministry for her dedication and commitment.

I will fail in my duty if I still do not acknowledge the support and commitment of our Accounting Officer, Madam Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata for her continued hard work and dedication in steering this ship and for her visionary leadership in ensuring that this Ministry contribute significantly to country's economic development. I extend my gratitude to the entire management of the Ministry, Honourable Ruthy Masake, our Deputy Minister, the Executive Director, Mr. Teofilus Nghitila, and the entire Ministerial team who together we shall devote their time and energy in ensuring that all Namibians have access to safe, potable water and that our marine and inland fishery resources are sustainably managed.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

With this motivation, I now call upon this August House to discuss, consider and approve the total budget request for Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform amounting to **Two Billion, Five Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars** (N\$ 2,569 216 000) for the 2025/2026 Financial Year contributing to our Vision: **To Build a Prosperous, Competitive, and Self-Reliant Food Secure Nation.**

I thank you for your kind attention.



Welcoming ceremony of the Batswana of Namibian descent at Dobe Boarder Post





REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform