



FAO Namibia Newsletter

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Namibia Country Programming Framework Launched

Message from the FAO Representative

The past few months have been a hive of activity at the FAO Namibia Office, with the team working tirelessly to ensure that we reach this quarter's key targets. One of these key targets was the finalisation and launch of the Country Programming Framework (2019-2023) which is a key milestone for the FAO Namibia Office as outlined in this issue of the newsletter.

As the ink dried on the freshly signed CPF and we stood to exchange the final document with the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, I reflected back on the hard work and inclusive consultative process which took place in order for the framework to be developed. I am indeed honoured to be part of this key step which serves as the blueprint for our collaboration with the Namibian Government. We are indeed on track with regards to implementing the key priorities outlined therein. As you will discover in this issue, stakeholder engagement and advocacy at policy level, as well as capacity development were key focal issues during the second quarter of 2019. This was illustrated in the successful training of parliamentarians in VGGTs and the positive feedback and commitment to adopting the guidelines at a national level. Together with key partners, we geared up to start the formulation of the National Agriculture Investment Plan.

As indicated in our inaugural issue in 2018, programme development is a major preoccupation for the Representation. That is why we are delighted to be among the countries in Southern Africa who has been given the green light by the GEF Secretariat to prepare a project under the Sustainable Forest Management Impact Programme.

With young people constituting 36 percent of the Namibian population and 43 percent of these being unemployed, FAO is cognisant of the need to bring in young people into agriculture. In this issue, we also highlight the modest but significant and life-changing support we provided to a group of young people just outside the capital, Windhoek. Sustainable food security in the face of climate-induced shocks remains high on our agenda. And as we enter the next quarter, FAO Namibia recognizes the need to create more awareness on this issue at a broader scale. Leveraging on already existing platforms and always seeking to collaborate with partners, the journey towards Zero Hunger will not be a lonely one.



Ms. Farayi Zimudzi, FAO Representative in Namibia

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Country Programming Framework Launched**
- **Parliamentarians Trained in VGGTs**
- **GEF Approves Namibia's Project Preparation**
- **Youth in Agriculture Project brings Hope**

Launch of 2019-2023 Country Programming Framework

On 26 April 2019, FAO Namibia launched the Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period 2019-2023. The CPF will guide FAO's partnership with the government of Namibia for five years in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food security, nutrition and rural development. The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Hon. Alpheus G. !Naruseb was the keynote speaker and representatives of other ministries and government agencies, and media attended the launch.

In his remarks, Hon !Naruseb said the CPF is of great importance to Namibia as it will strengthen the policy, legal, strategic and institutional frameworks for agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food security, and nutrition sectors. He further stated that if fully implemented, alongside efforts by the government and other stakeholders, the four priorities of the CPF will contribute meaningfully to Namibia's development aspirations in the spirit of leaving no one behind. The Minister also acknowledged that the new CPF comes at an opportune time for Namibia, as the country continues to face recurrent droughts, floods, veld fires, high temperatures, diseases, and pest outbreaks as a result of climate change.

Ms Farayi Zimudzi, FAO Representative in Namibia, stated that the CPF implementation process paves the way to enhance partnerships with government, national stakeholders, external stakeholders and UN system in Namibia, emphasizing FAO's catalytic role in developing sustainable capacity in the agriculture, food security and rural development sectors. She emphasised that the CPF outlines the key outputs needed to achieve the planned outcomes focusing on the FAO Core Functions, while embodying the Organization's mandate and comparative advantage.



FAO Representative Farayi Zimudzi and the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Hon. !Naruseb at the CPF launch.

The CPF was developed in alignment to Namibia's Fifth National Development Plan and other sectoral policies and

covers four priority areas in support of development aspirations of the government of Namibia, namely

1. Strengthening policy, legal, strategic and institutional frameworks for agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food security and nutrition;
2. Improving agricultural production, productivity, food safety and strengthened nutrition sensitive value chains;
3. Strengthening capacity for natural resource management and land governance; and
4. Strengthening capacity for disaster risk reduction, resilience building and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Approximately 50 stakeholders attended the event including State Owned Enterprises under MAWF such as the Meat Board of Namibia, the Agricultural Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) and the Namibia Agronomic Board. Representatives from farmers unions such as the Namibia Emerging Commercial Farmers Union (NECFU), Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU) and Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) were also in attendance including other UN agencies namely UNDP, World Health Organization, IOM and UNICEF.

Namibia represented at the Regional Africa Workshop on mainstreaming Sustainable Food Agriculture

FAO Namibia recently facilitated the participation of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Namibia Statistics Agency, National Planning Commission (NPC), the Agro-Marketing Agency (AMTA) and the University of Namibia in Regional Africa Workshop on Mainstreaming Sustainable Food and Agriculture.

Under the theme of Mainstreaming Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA) in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of the Malabo Declaration, the Regional Africa Workshop took place in Addis Ababa, from 28 - 30 May 2019. In 2014, African Union (AU) Heads of State adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The declaration represents commitment to ending hunger by 2025 and countries have implemented the Malabo Declaration by domesticating them into country specific National Agriculture Investment plans (NAIP).

The overall objectives of the workshop were to promote broad awareness on how to integrate food, agriculture and natural resource relevant SDGs into national investment plans in line with the Malabo Declaration implementation. The workshop also provided a platform to share experiences and discuss both progress and challenges associated with integrating SDGs into national investment plans. Identify options for moving forward at national level to mainstream food, agriculture and natural resource management to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the Malabo Declaration implementation. Namibia was afforded this opportunity to share when Mr Ned Sibeya, Chief Development Advisor at NPC gave an overview of the national monitoring and reporting of progress on sustainable food and agriculture in Africa.

Assistant FAO Representative in Namibia, Ferdinand Mwapopi, who also attended the workshop stated that “Participation of Namibia was crucial as the country is party to the Malabo Declaration and currently in the process of formulating its National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP). Therefore participation contributed to the understanding of agricultural investment and strategies through sharing of experiences from other countries in the Region.” Other countries which participated included Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.



The Namibian delegation meeting during the Regional Africa Workshop in Addis Ababa.

Ministers meet to review SADC food crises

On 07 June 2019, SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture met in Windhoek, to review the overall regional food security situation, as well as progress made in the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP). The meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Alpheus G. !Naruseb, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Hon.

Bernard Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, both of the Republic of Namibia.

SADC Deputy Executive Secretary (Regional Integration), Dr Theminkosi Mhlomo highlighted the importance of the meeting in reviewing SADC programmes, projects and related strategies on Agriculture and Food Security and Fisheries and Aquaculture as they contribute to the region’s top priorities of industrial development and market integration, as well as infrastructure development to facilitate competitive and diversified industrial development for deeper regional integration and poverty eradication. Mhlomo noted that the regional food security situation was not looking good due to the impact of cyclones, floods and drought.



A green scheme set up by the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry

Addressing the meeting, the Agriculture, Water and Forestry Minister, Alpheus !Naruseb, stated that, the meeting came at the right time to provide policy decisions for the future of agriculture as the region was facing challenges that included natural disasters, disease outbreaks and food shortages, which further exacerbate poverty and inequality.

Minister !Naruseb added that, there is a need to put in place policies and strategies to reduce and mitigate the impact of droughts and floods, and to make the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the region more resilient to adverse climatic conditions. The meeting considered a report on regional plant and animal transboundary pests and diseases affecting the region, and agreed to continue prioritising the control of these diseases. Participants further reiterated the need to improve coordination in their management for improved food security and facilitation of trade.

Furthermore, the meeting noted the humanitarian situation as a result of several cyclone systems that caused extensive flooding in member states, between January and April 2019. Due to the severe and devastating impact of storms, in particular the cyclones Idai and Kenneth, over 3.3 million people were affected and required immediate humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, clothing, potable water, sanitation and medical support. In total, the

regional disasters killed over 1,000 people; injured an estimated 3,000, damaged economic infrastructure, education and health facilities, and destroyed over 800,000 hectares of cropland as well as crops and seed stocks. The SADC Ministers meeting was attended by Ministers from 16 SADC member countries: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa.

FAO trains Parliamentarians on VGGTs

FAO recently conducted a three day training session for members of the Namibian Parliament and senior officials from relevant Ministries engaged in the governance of land tenure from 11-13 June 2019, in the National Assembly Chambers. Facilitated by land governance and tenure experts from FAO's Sub Regional Office for East Africa, the training provided an introduction to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs).

VGGTs Empower Communities

The VGGTs promote responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, with respect to all forms of tenure i.e. public, private, communal, indigenous, customary, and informal. Their overarching goals are to achieve food security for all and support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. The governance of tenure is a crucial element in determining if and how people, communities and others are able to acquire rights, and associated duties, to use and control land, fisheries and forests.



FAO technical team with Hon. Pendukeni Ithana-Ithana (in black and white) and the Executive Director of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Mr Percy Misika (in blue suit)

At the official opening of the training, attended by the media, the FAO Representative in Namibia, Farayi Zimudzi noted that "The VGGTs are an international instrument that can be used by many different actors to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests. They serve as a reference and set out principles and internationally accepted standards for the practices of responsible governance of tenure."

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Loide Kasingo in her welcoming remarks stated the need for lawmakers to learn about the VGGT and further be exposed to best practice in the implementation. During the three days the participants received presentations, resources and opportunity to engage in order to deepen their understanding on the practical applications of the VGGT.

Linkages to the Second National Land Conference

The training ended with a presentation on linking the VGGT to the resolutions of the Second National Land Conference – held in October 2018, which brought to the fore key issues such as challenges and resource gaps. The Minister of Agriculture Water and Forestry, in remarks made on his behalf by the Executive Director, Mr. Percy Misika, stated that, "The capacity development workshop has shed a lot of light on global experience on governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests and provided important insights into how the principles of the VGGT can be used to enhance law-making, budgetary and oversight roles of parliament with regards to governance of tenure."

The official closing was done by Hon. Pendukeni Ithana-Ithana (MP) on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly, who stated that, "The VGGTs serve as a reference, set out principles and internationally accepted standards and practices for responsible governance of tenure. We will therefore critically study the provisions of the VGGTs, adapt and apply them to our situation."

FAO Namibia has committed to support regional initiatives to establish a Parliamentary Forum that will work with member states to address climate change and other natural disaster that impact on food security. Based on the recommendations of the training, FAO Namibia is now working on translating the VGGTs into local languages and preparing to deliver similar trainings on an ongoing basis to new Parliamentarians, as well as Traditional Authorities.

GEF Approves Namibia's Project Preparation Grant for Sustainable

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved a Project Preparation Grant to enable Namibia to develop a USD 6.9 million project under the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Impact Program (IP) on Dryland

Sustainable Landscapes (DSL). The project will be implemented with technical support from FAO Namibia and jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) and the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST).

The approval was endorsed at the 56th Council meeting of the GEF Secretariat held 10-13 June 2019 in Washington DC. At this meeting, Namibia's Project Identification Form (PIF) entitled "Integrated Landscape Management to Reverse Degradation and Support the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Mopane-Miombo Belt of Northern Namibia", was awarded 200,000 USD to develop the Full-sized Project (FSP) Proposal. The Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Impact Program (IP) on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL) is designed to be a regional program and will target efforts to avoid, reduce and reverse further deforestation, degradation, and desertification in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Following an inception workshop scheduled for early September 2019, the implementing partners and wider stakeholders will develop the FSP proposal in time for submission to the GEF Council in June 2020.



The project aims to reduce and reverse further degradation and desertification

Youth in Agriculture Project Gives Hope

FAO Namibia staff recently undertook a field visit to the Nauasaport Rural Youth Gardening Project, located 30km south of Windhoek. The aim of the visit was to meet some of the young people involved in the project for which FAO provided inputs to establish a garden project. Initiated by the Directorate of Youth Development of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and National Services (MSYNS), the project aims to empower young people in the small community of only 500 inhabitants to successfully engage in horticulture. Most of the youth living in Nauasaport are out of school,

are unemployed and face further hardships brought about by drought.

"There is a very low level of awareness of crop production and this project aims to expose young people to the possibilities of starting a garden. Thus we aim to demonstrate the techniques of cash crop production at this scale. Another critical objective is to address the dire food insecurity in the community," says Bonnie Gawaseb Regional Head of Youth Development at MYSNS.



Cornelius Shoombe (standing left) with other youth who are part of the Nauasaport Youth project.

FAO provided materials to erect a greenhouse on the apportioned section of land allocated, tools to prepare the soil, as well as seeds and seedlings. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry also provided technical expertise and the testing of soil samples from the land. Further to this, five young people who have been identified to be key custodians of the project, have been trained Horticultural techniques and business.

Cornelius Shoombe, one of the youth who were trained in gardening basics explains that, "We only used to survive from the social grants of our elderly parents. This is not good because some of us have children ourselves." The 31 year-old works in the project and has been instrumental in mobilising other youth to join. "We want to see everything here grow and be proud that we are able to benefit and uplift ourselves in this community," he says.

The project identified beneficiaries from the community who showed interest in acquiring agricultural skills and used a training of trainers approach to ensure that participants will be able to train other young people. Support to this project falls under FAO priority 2 of the Country Programming Framework which works towards improved agricultural production, productivity, food safety and value chains.

Meet New FAO Staff

The FAO Namibia team has grown with the addition of two new interns who recently joined the Organization



Mbapeua Karitjaiva (left) and Lolita De Almeida (right) are the new FAO interns.

Lolita is an intern at FAO under the Regional Office for Africa (RAF) Internship Programme. She holds an Honors Degree in Science in Agriculture Food Science and Technology (2019) and is currently studying towards a Master's Degree in Food Science and Technology majoring in Product Development through the University of Namibia. On why she chose to apply for an internship at FAO Lolita says, "I believe FAO will create an opportunity to build a career within my field of expertise, which will offer a fulfilling environment that gives me satisfaction by contributing to Zero Hunger. I believe that an effective way to ensure No Poverty and Zero Hunger in Namibia is to address poverty through wealth creation. This simply means providing knowledge and resources for the local people to grow their own food."

As a Food Scientist, she aims to add value to FAO objectives by promoting agricultural technologies that are environmentally friendly and promote the use renewable energy. She would also like her work to contribute to the development of inclusive agriculture, food production and off-farm economies which creates jobs and eliminate hunger in rural areas.

With regards to future plans, Lolita says that "I aspire to be a product development specialist in the next two years and my hobbies include experimenting with different ingredients to develop my technical capacity in the area of Food Science. Working at FAO has been a childhood dream of mine and I am more than happy to live this dream right now."

Mbapeua is an intern under the 2019 Indigenous Youth Programme. She graduated from the University of Namibia with a BSc Honours in Agriculture (Food Science and Technology). Hailing from a disadvantaged community in Kunene Region and witnessing food and nutrition insecurity on a daily basis compelled her to follow a career path that addresses the dire need to increase the capacity of communities to sustainably produce and add value to local food produce.

"My area of interest lies in value addition particularly that of underutilized indigenous food resources. I have been seeking to expose myself to the broad area of agricultural production and value addition. FAO is the reputable organization which provides the perfect platform not only to gain hands-on experience but also to contribute towards the goal of eradicating hunger and fighting poverty," she says.

Mbapeua further hopes to be of significant use to the Organization by applying her knowledge on postharvest technologies, nutrition and product development as she understands that a lack of consistent access to food has negative consequences on nutrition, health and well-being. Regarding her plans, Mbapeua says that "It is my desire to further my studies in the field mainly focusing on food quality, safety and product development of indigenous food. I believe it will equip me with coming up with suitable solutions through innovation to improve food security, nutrition and ultimately the livelihood of people."

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