



**NAMIBIA NATIONAL  
FARMERS UNION  
(NNFU)**

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# From the Governance Pen

## NNFU Congress 2007

NNFU is proud to announce a successful 2007 Congress. Serving as the organization's highest decision making body, the NNFU holds a congress every three years. This year's congress was guided by the theme, "Organized Agriculture: The future hub for economic growth in the agricultural sector" and organized under the authority of the former Executive Committee headed by former President Mr. Manfred Rukoro.

The build up to the event was positive, and all Regional Farmers Unions participated with women making up a 60% majority of this year's delegates. Hon. Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Minister of MAWF, opened with the words of HE president H. Pohamba at the August 30<sup>th</sup> gala dinner sponsored by Meatco. The NAU, Communal Farmers Consortium, and a number of other sponsors and partners delivered speeches and messages of solidarity at the opening ceremony. Hon. Isak Katali, Deputy Minister of Lands and Resettlement, closed the event on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Officially starting with closed sessions in order to review its progress and constitutional matters, presentations from experts in the agricultural sector were allowed at the open session in order to better inform delegates' perspectives regarding proposed resolutions.

Among resolutions passed, Congress adopted two new submissions. The first includes a constitutional amendment, which rephrases article 5.1 (g) of the constitution to state that 'An individual person or cooperative is not allowed to affiliate directly to NNFU, but can become a member via affiliation to a farmers association.' The second submission mandates the new Exco to enter into dialogue with the Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) and Namibia Emerging Commercial Farmers Forum (NECFF) and requires that the Exco periodically consults and informs NNFU members before making any decisions or passing any constitutional amendments.

Congress also resolved to adopt a financial report, remarking that more time is needed to analyze the financials. Congress also expressed concern regarding declining donor interest, noting that membership fees have also declined and urging that contributions by RU's should be seriously examined.

Resolving to adopt the activity report, Congress remarked that RU's must participate in regional meetings and events, also advising that RU's be more organized in order to take advantage of the training and capacity building offered by the NNFU.

The FNB also offered its own perspective on small-scale farmers' access to agricultural credit. It stated that the NNFU should negotiate with the government in order to explore possibilities for using or accepting communal land as a means for collateral along with exploring possible options with other stakeholders in the agricultural credit sector.

Congress also resolved that the Regional Farmers Unions will discuss the NNFU strategic plan at regional level and offer input on the plan to NNFU before the end of September. After receiving these responses, NNFU Secretariat and Executive Committee will finalize the strategic plan.

In addition to new resolutions and constitution amendments, one of the highlights of any Congress is the election of new leadership for the next three years.

The newly elected Executive Committee is as follows:

<b>President</b>	Mr. Pintile Davids
<b>Vice- President</b>	Ms. Magreth Mahoto
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Mupiri
<b>Vice- Secretary</b>	Ms. Patricia Gurubes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. Johannes Jansen
<b>Vice- Treasurer</b>	Mr. Epafra Auala
<b>Additional Member</b>	Mr. Edward Kapembe
<b>Additional Member</b>	Mr Salmon //Ûseb
<b>Additional Member</b>	Ms. Virginia Kayimbi

The NNFU would also like to thank its sponsors of the NNFU Congress 2007:

Meatco- Opening Gala Dinner- Steak Braai  
 Feedmaster- Closing Dinner  
 Meat Board- Closing Dinner  
 Agra- Cash and caps  
 First National Bank of Namibia- T shirts  
 AgriBank- Contributions towards meals/dinners  
 SanLam Namibia- Stationary  
 French Embassy in Windhoek- Transport and accommodation  
 FOS Belgium, Office in Namibia- Transport and accommodation

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to:  
 Office of the President- for the official opening  
 MAWF- operating on behalf of HE President H Pohamba  
 MLR- for officiating the closure of Congress 2007  
 HTS School- for providing the congress venue



NNFU Congress 2007

## NNFU Strategic Plan 2008 - 2010

In an effort to better meet the needs of Namibia's small-scale farmers, the NNFU is ready to put a new strategic plan into action. The plan is the first of its kind since the organization's inception in 1992, and involves a re-visioning of the organization's key goals as well as concrete steps the NNFU will take to realize them.

In 2005, the NNFU carried out an extensive re-visioning process. The process was informed by statistical reports as well by a series of consultations with NNFU stakeholders, including the farmers themselves. These consultations gave a voice to the NNFU's

membership base of 35,125 individuals represented through a wide network of farmer organizations and regional unions. By utilizing a bottom up approach, the organization has been able to directly involve the people that it intends to serve in the process. The members themselves had a forum to give direct feedback to the NNFU on how the organization can more effectively meet their needs, expressing their own concerns and priorities.

Drawing from this feedback, the NNFU was able to devise a number of strategic focus areas. These include increasing support for small scale and communal farmers in production and marketing

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as well as further development of the NNFU's work in policy education and advocacy. Further, it was decided that the majority, 80%, of the NNFU's services are to be directed towards member needs, the remaining 20% focused on assisting non-members.

Following this consultation process, a strategic plan to enact these re-visioned goals was put before the 2007 Congress. This was the final step in what has been a three year effort, and changes will be implemented between 2008 and 2010. The plan, developed by the NNFU Secretariat with the assistance of a short term consultant, takes a "logical framework approach" to problem solving. This is an analytical tool, which promotes goal oriented project planning and management. It breaks massive, overwhelming objectives into

manageable chunks. Small successes build on one another to serve broader goals, enabling the NNFU to make a greater contribution to rural development and support economic growth throughout the country.

As mentioned earlier in this Newsletter, NNFU Congress 2007 resolved that the Regional Farmers Unions will discuss the NNFU strategic plan at regional level and offer input on the plan to NNFU before the end of September. After receiving these responses, NNFU Secretariat and Executive Committee will finalize the strategic plan. It is expected that the strategic plan will be launched in December 2007.

## Business Advice

### Show activities in 2007

Since 2002, the NNFU, through the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry and the Communal Farmers Consortium is facilitating the support to agricultural shows to farmers associations and cooperatives. The NNFU plays an important coordinating role. For 2007, the show calendar is drawing to a close. All the local shows in the regions have been completed. This

year, agricultural shows were organized in 10 regions. No requests were received from Kavango and Ohangwena region.

Every year an increasing number of farmers organizations benefit from the funds. In 2007, 48 farmers organizations benefited from the funds (see table below).

Year	N\$ (MAWF)	N\$ (Communal Farmers Consortium)	Farmers Associations
2002	200 000		19
2003	270 000		26
2004	305 000	200 000	31
2005	316 000	470 000	36
2006	404 100	340 000	43
<b>2007</b>	<b>445 000</b>	<b>479 000</b>	<b>48</b>

Some challenges were experienced during the course of the year with regard to shows and will be tackled in the annual evaluation workshop to be organized in November 2007. The annual show evaluation workshop will be organized in order to evaluate the show activities and make recommendations for improvement, both at regional and national level. It is of great importance that the regions, through the regional show committees, will participate.

The main issue of concern for the NNFU and the Donors is the quality of show reports and applications submitted for financial support. The report of the previous event is the basis for the approval of the new application or request. TO SECURE FUNDING FOR 2008, THE NNFU IS HEREBY URGING ALL FARMERS ASSOCIATION, RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE MAWF SHOW FUND AND/OR COMMUNAL FARMERS CONSORTIUM, to furnish the NNFU with their show reports (including Payment Form).



Omaheke and Otjozondjupa regional show 2007

## Grain marketing

This year is an unfortunate year, because the NNFU does not have funds to assist Regional Farmers Organization in collective marketing, but NNFU is mobilizing other stakeholders for resources for the scheme to be funded.

The grain price for the 2007 has been reasonably good compared to previous years. During the closed border period the grain (mahangu & maize) price was around N\$2300 to N\$ 2400 per ton. Comparing to 2006 where the price was around N\$ 1700 to N\$ 1800 per ton. The Mahangu marketing season is still on, while the for maize the border opened as from the 17 September 2007. This means that buyers can import maize from other neighbouring country.

During the Ongwediva Trade Fair as a norm the Mahangu Champion Event took place where seven farmers were awarded with prizes. For the first time two of the regional runners were San farmers from Tsukwe and Ohangwena. Prizes were as follows:

### **1. Mahangu Pre – cleaner, 2 Rotating trophy, to attend Windhoek Show for the overall winner**

The second season has passed again with 18 farmers participated, harvest from the plots has been measured and it shows good results compared to the 2005 harvest. 22 new farmers will participate in the project with the coming season in total 40 farmers will participate to the project from Omusati region. The project is assisting farmers to improve soil fertility and restore moisture by ripping. A Contill Master Farmer for the year is Mr. Evard Haukongo from Okalongo, he won N\$ 800.00 cash and a certificate.

In our last news letter, we announced that Mr. Mukuahima left the NNFU from January 2007. Since January 2007, a Technical Assistant was temporary working in the livestock department. Since August 2007, a new Project Coordinator and a Technical Assistant have been employed with NNFU in the livestock department.

The new Project Coordinator in the department 'Business Advice and Trade Links', specializing on Livestock is Laura Imbuwa-Lammerts. She holds a Master of Science in Animal Science at the Wageningen University and Research centre in The Netherlands.

### **2. Each of the regional winner including the overall won;**

- 1 bag 50kg of Okashana seed
- Weeding cultivators
- 2 ton plastic storage sponsored by Agribank
- Certificate
- Cash of N\$ 800.00

The event was attended by members of the Mahangu and Task Team, Members of the Mahangu Advisory Committee (which is the body responsible for developing mahangu industry), MAWF staff, farmers and other stakeholders in the grain sector.

The National Grain Producer Forum is a meeting which takes place once a year early September to discuss issues affecting the industry. This year the meeting took place on the 05 September 2007 at Tsumeb. As a custom the following day, the Grain Price Negotiations for the following season (2008) took place. In the Grain Price Negotiation meeting, the miller producers are discussing the principal on which the prices can be based. So far the grain prices are linked to SAFEX.

## Conservation tillage project

The Project Management attended the planning and review of the project activities in Lusaka.

A workshop for preparing the harvesting season was held in May 2007.

Orientation workshop for new farmers was held on the 20 September 2007, Planning and review workshop held on the 19 September 2007.

## Newsflashes

Laura has been working with the NNFU from August 2006 as a trainee.

The new Technical Assistant in this department is Katando Kanguuehi. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics at University of Namibia. Katando has been working with the NNFU from April 2007 as a trainee.

When you have any questions related to livestock matter, please contact our two new colleagues.

