



**NNFU HIV/AIDS Program
Press Release
(October 2008)**

The NNFU held its National HIV/AIDS Program Planning and Leadership Orientation workshop in October 2008 at the Tabitha Multipurpose Centre in Windhoek, at which the NNFU construct and design well thought management structures, systems and tools to enable an effective HIV/AIDS response in all NNFU affiliated (12) regions under its jurisdiction.

The HIV/AIDS Program is officially funded by GTZ/DED for a tentative period of (2) years, which commenced on the 1st of September 2008 and will run until the end of September 2010. The program which will be headed by a Program Officer (Mr.B.A.Pieters) appointed by the NNFU and a technical advisor (Ms.Isabel Moroff) nominated by GTZ/DED, envisage to respond to the diverse impacts of HIV/AIDS on the livelihoods of the communal farming communities in Namibia, with focus on confidence building and information, education distribution, through the regional farmers unions to farmers cooperatives, associations and farmers leagues. A well designed activity plan will guide the NNFU AIDS plan for the 1st term until March 2009, which specifically concentrates on the establishment of the national and regional institutional management capacities and structures, assessments around the scope and nature of the focus areas and the pandemic, and the search for potential grey areas for strategic intervention, before the 2nd term plan will be designed.

This ground assessments and structural adjustments will be intensified by regional familiarization visits to regional farmers unions affiliated to the NNFU from national office to investigate the capacities, potentials, challenges and opportunities in the regions and will start in November 2008 until January 2009. In the mean time a KAPS study will hopefully be commissioned to determine the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and attitudes of the communal farming communities towards various dynamics of the pandemic. These exercises should enable the NNFU to produce stratified interventions and actions, directed and focused on the core challenges and difficulties faced by the communal farming communities. It should further help in avoiding overlapping and duplication of existing programs and activities runned in the communal areas by multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS service partners, and rather strengthen, expand and reinforce existing intervention strategies.

At comparative advantage, the NNFU do have established national, regional and local structures, a fair share of other partner HIV/AIDS service providers as defined by the MTP III and a sound national institutional frame condition in place, to drive an effective response. Eleven regional farmers unions represented by two representatives each, attended the indebt planning workshop and gave collective input on the direction and pace of the implementation of HIV/AIDS programs and activities in the regions. A management and operational structure was also agreed upon, which would facilitate the line of command and the execution of responsibilities and activities of the HIV/AIDS Program.

The workshop agreed upon three regions which will launch the commemoration of the World AIDS Day on the 1st of December 2008, being the Oshana, Karas and Otjikoto regions and would be funded by the program. It is the 1st time the NNFU will be actively involved in organizing the World AIDS Day event within the communal areas of the mentioned regions. The program further lined – up a KAPS baseline study to gauge the knowledge, attitudes and behavior and practices of communal dwellers towards the HIV/AIDS pandemic, scan coping practices and survival mechanisms, to enable accurate diagnoses of critical issues that should help the formulation of challenge related activities and programs.

The NNFU, in collaboration with GTZ/DED promise to deliver a performance driven program, based on the consideration of the complexities, similarities and differences within the different regions and farming settings and systems and call upon all communal farmers and residents, role-players, stakeholders and partners to support, strengthen and promote the mitigation efforts of the NNFU HIV/AIDS Program, aimed at reducing human suffering and socio – economic discomfort, resulting from the pandemic on the entire communal farming fraternity.

The target beneficiaries of the NNFU AIDS Program features:

- Communal farmers;
- Communal subsistence farming employers and employees;
- OVC;
- Child headed household units in the communal areas;
- People living HIV/AIDS;
- People living with disabilities;
- Women & children;
- HIV/AIDS affected and infected households;
- CBO's and NGO's (as partners)
- Government and private sector;

And would labour in the areas of;

- Prevention and awareness; treatment, care and support;
- Impact mitigation; and
- Development of regional, local management capacities and structures;
- Research;
- Literature development, expansion and design;
- Networking and coordination;
- Information, education and communication distribution;

NNFU HIV/AIDS Program
Program Officer
Mr.B.A.Pieters

