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An initiative of the Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum aimed at providing information on topical trade-related issues to stakeholders



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New ATF logo launched



2 0 1 3 marks about 10 years of which the Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF) has been in existence.

The continual successful existence of the ATF prompted an evaluation of the company's corporate identity to ensure that it reflects what the organisation does and represents, including a review of the current ATF logo.

To this end, the ATF is proud to announce the new ATF logo as part of the ongoing evolution of the company's identity. The logo was officially launched on 14 November 2013 at Thuringerhof Hotel concurrently with the 32nd ATF Public Dialogue.

The outward arrows in the logo graphically depict negotiation, lobbying efforts and representation of the agriculture sector outside Namibia in search for new markets access opportunities for Namibian

agricultural products, while the inward arrows demonstrates that the ATF is also involved in safeguarding domestic agricultural industries against harmful imports.

The task in the upcoming months will be to update all our office stationary and also the revamping of the current website.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at:

atfsta@nammic.com.na

Public dialogue corner: The role of services in transforming the Namibian economy

As part of the ATF strategic objective to intensify dialogue between the private and public sector on trade and economic related issues in Namibia, the ATF, in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, held its 32nd Public Dialogue on 14 November 2013 at Thuringerhof Hotel, Windhoek. The third and last public dialogue for 2013 was well attended with active and stimulating participation.

The topic for discussion was the "the role of the service sector in transforming the Namibian economy".

The competitiveness of economies is increasingly determined by companies' access

to affordable high quality services, whether it be telecommunications, transport and distribution or financial services.

Ms. Dagmar Honsbein, General Manager of AgraProViision; Mr. Gerson Kadhikwa, a professional economist as well as Mr. Norbert Liebich, Director of Transworld Cargo discussed how the role of the service sector can be enhanced to propel economic activities in Namibia and facilitate the achievement of the country's national developmental objectives.

The cross-cutting message from the panelists is that the

service sector does indeed play a critical role in the economy. Affordable, efficient, reliable and quality services contribute to increased productivity in agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Another key message from the Dialogue was the need to intensify and institutionalize public-private sector dialogue to create mutual trust between the parties.

The next public dialogue will be held in the 1st quarter of 2014. The ATF and its members would like to extend a word of appreciation to the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung for their continued support to the ATF Public Dialogues.

Contributors to the ATF

- Namibian Agronomic Board
- Meat Board of Namibia
- MEATCO
- Namib Mills Group
- Namibia Grape Growers Association
- Namibia Dairies
- Bokomo Namibia
- Namibia National Farmers Union
- Namibian Agricultural Union
- Agronomic Producers Association
- Witvlei Meat
- Namibia Grain Processors Association



Southern African
Development Community

Towards a
Common
Future

SADC News: Regional Agriculture Policy approved

South African Development
Community Member States

Angola
Botswana
DRC
Lesotho
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Seychelles
South Africa
Swaziland
Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

The SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security approved, in principle, the SADC Regional Agriculture Policy (RAP) at their meeting in June 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique.

The Policy will guide and serve as a catalyst to attract and channel finance and investment in a prioritised and coherent manner to the agriculture sector. Specifically the Policy will stimulate agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness as well as promote trade in the region.

One of the critical policy statements worth highlighting is the commitment towards reducing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) on trade in agricultur-

al goods and services. The RAP will facilitate the development of approaches towards the elimination of NTBs and supporting member states efforts in that direction.

The RAP also recognises the need to rationalise external SADC tariffs and implement safeguard measures in agriculture especially when trading with third parties. To this end, external tariff regulations such as import and export duties, taxes, sensitive products and other safeguard mechanisms are highlighted as important instruments to consider for agriculture and more so for fostering food security in the context of regional trade with third parties.

The Policy further recognises the evolution and nature of the 21st century trade. For this reason, the need to improve private and public sector engagement as well as investment in the agricultural value chain has been put forth as a priority area.

While noting that regional cereal production has increased by 46% (over 2003 – 2012), attributed to expansion in maize production, the production of wheat, sorghum and millet has remained relatively constant. Hence, the RAP aspires to strengthen investment in agriculture across the private and public sector to stimulate agro-processing.



SACU News: Regional customs trade forum launched

Southern African Customs Union
Member States

Botswana
Lesotho
Namibia
Swaziland
South Africa

The SACU Regional Customs Trade Forum was launched on 8 November 2013 in Maseru, Lesotho.

The regional customs trade forum emanates from the SACU Council decision to implement a Regional Trade Partnerships Project as one of the key objectives under the SACU Trade Facilitation programme.

The core policy objective of the trade partnership policy area is to establish and strengthen partnerships between Customs authorities,

the trading Community as well as other government agencies involved in the trade supply chain. This is envisaged to promote mutually beneficial outcomes and thereby developing a regional trade facilitation framework that enhances customs to business relations.

As such, the Regional Customs Trade Forum creates a platform for dialogue across the region, and is expected to be an enabler for the creation of solutions that respond to the needs of all actors in SACU. The Forum provides

the main vehicle for a mutual exchange of views between Member States, regional business associations/representatives and the SACU Secretariat on all customs-related issues.

Council further recognized that such collaboration should not only be limited to customs, but should include all other trade policy areas within the SACU region. Therefore, the SACU Regional Customs Trade Forum is to be used as a model for the establishment of similar regional forums in other areas.

All roads lead to Bali...9th WTO Ministerial

The 9th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) will be held in Bali, Indonesia from 3-6 December 2013.

With the current Doha Development Round negotiations not producing sufficient progress and results especially for developing countries, a new 2-pronged strategy has been developed for the Bali Ministerial meeting. This is harvesting low-hanging fruits and exploring new and more efficient negotiating mechanisms.

The harvesting of low-hanging fruits is expected to consist of a "Bali package" that may include agreements

on trade facilitation, some agreement on four agricultural issues, cotton, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), monitoring mechanism, Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVEs).

With specific reference on agriculture, the negotiations are expected to centre around the elimination of export subsidies, a proposal to deal with under-filled tariff rate quotas, developing countries food stocking for food security and a proposed list domestic support by developing countries that should fall within the category of allowed subsidies.

The 2nd strategy of finding a more efficient negotiating mechanism is vital for progress and conclusion of the negotiations. Indeed the 'single undertaking' approach of the negotiations, although beneficial for developing countries, has also proved to contribute to the current slow pace in the Doha negotiations.

The WTO Director-General has however stressed that the conclusion of a Bali package must be done in Geneva and not in Bali.

Quote from WTO Director-General, Roberto Azevêdo at the WTO Trade Negotiations Committee meeting on 12 November 2013

"one of the clearest messages from my consultations with members is that Bali must not be a negotiating conference"

Meat Board spearheads a Business Mission to Hong Kong

The Meat Board spearheaded a Business Mission to Hong Kong on 4-8 November 2013. The delegation comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), Meat Board, Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF), Meatco and Brukarros Meat Processors (BMP).

The aim of the Mission was to gather information regarding the specific requirements and conditions that Namibian beef, mutton/lamb and goat meat need to comply with in order to gain access into Hong Kong and to obtain market intelligence on the Hong Kong meat sector.

Although the Namibian DVS has been recognised as the competent authority in terms of animal health disease control, Namibia is not currently approved to export meat to

Hong Kong. To facilitate the attainment of such export approval, the Namibian Delegation convened a meeting with the Centre for Food Safety (CFS). The CFS is a department within the Food and Environment Hygiene Department that is responsible for the import and export control of food products from and into Hong Kong. Animal health questionnaires were submitted during the meeting to commence the requisite export approval, which the CFS will study and determine if a risk assessment mission to Namibia is necessary.

The delegation also had meetings with a number of meat importers gain a better understanding of their import requirements. All the importers were open and willing to source meat from Namibia once the export approval has been obtained. They thus

requested regular feedback on progress of talks with the CFS.

A key observation from the Mission is that Hong Kong is a free port and does not impose any import duties on imports, except for a handful of products. Therefore, competition from low-cost and high volume meat producers such as US, Brazil, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada is very high, particularly in the beef and lamb/mutton sector. It is thus critical that Namibian exporters identify a specific market segment in Hong Kong where reasonable returns can be achieved and formulate appropriate market entry strategies.

The full comprehensive report on Hong Kong market is available from the Manager for Trade at the Meat Board.



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Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum

Incorporated Association not for gain, Reg. No.: 21/2003/690

Physical Address:

**Agricultural Boards'
Building
30 David Hosea Meroro Rd
Ausspannplatz
Windhoek**

Postal Address:

**PO Box 5096
Ausspannplatz
Windhoek**

Contact us on:

**Tel: (+264) (61) 379507/8
Fax: (+264) (61) 225371
Cell: (+264) 812442083
E-mail:
atfsta@nammic.com.na**

This newsletter is an initiative of the Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF) aimed at disseminating information on regional and international issues affecting Namibia's agricultural trade. The ATF is a not-for-profit organization funded by the Namibian agricultural private sector (both commercial and communal) with the purpose of promoting their interests in trade agreements.

ATF Staff members

Rejoice Karita	Senior Trade Advisor	Tel: (+264) (61) 379508
Frans Uusiku	Trade Advisor	Tel: (+264) 61 379507

Up coming trade-related activities (Jan-Mar 2014)

NAMIBIA TRADE FORUM:

- 12-13 February 2014, Strategic Planning Workshop, Windhoek

SACU

- January 2014, SACU meetings on Agricultural Re-bates, SACU region

SADC/EC EPA:

- January 2014, Joint SADC/EC Senior Officials meeting, South Africa

SADC

- February 2014, SADC Trade Negotiating Forum, Botswana

SADC-COMESA-EAC TFTA:

- January 2014, Technical Working Group Meetings and the Tripartite Trade Negotiation Forum, Namibia

- February 2014, SADC Technical Committee on Sugar, Zimbabwe

WTO

- March 2014, Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Geneva, Switzerland