



## 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

# RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS OF NAMIBIA: WATER SCARCITY, DROUGHT AND ENVIRONMENT

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 **Time:** 11:00-16:30 CAT

**Venue:** Mercure Hotel Windhoek, Namibia

**Registration Link:** <https://bit.ly/3VG3XM8>

**Contacts:** XXXX UNAM

XXXX NCRST

XXXXX Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

XXXXX Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

## BACKGROUND

Namibia is one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa that is characterized by high climatic variability through persistent droughts, unpredictable and variable rainfall patterns, variability in temperatures and water scarcity<sup>1</sup>. Nearly 92% of the land area is defined as very-arid, arid, or semi-arid, an already precarious situation that is being exacerbated by climate change and weather variability. Reports indicate that rainfall in Namibia is exceedingly unpredictable. The average annual rainfall is only 278 mm, and ranges from 650 mm in the northeast to less than 50 mm in the southwest and along coastal areas. The Government of Namibia is cognizant of the significance of water as a natural resource for economic growth, especially for mining, agriculture, pastoralism, fishing and wildlife-based tourism as well as urban supplies and manufacturing<sup>2</sup>. The challenge of water for production is not just limited to Namibia. According to the [Southern Africa Development Community](#), while the region accumulates approximately 2,300 km<sup>3</sup> of renewable water resources annually, only 14% is retained for use, mostly in Lake Kariba and Cahora Bassa along the Zambezi River. Invariably therefore access to water must be address as a collective given that 70% of regional water resources are transboundary. Indeed, Namibia benefits from upstream water such as the Zambezi and the Okavango river basins, the two largest and most reliable sources of surface water for production in the country.

According to Namibia's government plans, water is the single most significant factor overall contributing to the country's growth potential, but its sensitivity to climate change and poor management represents the single biggest development challenge. Demand for water for consumption alone is predicted to grow from over 334 million cubic meters per year (2015

<sup>1</sup><https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/namibia/climate-data-historical>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/NAMIBIA%20inputs.pdf>



demand), to 583 and 772 million cubic meters per year by 2025 and 2030 respectively. As the country's population rises, and both communal and commercial agriculture increase, their demand for water for production, the country must collectively address its most important development challenge. This is the purpose of this national convening

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) will hold its second Triennial Conference and the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia. The theme of the second RUFORUM Triennial Conference is ***“Operationalising higher agricultural education and research ecosystems for innovation, industrialisation and economic development in Africa: A Call for Action”***. This theme is underpinned by Namibia and other and African government development blueprints as specified in their Vision 2030 and 2040 Development Plans, and the Continental Agenda 2063, “the Africa We Want.”

During the Triennial; conference, key stakeholders served by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism will be involved meet to discuss how best to discuss how to assure ***resilient and Productive Agrifood Systems of Namibia by addressing the challenges of Water Scarcity, Drought and Environment***. The meeting will be held a side event during the triennial conference.

## MEETING PURPOSE

This side-event aims to hold a national dialogue among key stakeholders of the agriculture, water and environment and related sectors of the economy on how to secure the country's development processes against the challenges of water scarcity and drought that are caused by climate change and weather variability. It also intends to identify strategic priority areas of action for the government and key stakeholders to strengthen Namibia's resilience in the face of climate change and increased weather unpredictability.

## OBJECTIVES

The meeting aims ultimately to enhance Namibia's water-for-production security to support governments economic development agenda. This strategic objective will be achieved via three interrelated specific objectives:

1. Receive and examine national and other stakeholder implemented action and or investment opportunity in Namibia to inform lesson learning and strategic investment planning.
2. Identification of key action areas for strategic investments by government, key stakeholders and other actors for improving water for production security in the country.
3. Explore the creation of strategic partnerships between government, key stakeholders and other actors for improving water for production security in the country.



## VENUE, DATE AND LANGUAGES

The meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at the Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia from 11:00-16:30 SAT. It will be held in English.

## APPROACH

The meeting will consist of case studies and overview presentations to provide the context for discussions and derivation of an action plan that identified action areas, key stakeholders and an implementation team/partnership. The meeting will be facilitated and a core team put in place to draft documents and manage the design to implementation processes.

## PARTICIPANTS

Participants will be drawn from economy sectors served by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and the higher education ecosystems. Key actors include Ministers and senior staff of the two and the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation; RUFORUM network leaders (vice chancellors from fragile countries and the representatives of the RUFORUM Board).

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The following outputs are expected to be produced from the roundtable:

- A Technical Working Group established along with preliminary Terms of Reference.
- A road map and the requisite processes and actions identified and the next action areas prioritized for development Action Plan to secure water for production in Namibia.
- Urgent stop-gap measures identified for immediate actions identified especially for community level actions that target youth women and other excluded and vulnerable demographics.
- Requisite institutions/partnerships engaged to inform, enrich, support and implement the Action Plan.

## PROGRAMME

**Rapporteurs:** Local Organising Committee

Time	Activity	Responsible Institution
<b>Official Opening Ceremony</b>		
<b>Session Chair: Prof Nickanor M. Ndeyapo, Executive Dean-UNAM, Local Organising Committee</b>		
10:40 - 11:00	Arrival and registration of participants	LOC
11.00 - 11:10	Welcome address by Prof. Anicia Peters Chief Executive Officer, NCRST	LOC/NCRST
11.10 - 11:20	Welcome remarks Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamhata Executive Director, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.	LOC/MAWLR
11.20 - 11:40	Remarks by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Hon. Carl Schlettwein	LOC/MAWLR
<b>Session 1: The State of the Art: what are the issues and how far have we fared</b>		
11.40 - 13:00	<b>Lead Paper 1:</b> Securing Namibia's water for production needs to underpin broad-based	



	<p>development: The plans and lessons-learnt so far - Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.</p> <p><b>Discussion Panel</b>  <b>Panellist I:</b> MEATCO)  <b>Panellist II:</b> Dr. Nhlanhla Lupahla -NCRST  <b>Panellist III:</b> Youth in agriculture representative  <b>Panellist IV:</b> Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism</p>	
<b>13:00 -14:00</b>	<b>Lunch/Health Break</b>	<b>LOC</b>
<p><b>Session 2: Key Action areas for strategic investment and partnership</b>  <b>Session Chair:</b> Prof. Charles Makanyenza, Vice Chair of the Local Organising Committee.</p>		
14:00 - 14:50	<p><b>Lead Paper 2:</b> From policy to action: Opportunities for stakeholder partnerships to build a resilient and well supported water-for-production and economic growth sector. – NCRST</p> <p><b>Panellist I:</b> Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism  <b>Panellist II:</b> Sam Nujoma Marine and Coastal Resources Research Centre- UNAM  <b>Panellist III:</b> Namibia Agronomic Board  <b>Panellist IV:</b> SGSP-Integrated water Resources Management, NUST  <b>Panellist V:</b> Civil society and or Industry representative</p>	
14:50 - 15:00	Plenary discussion and takeaway messages	
<p><b>Session 3: World Café : Where do we go from here: Convergence, lessons learnt and looking ahead</b>  <b>Session Facilitator:</b> Prof. Simon Angombe, Local Organising Committee</p>		
15:00-16:00	<p><b>Café groups</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment and increased productivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience</li> <li>Management: Disaster Risk Reduction</li> </ul> </li> <li>Water Technologies and their impacts on Job Creation and Development of Enterprises Entrepreneurship, jobs, and wealth creation</li> </ol>	
16:30-16:50	Feedback and plenary discussion	
16:50 – 17:00	Closing remarks	
<b>17:00 -</b>	<b>Tea and departures</b>	<b>LOC</b>

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the end of the side event:

1. Stakeholders affected by the water scarcity, drought and insecurities associated with it will have a



better understanding of the opportunities and role they can play in contributing to generating solutions to underpin national water for production security,

2. Functional mechanism for multi-stakeholder engagement for enhanced contribution to national development agreed upon.