



**NamPPF**  
Namibia Public-Private Forum

# Agriculture, Water and Fisheries

**NAMIBIA PUBLIC-PRIVATE FORUM | 23-24 OCTOBER 2025**

Mr Arnold Klein  
Agra, CEO

Mr. Vetumbuavi Mungunda  
Founder, Ombu Capital

Hosted by:



**Republic of Namibia**  
National Planning Commission

Secretariat:



**NIPDB**  
Namibia Investment Promotion  
& Development Board



# SCOPE AND FOCUS

**Working group  
scope and  
focus**

**Alignment with  
National  
priorities**

**Current private  
sector  
contribution to  
employment**

**Private Sector  
potential  
contribution to  
employment**

The Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Working Group formed by the NamPPF Coordination Committee and representing all sub-sectors across the value chain, was established to align the sector with the NamPPF by analyzing national plans and identifying how the private sector can support government goals for growth and job creation.

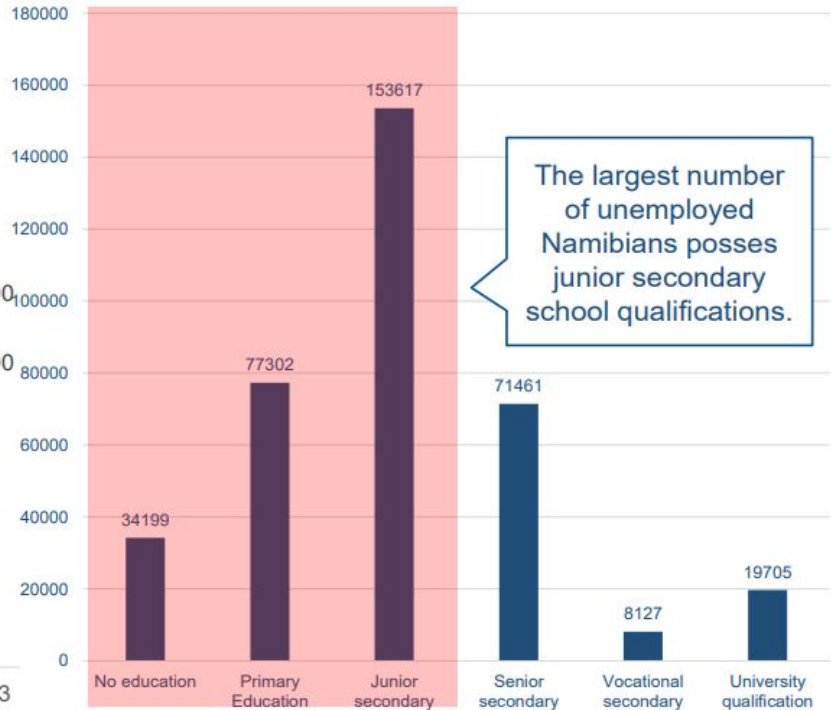
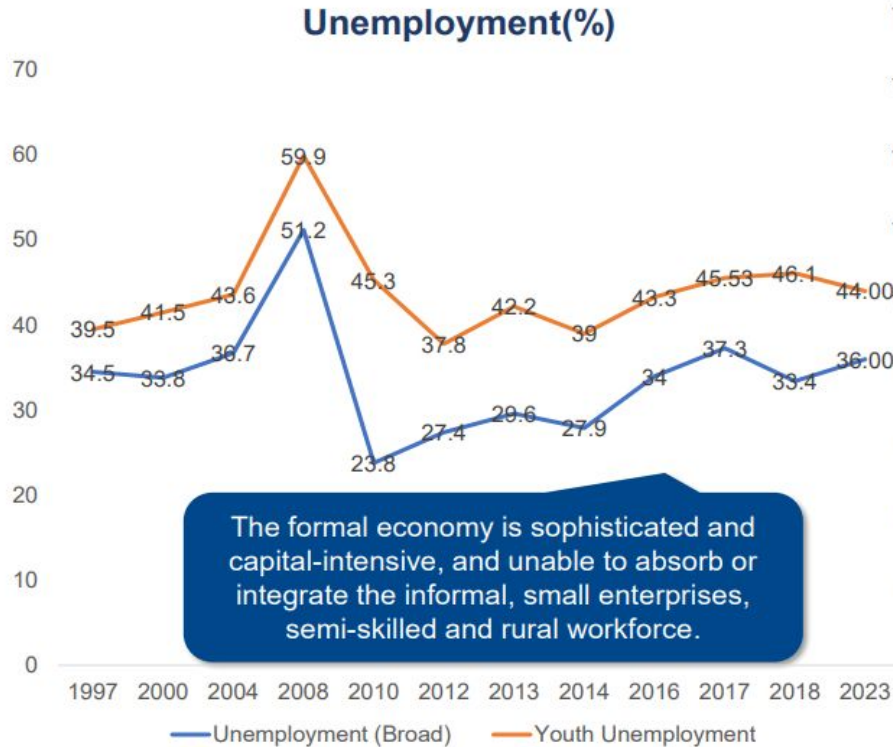
The private sector aims to boost productivity, value addition, and investment across agriculture, water, and fisheries to enhance food security, create jobs, and increase GDP contribution through sustainable growth by 2030.

The agriculture, water, forestry and fisheries sector contribute 7.3% to Namibia's GDP and 16.1% to national employment, with the majority of this contribution coming from the private sector.

A total of 336,579 unemployed Namibians—153,617 with junior secondary, 77,302 with primary, 71,461 with senior secondary, and 34,199 with no formal education—could potentially be employed in the agricultural sector if the right conditions are created. Additionally, the private sector has the potential to transform rural areas into primary production centers and processing hubs, limiting urbanization



# UNEMPLOYMENT IN NAMIBIA



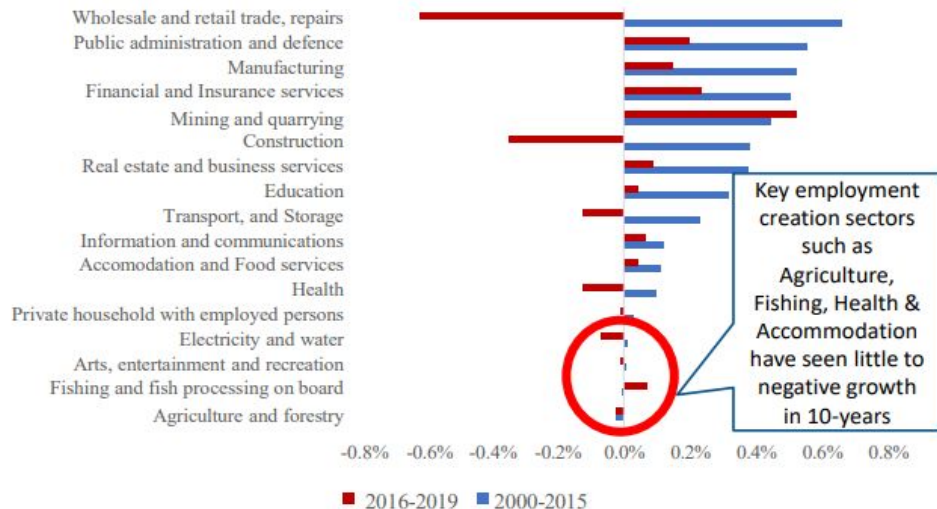
Data Source: NSA



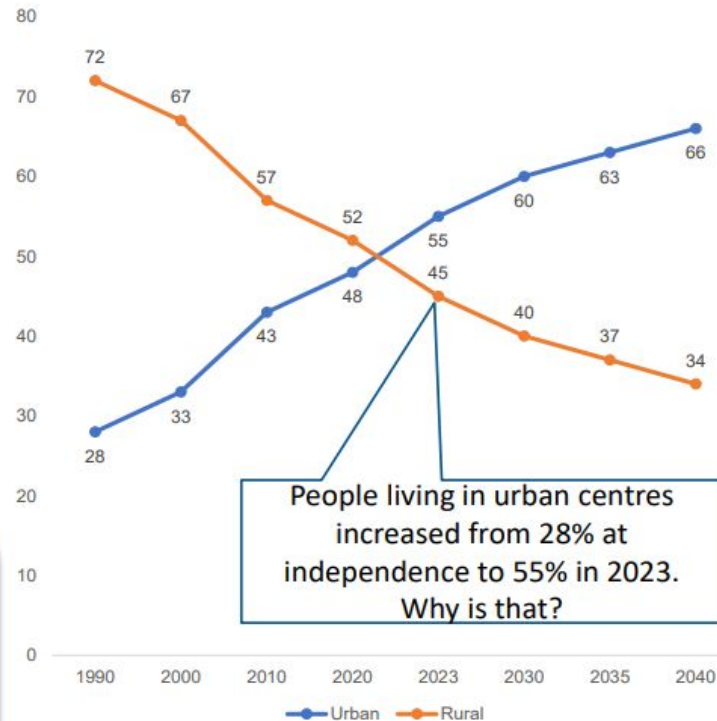


# SECTORAL PERFORMANCE - NO GROWTH SINCE 2000

*Contribution to Economic Growth by Sector*



Mining and quarrying represent 10% of GDP and 56% of exports, but only 2% of employment. At the other end of the spectrum, Agriculture represents 4 - 7% of GDP and over 30% of employment. This is the single source of our poverty & inequality. It is not surprising that the few opportunities that Namibians have to access quality jobs are either in government or in the non-tradable sector closely linked to the evolution of public expenditure.



Data Source: NSA



# EMERGING SUB-SECTORS

## Emerging sub-sectors

## *The GREAT Communal “Dis-Incentive”*

### *Grape Exports*

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2024
Export value	N\$ 20m	N\$ 160m	N\$ 249m	N\$ 426m	N\$ 1.131m	N\$ 1.499m

Source: NSA

Why no similar operations on the Northern river systems?

Lack of Security of Tenure / Tittle-Deed Ownership in Communal Areas?

### *Charcoal Exports*

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2024
Export value	N\$ 87.9m	N\$109.9m	N\$ 147.6m	N\$ 168.2m	N\$ 200.3m	N\$ 202.7m	N\$582m

Source: NSA

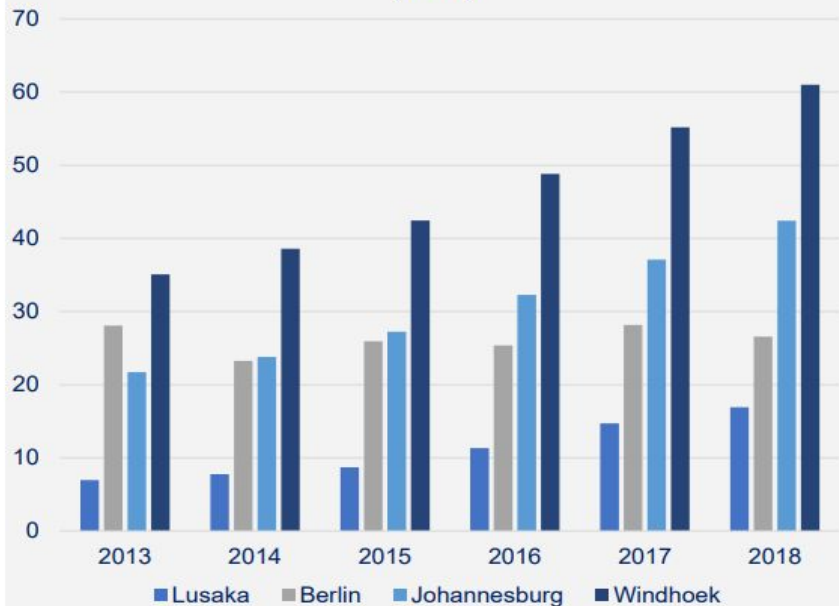
No charcoal operations in communal areas.

Why the Prohibition of Charcoal Harvesting in Communal Areas?



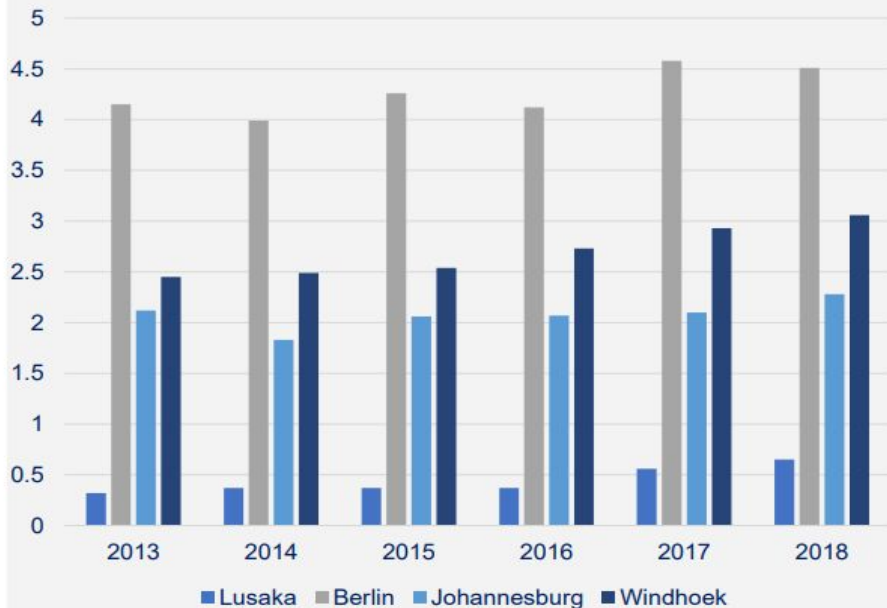
# REGIONAL ELECTRICITY AND WATER TARIFFS COMPARISON

**Water Consumption Tariffs  
(N\$/kl)**



Source: Ombu Capital

**Electricity Tariffs for Business Consumers  
(N\$/kWh)**



Source: Ombu Capital

*Key Input Costs “Un”-competitiveness*





# CASE STUDY - AFRICAN RURAL ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

	Namibia	South Africa	Ethiopia	South Sudan	Uganda	Tunisia	Ghana
<b>Rural Areas</b>	• N/A	• N/A	• Regional Income Tax Deductions for identified rural regions (30% deduction)	• 75% allowance on start-up costs incurred in least developed areas	• N/A	Regional Development Incentives – Tax Exemptions for 5 – 10 years.	• 25% tax rebate if in regional capitals • 50% tax rebate in rural towns.
<b>Agriculture</b>	• N/A	• Energy Efficiency Tax Incentive • Aquaculture Development & Enhancement Programme (Grant)	• N/A	• Exemptions from duties on importation of Agricultural material & equipment	• One year of income is exempt from Income Tax	• Full Tax exemptions for 10-years • Renewable Energy Savings Bonus • VAT suspension on imported capital goods for Agriculture	• 1% Tax for first 5-years
<b>Tourism</b>	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
<b>Other Relevant</b>	• Exporters Allowance up-to 80% of taxable Income (excluding fish & meat products)	• Greenfield & Brownfield Expansion Projects • Research & Development Tax Incentive	• N/A	• N/A	• Exportation of finished consumer products exempt from Income Tax	• Social Security Contributions exemptions for least developed regions	• N/A

LACK OF NATIONAL STATUTORY INCENTIVES FOR AGRICULTURE OR RURAL ECONOMIES IN NAMIBIA (Ring-fencing of losses introduced)

# Constraints within the Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Sector







# Constraints within the Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Sector

Constraints	Recommendation / Priority Ask to Government
<b>1. Lack of new participation of the younger generation into Agriculture and access to sufficient water for agricultural purposes.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Zero VAT on agricultural implements and equipment</li><li>- Prompt VAT and income tax refunds by NamRA</li><li>- Abolish ring fencing on agricultural enterprises and/or farming businesses.</li><li>- A simple method to implement discounted/subsidized diesel prices for farmers.</li><li>- Address the animal health status in the NCA's by introducing well managed vaccination programs and restricting free movement of livestock across borders</li><li>- Budgetary allocations for improved road infrastructure, provision of electricity to rural communities and agricultural enterprises at a reduced or subsidized cost.</li><li>- Introduce government incentive schemes to produce grains, fruits, vegetables and animal feeds (fodder production) locally.</li><li>- Revive and appropriate budget allocation for effective agricultural extension service throughout the country.</li><li>- Introduce a rural development program, promoting investment in industries, processing plants and rural development projects to transform rural areas into primary production centers and processing hubs.</li><li>- A focused approach is needed to provide access to sustainable water usage in communal areas and resettlement farms where sub-divisions and restricted land allocations per family were made.</li><li>- Introduce water saving and harvesting technologies to be employed in the agriculture sector (desalination, water holding capacity of soil)</li></ul>



# Constraints within the Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Sector

Constraints	Recommendation / Priority Ask to Government
<b>2. Lack of well-developed agricultural value chains addressing unproductive land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A concerted effort by government to fully develop and allocate high potential land with access to water.</li><li>- Implement transparent Public-Private Partnerships for Green Schemes and high-potential land with water access</li><li>- Ministry of Finance to award infancy status to newly developed land and processing plants (Agriculture and Fisheries)</li><li>- Availing startup capital at subsidized interest rates and soft loans through institutions such as the Development Bank of Namibia and Agribank with government guarantees.</li><li>- To establish and build capacity within the government to understand challenges facing Namibian production and exports/imports to negotiate on behalf of Namibia on international trade agreements and treaties, with respect to all different sectors and industries.</li><li>- Promote increased consumption of Namibian produce by introducing Namibian produced foods and by-products by government hostels, NWR, prisons, hospitals, police force, military, Navy, etc, as well as developing local markets for general consumption (agricultural produce, marine products and value-added products from these industries).</li><li>- Enhance agricultural skills and entrepreneurship by increasing budgets for training, leveraging on already existing research farms/stations, engaging local industry trainers, updating curricula to accommodate current industry needs, providing bursaries and scholarships for short courses, certificates and diploma training, reskilling farmers, mobilizing extension services, and implementing wage schemes for youth employed in agriculture.</li></ul>



# Constraints within the Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Sector

Constraints	Recommendation / Priority Ask to Government
<p><b>3. Resource conflict and Management:</b></p> <p>Uranium Mining in the Stampriet Aquifer and Human wildlife conflict across Namibia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a Transboundary Environmental and Agricultural Impact Study under the SADC Water Protocol.</li> <li>- Retract and put on hold all licenses issued until the outcome of the impact study is finalized and considered by all stakeholders</li> <li>- Require Parliamentary oversight for mining in shared or strategic aquifers.</li> <li>- The population of destructive wild animals need to be managed (buffer zones, conservancy planning and water management within parks). The compensation needs to be market related. Stronger budget allocation to mitigation measures (electric fencing)</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Regulatory Burden and Rising Cost of Compliance:</b></p> <p>Frequent, reactive and inconsistently applied regulatory changes and poor coordination between regulators create uncertainty and delays across the value chain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish an integrated regulatory coordination mechanism across relevant ministries, supported by a central online platform for uniform applications.</li> <li>- Introduce mandatory impact assessments before policy changes and adopt risk-based inspection systems to reduce red tape for compliant importers while focusing oversight on higher-risk activities.</li> <li>- Establish structured public–private engagements and introduce a formal communication protocol.</li> <li>- Appoint Regulatory Liaison Officers at regional level to improve responsiveness.</li> <li>- Fast-track a One-Stop Border Post model for joint inspections and improved coordination.</li> <li>- Improved efficiency of licensing on locally produced products and extracts to be sold locally (Seaweed extract).</li> </ul>





# Constraints within the Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Sector

Constraints	Recommendation / Priority Ask to Government
<b>5. Fisheries Resources Recovery and an undeveloped aquacultural sector as an alternative.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implement sustainable seal harvesting</li><li>- Increase their Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for economic viability</li><li>- Enhance patrolling to prevent illegal fishing</li><li>- Collaborate with the industry on seasonal closures</li><li>- Boost government support and investment in aquaculture programs.</li></ul>

## RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION TRACKING

Establish a committee with in-depth knowledge and experience of the agriculture, water and fisheries sectors to facilitate, navigate and assist government with the implementation of the proposed solutions, who should also be tasked with the monitoring of the success and impact thereof, in collaboration with the National Planning Commission and the NIPDB.



**NamPPF**  
Namibia Public-Private Forum

## THANK YOU

Mr Arnold Klein | Agra, CEO

Contact details: **arnold@agra.com.na** | **+264 81 127 1459**

Mr. Vetumbuavi Mungunda | Founder, Ombu Capital

Contact details: **vmungunda@ombu.co.na** | **+264 61 244 535**

Hosted by:



**Republic of Namibia**  
National Planning Commission

Secretariat:



**NIPDB**  
Namibia Investment Promotion  
& Development Board