

PRESS RELEASE

Update on the Census of Agriculture

Windhoek – 4 June, 2014 - The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) updating the nation on the Census of Agriculture.

It gives the Namibia Statistics Agency great pleasure to update the nation on the progress of the Census of Agriculture that is currently underway. In a nutshell, the Census of Agriculture, which is a nationwide undertaking that covers both the communal and the commercial sectors, is progressing on well. The communal sector field work ran from 17 February 2014 and will be completed on the 30th June 2014 whilst the commercial sector survey will be conducted from 4 August to October 2014.

The communal sector survey is divided into two phases. This first phase, which included the listing of households, interviews and demarcations of sub plots, is completed. As per the census fieldwork, interviews were held all over the country in all 14 regions. The number of agricultural households interviewed is about 10 250 whilst around 3109 plots were demarcated for the crop cutting experiment.

To achieve this the Namibia Statistics Agency employed a staff complement of 96 supervisors and 384 enumerators, bringing the total to about 480 of hired personnel. Indeed, so far it has been a massive exercise that involved around 110 vehicles which drove over 1 million km during this period.

The second phase, which collects the yield estimation information, is under way as we speak and is expected to continue until the end of June 2014. During this period, we will continue to work with 96 Supervisors and a reduced staff number of 192 enumerators. Throughout this phase, teams will visit farms that have demarcated sub plots and harvest the crops which will then be used to calculate the yield. We have already urged farmers not to touch the sub plots until the officials of the NSA return for crop cutting, and would like to repeat it here again. As indicated earlier, this second phase will continue for the entire month of June 2014, but will not be conducted in the //Karas, Erongo, Hardap and Khomas regions as they do not have significant amount of crops in their area.

At the beginning I mentioned that the census consists of the communal and commercial survey. The commercial sector survey is set to start on 4 August 2014 and will be conducted through a mail questionnaire. Farmers are expected to complete the questionnaire in less than one month and send it back to the Namibia Statistics Agency for processing.

Now, such a huge undertaking obviously comes with many challenges as well. Our fieldworkers have been exposed to thick forests, snakes, long walking distances, high risk areas, harassment, cars getting stuck in mud and water, as well as often traveling long distances in rough terrains. The Namibia Statistics Agency is aware of our environment and would like to sincerely thank our fieldworkers that excelled in their duties. You had to overcome great challenges in order to finish your work and you did so. We are proud of you and I am sure the nation is proud of you as well.

In the same vein we are indebted to our communities that opened their doors to our fieldworkers. Without them we could have not achieved the progress we did so far. I would also like to applaud our communities that assisted in pulling our vehicles out of mud and water when they were stuck. Especially, I would like to thank our Regional Governors, Constituency councilors, police force and traditional leaders for facilitating and assisting our fieldworkers access throughout their regions, constituencies and villages. Let us continue like this and we will surely achieve Vision 2030.

Currently, at the Head Quarters, the data processing has started and continues as data is being received. The results for the communal agriculture census are expected in September 2014 while the results of the commercial sector will be produced in December 2014.

I thank you



Dr. John Steytler

STATISTICIAN-GENERAL

