

Northern Communal Areas Agricultural Stakeholders Conference

25-27 October 2016, Rundu

The Namibia National Farmers Union, organised a 3 day stakeholder's conference in Rundu in partnership with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. The Northern Communal Areas Agricultural Stakeholders Conference was initiated by NNFU to engage stakeholders and solicit input on the way forward to improve the situation of NCA Farmers, to stress the importance of organized agriculture in Namibia and to strengthen the partnership and cooperation between public and private stakeholders. Additionally, the NNFU wanted to get feedback on the state of the industry and plans for the sector by inviting ministry top officials, scientists and leaders from the commercial and communal agriculture industry.

The participants were representatives from the Ministry from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) as well as officials from the Zambezi Meat Corporation (ZAMCOR), MEATBOARD, MEATCO, Agribank, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer international Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Agra ProVision, Agro-Marketing & Trade Agency (AMTA), KIAT Investments Holdings and Rangeland Coordination Unit (RCU). In total **61 participants** consisting of **17 female and 44 males** attended the workshop.

The main outputs and recommendations of the Northern Communal Areas Agricultural Stakeholders Conference were:

- Participants agreed on the importance of cooperation and a good coordination within the agricultural sector
- The NNFU demanded an allocation of at least 10% of the national budget to the agricultural sector
- In terms of market access, the government should make it possible for NCA farmers to participate in local, regional as well as international markets and to open up markets within Africa
- In order to make further progress, all participants agreed on implementing an NCA Government Forum which should be based in the NCA and involve all key stakeholders (farmers, public and private stakeholders, government representatives, Meatboard and MeatCo, Scientists and Agribank).
- The Forum will work together with all communal farmers also south of the fence to share experiences and to create a win-win partnership between all stakeholders

In conclusion the conference was confirmed to be a success by the participants. A similar regional stakeholders conference will be held in the South for the Southern communal farmers.