



Status, Priorities and Needs for Sustainable Soil Management in Namibia

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

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OVERVIEW

- **Total land (Country Area) - 823 290 km²**
- **Agricultural Land 388 200 km²**
- **Population is 2.2 million**
- **Annual rainfall ranges 300 – 750mm**
- **Soils are**
 - **Sandy**
 - **Rocky**
 - **Desert**
 - **Flood plains areas**



BACKGROUND

- **About 65% of Population depends on Agriculture (directly/indirectly)**
- **Agriculture contributes: 6.4%**
- **Livestock subsector contributes 72% to total Agricultural output while the crop sub sector contribute 15% and the remaining 13% pertains to Forestry**



STATUS OF SOIL IN NAMIBIA

- **Soil fertility degradation is a most important concern**
- **Nutrient depletion**
- **Low organic matter**
- **Unsuitable farming practice (mono cropping)**



CHALLENGES

- **High cost of importing fertilizer**
- **Lack of qualified soils scientists**
- **Land degradation due to nutrient depletion**
- **Impact of Climate change and variability on soils and land productivity**
 - ✓ **Flooding**
 - ✓ **Drought**
 - ✓ **Erratic rainfall**



CHALLENGES

- **Sourcing of inputs (fertilizers, seeds, herbicides, insecticides etc)**
- **No collaborative/partnership activities**
- **Technical capacity (high turn out)**
- **Out dated soil maps of Namibia**



CHALLENGES

- **Centralised laboratory not enough to cater for National needs**
- **Not well equipped or out dated equipments (frequent breakage)**
- **Use of organic fertilizer (manure) is a problem in some regions**
- **Limited knowledge and experience of the role of fertilizer for improved crop production**



PRIORITIES AND NEEDS

- **Integrated Soil Fertility Management**
- **Crop rotation/Intercropping**
- **Conservation tillage**
- **Decentralised laboratories/Soil testing mobile kit**
- **Updating of soil fertility maps (soil digital mapping)**



PRIORITIES AND NEEDS

- **Technical capacity**
- **Capacity building**
- **Policy on best use of soil resources**
- **Strengthening support to soil research programs**



JUST SOME THOUGHTS

- ***“It is not what good you do that is important, but what is more important is how much love you put into what you do”***

Mother Theresa.



The End

THANK YOU!!!!