

Chapter 12

Sustaining Livestock Supply Chain in Namibia: Global Demand and Supply Scenario, Prospect of Lucrative Livestock Farming in Namibia

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ABSTRACT

Namibia has a tremendous potential in the livestock sector which has come a long way in developing its competitive advantage and USP with a good animal identification and traceability system. This potential is likely to be harnessed with Namibia's progressive policies, plans and actions to integrate the existing three livestock marketing systems -small communal farmers in north, emerging small scale farmers and existing commercial farming in the south, gain access to high-end markets particularly by supporting small farmers in north part of the country on integrated crop-livestock systems, range land management plans, and strengthen knowledge and capacity of the farmers. Integration of the three systems is expected to provide ample opportunities on Out grower models, central processing facilities like Agro Processing Hubs and Agri Transformation Centers nearer to the small holder farmers as one-stop shops to do business and bring prosperity.

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INTRODUCTION: PROSPECT OF LUCRATIVE LIVESTOCK FARMING IN NAMIBIA

The agriculture sector in Namibia plays a crucial role in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). On an average, during last ten years, the agriculture sector has contributed to 4.8% of GDP very consistently and uniformly, with livestock farming, primarily cattle and small stock contributing to 2.9%. As per Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors contributed 7.7% of the 2023 GDP amounting to NAD17.85 billion.²

In Namibia, around 80% livelihoods and 64 million ha land are dedicated to livestock production. The Northern Communal Areas (NCA) constitute around 55% smallholders which is located north to the veterinary cordon fence.. The NCA is well acclaimed for its extensive livestock farming, particularly with cattle, sheep, and goats.³ Coincidentally Namibia's vast and arid landscapes offer significant grazing potential for livestock.

The livestock especially the cattle sector accounted for NAD 6.3 billion which accounts for 54.7% of the GDP with maximum contribution from the beef sector. The Namibian beef industry contributes about to 70% of the Agricultural GDP⁴. In 2020 GDP, Meat-processing itself has contributed NAD 985 million accounting for 5.1% of manufacturing activities.⁵

Namibia exports 85% of beef to South Africa, the European Union, Norway, China and Angola, with the rest exported to other African and emerging markets valued at NAD 2.6 billion.

⁶As per the report by HEI, Namibia has marketed a total of 4,432,695 cattle between 2010-2022, of which 1,718,289 were slaughtered and 2,712,380 were exported live, mainly to South Africa. Around 46% of the export market is accounted by the European Union with other important export markets in South Africa, Norway and China.⁷ MeatCo, as an apex organisation plays a big role in beef export from Namibia. Thus, Namibian beef caters to a variety of markets-both global and domestic segments. This extensive portfolio allows Namibia to select the lucrative markets including South Africa being its immediate neighbouring country. In pursuit of exploring market opportunities, Namibian authorities continue to remain engaged in periodic scoping assessments. The findings of a study undertaken by the Meat Board of Namibia in 2020 recently renamed as Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPB) recommended on the viability of exporting bone-in fresh or chilled as well as frozen beef to Middle Eastern countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, as well as China. It is reported in a study that abattoirs can attain reasonable profit margins from exploiting these markets. The LLP Board and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) are also engaged with

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