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**Attention: The News Editor**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### *NCRST Partners With AMTA for Agricultural Research*

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) will work together with the Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) to support research projects for potential technology development, innovation and value addition to agricultural products. The two parties met at the NCRST Innovation Hub today to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a strategic partnership of cooperation between AMTA and the NCRST.

Through this partnership NCRST and AMTA will jointly facilitate workshops and seminars on agricultural research, product development, agro-processing, commercialisation and marketing. The parties also agree to share laboratory facilities and resources for the inspection, testing and research of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Maximum Residue Level (MRL) analysis of agronomic and horticultural products. NCRST and AMTA will also fund capacity building in agricultural research and biotechnology.

“Increasing agricultural productivity remains a central concern of developing countries. This is because it is a major factor determining the level of income of the farming sector, in meeting the food requirements of continually expanding populations, in generating foreign exchange to finance domestic programmes, amongst others. Agricultural research has an important role to play in meeting these targets, since many of the new technologies, inputs, and techniques of production that increase agricultural productivity are developed through agricultural research. Thus, we are pleased to sign this MoU with the Agro-Marketing and

Trade Agency because we believe that through this strategic partnership we will take the necessary steps toward a transformed agricultural research system that helps to achieve sustainable food and income security for all agricultural producers and consumers, particularly for resource-poor households, whether they are in rural or urban areas”, said Dr Eino Mvula, CEO of the NCRST.

**Ends:**

**Issued by:** National Commission on Research, Science and Technology  
Office of the Chief Executive Officer

**Contact Person:** Elzita Beukes  
Head: Corporate Communication and Marketing  
Tel: 061 - 431 7050  
Fax: 061 - 229 928  
Email: [ebeukes@ncrst.na](mailto:ebeukes@ncrst.na)