



Welcoming Remarks

By

Dr. Eino Mvula

Chief Executive Officer

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)

At the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between  
NCRST and AMTA

Windhoek

3 June 2016

Director of Ceremonies,  
Mr. Lungameni Lucas, Managing Director of AMTA  
The AMTA and NCRST Team;  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

What an exciting moment for us to conclude the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA).

This MOU is signed in recognition of the roles that our two institutions can play in strengthening research, science, technology and innovation in Namibia with a view of developing our national economy & improving the quality of life of our citizens. This comes at the right time and will support government initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity and developing of an agro-food processing sector as outlined in the HPP and Growth at Home Strategy.

The need to increase agricultural productivity remains a central concern for Namibia in the same way as other developing countries. This is because it is a major factor determining the level of income of the agricultural sector, in meeting the food securing, in generating foreign exchange to finance domestic programmes, amongst others. Recent economic indicators show that the contribution of agriculture to GDP has dropped over the years at

currently tends at 3.2% of GDP. This is a cause of concern considering that the sector underpins the livelihood of 70% of the population. Agricultural productivity could be improved through research and adoption of new technologies, inputs, and techniques of production.

In tackling this challenge head on, our two institutions have decided to work together to support agricultural research projects for potential technology development, innovation and value addition agricultural produce. Through this partnership NCRST and AMTA will jointly facilitate workshops and seminars on agricultural research, product development, manufacturing, commercialisation and marketing. We will also fund capacity building in agricultural research and biotechnology. These areas of cooperation resonates well with our mandate of promoting, coordinating, developing and funding research, science, technology & innovation in Namibia.

As many of you are aware, the NCRST is mandated with the administration of the Biosafety Act, 2006 (Act no 7 of 2006), while AMTA is mandated to coordinate and manage the marketing and trading of agricultural produce in Namibia. Our institutions thought it fit to forge a strategic partnership to enable the regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in order for us to deliver on our mandate. For this reasons we have also agreed to share laboratory facilities and resources for the testing and research of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Maximum Residue Level (MRL) analysis of agronomic and horticultural

products and agree to share resources in inspectorate services. AMTA has a presence, especially in the regions, and at our boarders.

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. With the establishment of a Joint Steering Committee in terms of this MOU, I have no doubt that we will be able to implement it successfully.

I would like to thank you, Mr Lungameni and your team for the commitment you have shown which lead to the finalization of the MOU. The real work must start now and the JSC needs to meet as soon as possible to map out an implementation plan for the MOU.

I thank you.