



MANGETTI FARMERS ASSOCIATION

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Ondangwa - Namibia

Growth in Agricultural commodities: Large Stock in Communal Areas

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1. Introduction

Mangetti Farmers' Association (MFA) consists of about 350 members hailing from the Northern regions Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Okavango West. The main areas of operations in livestock productions especially cattle and beef production. Most of you must be fresh in your mind with the resolutions taken from the ended Land Conference and we are looking forward to the implementation of the same. While waiting for the best, life continues as usual. The challenges facing the farmers need to be addressed urgently. In this brief presentation, I will concentrate on the following: The rangeland management in communal areas with a special emphasis on Northern Namibia communal farmers. I will also implicate the traditional farming beliefs vs. Modern farming techniques. The objectives of this presentation is to together find ways and means to enhance growth in livestock products.

2. Rangeland Management in Communal Areas

The main goal as stipulated by the National Agricultural Policy is to increase and sustain the levels of agricultural productivity. This in itself insures the sustainable income and food security. In order to realize the above, the land must be effectively managed. Proper management including fencing, dividing farms into camps according to the livestock at hand. It also includes the control of caring capacity to avoid overgrazing as well as overstocking. The MFA desires to achieve the improvement of rangeland fodder flow to increase livestock products in northern communal areas. Not all of our members understand the Biblical Philosophy of CARING; take care of the land, land will take care of your livestock and in turn the livestock will take care of you. It is mostly in this area that MFA is looking for the right partner to assist and support.

3. Large Livestock

The Mangetti Farmers' Association is desirous in enhancing the accessibility on the use of superior genetic to upgrade the standard of livestock products. This upgrading needs the right breeders for our livestock. This will help our cattle to find their way to any available market.

4. Traditional beliefs vs Modern Farming techniques

For the real Ovambo traditional man, the cattle must have a name, long horns, sharp horns for the bull and cattle are being kept longer for weddings and funerals. For this man land is second to livestock. He can buy lot of cattle even if he does not have any single plot to keep them. This type of man need a serious paradigm shift in order to change and adapt to the eminent modern farming techniques. It is our hope that you can help us find a remedy, the one experience that will create a right mindset. Culturally, our people believe in seeing much more than on hearing. A good practice with impressive results will help us to arrive at the right paradigm shift. One good day most of us will acclaim; AHAA! THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY TO GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

5. Challenge Future Prospects

The main challenge is the cordon fence. While MFA believes in the controlling of animals disease, the measure used namely the cordon fence is not economic friendly for the northern communal farmers. The other challenges are, poor infrastructure such as roads, fences, water points and market places. When these challenges are properly addressed there will be a bright future not only for the communal farmers but for the whole country.

6. Conclusion

Thank you for listening to me. Even if only one person of my audience could say AHAA! My presentation has reached its goal. THANK YOU!