An Enhanced Animal Identification and Traceability Information System in Namibia

1st OIE Conference on Animal iD and Traceability – Buenos Aires: 24 March 2009
Geography
Export-dependent Industry

Communal farmers – 66 000 registered farmers
Commercial ranching – 9100 registered farmers

Livestock population
- Cattle - 2.4 million
- Sheep – 2.2 million
- Goats – 2.1 million

Establishments
- 15 400 holdings/establishments
- 136 auction facilities
- 8 export abattoirs
- 31 local authority-licensed abattoirs
### Exports - Animal and Animal Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef Europe (Tons)</td>
<td>10 658</td>
<td>9 135</td>
<td>9 478</td>
<td>9 514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Regional (Tons)</td>
<td>13 112</td>
<td>11 452</td>
<td>9 787</td>
<td>7 873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb Regional (Tons)</td>
<td>14 354</td>
<td>11 232</td>
<td>14 225</td>
<td>12 667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Cattle (n)</td>
<td>210 945</td>
<td>172 790</td>
<td>171 163</td>
<td>127 426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Sheep (n)</td>
<td>269 135</td>
<td>241 994</td>
<td>189 901</td>
<td>64 688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Goats (n)</td>
<td>276 968</td>
<td>293 127</td>
<td>267 996</td>
<td>235 848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source – Meat Board of Namibia, 2009
## EU Exports – small player

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main trade partners</th>
<th>EU imports</th>
<th>Average annual growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>million Euro</td>
<td>% of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra-EU</td>
<td>1,021</td>
<td>1,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Eurostat COMEX 20 September 2006
Early Dialogue

- Smallholder farmers ‘do not’ need animal identification – they know animals by name

- Failure to understand the ‘luxury’ of wanting to know source of meat – just need enough

- Passports for cattle – ‘but I do not have one’

- Not demanded by national food safety laws – when its labeled it becomes out of reach!
Key Drivers

Farm Assured Meat Scheme - 1999
- Verification of good agricultural practices
- Verification of claims
- Pre-empt market demands

Market Requirements - EU FVO Report 2003
- Requirements for imports from third countries
- Supporting export certification

Other Uses
- Animal disease surveillance and risk management
- Management of herds and flocks
- Proof of and change of ownership
- Facilitating commercial transactions
- Innovative use in managing loans
A Public-Private Partnership

- Namibian Government
- Namibian National Farmers Union
- Namibia Agriculture Union
- Meat Board of Namibia
- Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme

- GRN – funding, enforcement
- Veterinary Authority - CA
- NAU and NNFU – ear tags and levies
- Meat Board of Namibia – administer levies
- FAN Meat Scheme – consultative forum
Stakeholder Consultation

- **Farmer Organisations** – Namibian Agriculture Union (NAU), Namibian National Farmers Union (NNFU), Livestock Producers Organisation (LPO), Livestock Producers Forum (LPF), Emerging Commercial Farmers’ Forum (ECFF) and the Namibian Stud Breeders Association (NSBA)

- **Industry Representatives** – Abattoirs Association of Namibia (AAN), Livestock Agents Brokers and Transporters Association (LABTA)

- **Government Departments & Statutory Bodies** – Meat Board of Namibia, Namibian Police, directorates of Agricultural Extension & Research and Training, Surveyor General’s Office and MAWF’s Law Enforcement Unit

YES - in conformance with OIE guidelines. It was the ONLY way.
Legal Framework

- Requirements regarding the registration of establishments where cattle, sheep, goats or pigs are kept, identification and registration of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, animal movement controls, the central database and sanctions.


- YES - in conformance with OIE guidelines. Have recently updated the legislation........
Scope – Current and Future

Current Scope
- FMD free zone
- Cattle, sheep & goats
- Stock brands
- Off-farm movements
- Phased implementation

Soon………
- Whole country
- Including pigs
- On-farm tagging
- Registration
Establishments

- **District level** – maintenance of register of holdings – both manual in the farm register (phasing out) and computerised (NamLITS database)
- **Central level** – Animal iD & Traceability Office: maintains register of holdings and other establishments in the NamLITS database

Registration of Keepers

- **District level** – notification of keeping of stock on a holding to the state veterinarian – manual and computerised (NamLITS database)
- **Central level** – registration of stock brands as mandated by the Stock Brands Act 24 of 1995. Computerised database that interfaces the NamLITS database

Livestock registers

- **Farm Level** – Manual livestock registers maintained by livestock keepers
- **District and Central Level** – manual livestock register and notification of the NamLITS database
Animal Group iD – Ownership

Herd Identification
- Branding
- Herd Identification
- From 6 months of age
- Ensures batch traceability

Group Identification
- Option 1 - Ear Tattoo Flock ID
- Option 2 - Group ID tag
- From 3 months of age
- Ensures batch traceability
Individual Animal iD - Cattle

Visual tags
- Certification
- machine readability
  - Linear 128 Barcode
  - 2-D Barcode

Combo - Visual + RFID tag
- Double tagging
- FDX-B
- ICAR certification
Movement Control and Notification

VETERINARY SERVICES

PERMIT TO MOVE ANIMALS

In terms of Animal Disease and Fences Act 109 of 1986, it is mandatory to submit the documents specified below, permitting the issue of permit.

Name: BENET U
Address: PO BOX 760, GOMARIA, NAMIBIA

To move with/to transport: [bank details]

From farm/place: AANDRUS [716] in the district of Gobabis
From Stock Number: [bank details]

To farm/place: Monica NLA Farm [432] in the district of Gobabis
To Stock Number: [bank details]

Directorate of Veterinary Services
Inventory Register – Cattle with Official Ear Tags

Enter ALL tagged cattle on your farm or any other holding under your control. The original must be submitted to the state veterinary office within 21 days of tagging the animals. You may retain a copy for your records. Knowingly supplying false information is an offence for which a monetary penalty may be levied.
Export Abattoirs

Animal ID

Carcass ID

Cuts ID
Central Database

Functionality
- Establishments register
- Keepers register
- Livestock register
- Record of events
- Movement notification
- Movement control
- EDI - auctions & abattoirs
- Enquiries & reports
- Evolving.............

Network
- Central database
- 38 remote locations
- Internet connectivity
- Growing and evolving......
Costs and Funding

**Investment**
- Database development
- Hardware & Software
- Training
- et cetera ….

~US$1.01 million

**Operational**
- Database maintenance
- Hardware maintenance
- Software licences
- Database upgrades
- Ear tags
- et cetera ….

~US$0.83 million/year
This is work in progress........

Key Challenges
- Differing levels of producers
- Food safety for citizenry
- Compliance costs vs other priorities
- Timeliness of data entry – EDI, website
- Transcription errors – eID tags and EDI
- Meeting market demands
- Promote utilization to secure funding arrangements
- National performance standards

Standards
- International standards and guidelines welcome
- Low participation from developing countries – limited to voting
Thank you for your attention!

www.namlits.com

www.nammic.com.na