



INTRODUCTION TO THE ORGANIC LIVESTOCK FACTSHEET SERIES

Livestock farming in Namibia comprises approximately two thirds of the country's total agricultural production, and so is an important part of the country's economy. Namibian livestock has a reputation for exceptional quality on international markets, especially because of the prohibition of growth hormones, strictly regulated use of antibiotics and mostly free-range production in the country.

Given that Namibia's livestock production is already aligned to organic standards, there is significant opportunity for farmers to convert to full organic meat production to realise the potential of both local and international organic markets. Furthermore, livestock farmers have the potential to positively impact the state of the country's rangelands by converting to more ecologically sound management practices. The conversion to organic production involves adhering to specific organic standards along

Organic agriculture is a production system that 'sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people'. It uses ecological processes and environmentally friendly practices and products to benefit the 'shared environment'. (IFOAM)



the entire value chain, from production to slaughtering and processing, and to accessing the market.

This series of factsheets serves to inform interested farmers, consumers and other stakeholders on the various aspects of organic livestock production with a focus on the following topics:

1. Organic Livestock Production
2. Benefits of Organic (Grass-Fed) Livestock
3. Organic Slaughter and Processing
4. Market Opportunities for Organic Meat
5. Alternative Feed & Supplements for Organic Livestock
6. Organic Crop Production for Animal Feed

Marketing of organic agricultural products in Namibia adheres to the standards defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). For export (e.g. to the European Union or United States), certification by an accredited third-party certifier is required. Producers need to comply with the respective organic standards, which are part of official legislation. Both livestock and rangelands must be certified.

**For more information on organic livestock production and certification, please contact the Namibian Organic Association (NOA):
info@noa.org.na or noa@nnf.org.na.**

About the Namibian Organic Association (NOA)

NOA is a membership-based association established in 2009 by a group of dynamic farmers and consumers with the common interest of developing the organic sector in Namibia.

About the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Southern Africa (KHSA)

KHSA is part of the project Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA), a collaborative country-led partnership funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and non-governmental organisations. The project aims to scale up adoption of organic farming practices through five knowledge hubs in Africa over a four-year period. In the Southern African Knowledge Hub (KHSA), project activities are focused in Zambia, in Namibia (led by the Namibia Nature Foundation and NOA), and in South Africa and Malawi. For more information contact the KHSA Project Manager for Namibia: noa@nnf.org.na.



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