



Promoting Sustainable Bush-Processing Value Chains in Namibia

In Namibia, the vast majority of the population works as subsistence farmers, yet, due to low productivity levels, only half of the country's food demand can be met with the other half being imported. Since Namibia is one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, concerns about issues related to water management and shortages, waste generation and pollution are growing. In addition, the agricultural activities are threatened by bush encroachment, which constitutes an immense challenge but also provides opportunities: by utilizing biomass, agricultural productivity becomes storable, thereby strengthening the drought resilience of farmers.

UNIDO'S APPROACH

The project aims to strengthen sources of food and income by stimulating the use of invasive bush species in the animal feed, charcoal and food industry as well as in energy production sectors. Direct outcomes of the project encompass the identification and testing of appropriate collection and manufacturing technology solutions, which can further be used in Namibia for the effective and productive consumption of bush resources. In addition, a processing plant is being designed and established for manufacturing of high-value livestock feed, coal, chips, Arabic gum and other selected products utilizing Acacia and other raw materials. Through these measures, higher levels of agro-industrial productivity can be achieved, resulting in a better local and regional supply of animal feed, energy, and other bush-based products that will further facilitate improved trade, import substitution and exports of food, including better quality meat and dairy products.

IMPACT

UNIDO conducted an assessment on the viability to convert bush biomass to livestock feed and to charcoal, thereby proposing suitable approaches, technologies and production processes to deliver livestock feed and charcoal. The results are published in a Strategic Action Plan that proposes the market oriented sustainable business model.

This solution is expected to have a multiplier effect by factor of 30-50 in Namibia, and by 100 for similar plants to be established in the region. Based on the strong and efficient partnership established with the support of UNIDO among the stakeholders, the partners jointly established a unique pilot production plant for manufacturing of animal feed, charcoal. The new technologies and know how are being transferred to Namibia and a production plant is being equipped with modern innovative equipment, including biochar production and charcoal machinery, tar and distillates,

bush cutting and chipping equipment, and containerized fee mill and pellet line.

WAY FORWARD

Over the next months, the piloting of the production plant is to be facilitated with production targets relevant to a commercial operating entity and aiming for enhanced employment, value-addition, local and export sale opportunities for local farmers, experts and rural communities. This phase will involve local stakeholders and academia for capacity development, exposure to cleaner technology and an efficient production system, and generate interest from entrepreneurs for future investment. There is also strong potential and indication for expansion and scaling up to facilitate sustainable industrial development and the trade of additional value chains within the same cattle-related sector, including leather, textile, wool and dairy products.

AT A GLANCE

Project title	Promoting Sustainable Bush-Processing Value Chains in Namibia
Thematic area	Advancing economic competitiveness
Donor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Namibian private equity fund
Project counterpart	Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development of Namibia
Budget	EUR 2,000,000 (EUR 1,374,762 were mobilized from Finland (EUR 974,762.21) and Baobab Capital Ltd (EUR 400,000))
Duration	10.04.2017-31.12.2019