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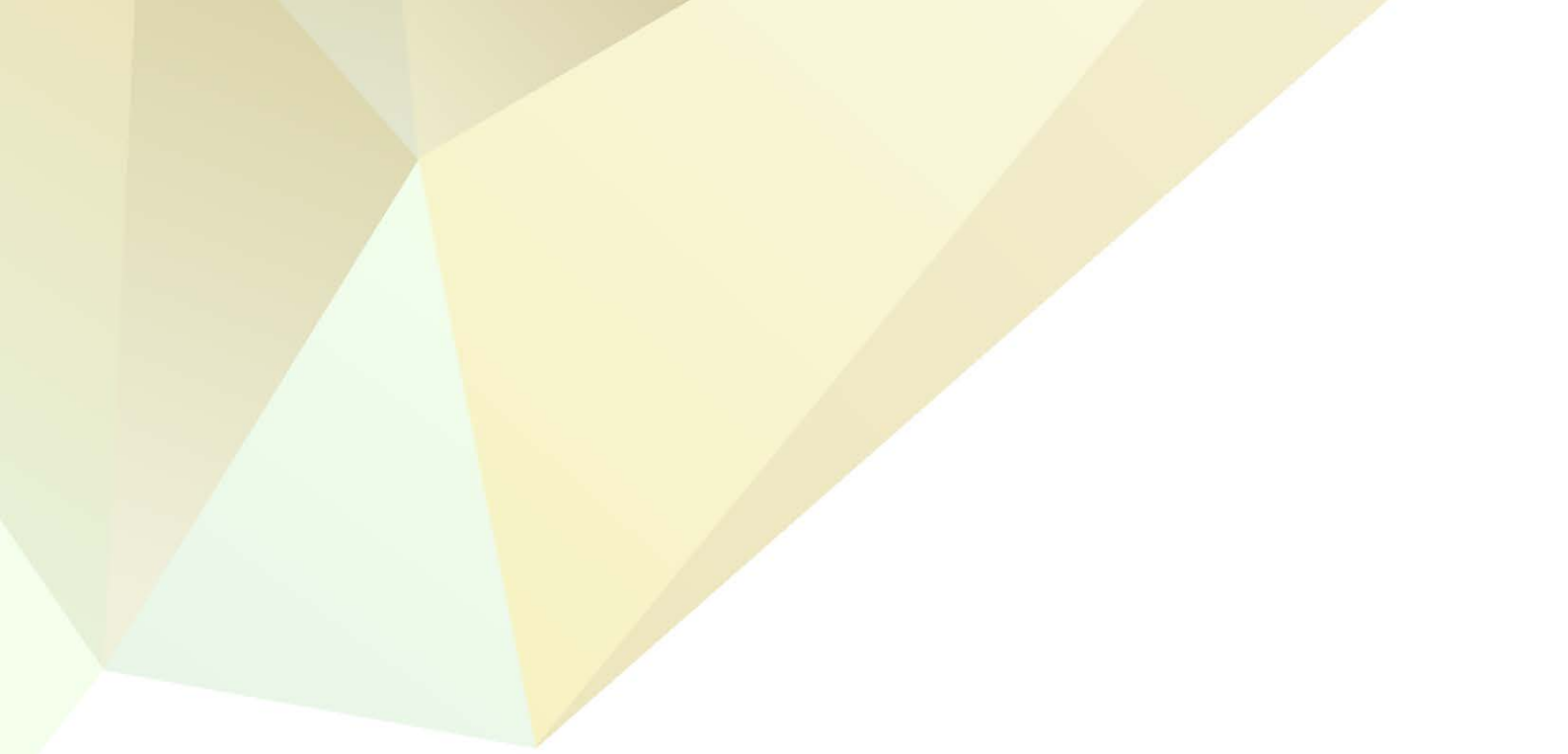
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Trade Capacity Building for Exports in Namibia

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INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of Namibia is vigorously pursuing the achievement of Vision 2030 which envisages Namibia as a country with a quality of life for all its people at the level of its counterparts in the developed world by the year 2030. Trade is of paramount importance to achieve this level of socio-economic development, and therefore has to increase substantively. This in turn demands that the export performance of Namibia is improved.

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen Namibia's quality infrastructure in order to support Namibian exporters in maintaining current markets and in developing new ones. This objective was to be achieved through the following outcome:

Namibia's capacity for trade in fish and meat products has been strengthened, quality infrastructure is in place and good practices promoted along these product value chains facilitate increased trade on the domestic market and new export markets.

The fulfillment of this outcome will be achieved through the following outputs:

- Dialogue on National Quality Policy (NQP) is facilitated and leads to improvement in the national quality system and in awareness of the services it provides.
- NSI metrology laboratory service offering strengthened and recognized regionally and internationally, the technical competency of metrology staff enhanced.
- The fish sector related quality infrastructure services are strengthened, internationally recognized and demanded by private sector.
- The meat sector related quality infrastructure services are strengthened, internationally recognized and demanded by private sector.

GENERAL FACT SHEET

- Trade Capacity Building for Exports In Namibia is a project funded by NORAD and implemented by UNIDO in coordination with the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development (MITSMED);
- The main beneficiary institutions are the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI), the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) and Meat Corporation of Namibia (MEATCO);
- The project budget allocation was € 1,272,650; and
- The project duration was from 01 March 2013 to 31 December 2016.

The project approach adopted was one of strengthening the quality infrastructure in Namibia and addressing a need to create a crucial link between the services that are being provided by the national quality infrastructure and the demand coming from key export sectors. By the end of the project, the MITSMED with the NSI, acquired additional knowledge and capacity to maintain and further develop the quality infrastructure and concomitant technical regulation regime, while the NSI, CVL and MEATCO will be able to further broaden the scope of accredited calibration, testing and inspection services. The acceptance by trading partners of testing results and calibration certificates will be the best measure of the effectiveness of the project, as in the end this would determine the capability of the Namibian quality infrastructure to support intra-regional and international trade.



UNIDO Project Manager, Permanent Secretary MITSMED and NSI CEO at Project Closure Ceremony

ACHIEVEMENTS

Dialogue on National Quality Policy (NQP)

The revised NQP document is the result of extensive stakeholder consultations and is the most important move towards setting and strengthening a robust and sustainable National Quality Infrastructure system contributing to the achievement of Governmental policy objectives in areas including industrial development, trade competitiveness in global markets, food safety, health and the environment.



NQP review consultations, Theringshof Pretas, Windhoek



Permanent Secretary at handover ceremony

NSI metrology laboratory service offering strengthened and recognized regionally and internationally, the technical competency of metrology staff enhanced

One of the most basic necessities of a trading system is metrology – the provision of reliable and accurate measurements. The strengthening of the metrology system in Namibia was achieved by the procurement, installation and commissioning of metrology laboratory equipment and measurements standards. Legal Metrology benefitted through scales and volume measures whilst Scientific and Industrial metrology received small volume equipment, mass standards and temperature metrology equipment.

At the onset of the project, the mass metrology laboratory was accredited for a limited range. During project implementation the range was increased to 20 kg weights and 1.5 tonne scales. An additional scope of volume metrology was added to the accreditation schedule, and the number of technical signatories was increased from one (1) to six (6). The laboratory's quality management system was approved by the Intra-African Metrology System, Technical Committee on Quality Systems (AFRIMETS TC-QS) for the mass metrology Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMCs) to be published on the BIPM website.



Metrology equipment



Volume Verification



Product inspection

In order to fully understand the metrology needs, a feasibility study for the establishment of a satellite metrology laboratory in Walvis Bay was conducted and concluded that there is an urgent need to set-up a satellite metrology laboratory to service the industry. A similar study was carried out to determine the countrywide distribution of measuring instruments that are subject to legal metrology control.

Capacity building of the technical staff received special attention. Recognized international metrology organizations and experts were engaged for training courses and practical attachments. Highlights include:

- Two (2) additional technically competent temperature metrologists;
- Four (4) legal metrologists successfully completed practical inspections training, leading to appointment in terms of section 3 of the Trade Metrology Act (Act No. 77 of 1973);
- One additional Technical Assessor qualified for mass metrology; and
- One trainee African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) Peer Evaluator (calibration).

The fish sector related quality infrastructure services are strengthened, internationally recognized and demanded by private sector

Strengthening Namibia's export capabilities in fish and fish products was strengthened by procuring, installing and commissioning test equipment, supporting the development of new test methods, capacity building of technical staff, training on global and regional food safety legislation and NSI assessors trained to conduct assessments for Quality Management and Food Safety Management Systems (ISO 9001 and ISO 22000 respectively).

Six (6) Chemists were trained on two (2) methods for the analysis of algal biotoxins using Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LCMS/MS) and High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). Certified Reference Materials (CRMs) were purchased by the project for the validation of these test methods in preparation for accreditation.

The Microbiology Section obtained two (2) incubators and one (1) autoclave which replaced old malfunctioning equipment and was thus able to retain accreditation and accept growth in sample volume.

Capacity Building for testing centre staff included:

- Inspectorate and Testing Centre staff (total of 35) received legislative training to assist with understanding of global and regional food safety legislation;
- Statistics training for Testing Centre staff (8), which has led to the improvement of the method validation protocols in order to meet the requirements of the accreditation body with regards to method validation and uncertainty of measurement;
- Root cause analysis (2) required for corrective and preventative actions for an accredited facility;
- Laboratory Quality Manager and Lead Assessor training programme in Austria (5 staff); and
- ISO/IEC 17025 training for three (3) new members of staff.



NSI Testing Centre, Walvis Bay

Following the training of six (6) assessors for Quality Management Systems (ISO 9001) and five (5) auditors for Food Safety Management Systems (ISO 22000), NSI are now able to demonstrate competence levels of the staff, a critical component for accreditation.

The meat sector related quality infrastructure services are strengthened, internationally recognized and demanded by private sector

The interventions through the Trade Capacity Building for Export in Namibia project helped CVL and MEATCO laboratories improve their Quality Management Systems (QMS), diagnostic/testing capacities and technical capabilities. This allowed the laboratories to handle changes in regulations and volume of samples, safeguarding Namibia's existing export markets for meat and livestock products while gaining approval to new markets.

Highlights pertaining to CVL:

- Forty nine (49) participants from CVL participated in eight (8) training interventions on Method Validation (analytical and microbiology), Root Cause Analysis, Laboratory Safety, shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC);
- An increase of the number of established/implemented methods for routine testing from 58 to 86;
- An increase in accredited methods from 4 to 16; and
- An increase in the number of technical signatories from 4 to 15.



CVL

Highlights pertaining to MEATCO:

- Writing and issuing of the Laboratory Quality manual in preparation for accreditation;
- Eleven (11) participants from MEATCO participated in seven (7) training interventions on Method Validation (analytical and microbiology), Root Cause Analysis, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) microbiological methods for meat and poultry, Laboratory Safety training for management and ISO/IEC 17025.
- An increase in laboratory test scope from four (4) to thirteen (13) methods; and
- Building capacity to test for shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC), a requirement for trading with the USA.



Laboratory Quality Management and Lead Assessor Training Programme in Austria



Meatco current laboratories

Counterpart Funding/In-kind contributions

Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development

Funding of consultative workshops in Mariental and Oshakati for the revision of the National Quality Policy (NQP) document.

NSI Testing Laboratory

NSI had spent approx. N\$42,000,000 for the construction of the testing laboratory in Walvis Bay and purchasing of equipment.

NSI Stakeholder Engagement

NSI made resource persons available for the consultations on the revision of the NQP. NSI co-funded some training activities.



NSI Testing Centre, Walvis Bay



NSI Reception

CVL

For the project training activities that were done at CVL, the venue was provided at no charge.



CVL building



MEATCO

MEATCO has made their own payments for accreditation fees, purchased testing equipment and the needed standards e.g., British Retail Consortium standard. MEATCO made funds available for building a new test laboratory.



Meatco new laboratories



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