

Agriculture

- The three main forms of farming are livestock, grain and horticulture and subsistence farming.
- Namibia is a highly rated producer of beef.
- Crop farming consists of white maize, wheat, pearl millet and horticulture.

With a mean annual rainfall of approximately 270 mm, Namibia has the driest climate in sub-Saharan Africa. The only perennial rivers flow along parts of the northern and southern borders, and the country is almost entirely dependent upon variable rainfall, ephemeral rivers and groundwater.

Agriculture in Namibia takes three main forms: large-scale livestock farming, particularly cattle, crops and horticulture, and communal subsistence farming. Poultry production and game farming are also practiced.

Associated industries include agri-industry and sale of equipment and production factors for farmers.

Finance for agriculture is provided by the Agribank, and commercial banks.

Livestock farming for export is practiced in the central areas of Namibia. A veterinary cordon is in place to ward against foot-and-mouth disease. Namibia is a highly regarded producer of beef. Its main export partners are the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom. In response to emerging barriers to the South African market, another major importer, Namibia has opened markets in the United States and China. The largest marketer of Namibian beef is the Meat Corporation of Namibia, Meatco.

Namibia's primary commercial crops are white maize and wheat. Pearl millet, known as mahangu, is cultivated in northern communal areas. Mahangu and white maize are Namibia's most important staples. Horticulture supplies 44% of Namibia's requirements.

White maize, wheat and horticulture are stimulated and protected by import restrictions. In the case of white maize and grain, imports are only allowed once all the crops have been accommodated. Wholesalers and retailers of horticultural produce receive import permits once their quotas of 44% local produce have been attained.