

2011 World Seafood Congress



## Trade Capacity Building for Fish and Fishery Products through the Development of Namibia's Quality Infrastructure

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- NSI Programmes
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## About Namibia

- The Republic of Namibia, on the west coast of southern Africa, has an area of 824 418 sq. km (roughly equal to Belgium, France and Germany combined) and 1 572 km of coastline.
- It has land borders with Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The terrain varies from coastal desert to semi-arid mountains and plateau and the climate is largely semi-desert.
- Namibia has a population of 2,1 million of which about 36% live in urban areas,
- Windhoek, the capital, is the largest city with approximately 250 000 inhabitants.



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## About Namibia(Cont'd)



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## Economic Activities

- Natural resources: Diamonds, uranium, zinc, gold, copper, lead, tin, fluorspar, salt, fisheries, and wildlife.
- Agriculture (5.1% of GDP, 2010): *Products*—livestock and meat products, crop farming and forestry.
- Mining (10% of GDP, 2009): Gem-quality diamonds, uranium, zinc, copper, other.
- **Fishing and fish processing on board (3.6% of GDP, 2010): Hake, horse mackerel, lobster, other.**
- Manufacturing and service sector



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## SQAM in Support of Trade

- The Namibian fish and fishery products earmarked for export to the EC are considered a lucrative business and very important for the country's international trade.
- At independence, the South Africa Bureau of Standards (SABS) was contracted as the Technical Inspection Body that inspects and certifies fish and fishery products ensuring compliance with EC Food Law and import requirements.
- This arrangement was notified to and approved by the EC Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) and Continued until 2008



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## SQAM in Support of Trade (Cont'd)

- One of the most important aspect of the NQI is the adoption in 1999, by the Cabinet, of the National Quality Policy (NQP) of Namibia.
- The adoption of this unique document places Namibia among very few countries which have NQPs as proof of the Government's commitment to quality and productivity.
- The entirety of the Namibian society must participate in the implementation of the NQP in order to make the Namibian economy more productive and competitive - at home and abroad.
- The NQP also encourages productivity among the Namibian work force



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## SQAM in Support of Trade (Cont'd)

- In 2005, Parliament in Namibia passed the Standards Act (Act No 18 of 2005), that establishes the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) to serve as the NSB of Namibia.
  - responsible for the promotion of standardisation and quality assurance in the industry, commerce and the public sector in Namibia,
  - with the aim of improving product quality, industrial efficiency and productivity and to promote trade so as to achieve optimum benefit for the people of Namibia.



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## SQAM in Support of Trade (Cont'd)

- Other legislation passed in the same year are the:
  - Accreditations Board Act (Act No 8 2005)
  - Metrology Amendments Act (Act No 17 of 2005)
- The standards development and conformity assessment activity of the NSI are earmarked to benefit the Namibian industries, producers, consumers, service providers.
- The application of standards and provision of conformity assessment by NSI ensure market access of Namibian products which would contribute to job creation.



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## NSI Programmes

In terms of Section 5 of the Standards Act No. 18 of 2005, the functions of the NSI include, *inter alia*, to:

- to prepare, issue and promote Namibian Standards and other standards, including specifications and codes of practice, in relation to any commodity;
- to comply with the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards as set out in Annexure 3 to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, 1994;



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

- certify, by means of marks of conformity, certificates of conformity or other means prescribed by rules, that specified commodities, systems or documents conform to specified requirements
- Examine, test or analyse articles, materials and substances



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Standards Development

•The NSI has established five technical committees (TCs) to drive the development and/or adoption of standards in compliance with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement Annex 3, Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards.

•The following standards are currently being considered for adoption as Namibian standards:

- ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management Systems);
- ISO 22000:2005 (Food Safety Management Systems)
- ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems).



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# NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

## Testing Services

- The NSI Food Laboratory is accredited by SANAS to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 - *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*. The scope of the accreditation covers the following:
- **Chemical Analysis**

### *In fresh and frozen shellfish*

- TM/B/01 Determination of Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) toxicity by HPLC
- TM/B/02 Determination of Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxicity by Mouse Bioassay
- TM/B/03 Determination of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxicity by Mouse Bioassay



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Testing Services

#### Microbiological analysis

*In frozen and chilled fish*

- TM/M/01 Enumeration of Total viable colony count
- TM/M/02 Detection and enumeration of Enterobacteriaceae

*In all water samples*

- TM/M/14 (Pour plate) Total Viable Colony Count

*In potable water, filtered seawater and effluent/waste water*

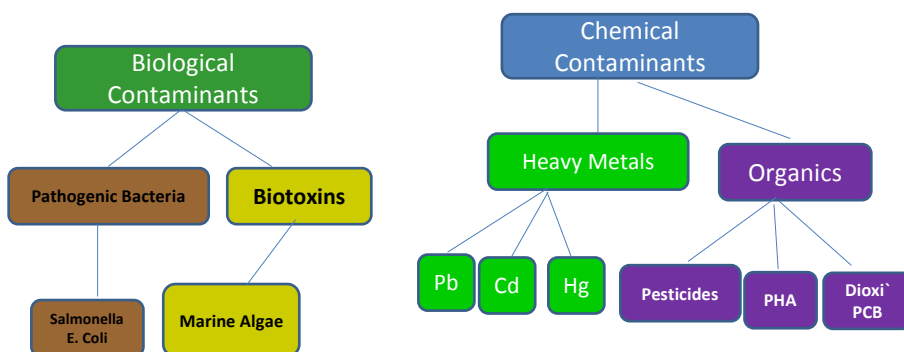
- TM/M/15 (Membrane Filtration) Total Coliform count
- TM/M/16 (Membrane Filtration) Faecal coliform and E.coli
- TM/M/17 (Membrane Filtration) Enumeration of Faecal streptococci



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Environmental Contaminants



## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Testing Services

#### New Project

- Expansion of testing capacity to heavy metals, histamine and norovirus in fish and fishery products.



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Inspection

- The NSI Fishery Inspectorate is accredited by SANAS from to ISO/IEC 17020:1998 -*General Criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.*
- VC8017 GN No. R979-4 July 2003- Compulsory specification for frozen fish, frozen marine mollusks and frozen products derived therefrom,
- 570 Proc 013:30 September 2010- Procedure for inspection of chilled fish for export.



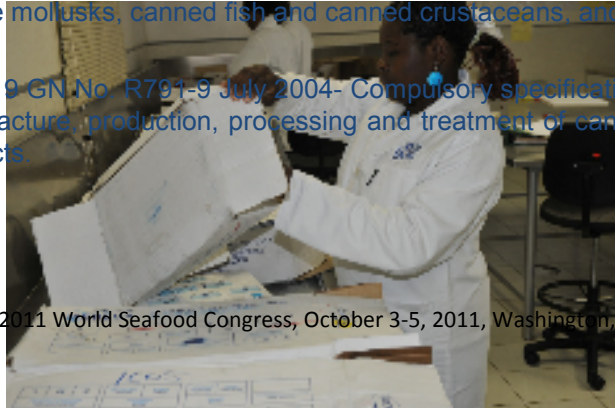
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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Inspection

- VC8014 GN No. R790-9 July 2004-Compulsory specification for the manufacture, production, processing and treatment of canned marine mollusks, canned fish and canned crustaceans, and;

- VC8019 GN No. R791-9 July 2004- Compulsory specification for the manufacture, production, processing and treatment of canned meat products.



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Inspection

#### New Project

- Implementation of the Shellfish Sanitation Monitoring programme and to seek approval for Namibia to be added to the list of countries approved to export shellfish products to the European Union.



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Metrology

•The NSI officially established Metrology Laboratory in Windhoek which serves as the country's National Metrology Institute (NMI) responsible for the establishment of a national measurement traceability system.



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## NSI Programmes (Cont'd)

### Metrology

•Primary metrology fields of focus are:

- Mass & Volume: Balances, Scales, Weights & Pipettes, Measuring Cylinders, Burettes (Lab Graduated Glassware), Moisture Testers etc.
- Dimensional: Micrometers, vernier calipers, Gauge Blocks, Steel Rules, Dial Test Indicators, Feeler Gauges etc.
- Temperature: Calibrators, Thermocouples, RTDs, Thermometers, Temperature indicators etc.

•The Metrology Laboratory in Windhoek also houses the legal metrology function and is responsible for the administration of the Trade Metrology Act No. 77 of 1973, as amended, and the Metrology Amendments Act No. 17 of 2005



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## Conclusion

- Through an effective operating standardization process, the NSI will be able to promote the development and application of standards in all Namibian sectors and enhance compliance with standard requirements.
- Capacity building in the area of conformity assessment activities, would enable the NSI to fast tract the accreditation of its conformity assessment functions which would enhance easy accessibility and acceptability of Namibian products.
- The NSI welcome collaboration with institutions involved in the area of SQAM to further strengthen these essential services in Namibia.



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