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ATTENTION: The News Editor

### **AGRA JOINS IN MILLENIUM CHALLENGE**

Funding in the amount of N\$12.55 million coupled to Agra's Professional Service expertise will make a huge difference with regard to animal production in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA) during the next three years.

The Millennium Challenge Account Namibia and Agra's Professional Services Division signed an agreement for which an amount of N\$8,8 million has been allocated to do a baseline survey on animal nutrition in the Northern Communal Areas.

The purpose of this project is to identify the factors related to nutritional quality of the natural resource base – soil, plants and animals – which negatively affect livestock production in order to address these limitations effectively. This survey will be conducted by Dr Axel Rothauge and will involve establishing the nutrient status of soil, forage plants and livestock. Tailor-made supplementation formulas and programs will then be designed to address the nutrient deficiencies.

Another project which was allocated by the MCA to Agra Professional Services constitutes a comprehensive survey on the effects of Asero-epidemiological parasites on livestock. This project, funded by the MCA at an amount of N\$3, 95 million will be executed over a two year period and is managed by Agra's Dr. Rainer Hassel.

The objective of this project is amongst others to compile an area-specific animal health program which will benefit the livestock producers in the Northern Communal Areas by improving the health status of their animals.

Farming communities in four of the major agro-ecological zones of the Northern Communal Areas will be involved in the sampling process and will receive feedback and training while the field work is in progress. The results of the work and the implications for local NCA communities will be compiled in a training kit and conveyed by means of various training initiatives. Communities and stakeholders will be taught and guided to apply the information generated during this research project practically and relevantly in their own particular situations.

“Agra as a Namibian organization is pleased to have received these project responsibilities,” said Pieter Hugo, Manager of Agra Professional Services, and added: “The results of the research to be conducted, as well as the valuable experience gained by everyone who is part of the project will remain in our country, to the benefit and development of Namibian agriculture.”

**Ends.**

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