

Namibia invests \$13.5 million to boost citrus production

Citrus producers in Namibia are set to receive government support following discussions between the Namibian Agronomic Board and industry representatives. Although citrus is the third most consumed fruit group in Namibia, after apples and bananas, the country imports 96% of its citrus, costing nearly \$3.2 million annually. Local farmers have imported over 1.5 million citrus trees at a cost exceeding \$7.3 million, with an expected harvest of 1,700 tons this year.

The Agronomic Board has announced plans to invest \$13.5 million over five years to strengthen the citrus value chain. Dr. Fidelis Mwazi, the Board's Chief Executive, stated that the Board has updated its vision and mission to become "a globally recognized regulator of a sustainable, agile, and innovative agronomy and horticulture sector." He emphasized the importance of adhering to global standards, including ISO standards, and implementing local legislation to drive horticultural development.

"When we talk about the citrus industry, we are talking about potential, about jobs, about foreign exchange earnings, and most importantly, about transforming the sector to benefit our farmers and the national economy," Dr. Mwazi remarked.

The Agronomic Board noted that most citrus products are classified as controlled products under the Agronomic Industry Act, with quality and consistency governed by the National Citrus Standard established in 2022. Commercial citrus production in Namibia is concentrated in specific regions, with oranges and naartjies (tangerines) being the most common varieties. Despite modest production levels, some citrus is exported to Angola and South Africa.

The meeting brought together a range of stakeholders, including representatives from nurseries, the Citrus Growers Association, the Horticultural Producers Association, the Namibian Standards Institution, traders, exporters, and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing, and Land Reform.

Source: Namibia Economist (<https://economist.com.na/97525/agriculture/agronomic-board-meets-citrus-industry-to-discuss-growth-trajectory/>)

Frontpage photo: © Barmalini | Dreamstime

Publication date: Fri 16 May 2025

•

