



NAM hosts 1st regional World Food Day commemoration

30 October, Kavango West: The UN System in Namibia, under the leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Namibia and the World Food Programme (WFP), supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) to host the first regional World Food Day (WFD) commemoration on 30 October 2018 in Bunya Village, Kapako Constituency in Kavango West Region.

As the current Southern African Development Community (SADC) chair, Namibia adopted the new regional approach to commemorating WFD observances that was piloted by South Africa, the immediate past chair, and adopted by the SADC Ministers in 2017.

Under the theme, “Our actions are our future: A #ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible”, the commemoration highlighted the crucial role each and every individual across the continent and the globe can play in the fight against hunger, noting that all climate action decisions made today can impact the future.

Hon. Alpheus !Naruseb, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, speaking on behalf of the Guest of Honour, the Vice President of Namibia, Hon. Nangolo Mbumba, highlighted the importance of farmers having markets to sell their produce and underscored the Government’s commitment to enable farmers to earn sustainable livelihoods through agriculture.

During the event, donations of agricultural inputs and foodstuffs were distributed to ten identified beneficiaries. An additional 200 vulnerable households within the region were also identified and later provided with agricultural inputs and foodstuffs. Hon. !Naruseb officially launched the food mountain of donated food items that were distributed. The food mountain is a symbolic gesture of producing more food to feed the nation.

The South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Hon. Senzeni Zokwana, was also present and made remarks highlighting the current state of food insecurity in the SADC region and stressed the potential pivotal role that agriculture could play in the region in poverty alleviation and economic transformation.

The FAO Representative in Namibia, Farayi Zimudzi, delivered the remarks of FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, on the occasion of World Food Day 2018. Highlighting the growing number of food insecure people in the world and calling for action against malnutrition, the DG said, "Governments have the most fundamental role in achieving Zero Hunger by ensuring that vulnerable people have sufficient income to buy the food they need, or the means to produce it for themselves – even in times of conflict."

As part of the proceedings, the FAO Representative and the Head of SADC Food and Natural Resources (FANR) Sector, presented cheques to local farmers in the region to enable them to acquire inputs for improved production. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, also presented vegetable seeds and some garden tools to the traditional leadership in the Constituency.

In addition, several trees were planted in a garden in the Bunya Village by the Deputy Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Hon. Aino Kapewangolo, the WFP Country Director in Namibia, Bai Mankay Sankoh, as well as the Ambassadors of Zimbabwe and Zambia to Namibia, among other key stakeholders.

Participants also had an opportunity to interact with displays showcasing agricultural produce from the host region, information about the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) programme, tractors and agricultural implements from MAWF and information about food processing and marketing from the private sector.

