



# ATF NEWS BRIEF

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**Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum**  
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## WHAT IS NEW!!!

### 1 . WTO

The WTO is becoming more and more without direction, regarding the Doha Development Agenda. However, Trade Facilitation is currently a big issue but even this is not underwritten by all Member States. The uncertainty in the European Union regarding the EURO crisis and the American Presidential elections are events that distract from any positive developments. In August also, the WTO shuts down for the annual holiday times and very little seems to take place . The trade dispute arm of the WTO is overrun with requests showing more and more protectionist measures are taking place in spite of the declaration of the G20 to impose no protectionist measures.

### 2 . SADC

#### 2.1 SADC Trade Negotiation Forum ( TNF)

After a meeting in May 2012, no clarity could be found on the outstanding issue of the Rules of Origin for wheaten flour. A ruling of the Nambian Customs Authorities was peaceful resolved and Rules of Origin Certificates are now available for the export of all sorts of pasta to SADC Member States. A meetig of agricultural experts will be scheduled to find a amicable solution to the wheat flour RoO issue.

#### 2.2 SADC Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) Mrket access:

A meeting took place of the market access negotiation group of the SADC – EPA European Commssion in

Johannesburg in the end of June 2012. Although the EC members made a very detailed evaluation of the SADC –EPA's trade in the 64 tariff lines that the EC wants to get concessions at, SADC EPA could not respond in such detail. The next meeting, scheduled for the end of September/beginning of October will bring more clarity in the market access negotiations.

### Rules of Origin

On rules of origin and cumulation, the EC showed some flexibility in dealing with matters that are of real concern such to the SADC EPA.. The EC also introduced verbally its new procedures on Rules of Origin which will be applicable to all ACP countries and cumulation, which appear to be less onerous than the ones contained in the IEPA.

### Unresolved Issues

The deadline for end of the year will obviously not be achieved as the EC signaled that speed is good, but substance is better for all parties.

*As is well known, the opportunities in this Agreement entail duty free and quota free market access for all Namibian goods, but the Agreement in its current form limits Namibia's developmental policy space. If the issues are not resolved, the beef, grape and fishing industry will incur heavy losses that could lead to structural changes in the economy.*

**The following schedule is set for negotiation meetings: End of September in South Africa and a meeting in November in Brussels.**

**2.3: The 2012 Audit of the Implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol has been made available internally and is circulated for comments.**

The technical report is factual correct and shows that the SACU component of SADC has – up to now – fulfilled all their obligations. Some countries are not interested in the benefits that may accrue to the SADC Protocol on Trade and especially three countries that are Angola ,the DRC and the Seychelles have not given a schedule of commitments to the SAD secretariat. It is quite important for Namibia to get a clear tariff schedule to start to trade better and more consistent with her Northern neighbour.

## **3 . SACU**

### **3.1 Summit, Council and Commission**

.The SACU Commission and Council are meeting in the second week of August and a formal feed back will be given at the next News Brief of the ATF.

### **3.2 Technical Liaison Committees**

Not re-instituted yet

### **3.3 Negotiations and Agreements**

#### **3.3.1 SACU India Preferential Trade Agreement ( PTA)**

The SACU India Preferential Trade Agreement seems to be not very high on the SACU Agenda, now that South Africa has concluded a bi-lateral trade agreement with India. But anyhow, the ATF has conducted an exercise on the India request list for agricultural products .and has allocated where feasible a margin of preferences to the 77 products that forms the request list. 28 products we cannot grant any margin to India, 11 products we can grant a 25% reduction of the tariff, 20 product lines 50%; and 18 product lines the Namibian agricultural sector can grant a 100% margin. This exercise is in preparation of a SACU –India market access meeting the date of which has not yet finalised.

#### **3.3.2 SACU – Mercosur FTA.**

The uncertainty about the implementation date will need to be clarified. According to the SACU secretariat the Mercosur PTA is not implemented as yet. On the Mercosur side Brazil and |Venezuela have not yet ratified the Agreement, while on the SACU side South Africa and Namibia have not ratified the Agreement .

#### **3.3.2 SACU - EFTA Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**

Since the last engagement, which was on Customs Co-operation only and was held in Johannesburg, no new developments can be reported. However, a part of the private sector of Namibia, Witvley Meat, tried through their Norwegian shareholding to accelerate the process. The representative of Witvley Meat together with a representative of Notura, Mr.Gunnar Dalen, have engaged the good will of the Namibian Embassy for the Nordic countries and also they have engaged the possibility of Hon. Hage Geingob, the Namibian Minister of Trade and Industry to Visit his Norwegian counterpart to try to get an early harvest on that issue. Both Botswana and Namibia have requested an enlargement of the quota form the current 3 250 ton of de-boned prime beef cuts to a total ( for both countries ) of 8 000 ton. Norway has made any concessions to the beef quota dependent of additional access for Processed Agricultural Products. All SACU countries are involved in this issue and a few countries have not as yet pronounced any concessions to this request.

#### **3.3.4.SACU USA Trade and Investment Cooperation Agreement ( TIDCA)**

There has been some progress on this agreement, the SACU secretariat held a telephone conference in June with the USA counterparts in Rules of Origin and Trade Facilitation issues. But with the upcoming Presidential Elections no real progress can be achieved until after the "Lame Duck" Congress has been abolished and a new Congress has been established.

#### 4.0 Private Sector USA Initiative with strong support of the Directorate of Veterinary services

The negotiations of the Directorate of Veterinary Services with its counterparts on the USA side, APHIS and FSIS have come to a near conclusion. The outstanding issue is the proclamation in the Federal Register of the USA and the 60 days period when positive and eventual negative feedback will be considered. It is anticipated that from the beginning of 2013 bone in meat can be exported to the USA.

#### List of Acronyms

BLNS	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland
CET	Common external tariff (of the SACU)
DDA	Doha Development Agenda ( current round of WTO negotiations)
DFQF	Duty and Quota Free market access to EU markets
DoP	Directorate of Planning at Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry
DVS	Directorate of Veterinary Services at MAWF
EC	European Council / Commission
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreements
EFTA	European Free Trade Area (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein)
EU	European Union
FTA	Free trade Agreements/ Area
FSIS	Food Safety and Industrial Standards
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office – inspections from the EC
IPPC	International Plant Protection Council
ITAC	International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa
Mercosur	Latin American Common Market (Spanish translation) comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela and Uruguay
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MAWF	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
NCA	Northern Communal Areas
NTBs	Non Tariff Barriers
OIE	World Organisation for Animal health
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SSM	Special Safeguard measures
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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