



Key achievements in Namibia

- 2018: New drought tolerant varieties of cowpea and sorghum crop seed released to farmers.
- 2018: Minister of Health, at the IAEA General Conference, endorses bankable document for the expansion of radiotherapy services in the country.
- 2013: New Nuclear Medicine Department opens in Oshakati Intermediate Hospital with IAEA support.

Atoms for peace and development

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security.

The IAEA's technical cooperation programme helps countries to use nuclear science and technology to address key development priorities, including health, agriculture, water, the environment and industry. The programme also helps countries to identify and meet future energy needs. It supports greater radiation safety and nuclear security, and provides legislative assistance.



A Namibian researcher working with seawater samples to determine radionuclide and trace metal levels in his country's coastal waters. (Photo: IAEA)

Recent project successes

Food security

Namibia's Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry enhanced existing seed varieties of cowpea and sorghum in the country's first plant breeding programme which began, with IAEA support, in 2009. Namibia released the new varieties in 2018 and facilitated seed multiplication for the 2019 cropping season. The new varieties will benefit over 8000 farmers in the first season, with more farmers getting involved as the seed production increases. The enhanced cowpea varieties produce higher yields during a shorter growing period. As part of this cooperation, Namibia's first plant breeder was certified, and five plant breeding laboratory technicians were also trained.

Human health

A new Nuclear Medicine Department was inaugurated at Oshakati Intermediate Hospital in northern Namibia in December 2013. The Department is only the second facility in Namibia to provide diagnostic and treatment services for endocrinology, cardiology and oncology. Prior its opening, the country's only public nuclear medicine department was located at the Windhoek, at the Bernard May Hospital, some 800km away from Oshakati. The new Nuclear Medicine Department now offers patients possibilities that were formerly inaccessible for most people, such as treatment for thyroid cancer.

Marine environment

The first-ever comprehensive study on the concentration of radionuclides and trace elements in Namibia's coastal waters revealed that while radionuclide levels are very low, there is an indication of higher than usual concentrations of certain trace elements. A scientific report by the IAEA for the Namibian Government from 2017 recommended investigating further to determine whether trace elements are the result of human activity along the coast or due to the underlying geology.

Active national projects

- Enhancing Postgraduate Study Programmes in Nuclear and Radiation Science (NAM0007)
- Developing Capacity of the National Standard Institution and Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency in the Areas of Food Safety (NAM5015)
- Developing Drought Tolerant Mutant Crop Varieties with Enhanced Nutritional Content (NAM5016)
- Strengthening Diagnostic and Treatment Capabilities at Oshakati and Windhoek Central Hospitals (NAM6012)

Namibia also participates in 38 regional and 6 interregional projects, mostly in the area of food and agriculture.

Previous IAEA support to Namibia

Current IAEA support to Namibia builds on previous projects related to human health, agriculture, food safety, and capacity building in science and technology sectors. This includes assisting national authorities to establish effective institutional capacity for radiotherapy at Windhoek Central Hospital. In agriculture, assistance in addressing food security through crop improvement (including pearl millet, sorghum and cowpea) is ongoing.



Participants from a regional training course observing cowpea mutants growing at the Mannheim research station, Namibia. (Photo: Lydia Ndinelaio Horn/Ministry of Agriculture)

IAEA support to Namibia, 2009–2019



295 trained
(including 134 women)

56 international experts provided

65 attended specialist meetings
(including 28 women)

Priority areas of support

- Strengthening agriculture and food security
- Enhancing public health capacities
- Supporting mining
- Improving specialist education and skills
- Enhancing radiation protection and waste safety infrastructure
- Improving waste management
- Enhancing environmental monitoring

Namibia's contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, 2009–2019

27 expert and lecturer assignments provided by Namibia

224 training course participants

21 fellows or scientific visitors hosted

Based on data available as of April 2020

Cancer control impact Review conducted: November 2010

Strategic documents supported

- Namibia United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) (2014–2018)
- Country Programme Framework 2014–2019, signed in September 2014
- National Cancer Prevention and Control Plan 2018

www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation

The IAEA collaborates with National Liaison Officers and Permanent Missions to deliver its TC programme.