



**GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND
FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME**
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)



Federal state – partner country

Bavaria – Namibia

Title

Strengthening Research and Production Capacity
in the Namibian Health Sector and Expanding
the New Bush Biomass Sector

In cooperation with the GIZ programme

Bush Control and Biomass Utilisation (BCBU)

Financing arrangements

BMZ contribution € 335,840

Bavaria contribution € 221,121

Duration

01.08.2021 – 31.03.2023

Responsible ministry

Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Regional Development and Energy (StMWi)

Shredded bush biomass awaits further processing

Strengthening the Health Sector Using Bush Biomass

Local situation

The global coronavirus pandemic presents Namibia with huge challenges and threatens human health and the country's socio-economic situation and security. To reduce the risk of infection, the World Health Organization recommends measures including regular and thorough hand-washing with soap and water, and the use of alcohol-based disinfectants. However, the rapid spread of the coronavirus in Namibia has led to a shortage of suitable disinfectants and pushed up the prices of such products.

Bush biomass in the form of bioethanol can be used to produce disinfectants. This resource is available in large quantities due to the phenomenon of bush encroachment, which is a significant problem in Namibia. The resulting dense areas of woody growth cause the water table to fall and progressively reduce the amount of land available for agriculture.

This project helps to achieve the following
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



“By transferring technology and developing products, the project will open up new avenues for viable business models that harness the country’s bush biomass resources and are aligned with the NUST vision, the Namibia Vision 2030 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan II (2021 – 2025).”

Prof. Habauka Kwaambwa,

Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Natural and Applied sciences in the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences



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Shredding biomass in Namibia

Cooperation arrangements

Since 2014, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has been supporting Namibia in establishing a national programme to manage bush encroachment. This project is part of the German Government and Federal States Programme (German: Bund-Länder-Programm; BLP) and works closely with the technical cooperation programme Bush Control and Biomass Utilisation in Namibia. It aims to promote the commercialisation of biomass from sustainable bush management schemes by developing products based on biomass. In Namibia the project cooperates with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), which is responsible for training students in medical technology and biochemistry, with Basecamp, a digital help centre for start-ups in Windhoek, and with the Namibia Biomass Industry Group (N-BiG). The project’s technical implementation partners in Germany include the Educational Association of the Bavarian Economy (bbw).

What we are doing – and how

The objectives of the project are firstly to strengthen and expand NUST’s research and development capacity for creating hygiene products from bush biomass, and secondly to help Namibian start-ups expand their use and manufacture of products derived from bush biomass.

The project consists of four complementary modules. The first two are designed specifically to promote research and development capacity at NUST, adapt the curriculum and provide training for Namibian students with support from

Bavarian project partners. The goal of module three is to establish sustainable forms of business support and strengthen the role of business start-ups in Namibia. The long-term objective here is to give those start-ups and industry experts access to NUST’s new laboratory infrastructure. The fourth module brings experts from Namibia to Bavaria for a week to gain further expertise and expand their networks in the fields of medical technology and biomass.

Useful links

- NUST website:
<https://www.nust.na/>
- Technical cooperation programme Bush Control and Biomass Utilisation (BCBU):
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/95030.html>
- Basecamp, a digital help centre for start-ups in Namibia:
<https://basecamp.startupnam.org/>
- Educational Association of the Bavarian Economy:
<https://www.bbw.de/en/what-we-do/>
- More information on the programme:
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/91262.html>
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/34949.html>

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