

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector, Q3 2025

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1. Executive summary

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector exhibited mixed performance in the third quarter of 2025. A rebound in crop production, coupled with increased livestock auction volumes, contributed positively to sectoral output. While climatic conditions and herd-rebuilding dynamics continued to constrain extensive livestock supply, price developments and volume trends point to gradual stabilisation across key subsectors. The fisheries subsector maintained its role as the sector's primary export anchor, with export earnings rising despite a seasonal decline in quota landings. However, Namibia's structural dependence on food imports persisted, particularly for cereals and selected horticultural products, underscoring ongoing vulnerabilities in domestic food security and trade balance dynamics.

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector contributed 5.2% to Namibia's GDP in Q3 2025, driven mainly by fishing and on-board fish processing and livestock farming. Fishing and on-board fish processing accounted for 2.7% of GDP, followed by livestock farming at 1.8%. Crop farming contributed 0.4%, while forestry maintained a steady contribution of 0.3%. See figure 1.

In Q3 2025, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector continued to experience weaker trade performance compared to the same period in 2024. Exports declined to N\$951.3 million, representing a 16.4% decrease from N\$1,138.4 million recorded in Q3 2024. Imports also fell, albeit at a slower pace, decreasing by 10.0% from N\$1,040.2 million to N\$934.9 million. As a result, the sector's trade surplus narrowed sharply to N\$16.4 million, down from N\$98.1 million in Q3 2024. See figure 2.

2. Analysis

2.1 Fisheries Products

Fishing activity during the third quarter of 2025 recorded a seasonal decline in quota species landings, which fell by 14.1% to 68,700 metric tons compared to 79 976 metric tons recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024. Hake remained the dominant species recording 40 005 metric tons, followed by horse mackerel (24 929 metric tons) and monk (2 823 metric tons). Despite lower landing volumes, export earnings from fish and fish products increased to N\$4.2 billion, up from N\$3.6 billion recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024, supported by favourable international prices and sustained demand in key markets. Spain remained the largest export destination accounting for 39.8% of total fish exports, followed by Zambia (22.7%) and South Africa (7.4%). The main product that was exported to Spain was frozen fillets of Hake to Zambia and South Africa were 'Frozen Jack and Horse mackerel, respectively.

Imports of fish and fish products stood at N\$175.0 million, an increase from N\$93.7 million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024. Products of Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates were mainly sourced from Falkland Islands, accounting for a share of 32.6%, followed by South Africa (28.5%) and the United States of America (17.4%). The main products imported were Cuttle fish and Squid, hake, and sole.

Overall, the fisheries subsector continued to generate a substantial trade surplus, reinforcing its role as the most resilient and export-oriented component of the sector.

2.2 Livestock Auctions

Livestock auction activity showed signs of recovery during the quarter, with the total number of animals auctioned increasing by 4.7% to 111,771 heads from 106 731 animals auctioned in the corresponding quarter of 2024. Cattle accounted for the largest share at 76,029 heads, followed by goats at 20,382 heads and sheep at 15,360 heads.

Prices increased across all categories, reflecting constrained supply conditions and ongoing herd-rebuilding efforts. Average weighted prices rose to N\$41.27 per kilogram for goats, N\$37.22 per kilogram for sheep, and N\$32.99 per kilogram for cattle. The combination of higher volumes and elevated prices suggests gradual stabilisation in livestock markets, although supply-side constraints continue to limit a stronger recovery.

2.3 Cattle Marketing

The Namibian cattle industry recorded a significant decline in marketed volumes in the third quarter of 2025, with total cattle marketed falling to 58,054 heads, compared to 102,856 heads in the corresponding quarter of 2024. This decrease was driven by lower slaughtering at both A-Class and B & C-Class abattoirs. B & C-Class facilities, including Meatco Windhoek, Beefcor, and Reho, processed a combined total of 28,522 heads, down from 42,421 heads in Q3 2024. A-Class abattoirs, including S-VCF and N-VCF, processed 8,461 heads, compared to 12,721 heads a year earlier, reflecting subdued domestic processing activity across both major and smaller abattoirs.

Live exports also declined, totaling 21,071 heads from 47,714 heads in Q3 2024. South Africa remained the primary export destination with 36,983 heads, followed by Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, DRC, and Tanzania, although volumes to these secondary markets were minimal. The contraction in both domestic slaughtering and live exports reflects reduced market demand and constraints in production and regional trade.

2.4 Sheep and Goat Marketing

The Namibian sheep industry recorded a notable decline in marketed volumes in the third quarter of 2025, with total sheep marketed falling to 117,161 heads, compared to 181,976 heads in the corresponding quarter of 2024. This decrease was driven by mixed trends at abattoirs: A-Class facilities showed contrasting performances, with Farmers Meat Market processing 11,310 sheep, up from 5,476 heads while Natural Namibian Meat Producers processed 3,634 sheep, down from 8,594 heads. B & C-Class abattoirs recorded a slight decline, processing 22,001 sheep compared to 23,861 heads in the same quarter of 2024. Live exports also fell sharply, totaling 80,216 heads from 144,045 heads in Q3 2024. South Africa remained the primary export destination, accounting for 79,022 heads, while exports to Angola (53 heads), Botswana (242 heads), Zimbabwe (55 heads), Zambia (387 heads), Tanzania (120 heads), and Ghana (337 heads) were minimal.

The Namibian goat industry similarly recorded a contraction in marketed volumes in the third quarter of 2025, with total goats marketed falling to 36,858 heads from 45,860 heads in the corresponding quarter of 2024. This reduction was largely driven by lower processing at B & C-Class abattoirs, where S-VCF and N-VCF facilities processed 808 and 37 goats, respectively, compared to 135 and 61 heads in Q3 2024. Live exports also declined, totaling 36,013 heads compared to 45,664 heads in Q3 2024. South Africa remained the dominant export destination, although 34,609 heads were shipped, representing a 23% decline from 44,679 heads exported in the same quarter of 2024.

The contraction in both sheep and goat marketing underscores the need for enhanced slaughtering capacity and strengthened regional trade facilitation.

2.5 Pig and Poultry Marketing

The Namibian pig industry recorded a slight increase in marketed volumes in the third quarter of 2025, with total pigs marketed rising to 13,302 heads, compared to 12,435 heads recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024. This improvement was driven by higher processing at B & C-Class abattoirs, with Mariental, Tsumeb, and other facilities processing 8,337, 4,183, and 776 pigs, respectively. Live exports remained negligible, with only six pigs exported to Angola during the quarter, underscoring the sector's strong domestic orientation. The pig industry continues to benefit from controlled production systems that are less vulnerable to climatic shocks, providing stability within the broader livestock subsector.

The poultry sector exhibited robust growth, with total marketed chickens reaching 5,055,630 heads. Domestic processing was led by Namib Poultry Industries (NPI), which processed 4,292,673 heads, and Kadila, which processed 762,957 heads, together accounting for all marketed chickens. No live exports were recorded. The growth in poultry marketing enhances food security and reduces reliance on imports, although the sector remains exposed to input cost volatility and biosecurity risks.

The eggs industry also performed strongly, with 30,534,745 eggs marketed in the third quarter of 2025. Waldschmidt and Wentscher accounted for 25,685,245 (84.1%) and 4,849,500 (15.9%) eggs, respectively, covering nearly all production. Eggs continue to play a central role in national food security due to their affordability and consistent supply. Structural risks remain, including feed cost volatility and market concentration, highlighting the importance of biosecurity measures, production diversification, and support for small- and medium-scale producers.

2.6 Agronomy Production

Agronomy production recorded a significant recovery in the third quarter of 2025, with total output increasing to 34,487 tons, compared to 7,379 tons recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024 representing a 367.4% increase year-on-year. This substantial improvement was largely driven by favourable rainfall conditions and expanded cultivation of white maize and millet. White maize production rose sharply to 32,107 tons from 7,175 tons recorded in the same quarter of 2024, while mahangu output increased to 2,381 tons compared to 204 tons a year earlier. No wheat production was recorded during the quarter under review.

Despite the robust improvement in production volumes, export earnings from agronomy remained subdued, declining sharply to N\$100 from N\$75,500 recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024. This indicates that the increase in output was largely absorbed by the domestic market. Export earnings were dominated by maize, which accounted for 81.9% of total agronomy exports, with South Africa remaining the primary export destination, also accounting for 81.9% of total exports.

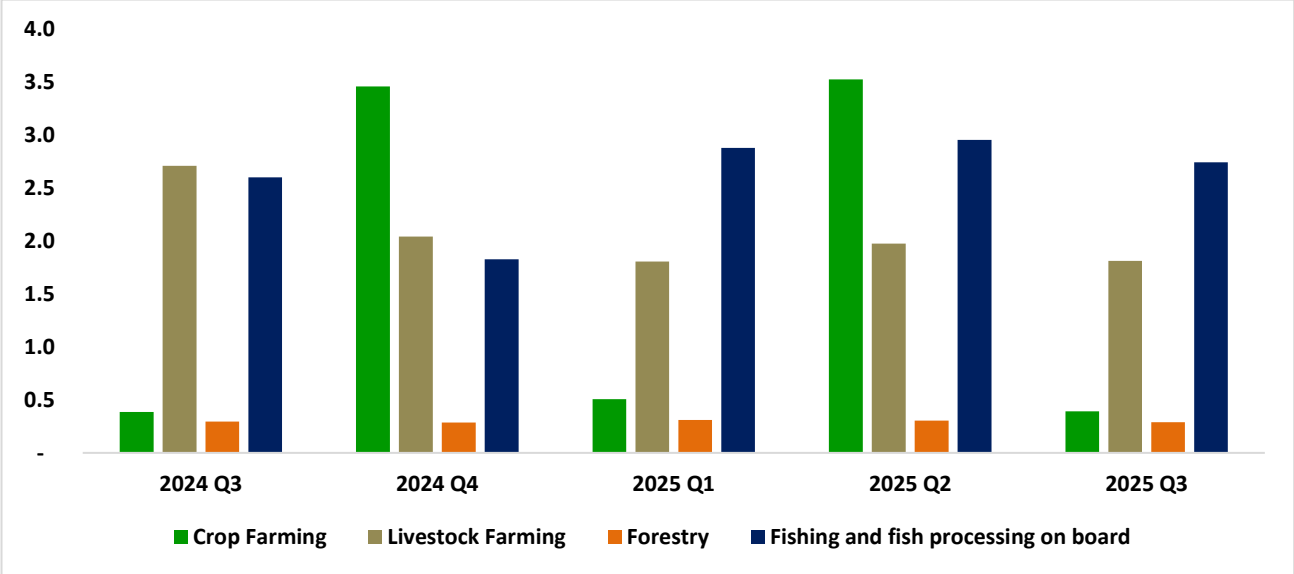
Conversely, the cereal import bill remained elevated, although it declined by 12.1 percent to N\$630.8 million compared to N\$717.8 million recorded in the same quarter of 2024. Imports were dominated by maize, valued at N\$310.6 million, and wheat, valued at N\$305.8 million. These imports were sourced mainly from South Africa (41.1%), Latvia (33.4%), and the United States (12.0%), underscoring Namibia's continued reliance on external markets for staple grain supplies.

2.7 Trade of Selected Horticultural Products

Horticultural trade performance weakened during the third quarter of 2025, with exports declining by 19.2% to N\$195.9 million, compared to N\$242.3 million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024. Tomatoes emerged as the leading export product valued at N\$58.6 million, accounting for 29.9% of total horticultural exports, followed by onions (N\$42.1 million; 21.5%) and dates (N\$38.8 million; 19.8%). South Africa continued to be the primary export destination, reflecting strong regional market linkages accounting for nearly half of total horticultural exports (49.1%), followed by Angola (14.4%), and the United Kingdom (8.8%).

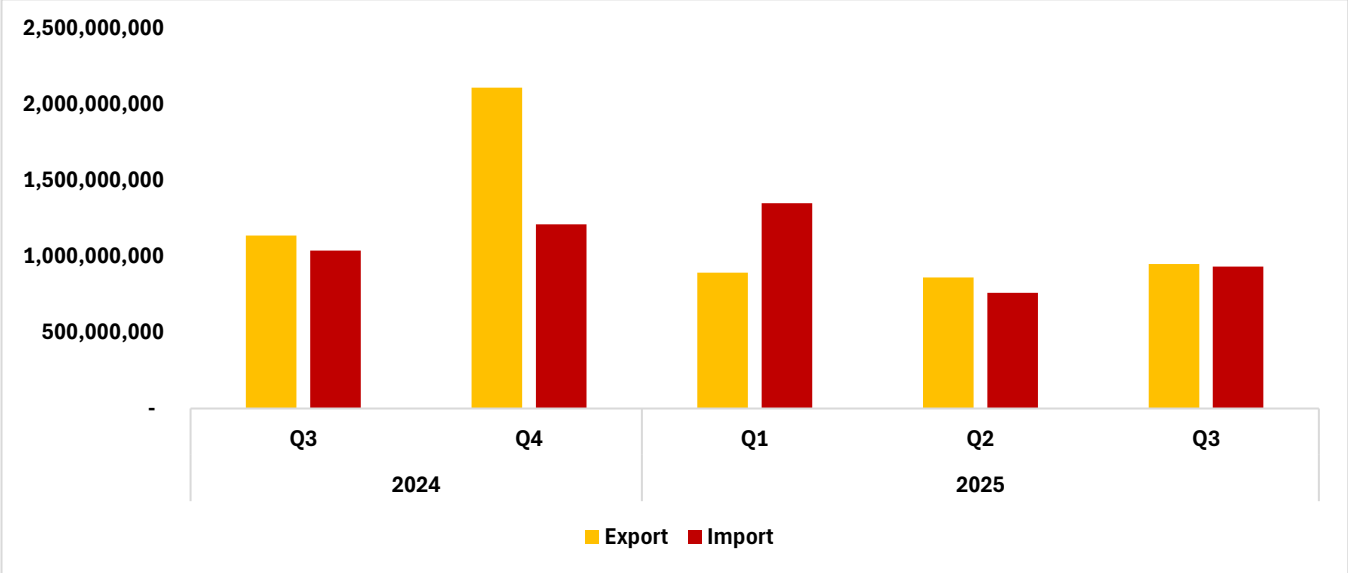
In contrast, horticultural imports declined sharply by 30.% to N\$211.3 million, compared to N\$304.9million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024, driven by lower imports of potatoes (N\$38.2 million), apples (N\$30.5 million), tea leaves (N\$16.5 million), and vegetable seeds (N\$10.0 million) and Onions (N\$1.8 million). Horticulture products were mainly sourced from South Africa, accounting for 97.3%. The contraction in imports provided some relief to the horticultural trade balance, although the sector remains vulnerable to seasonal fluctuations and import dependence.

Figure 1: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector % share to GDP, 2024 Q3 – 2025 Q3



Source: NSA & HEI Research

Figure 2: Trade Statistics on Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector (N\$), 2024 Q3 – 2025 Q3



Source: NSA & HEI Research

3. Outlook

The third quarter of 2025 signals improving momentum for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector, particularly in crop production and fisheries exports. Forecasts of favourable rainfall conditions are expected to support further gains in agronomy output and grazing conditions. However, structural challenges persist, including continued reliance on cereal imports, limited diversification, and vulnerability to climatic shocks. Addressing these constraints through climate-resilient production practices, enhanced domestic value addition, and expanded market access will be critical to sustaining sector growth and strengthening food security.

The fisheries subsector is expected to remain the primary growth and foreign exchange anchor for the sector, with export earnings likely to remain resilient despite seasonal fluctuations in landing volumes. Livestock markets are projected to recover gradually, supported by ongoing herd rebuilding and improving grazing conditions, although supply constraints are likely to persist in the near term. Pig and poultry production are anticipated to remain stable, providing a consistent protein supply for domestic consumption. Continued attention to biosecurity measures and prudent management of feed and input costs will be crucial to sustaining production. Horticultural subsectors are expected to achieve moderate growth, with opportunities to expand exports through targeted investments in production efficiency, storage capacity, and market access.

Overall, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector is positioned for moderate growth in 2026, led by fisheries, poultry, and maize production. The rebound in agronomy production during the third quarter provides a favourable base for food availability, particularly for white maize and millet, and is likely to ease domestic supply pressures in the short term. However, the absence of wheat production and continued reliance on cereal imports underscore persistent structural dependence on food imports. Livestock and horticulture subsectors will require targeted policy and investment support to fully capitalise on domestic and regional market opportunities. Sustained policy commitment, investment in climate-resilient agriculture, and strengthened value chains will be essential to consolidating recent gains and enhancing the sector's contribution to economic growth, employment, and food security.