FU1 - Interview farmers union NNFU, Windhoek - 19-1-2023

**Specialties/difficulties:** Especially towards the end of the interview the quality of the audio seemed to go down a bit and it became a bit difficult to understand the spoken conversations.

## Transcript

Interviewer 1

**Maybe to start, could you first start with a short introduction of yourself and your role in the organization? And also the role of NFU.**

Interviewee

I'm [name] I'm a project program manager for the Namibia National Farmers Union, and my role is to work in the secretariat for the Namibia National Farmers Union by the secretariat. I mean the coordinating part of the Namibian National Farmers Union, which is the part that deals with administrative issues. Issues to do with the projects, and coordination member registration, different projects. How we serve, our farmers and various type of items that need to be done in terms of the organization and the implementation of specific activities. All that are in line with the strategic plan for NFU.

Interviewer 1

**OK. And how many Members does the NFU have?**

Interviewee

In terms of the registered and updated members we're looking at above ten thousand farmers which are like scattered in 14 regions within the 14 regions and then, basically that's the numbers that we are looking at and it is represented within each of the regions through a regional Farmers Union which is affiliated to regional farmer associations that are within the region. So we have 14 regional farmers. Plus there are affiliates, so each regional Farmers Union would then have farmer associations and I could actually have projected something, but OK.

Interviewer 1

**That's fine. And what type of farmers are they? Are they all types of farmers?**

Interviewee

We represent basically all sorts of farmers. We have different types of farmers. At different scales, so these are mainly the smallholder farmers or the small scale farmers. The upcoming emerging farmers, not so much. At least those that are affiliated to us. So we work with those ones. And when you look at these particular farmers, they are operating with different value chains which include livestock. Or livestock, it's actually separated. We have the big livestock, small livestock and within this we promote things like the marketing part, the production part and how we link our farmers to the different markets. And we also sit in various boards that are regulatory and that work with policy. That affects the farmers we have on the ground, so that's on the livestock sector. And then you also have different types of livestock, so different value chains all together. And then with the same livestock production we also have now the feeding part. Which is on the production where we have a challenge. When you look at the ones that are in the NCA areas versus the rest of Namibia I'm sure.

Interviewer 1

**Are you aware of the NCA Northern communal areas of Namibia versus the rest of the country?**

Interviewee

Normally the northern communal areas of Namibia are demarcated through cordon sense that they would say this is the red line that demarcates areas, so in the northern communal areas of Namibia you would find that there is a challenge because these are the areas that are linked to foot and mouth. So these farmers normally cannot bring in their livestock on the other side of the cordon fence, meaning they have a problem with marketing in terms of their value. Chain for livestock and there are quite a lot of restrictions even when you look at the abattoirs and various. Various business entities within that most of those abattoirs. Auctions hardly take place because of these foot and mouth diseases and things like that, and there are always these restrictions that are put there in terms of production. These farmers are also the farmers that are really a bit on the low side of production because they are really currently quite affected by climate change in terms of the drought they don't do much in terms of supplementary feeding and things like that. So when drought strikes, they normally just, you know, get into a problematic situation. Meaning with this Bush enrichment you will find that in most of these areas you are having overgrazed type of areas and instead of these grasses that would have normally grown you now have these bushes shrubs that are coming up and with these shrubs they are not good for the animals and not good. As in, they can't really graze them, so now this is where we now look at different projects where we are coming in to say how do we make use of this particular, you know resources and help our farmers adapt to this whole situation. That's where now we bring in the Bush to feed the machinery that we've purchased for some of them. And then they are trained on how to manage the bushing improvement because there are certain types of bushes and that they are supposed to harvest and so forth. So that is the only part that we have done in terms of our farmers that we are directly supporting and then the next value chain you would be looking at the crop value chain, the crop value chain. You're basically looking at mainly the main city of crop. Maize mahabo which is the Millet and coppies, groundnuts, not much in terms of diversity, but these are the main crops that they have been used to growing that specifically in the northern communal areas. You do have a bit of diversity coming. With some Organization through the non governmental organizations coming through support and even through the ministry and the government and even Namibia Economic Board stepping in to, say what are the other options that we are looking at, so you are now finding that they now start bringing in different types of crops. Even different farming systems which include the supplementary irrigation because now we normally just used to have a lot of rain fed production versus irrigation, but now most of these farmers are now taking it a step further and they are now moving into, you know, irrigated. But still when they do that production they still have quite a lot of challenges in terms of the climatic conditions which are not so favourable for them. Our farmers lack a bit in terms of the capacity. When you look at this very, very small-scale farmers, they lack the capacity and times they also lack the infrastructure. So capacity is that lack of exposure to say. What are the alternatives? Many people normally grow or do what they are used to in a specific area. So you will find there are certain parts of the country where they are busy with only grains and certain parts where they are busy with only the livestock and things like that OK? The ones that are doing less to some extent. They are also fragmented because there are some that have access also to the market that can do auctions and things like that, and their abattoirs are actually running and that is a good thing, so we still have a lot of work to do, and it's small scale farmers..

Interviewer 1

**Does your livestock today only depend on livestock for their livelihoods, or do they also grow crops or do they have other activities?**

Interviewee

So like I said, on the other side, do you have specific people that will tell you they've never grown a crop in their lives. But you also have somewhere in between that have at least have had some exposures. So if I talk about. Let me try. I can describe this for you. So if I talk about it in a few, basically that's the establishment date in 1992. The main aims of the Namibia. National Farmers Union is to increase food production for household food security. And hence marketing of farming products to increase household income, increased participation and recognition of women contribute to Environmental Protection and sustainable utilization of resources. We also have our key program areas linked to policy advocacy institutional strengthening that's mainly with original farmers unions, business advisory, visiting different worlds, and also HIV and food security and also monitoring and evaluation policy. So when you look at the governance structure of any view, that's how. It looks like approach. We have a Congress and we have the National Council. The National Council is comprised, So what? That is the Farmers Association then the bottom that link to a regional farmers unit that selects a board from all these regional farmers United representatives that they sell to.

The National Council. And they create a board the board overseas, the secretaries. Which is me, so basically that's the type of thing that's going on there. And those are the regional farmers unions that are there: 14. And then, that was just that just speaks in terms of the membership males females. In terms of our database, that was the 2019 one which was at least seven. Dated the 2021 I done the gender segregation I have to I've been working with the M&E so that we now update the database and make sure that we do that. So when I was talking about, the not the communal areas. That whole area after the, you can see those are the affected zone. You find that they already have the challenge. And, when you're not in that particular area, that one you know the fact that most of those people in that area do mixed farming. And the mixed farming you're basically looking at crops. Plenty of crops. This is our grain producing area. That red part that's mixed farming and then you have the next part. So I say the red part is got the main maize production with lasting production. Often more than, does exactly 6000 tons for that specific area only means and then you go to cap valuable, which is the next green one. The next Green one that's mainly minute producing any, and they also do have a lot of cattle as well, though with poor market and then next to all hungry. Now those people are mainly livestock. Farmers with very little crops like down in. Those other areas and then on Saturday on Saturday, as a few gardens, they do have a car now and they do have quite a bit of horticultural productivity in place and you could name that livestock country. So that's what I just wanted to show you, and then you know these are just our problems when you look at. What farmers may face in terms of problems, accessibility to some of the areas we also have human wildlife shop. Conflict challenges and then the lack of capacity and access to training. You also have poor infrastructure and also you look at things like labor that affect all these things so this is just something to show you something food security and vulnerability. You can actually check and see that that northern part of Namibia was the most fully secure part of the whole country, and it's not so easy, but at least there's a bit of on the green, but with the others, especially when clouds or caves. It's like livestock diet. That's it's not the most socially vulnerable and fertile land up north.

Interviewer 2

**OK, but what are the risks?**

Interviewee

The risks are mainly not so perfect when it comes to farming, processing and they are not used to crop products. Because those people are into small livestock, light livestock, so that's your cattle and you. So when it dries up, those people normally become very food insecure, so the in terms of alternative livelihoods, you will find that those areas are not so flexible when it comes to alternative livelihoods, and these are also areas we have what we call conservancies in the maybe these conservation areas. You will find that some of these areas are falling within the conservancies, and this also makes the situation a bit more challenging with the human wildlife conflict. With the restrictions also offered by the conservancy to say you know you can't go and have it so you can't go and just have it the tree anyhow to go and sell you can't, you know there are so many restrictions. So in those areas we also have restrictions like the Community forest and the conservancies, which also limit the livelihood means. For these people, so apart from money they hardly do much.

Interviewer 1

**And what are the markets that they sell the meats or the cattle? Is it local?**

Interviewee

You we have different markets. Generally for the whole country we do have meat Co-Foundation, which actually does the buying most of the meat products. But now in that particular area the upper class are not really being run. The third spent half of the year closed. I'll send you a link in which the NFU was talking about these challenges of these northern abbatoirs and the buyers, so this some of the not the communal areas they've now managed to secure markets with. Some buyers who export to Dubai, some who export to China but all of these areas do have what you call local, not all about four out of the World London communal area will have what you call some abbatoirs. And these abbatoirs and auctions they do have access to some form of a market when they are running. What else would you need to know OK, this is the livestock. Cooperative where they are trying to deal with hydroponics and the Bush to feed program. He encropped and we managed to get those machinery to help them with the pushing.

Interviewer 2

**How do you decide which community or which area gets machinery?**

Interviewee

How we decide is all of them come to. You can see some of these meetings we have normally in annual general meeting and then in the general meeting all these regional farmers. You then bring forth their challenges because each regional farmers challenge is unique. You find that with other regional farmers unions they don't even want to hear of anything. The bush to feed because they don't even have inclusion bushes in the first places like you go there and it's just a bare leg. And they cancel, we select based on even the initiatives that. There are not farmers unions. Are also doing so if they they're doing something, we also push now to say how do we take this? How do we empower? Because some of them have actually formed corporation teams which are like the business arm of the original Farmers Union. Better Business, but they have a business arm. The regional farmers unions are non profit but now when they have registered cooperative, they become the business now, and that's when you now get these people like pushing the bush to fitness energy and things like that and introduced.

Interviewer 1

**And and for this one, then they will remove the bush and they produce speeds. And then for the own consumption. Or is that also sold like the feed that is produced?**

Interviewee

We had a specific project that is in the WHENER sponsored by the European Union. With this, that's why we managed to, also, because you know, we don't make much money. We managed to purchase some. What do you call this? Some equipment focused to feed. And there's a specific challenge. And the plan is to say the OR I'm going alliance stock marketing cooperative actually makes money from. The bush to feed machine because it's a cooperative. So the farmers have to pay at a specific cost. It's not a machine belonging to an individual, it's a machine belonging to a cooperative, and this cooperative actually serves quite a number of people out there giving you the statistics, but it's in the other book, but, we'll be looking at something. Let me show nicely with the statistics you get always communicate so that I give you the number from us that will be served by that same bush to feed equipment.

Interviewer 2

**Which cooperative was this?** And where is it located in the region?

Interviewee

You know, I think I asked for that information so, insurance or... OK, in terms of their membership for that livestock market in comparative it's run by 67 members. Which are 32 males and 35 female. OK, so it's that's the number, so the two machines. But then these are not only the farmers, they are the business entity, but then it's original from the occasional Farmers Union. Now you would find that it would actually say from this produce that they are producing whatever product that they are making from the Bush to feed equipment. Then be able now to sell to the rest.

Interviewer 1

**Any other questions?**

Intervieuwer 2

**Yes, maybe we can show you concept. That we are working on. It's called the bio hub, and the idea is that there are multiple communities that can provide biomass. So, in this case it would be done by a poacher bush to a biorefinery, where in the specific technology that we are investigating they can produce a bio oil that can, in the end you use for the shipping sector, which can also be used for other end uses. Biochar that can also have multiple purposes can be used as fertilizer or water treatment. And then water phase and gas phase that can be used in the same factory and what we want to understand is how this biotech could work here in the context of Namibia. So what would be the benefits it should generate here? What are the challenges maybe to do that? Could it maybe have some negative impacts so, we're wondering how do you look at this this concept and what do you think? What kind of benefits could or should it generate here in in Namibia? Especially then from the perspective of the farmers.**

Interviewee

Because this is a bit new to me. What we've done what I've done specifically would be under biochar. We've dealt with biochar, and this was already a product that they bought from one of the farmers already, which was ready made so we didn't take part in the production cycle of the biochar, so maybe one thing that we could look at is involving farmers in the big part of the evaluation to say from the farms that they are having. How can they stop us to how can they restore land? And then you now offer the training to see. From here, what can we do? How can we help you to make money and also at the same time, creates food for your animals or create farming land based on what is there. Because I think part of the challenges with between improvement is that. Those bushes, some of the bushes that are they actually drain the water table and you would find that they cause it. You said that you know when you want to try and grow crops closer to the facility. It's a problem, so if they try to restore some of the land. This could be a good thing for our farmers to say they are trained on land restoration measures, but at the same time harvesting. That the specific Bush that you might need or that is needed for biofuel because part of the thing is also education to say: what are the trees that do produce that? But if you know what are the good trees, what are the bad trees and how can we manage to harvest them sustainably? Because obviously it is going to be biofuel then I guess you would need to leave it for years to come. Still just looking at this but then. I don't know. How it lives with the carbon cycle and all this, the level of pollution. And you know how all this links and whether we can actually do some research to say. If we are going to harvest this, what impact does this have on the environment?

Interviewer 1

**Well we understood also that especially farmers now in the communal areas are not allowed to take part in value addition activities from the Bush. How do you see that?**

Interviewee

We have a community forest in some of the areas those are entitled to be able to do some of these value addition activities and also like the CEO said, there are some individuals who do own farms on their specific farms, so they would be allowed obviously to make use of the resources on their farms.

The value chain, you know, because I'm sure some of these people that are new. In the coal, the charcoals. These people are actually doing it from their own farms, meaning they actually get permit from the ministry, even with the community for us, whenever they need to do something, they do get a certain permit or a certain quarter of trees that they are able to harvest and do this. So even with the bush to feeds scheme that we have for our farmers, they are doing this in life. And with the ministry because they give them to get some permits.

Interviewer 1

**And is that in the same region or with the same cooperative as this project with the defeat? OK, it's the same community.**

Interviewee

When I don't know. The Community foreign, but it is working with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forestry Department for permits.

Interviewer 1

**OK. And what are the experiences from the projects? What are maybe challenges that are faced there or?**

Interviewee

The procedures are quite challenging at times. Is the bureaucracy that is involved when trying to get permission. You want to do this, but you have to make sure you get permission and the permission comes after a couple of months or so, and some of the areas in environmental impact assessment studies have to be done because you need to look at the scale of protection, you know what you want to have this thing. You need to take it.

Interviewer 1

**And what do you see as challenges if he would like to implement a system like biohub? What will be the main challenge that we could face?**

Interviewee

You would like, for example, if you set up a plant. Looking for the name would be the first. Land is not easily available. It depends whether you're going to get commercial land or how, but it's not something that you can easily get. There are certain procedures and protocols that you should follow. Get that name. So depending if you where you are doing it, so if it is going to be a project related to a community then that becomes much easier, but also at times we have these countries that do arise in for example, you go there you get permission and you get your paperwork. Everything is in order. Then you go and put in your first building. Just when you start putting it the foundation, a new owner comes up and says, look. This area I didn't authorize that you should use this area then the other one is like no. But you see, this was my ancestor then. So you have some of these other conflicts that do arise every now and then. So if you are going to get land, or if you're going to operate in a community you need to make sure that you verify with the Minister of land you verify the relevant stakeholders, do enough homework when it comes to you, know ownership of the land and safeguards whatever project you want to implement. In terms of the technologies, will you have to bring some new technologies to us so that we receive new things you know I don't know. Whether you bring your chemical, laboratory and so, it's like a lot of technology that you might need. And it's the setting up, it's you know, the training, the human skills. What does it take? Of you know to reduce. The capacities exist. Would you need to bring in one or two people what?

Interviewer 1

**And do you? Do you also think it might harm something, or have some negative effects?**

Interviewee

Definitely if we are going to do biomass extraction. It's a life skill. It means that the ecosystem balance will be affected. The area won’t be the same hill of the asset. So there are bound to be specific challenges related to that specific ecosystem or that specific area that might not be foreseen. Depending on the you know level or the scale that this thing would actually take. And then the issues of pollution. What else could be here? The people would be coming in to work at the factory. Biomass extraction. Income goes back to the household. The refined products. I think after you started the instruction process you need also to look at what are the alternatives? What is the way forward? Are we going to turn this quality to crop farmers what we do after we have this. This because you won't be able to exhaust the resources that will be in those particular areas. How do we transport from one area to the other? Because I'm sure you cannot be able to set a facility or any finally in each and every community for us or in each and every area. So you might have areas where you will need to make sure that you strategically locate to go to the best area in terms of what you want to achieve. But then you might also look at the logistics from the other areas and all the permit issues. A lot of regulatory items.

Interviewer 1

**And in these areas, especially the northern parts, how is the access to electricity and what and those type of services?**

Interviewee

Like this or Congo area where we are set, there are setting up their hydroponics and there are bush to feed item. The area where they are setting up their offices and everything is roughly less than five acres, but then they have the whole area to survey for the bush to feed. I tell you so. In terms of electricity, that area is actually a very good location because it is next to the road, just less than 50 metres from the road. So it's just by the highway, so they will have access to electricity. Electricity is quietly because they are close to a town. The place is less than 200 meters or so from the town, water also runs. I think it’s a matter of collecting and we are also going to build a ball in the next two to three weeks.

Interviewer 1

**And in the communities the people they have access to electricity?**

Interviewee

So in some of the areas like, if we are going to look at the broad perspective you would have some areas outside the city is like. In the rural. Areas specific time you look at 60%, 50-60. Cellphones are everywhere. You have to talk to them via WhatsApp for monitoring. They do many times show communication. And there could be some communication barriers through cultural barriers. In terms of harvesting and in terms of communication with the traditional leadership, because always these things you will need people of the traditional leaderships so at times also going through the regional farmers such as. Yes, that has the original unit. That helps you to gain quite some leverage in terms of what you would want to do on it.

Interviewer 1

**All I know this is very. Good, because we learn a lot and just a question because you said that the farmers are organizing these regional unions in an associations. So are these associations there already for a long time. Or is it quite new? How long does this exist?**

Interviewee

Quite a long time ago you saw was from 1990. They have been affiliating over the years, so it was home soon after independence that in the in the educated for those who offer. That because Namibia got its independence in 1990, then from there now you get these people coming through, so they are not failing, they're both new at all.

Interviewer 2

**Do you have any specific questions?**

Interviewer 3

**Just a couple of questions. So there are other organizations as well right like NCU or MACU. And maybe I imagine communal. So what is the difference between them? Or do they come under your umbrella?**

Interviewee

No, no, they don't come under our umbrellas OK. So we have Namibia agricultural union, which consists mainly of the commercial farmers. So the commercial funds we are looking at those very, very big farms, we are looking at ownership plus 200 acres going up and there are different levels of production. So then we have NECFU (NECFU). These ones are looking at resettled farmers. We also look at resettled farmers as well. But these are fairly new. So you have two main bodies. I think if we have to talk because now these are done, these ones are more affiliated to us and then you have the commercial body. Which is one that we are still trying to build up to our farmers through that level of production as well. So you have those two.

Interviewer 3

**To just to understand or simply saying, I would say NAU is more commercial. Farmers, netflows for resettled farmers?**

Interviewee

Small scale for and the other one small scale farmers and maybe.

Interviewer 3

**Yes, I mean and the views were emerging? Just also to understand like if you come up with new projects or new value chains or new ways. What's the social acceptance or reluctance in terms of farmers? What this so usually we have got it. In other case studies in other countries. So the first thing they usually the farmers ask is like how much is there? You know we'll be getting. You know so, but more than that, what are the from your experience? What do you think are like? What's the social acceptance? Is the farmers that really receptive of new ideas and they're looking for new ways to validate Bush or to earn more income or more? OK, we are sticking to this tradition. This practice has there for a long time and we want to continue like that so.**

Interviewee

I think farmers, like any other farmer are looking more at income, they want money. So if you bring in an idea and this idea. It just wastes time and doesn't give any value in terms of what they're currently doing. Then most likely the project would fail, but now if you are in a situation where you demonstrate that whatever it is that you are introducing. This is how it will work. This is your benefit and this is how things will move on going forward, they would understand that you will not face much in terms of resistance. It also depends on how you actually implement the whole thing and when you implement. It takes the times those first few farmers that want to first experiment. Those ones, if you manage to convince and make sure that there is some money that is coming through, you'll find automatically the other farmers will join because what is wanted is many farmers want money? So we immediately when they realize that there's nothing here either.

Interviewer 3

**Interesting and one last question from my side is so this farmer. So how is the age group of farmers? And is it more youth? Is it more old people? Do you see migration of rural people from rural areas to cities? How is that? How is that dynamic working out?**

Interviewee

That one is a long subject. Farmers you can see even on the picture day. That you do have an aging group of farmers because farming has always been regarded as. Something for the old materialism, the villages and so forth. Because one of the key things that happens is. Even when I was growing up. You know it's like, you grow and you go to the farm every holiday so it's like. It's a village work where it's not something that is used for generating income. So as I was growing, you go to the village. You know this is total time, so Christmas time is that time for weeding. Ok, because you know that's when we normally plant our crops and we are weeding. So Christmas is weeding. So you drink your tea in the field. Come March, April. It's like harvest. You know it’s also tack because we use the knee biting agents and then at the end of the day you have this maybe 10 bands or 20 bands from 58 days and then imagine all this labor that you spend. You get the 10 beds and that is the 10 beds. Maybe you get maybe less than $8000. Not the $1000. I don't get a shave from it. I've never tasted nothing I've said is like you're just being useful labour. So at the end of the day, most children end up hating farming because of the subsistence way it is put so. It's only now that farmers are starting to transit and move out of that subsistence type of mentality into the more semi commercial where they know that farming is a business. You don't just do it because you want to survive. You will do it because you want to gain incomes. With the youth, those that actually we have several youth partners that we have in the northern way. If you are able to go there. They are dealing with. Livestock that one is poultry farmer. They stick there because they can see the money is there. So when they do the auctions you can actually tell these are the young guys because. Auctions, livestock, money. If I tell you this one, there is an option that was done maybe two or three days ago. The association managed to raise how much was this month? OK, the last option that was raised some 2-3 days ago. It's raised by an income of almost 1.6 million. No 2.4, 2.4 million. So if maybe approximately 150 farmers are gaining from this 2.4 million, it's not bad. Maybe you calculate how many 2.4 million in net millions or EUR divide that by 160.

Interviewer 3

Near to one. For 20 years.1 to 100,000. €100,000

Interviewee

Something like that, so that's almost like 100,000 pairs for 150 people. If you divide that by 150.

Interviewer 3

That’s 1000 each.

Interviewee

So that's just one option. So if I'm relying on farming and I get €1000. For every two weeks or a week that I have been sending cattle, it's OK for me, you see, because if you convert that €1000, you multiply that by twenty 20,000 is not bad. You can maintain it decent form of living. You know, in a week, two weeks €1000. So it's not these farmers actually make a bit of money so you can actually check out the eight groups in those. Farming where they are doing those various subsistence type of things only the old generation that's coming but not the newer generation comes. With these seamen. So those are the dynamics there. So where you see this, manage the YouTube car and they only do that if they see and then in terms of transition from rock to talk and talk to the rock. You find that the people that are mainly the going to run is because of the returning scenarios. So if they go to that point and they start farming at that age normally they would also go back again to subsistence farming as opposed to the time like if they invest. And you do commercial farming at this point made by the time you retire, you know, OK, you're good to go so.

Interviewer 1

**And what is? Because she mentions there are members that are male or female, like are there different rules for men and women in these in farming?**

Interviewee

Women are not allowed to own cattle. There are restrictions, not necessarily do’s and don'ts. There are restrictions caused customarily. There are certain rules and regulations which. Reduced access to certain resources for specific groups of individuals. For example. OK, so for example, women traditionally haven't been landowners. Normally that's a male thing. Women haven’t been normally cattle owners. That's the male thing. So when you're coming through and saying I need the head of house. The head of us is normally a male, unless maybe she's classified under the orphans and vulnerable groups and this is part of the thing that you saw in terms of NNFU. Your policy advocacy trying to make sure that women also participate in some of these things, so we try to say when we have something going on with that we try to push and make sure that women are there. My classroom just being in the kitchen.

Interviewer 2

**Traditional like rules that formally also in the formal regulation by women, are not allowed to that?**

Interviewee

This was in the past and you know, custom is something that is very difficult to erase, so tradition is very difficult to erase. So you will go to some of the areas where you go in their meetings and find the men are more. Quiet and this is, you know, prompted. Like for us, we know the situation. So in time you know how to drive the dynamics when we get there and you’re like no let's do this, let's do this. You give them different activity so that they feel comfortable. Some areas you really find men. We did some training for livestock, you know one of the areas. Only two women are treated out of 19 participate males. So that's it times how challenging it is.

Interviewer 2

**And for example, in this Bush harvesting projects, do women play a role and what kind of role do they play?**

Interviewee

They would play a role. We have our administrator, they she's a lady and then the rest of the people that are in the association. But then in terms of Labor allocation, what we have been doing as projects and as organizations is to say when they say job that’s expensing we need a 50-50% representation at least. So when there's a fencing job, we still insist that they employ women, so that at least go to the hotel. No, why would this? Woman be doing is very difficult she can’t do this, so they try to always, you know, already show some form of resistance that is there. So you would actually define that if it is, as we are able to please to give that chance, I think one of the regions was actually one of the first regions actually started having female drivers in terms of tractors and service provision, we actually managed to train. I think six of them and now the ministry is starting also training female drivers. Trainees in our drivers normally choose be like opportunities if we for the track. The driver that's only males, so you try to do something you cannot, so, but now it’s coming.

Interviewer 3

**And do you? Do you say that any of you has enough authority or power to actually come up with new projects and implement them without any? How do you say any challenges in terms of investment or in terms of capacity or in terms of any hindrance from.**

Interviewee

In the next few lessons. And then actually, that's what we do is we are actually having the capacity in terms of implementation. And we do have the skills to put our proposals where we look for investment and push for specific activities to happen on the ground for our farmers. So we are still in the phase where we are pushing for projects, making sure that you know the farmers are. We build first the capacity in farmers, but also we are. Building on the capacity of the organization as a whole. To say we are pushing also to try and have a business. We are able not to also say whether we have a project proposal or not? We are making our own money in a facility.

Interviewer 3

**I mean these projects or in future, like in in general, do you also interact with other organizations like AMBIG or Agribank or ministries or?**

Interviewee

Or we do we don't have a problem with the interaction. We don't have a problem with the collaboration like. If I tell you right now we're working on a joint project feature with the Polytechnic, the last National Namibia University of Science and Technology we applied currently and we have a project that we actually are doing together on climates, much culture in terms of conservation farming and Nast is basically doing the monitoring and evaluation whilst we do the technical part which is setting up dealing with farmers, helping with the training, identification of the beneficiaries, and , getting things going on the ground whilst NAST comes in now to do the monitoring, creating templates for data collection. And so forth, and then on the EDF 11, which is like the European funded project we are going to be asking people like the enibic to come through with their expertise in terms of rental and management and training in terms of biomass. So where we don't have the capacity we actually source. Either we look for consultants independent consultant or we look for sister organizations.

Interviewer 1

**OK, so thank you. Thank you so much for all this information and your time OK thanks.**