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Namibia relaxes ban of poultry imports from South Africa

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

On July 24, 2017, the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MWAF) announced that it has relaxed the import suspension of poultry and poultry products from South Africa after it was introduced on June 23, 2017. However, only poultry and poultry products originating from certain “compartments¹” approved by the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to be free of bird flu can now be imported into Namibia. More than 75 percent of the Namibian poultry meat imports come from South Africa. Therefore, the suspension of poultry and poultry product import from South Africa led to a shortage of poultry meat in Namibia hence the amendment of the poultry import ban.

Background

On June 22, 2017, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) published a [notification](#) of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI, ‘bird flu’) in a breeder flock in South Africa, which killed 5,000 chickens. This led to Namibia suspending poultry and poultry product imports from South Africa (also see, [Southern African countries suspend poultry imports from South Africa](#)).

However, on July 24, 2017, the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MWARF) [announced](#) that it has relaxed the import suspension of poultry and poultry products from South Africa. However, only poultry and poultry products originating from certain “compartments” approved by the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to be free of bird flu can now be imported into Namibia.

Namibia poultry meat market

Namibia consumes between 3,000 and 3,500 tons of poultry meat per month. Furthermore, approximately 50 percent of the market is supplied by the local producers, with the remaining balance supplied by imports mainly from South Africa (see Table 1). In 2016, South Africa accounted for about 76 percent of the Namibian poultry meat imports. Therefore, the suspension of poultry and poultry products import from South Africa led to a shortage of poultry meat in Namibia hence the amendment of the poultry import ban. The United States is currently working with Namibia to obtain full market access for poultry and poultry products.

Table 1: Namibian poultry meat imports

Partner Country	Unit	2014	2015	2016
South Africa	T	11,389	14,975	16,004
Brazil	T	1,298	2,205	1,510
Argentina	T	2,384	1,416	828
Other countries	T	2,150	5,969	2,597
Total	T	17,221	24,565	20,939

Source: GTA

¹Namibia has accepted South Africa’s concept of compartmentalization