



**NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD**

Constituted by Act 20 of 1992

Contact Details:

Tel office: +264 61 379 500

Fax office: +264 61 22 5371

E-mail:
nabdesk@nab.com.na

Website: www.nab.com.na

Physical address:

Agricultural Boards'

Building

30 David Hosea Meroro

Road

Windhoek

Namibia

Postal address:

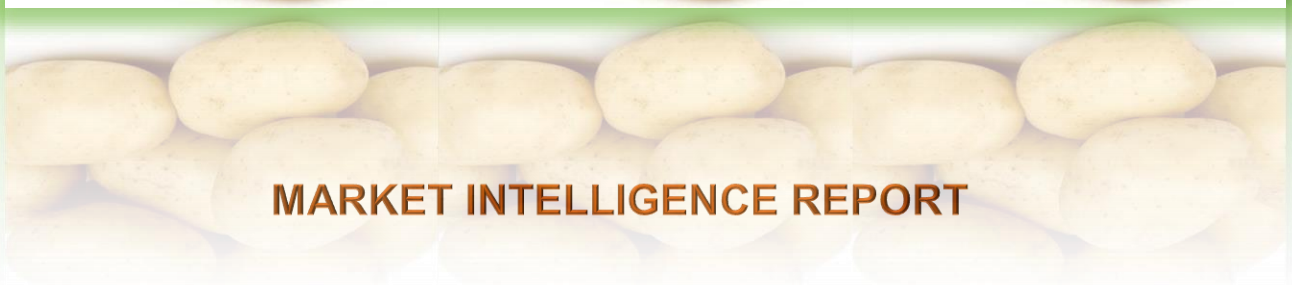
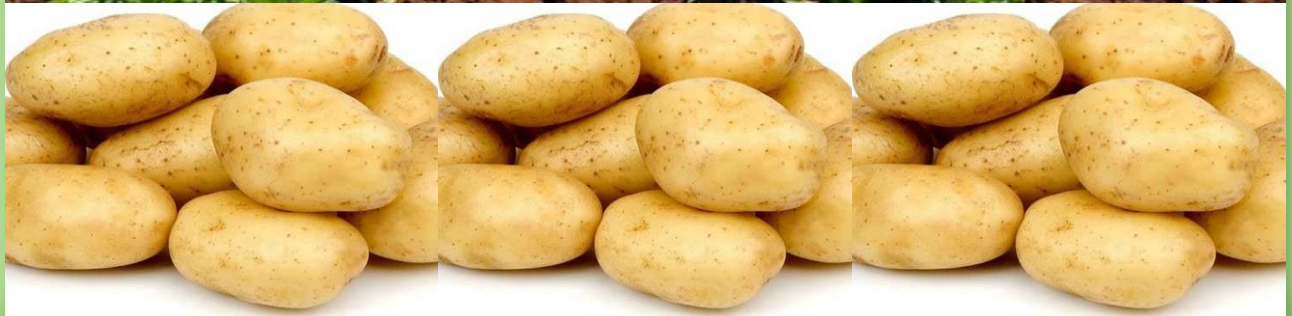
P.O. Box 5096

Ausspannplatz

Windhoek

Namibia

Creating a marketing environment that is conducive to growing and processing crops in Namibia



MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

POTATOES

ISSUE 5 OF 2021

INTRODUCTION

Potato [*Solanum Tuberosum*] is commonly known as *Table potato* or *Irish potato* and it belongs to the Solanaceae family. It is the third most consumed crop in the world, after wheat and rice, and fourth in Africa, with maize being the 3rd (International Potato Centre, 2017). Potatoes are produced almost in every country in the world. In Namibia, potato is the most consumed horticultural product, accounting for 39% of total horticultural fresh produce consumption. Although potato is the highest in terms of horticultural produce demand, Namibia still imports over 30% to fulfil local consumption of fresh potatoes, in addition to those imported as frozen potatoes and seed potatoes.

This Market Intelligence Report focusses on fresh potatoes, as this is one of the main horticultural fresh produce consumed in Namibia. Therefore, this Market Intelligence Report covers the production, consumption, importation, and exportation information for fresh potatoes, frozen potatoes, and seed potato, from global, regional, and national perspectives.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

PRODUCTION: Potato production may serve two purposes, namely; for the fresh markets or seed potatoes as planting materials. Produced fresh potatoes may further be processed and preserved by freezing and therefore classified as frozen potatoes. According to FAOSTAT (2021), the world potato production is estimated at nearly 361 million metric tonnes harvested from nearly 17 million hectares, valued at over U\$93 billion (N\$1.5 trillion) (average: 2016-2020). As presented in figure 1 hereunder, about 50% of potatoes are produced in Asia, while 30% is produced in Europe. Africa, America, and Oceania regions account for 7%, 12.6%, and 0.5%, respectively.

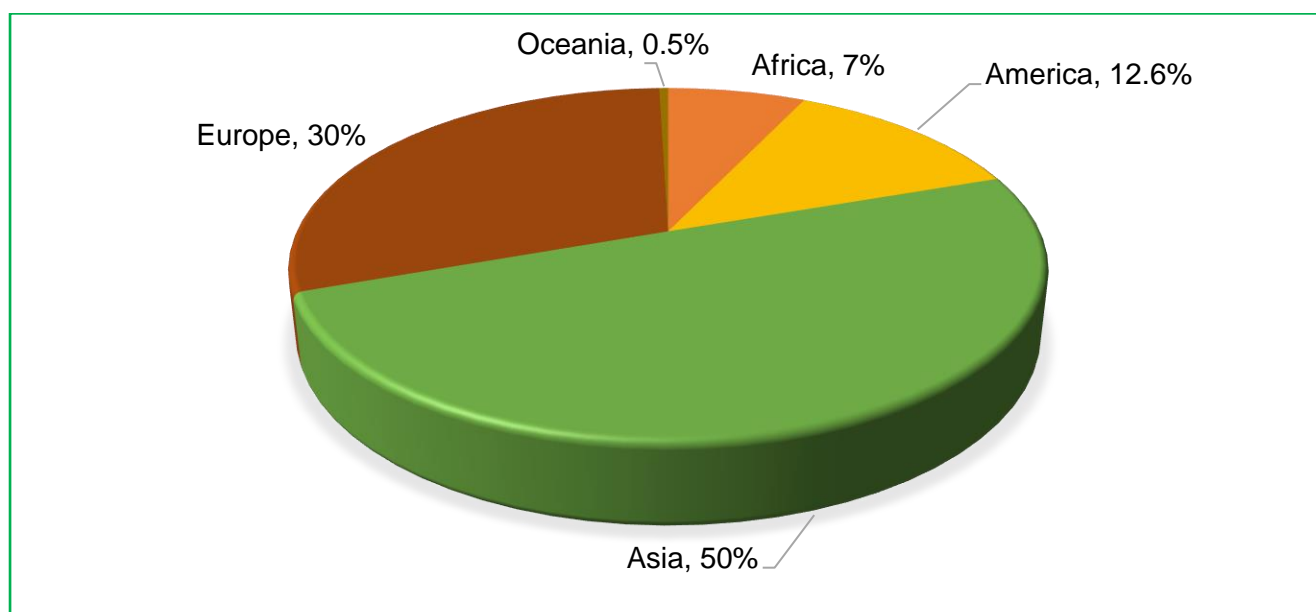


Figure 1: World potato production share of metric tonnes produced by each continent

Source: FAOSTAT (2020)

Table 1 presents the tonnes produced, hectares under production, and the average yields for each continent in 2020. Asia was the highest potato-producing continent, producing over 180 million metric tonnes from 9 million hectares, whereas, Oceania was the lowest continent with only 2 million metric tonnes from about 40 thousand hectares (average: 2016 - 2020) (FAOSTAT, 2021). However, Oceania had the highest average yield per hectare, whilst Africa was the lowest in comparison to other continents.

Table 1: World potato production share (average: 2016-2020)

Region	Production (Million metric tonnes)	Area (Million ha)	Average yields (Tons/ha)
World	361	17	21
Africa	25	2	15
America	46	2	29
Asia	180	9	20
Europe	109	5	23
Oceania	2	0.04	42

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

China and India are the largest potato producers in the world, accounting for more than 30% of world potato production when combined, where on average between 2016 and 2020, China produced 83 million metric tonnes, while India produced 49 metric tonnes (FAOSTAT, 2021). Figure 2 presents the average millions of metric tonnes produced by each of the top 10 world potato producers between 2016 and 2020.

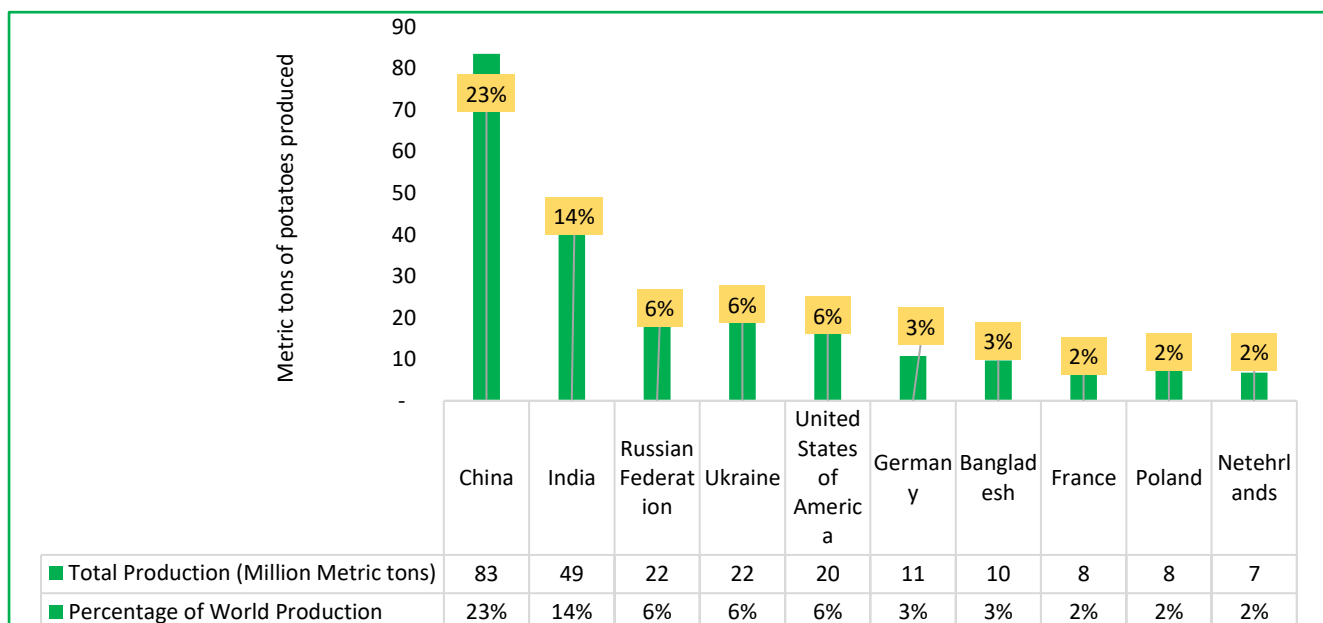


Figure 2: Top 10 world potato producers (averages: 2016-2020). Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

CONSUMPTION: Potatoes are the number one non-grain food crop consumed in the world and they are a great source of vitamin C, potassium, fibre, and protein, all with no fat (Zarka et al., n.d.; Olsen 2015). According to Helgilibrary (2021), the global consumption of potatoes per capita reached 32.3 kg

in 2018, though it is 3.67% less than in 2017 and 2.22% less than in 10 years earlier, whereas more than 245 million metric tonnes of potatoes were consumed by the world during 2018. Global potatoes consumption grew by 10.2% in 10 years before then, and a growth of 1.31% was realised in 2018 compared to 2017 (Helgilibrary, 2021). The high growth rate in potato consumption may be attributed to the increasing world population, rising income, growing urbanisation, and governmental policy interventions.

The Top 3 potato-consuming countries accounted for 46.2% during 2018, and these were: China as the highest with nearly 61 million metric tonnes and accounting for 24.9% of global potato consumption. China was followed by India and the USA, while Egypt was the only African country among the Top 15 (FAOSTAT, 2018). The least 3 potato-consuming countries in the world during 2018 were Guinea Bissau, Cambodia, and the Central African Republic with 1 000 metric tonnes consumed by each during the same year (Helgilibrary, 2021).

EXPORT: According to FAOSTAT (2021), an average of about 14 million tonnes worth over US\$4 billion (N\$ 62.3 billion) were exported by the world (average: 2016-2020). Figure 3 presents average quantities and values exported by various continents, as well as the average price per tonne exported by each continent from 2016 to 2020. Europe is the highest, whereas, Oceania is the least both in terms of average quantities (8.8 million metric tonnes and 0.1 million metric tonnes) and values (N\$ 41.1 billion and 0.64 billion) of potatoes exported from 2016 to 2020. However, Oceania received the highest price for exported potatoes (N\$ 9 064/t), whereas, Europe recorded the cheapest price of potatoes exported, which is N\$ 4 766/t (FAOSTAT, 2021).

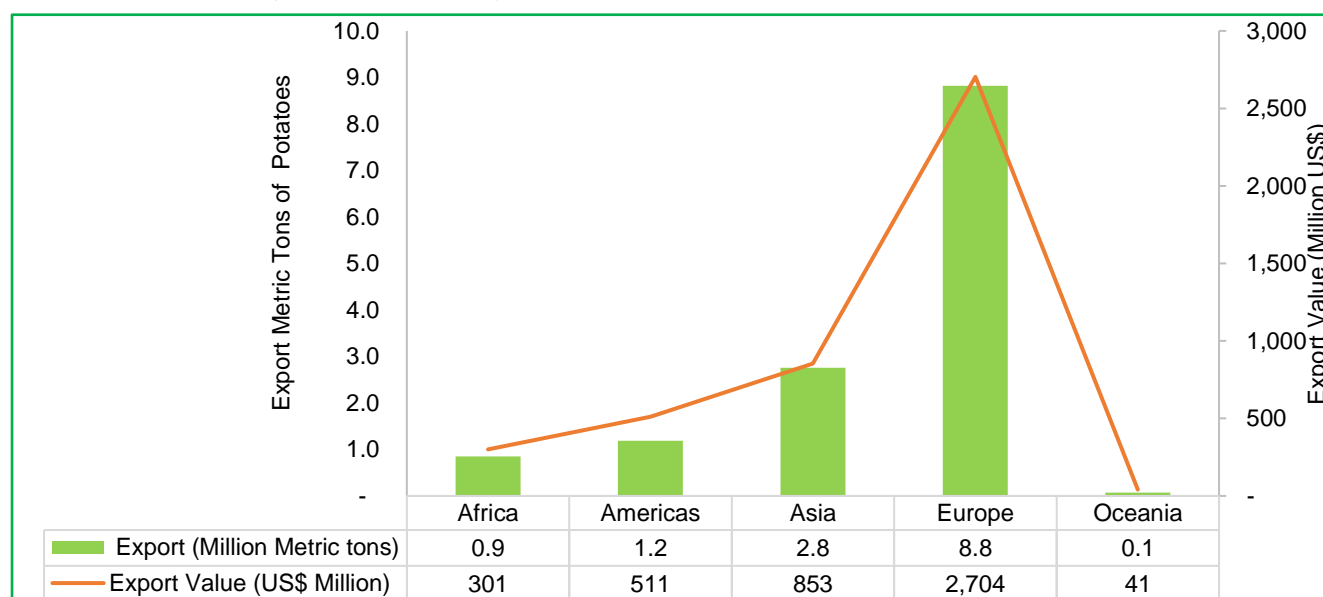


Figure 3: World potatoes export share by continent (average: 2016-2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Potatoes: Average export value and price per tonne N\$ by continent (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Africa: N\$ 4.7billion @ N\$ 5 498/t. America: N\$ 8 billion @ N\$ 6 697/t
 Asia: N\$ 13.3 billion @ N\$ 4 812/t. Europe: N\$ 41.1 billion @ N\$4 766/t
 Oceania: N\$ 0.64 billion @ N\$ 9 064/t

Figure 4 presents millions of metric tonnes and average values per tonne exported by the Top 10 potato supplying countries from 2016 – 2020 in the world. Though France is the main exporter of potatoes in the world (2.5 million metric tonnes), China has the highest export price per tonne (N\$9 055/t) while Kazakhstan has the lowest price per tonne (N\$1 518/t).

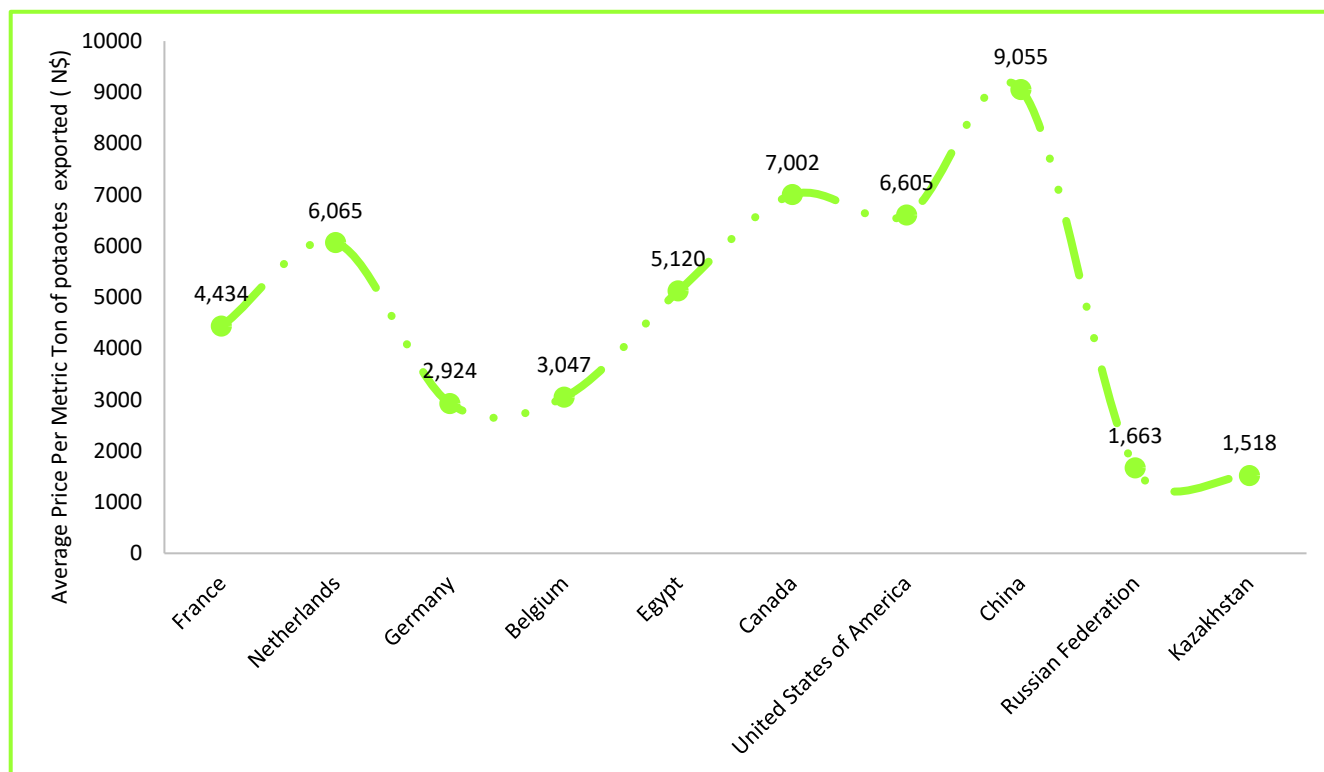


Figure 4: Price per tonne exported by Top 10 world potato producers (average: 2016 – 2020)

Source: ITC (2021)

Top 10 world exporters of potatoes (Average metric tonnes 2016 - 2020):

1. France: 2.5 mill
2. Netherlands: 2.03 mill
3. Germany: 1.88 mill
4. Belgium: 1.09 mill
5. Egypt: 560 thousand
6. Canada: 530 thousand
7. USA: 510 thousand
8. China: 440 thousand
9. Russian: 420 thousand
10. Kazakhstan: 360 thousand

Furthermore, it is established from FAOSTAT (2021) that nearly 8 million tonnes of frozen potatoes are exported globally, with an average value of about US\$7.3 billion (N\$113.7 billion).

Figure 5 presents metric tonnes of frozen potatoes exported and values gained from such exports by each continent. Europe was the highest, both in terms of quantities (5.4 million metric tonnes) and value (N\$72.1 billion) of exports, while Oceania was the least in both quantity (79 thousand metric tonnes) and export value (N\$1.2 billion). However, America exported at the highest average price of N\$16 724/t, whilst, Europe exported at the lowest average price of N\$13 584/t.

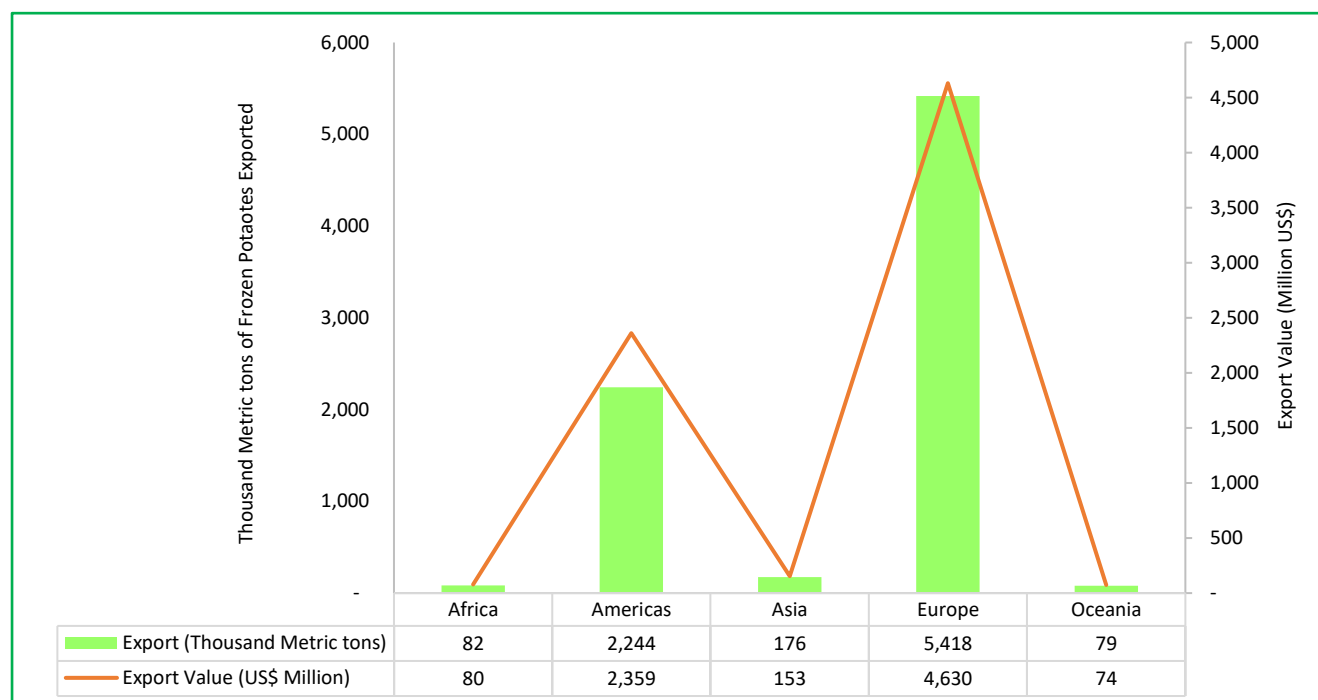


Figure 5: World frozen-potato export share (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Frozen Potatoes: Average export value and price per tonne in N\$ (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Africa: N\$ 1.3 billion @ N\$15 409/t
 America: N\$ 36.7billion @ N\$16 724/t
 Asia: N\$ 2.4 billion @ N\$14 466/t
 Europe: N\$ 72.1 billion @ N\$13 584/t
 Oceania: N\$ 1.2 billion @ N\$14 908/t

IMPORT: According to FAOSTAT (2021), an average of about 14.7 million tonnes of potatoes worth nearly US\$47 billion (N\$732 billion) were imported globally. Figure 6 presents average quantities and values imported by various continents, as well as the average value per tonne imported by each continent from 2016 to 2020.

Europe was the highest, whereas, Oceania was the least in terms of average quantities (9.6 million metric tonnes versus 29 thousand metric tonnes) and values (N\$44.3 billion versus 296 million) of

potatoes imported from 2016 to 2020. Oceania paid the highest price for imported potatoes (N\$10 506/t), whilst Europe paid the least (N\$4 708/t).

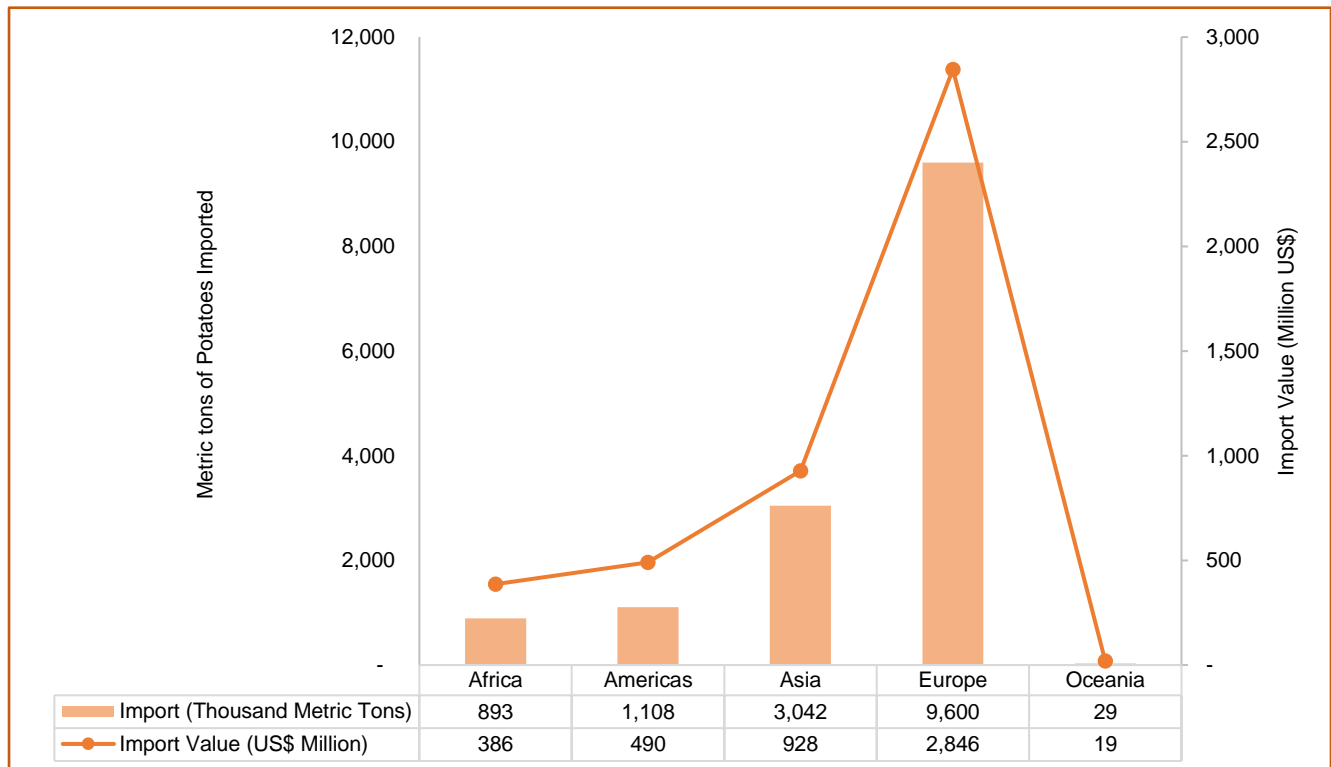


Figure 6: World potatoes import share by continent (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Potatoes: Average import value and price per tonne N\$ (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Africa: N\$6 billion @ N\$6 888/t
 America: N\$ 7.6 billion @ N\$7 047/t
 Asia: N\$14.5 billion @ N\$4 868/t
 Europe: N\$44.3 billion @ N\$4 708/t
 Oceania: N\$296 million @ N\$10 506/t



Figure 4 presents millions of metric tonnes and average values per tonne imported by the top 10 potato importing countries from 2016 to 2020 in the world. Belgium was the largest importer (3.05 million metric tonnes), while the United States of America paid the highest per tonne imported (N\$7 243/t) and Uzbekistan paid the lowest per tonne of potatoes imported (N\$1 859/t).

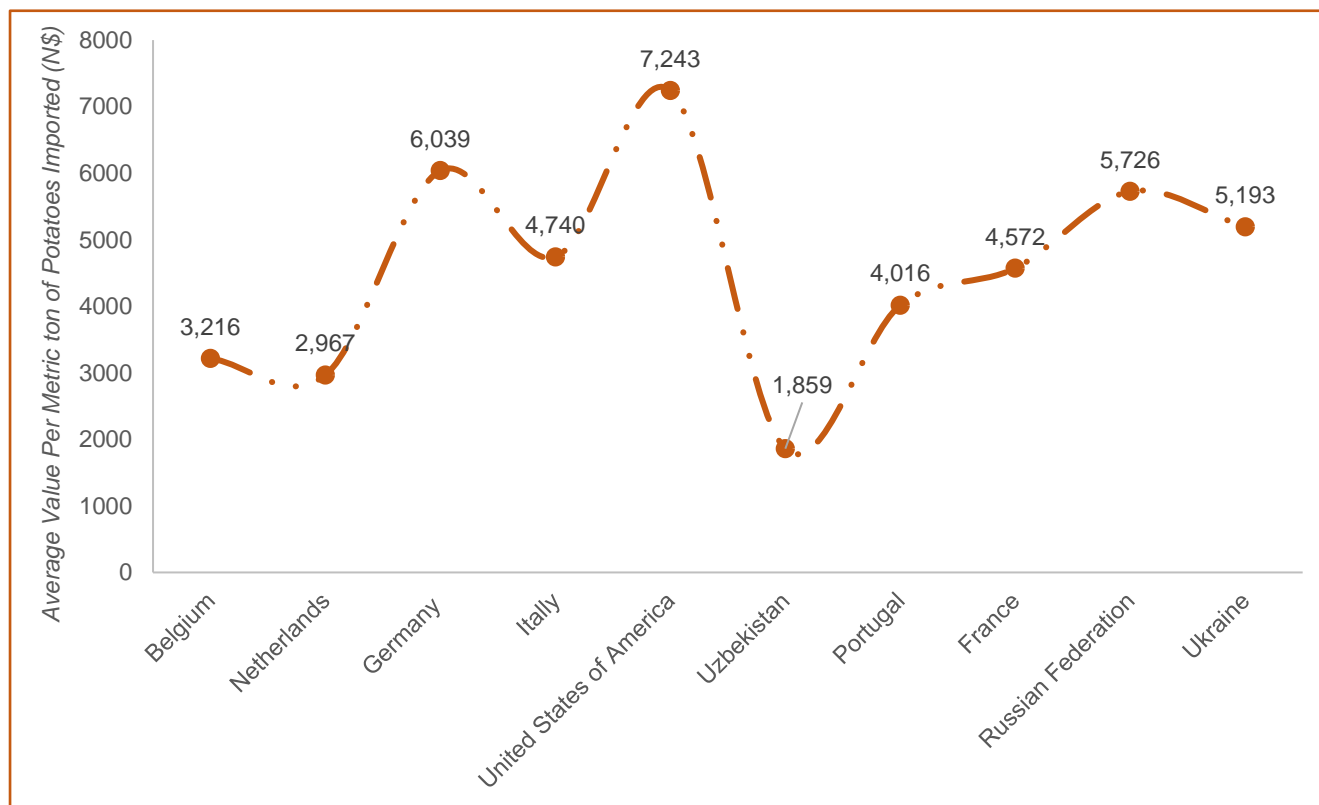


Figure 7: Price per tonne by Top 10 world potato importing countries (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: ITC (2021)

Top 10 world importers of potatoes (million metric tonnes): Averages 2016 - 2020:

1. Belgium:	3.05
2. Netherlands:	1.63
3. Germany:	0.69
4. Italy:	0.61
5. USA:	0.50
6. Uzbekistan:	0.42
7. Portugal:	0.39
8. France:	0.33
9. Russian:	0.32
10. Ukraine:	0.30

Furthermore, it is established from FAOSTAT (2021) that more than 7.8 million tonnes of frozen potatoes are imported globally, worth about US\$7.5 billion (N\$116.8 billion). Figure 8 presents metric tonnes of frozen potatoes imported, as well as the values and unit values paid for such imports by each continent. Europe was the highest, both in terms of quantity (3.76 million metric tonnes) and import value (N\$ 53.1 billion) of frozen potatoes, while Africa was the least in terms of both the quantity (140

thousand metric tonnes) and import value (N\$1.7 billion). However, Asia imported at the highest price of N\$17 369/t, whilst Africa imported at the lowest price of N\$13 074/t.

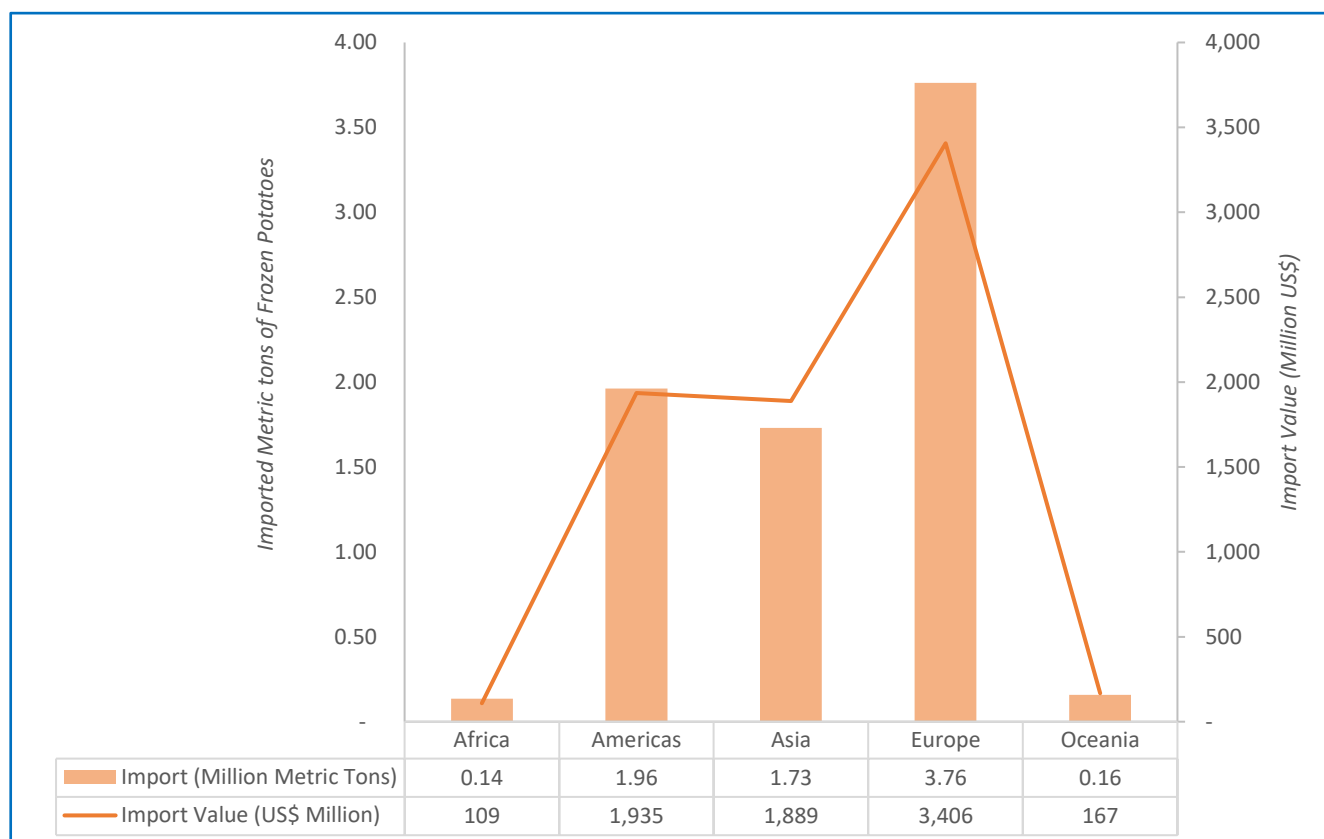


Figure 8: World frozen-potato import share (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Frozen potatoes: Average import value and value per tonne in N\$: (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Africa: N\$1.7billion @ N\$13 074/t
 America: N\$30.2billion @ N\$15 682/t
 Asia: N\$29.4 billion @ N\$17 369/t
 Europe: N\$53.1 billion @ N\$14 390/t
 Oceania: N\$2.6 billion @ N\$16 897/t

SEED POTATOES: The world's seed potato export stood at approximately 1.8 million metric tonnes valued at nearly US\$963 million (N\$15 billion) during 2020, lower by 9.6% when the value is compared to 2019 (ITC, 2021). Table 2 presents the seed potatoes exported by the Top 10 exporting countries in the world, including exported tonnage, value, and unit values.

The Netherlands was the highest world exporter of seed potatoes in terms of quantities supplied, the UK was the highest in unit value per metric tonne, whereas, the Russian Federation was the cheapest in unit value per metric tonne of seed potatoes exported in 2020.

Table 2: Top 10 world seed potato exporting countries in 2020, quantities, and value

Country	Exported metric tonnes in 2020 (Thousand)	Export value (N\$ billion)	Average unit value: 2016-2020- Value per metric tonne in N\$ exported
Netherlands	893	8.62	8,207
France	188	1.69	7,478
United Kingdom	114	1.22	9,086
Belgium	101	0.79	6,201
Germany	96	0.94	8,029
Canada	86	0.59	5,576
Russian Federation	71	0.23	2,513
Denmark	48	0.43	8,030
United States of America	29	0.25	7,039
Kazakhstan	13	0.04	4,475

Source: ITC (2021)

The latest aggregate seed potatoes import data available from ITC (2021) was that of 2016, where about 1.5 million tonnes of seed potatoes were imported globally. However, the ITC database shows that the world has exported an aggregate value of US\$926 million (N\$14.4 billion) worth of seed potatoes in 2020, compared to US\$957 million (N\$14.9 billion) in 2019.

Table 2 hereunder presents the seed potatoes imported by the top 10 world importing countries during 2020 in terms of metric tonnes imported and the value exported, as well as the average unit values (2016 - 2020). Belgium was the highest importer of seed potatoes in terms of both quantities and values, whereas Egypt was the highest paying importer at N\$20 615/tonne, followed by Algeria at N\$9 167/tonne. Qatar was the least in terms of the unit value paid for imported seed potatoes (N\$4 058/tonne).

Table 2: Top 10 world seed potato importing countries in 2020, quantities and values

Country	Exported metric tonnes in 2020 (Thousand)	Export value (N\$ million)	Average: 2016-2020 - Value per metric tonne in N\$ exported
Belgium	208	1551	7,241
Egypt	115	1248	20,615
Netherlands	102	789	5,868
United States of America	81	536	5,418
Italy	79	710	7,543
Germany	67	564	6,964
Algeria	62	565	9,167
Morocco	61	487	8,199
Qatar	52	253	4,058
Azerbaijan	47	268	4,601

Source: (ITC, 2021)

AFRICA PERSPECTIVE

PRODUCTION: As per reviews of FAOSTAT (2021), out of nearly 362.4 million tonnes of potatoes produced in the world, only about 25 million metric tonnes (7%) are produced by Africa, with an average value of about US\$6.6 billion (N\$ 102.8 billion) (averages: 2016-2020). The growth of potato production in Africa is not so persistent, and FAOSTAT (2021) shows a 9% decrease in 2016, a constant of 5% increase in both 2017 and 2018, a 4% increase in 2019, and a 1% decrease in 2020. According to the International Potato Centre (2018), potato production tripled from 1994 to 2011, and this could be increased by 140% if the problem of low yields could be resolved. The average yield of potatoes harvested per hectare in Africa between 2016 and 2020 was 15 tons/ha (FAOSTAT, 2021).

Figure 9 presents the average yields obtained per hectare by African countries that are equal to or above the continental average. South Africa is the highest with 37 tons/ha and Comoros is equivalent to the continental average of 15 tons/ha (the lowest).

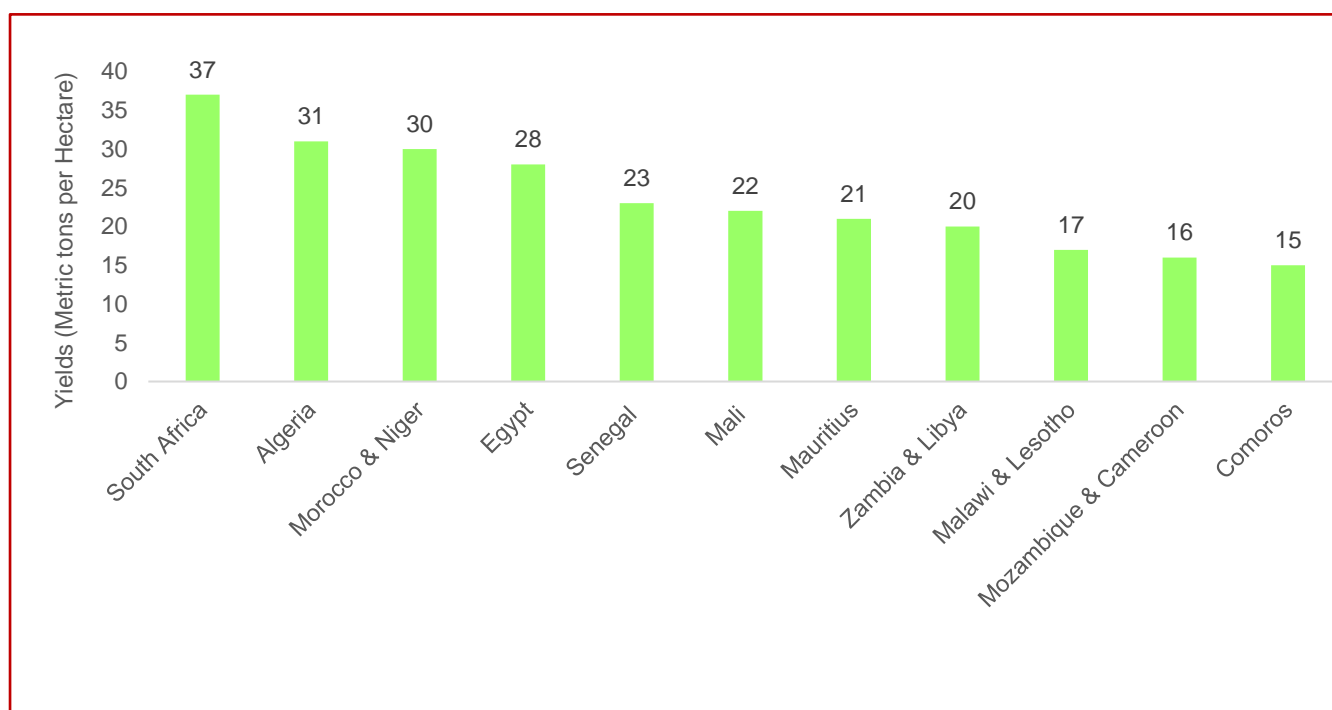


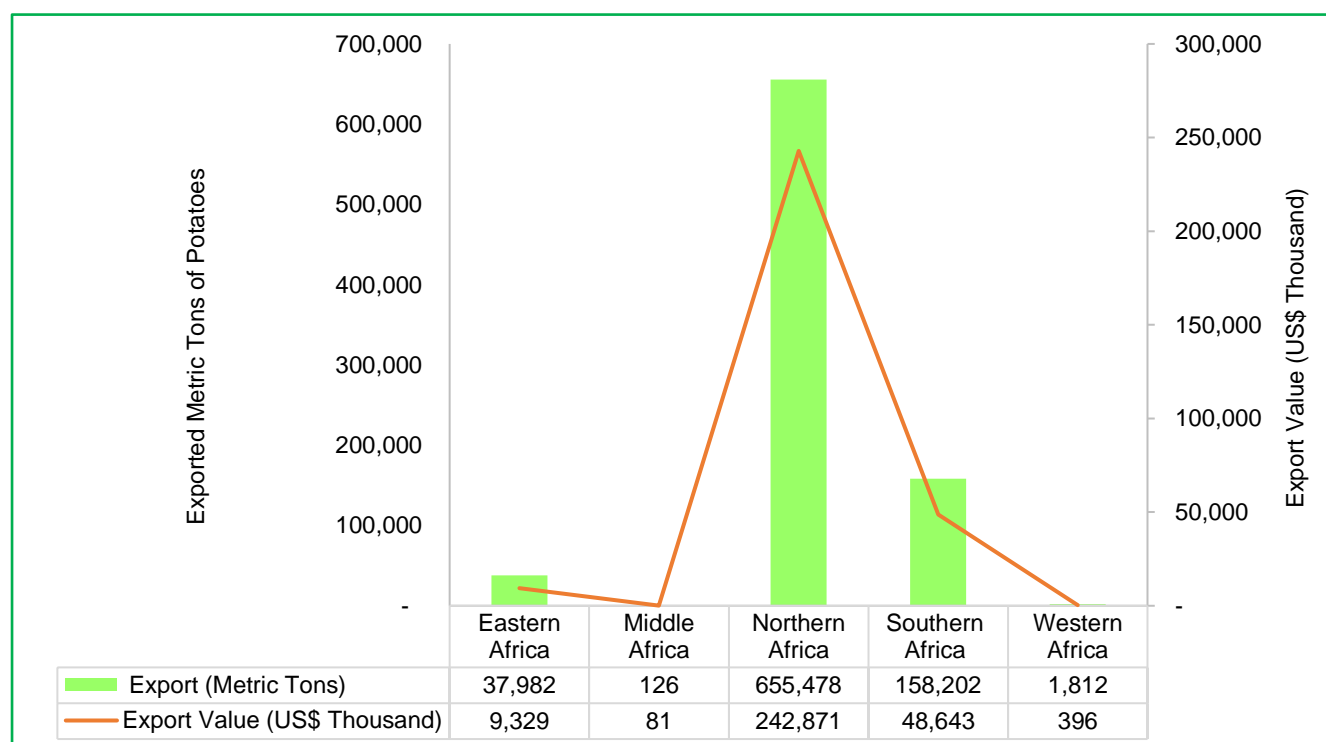
Figure 9: Yields obtained per hectare by African countries (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

The Top 5 potato-producing countries in Africa during 2020 were Egypt (5.2 million tonnes), Algeria (4.7 million tonnes), South Africa (2.6 million tonnes), Kenya (1.8 million tonnes), and Morocco (1.7 million tonnes), whilst the bottom 6 include Comoros (716 tonnes), Central Africa Republic (1331 tonnes), Botswana (5 260 tonnes), Congo (7025 tonnes), Eswatini (8300) and Namibia (14 328 tonnes) (FAOSTAT, 2021).

CONSUMPTION: Specific consumption of potatoes by Africa could not be obtained by the NAB research team at the time of compiling this report. However, out of 25 million tonnes of potatoes produced, only 853 600 metric tonnes of fresh potatoes are exported by Africa with unknown quantities exported within Africa, whereas more or less the same quantities of 893 228 metric tonnes are imported (FAOSTAT, 2021). This signifies that Africa consumes over 25 million metric tonnes of potatoes on average.

EXPORT: FAOSTAT (2021) shows that Africa exported about 854 thousand tonnes. This is 6% of potatoes exported in the world on average during the past 5 years, with an average value of US\$301 million (N\$4.7 billion). Figure 10 presents metric tonnes of potatoes exported and values received for such exports by each African region. Northern Africa is presented as the highest region, both in terms of average quantity (656 thousand metric tonnes) and value (N\$ 3.8 billion) of exports, while Middle Africa is the lowest in both the quantities (126 metric tonnes) and values (N\$1.3 million). However, Middle Africa exported at the highest price of N\$8 933/t, whilst, Western Africa exported at the lowest



average price of N\$3 639/t.

Figure 10: Potato export share by African regions (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Potatoes: Average export value and value per tonne in N\$: (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Eastern: N\$145.3 million @ N\$3 683/t
 Middle: N\$1.3 million @ N\$8 933/t
 Northern: N\$3.8 billion @ N\$5 622/t
 Southern: N\$757.6 million @ N\$4 738/t
 Western: N\$6.2million @ N\$3 629/t

According to FAOSTAT (2021), an average of about 82 400 tonnes of frozen potatoes were exported by Africa from 2016 to 2020, worth approximately US\$46 million (N\$716.4 million) on average. Figure 11 presents the metric tonnes of frozen potatoes exported and values and unit values gained from such exports by each African region. Northern Africa was the highest, both in terms of quantity (47 360 metric tonnes) and value (N\$696.3 million) of exports, while Middle Africa was the lowest in both quantity (25 metric tonnes) and value (N\$370 000) of frozen potatoes exported. However, Southern Africa exported at the highest price of N\$17 334/t, whilst, Western Africa exported at the lowest price of N\$4 932/t.

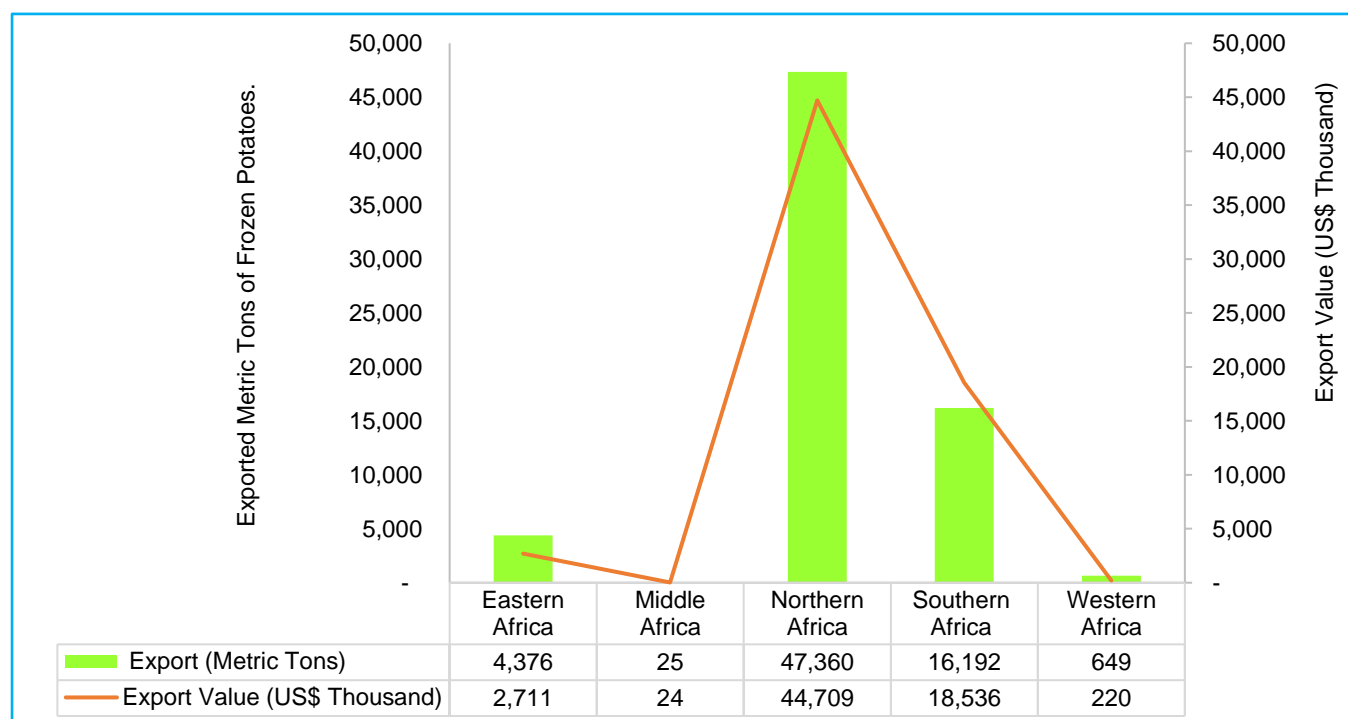


Figure 11: Frozen potato export share by African regions (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Frozen potatoes: Average export value and price per tonne in N\$: (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Eastern: N\$41.4 million @ N\$10 413/t
 Middle: N\$366 720 @ N\$16 136/t
 Northern: N\$683.2 million @ N\$15 867/t
 Southern: N\$283.2 million @ N\$19 241/t
 Western: N\$3.4million @ N\$5 698/t

Frozen Potatoes: Average export value and price per tonne N\$: (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Eastern: N\$ 42.2million @ N\$6 506/t
 Middle: N\$ 0.37million @ N\$9 448/t
 Northern: N\$696.3million @ N\$14 561/t
 Southern: N\$ 288.7million @ N\$17 334/t
 Western: N\$ 3.4million @ N\$4 932/t

IMPORT: FAOSTAT (2021) shows that on average of 5 years (2016 – 2020), Africa imported about 893 thousand tonnes of potatoes with an average value of about US\$386 million (N\$6.01 billion), which is above the US\$301 million (N\$4.7 billion) received from exports by Africa.

Figure 12 presents metric tonnes of potatoes imported, as well as the values and unit values paid for such imports by each African region. Northern Africa is highest, both in terms of quantities and the values of imports. Northern Africa as well imported at the highest price of N\$9 296/t, whilst Western Africa imported at the lowest price of N\$3 984/t.

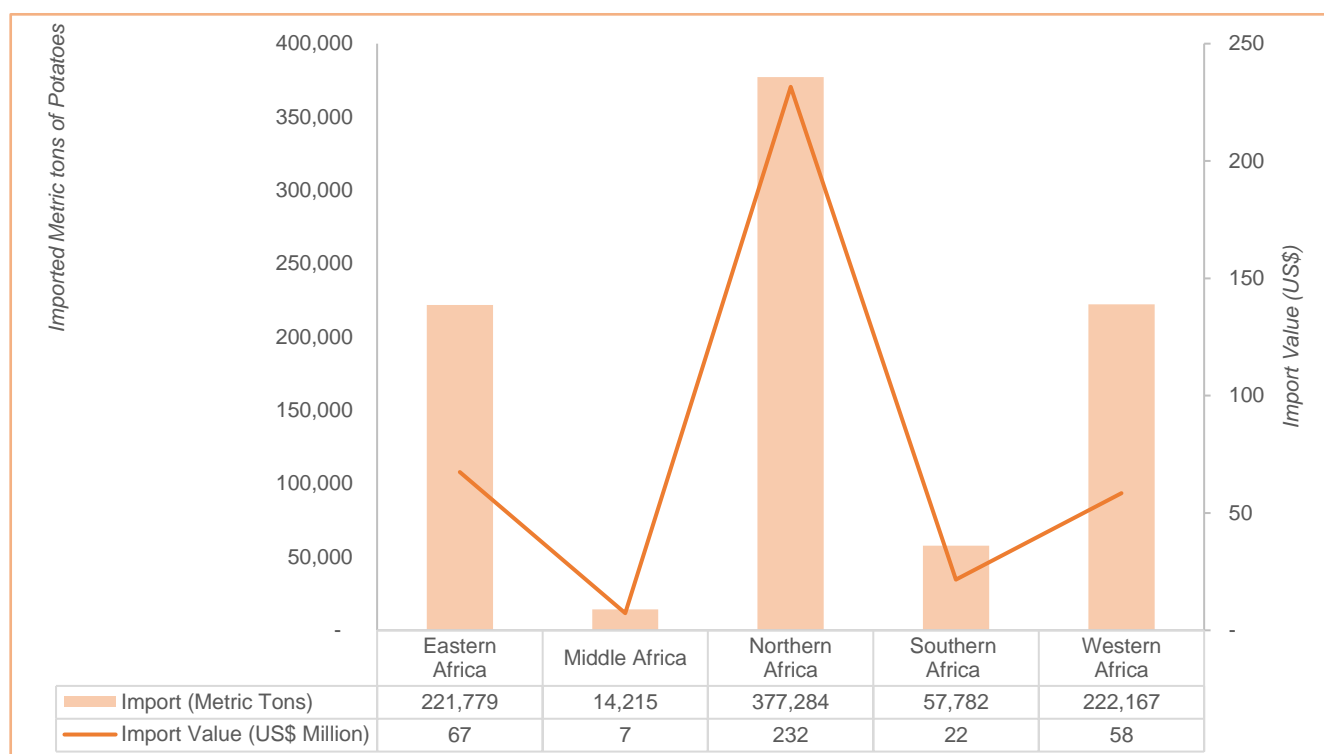


Figure 12: Potato import share by African regions (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Potatoes: Average import value and value per tonne in N\$: (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Eastern: N\$1.04 billion @ N\$4 588/t
 Middle: N\$109 million @ N\$7 697/t
 Northern: N\$3.6. billion @ N\$9 296/t
 Southern: N\$342.6million @ N\$5 629/t
 Western: N\$ 903 million @N\$3 984/t

From 2016 to 2020, about 132 thousand tonnes of frozen potatoes were imported by African countries, worth around US\$21 million (N\$327.05 million) on average (FAOSTAT, 2021). Figure 13 presents metric tonnes of frozen potatoes imported, as well as the values and unit values paid for such imports by each African region. Eastern Africa is highest, in terms of the quantities of imports (35 105 metric tonnes), whilst Middle Africa is lowest (10 250 metric tonnes). Northern Africa and Southern Africa are

equally highest in terms of the value of imported frozen potatoes of N\$451.7 million each, while Middle Africa is as well the lowest with N\$140.2 million. Northern Africa imported at the highest price of N\$14 110/t, whilst, Western Africa imported at the lowest price of N\$9 870/t.

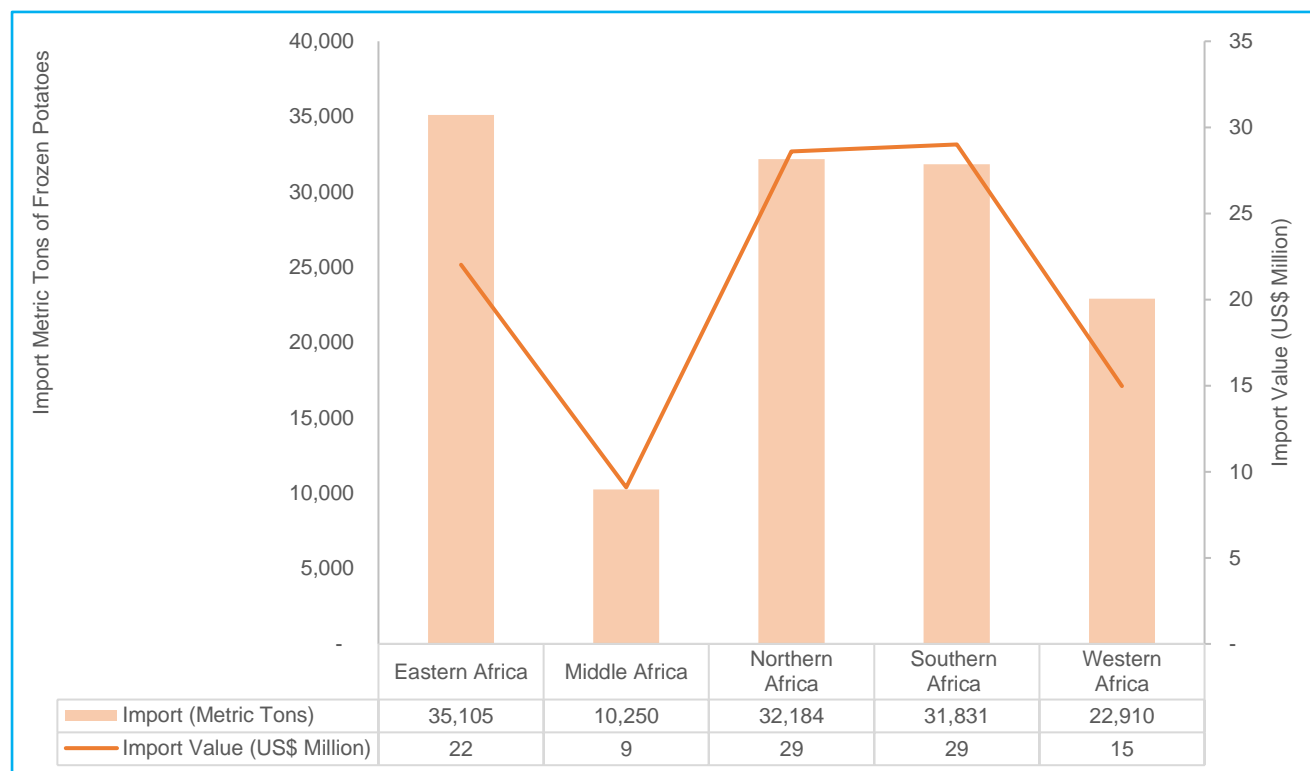


Figure 13: Frozen potato import share by African regions (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: FAOSTAT (2021)

Frozen potatoes: Average import value and price per tonne in N\$: (Conversion date: 31.01.2022):

Eastern: N\$ 342.6million @ N\$12 344/t
 Middle: N\$ 140.2 million @ N\$13 778/t
 Northern: N\$ 451.7million @ N\$14 110/t
 Southern: N\$ 451.7million @ N\$13 854/t
 Western: N\$ 233.6 million @ N\$9 870/t

SEED POTATOES: Africa exported about 36 thousand metric tonnes of seed potatoes in 2019, compared to 29 thousand metric tonnes in 2020, valued at US\$15 million (N\$233.6 million) during 2019 and likewise in 2020 (FAOSTAT,2021). The Top 10 supplying countries are presented in table 3 in terms of metric tonnes exported and value during 2020, as well as the average value per metric tonne exported from 2016 to 2020.

South Africa was the main seed potato exporter in Africa, exporting over 12 000 tonnes of seed potatoes, followed by Egypt exporting nearly 9 thousand tonnes. Ethiopia was the cheapest exporter in terms of average value per tonne (N\$3 176/ton) while Morocco was the highest at N\$11 571/tonne.

Table 3: Top 10 seed potato exporting countries in Africa

Country	Exported metric tonnes in 2020	Export value (N\$ million)	Average: 2016 - 2020 value per metric tonnes in N\$ exported
South Africa	12012	114.3	8,517
Egypt	8961	93.9	6,182
Ethiopia	5877	21.4	3,176
Algeria	720	2.8	4,670
Nigeria	368	2.6	6,977
Uganda	210	1.0	6,780
Tunisia	135	1.1	10,735
Morocco	130	3.6	11,571
Zambia	101	0.6	5,505
Senegal	71	0.5	6,138

Source: (ITC, 2021)

During 2020, Africa imported seed potatoes valued at about US\$195 million (N\$ 3.04 billion) compared to over US\$238 million (N\$ 3.7 billion) imported in 2019, whereas the metric tonnes imported are unspecified as observed from ITC (2021). The latest figure available is that of 2016, whereby over 401 thousand metric tonnes were imported by Africa on aggregate.

Table 4 presents the metric tonnes and the value imported by the Top 10 African countries in 2020 and the average value per tonne imported, using 2016 to 2020 averages. Egypt was the largest (115 000 tons) importer of seed potatoes in Africa followed by Algeria (62 000 tonnes). More so, Egypt paid the highest (N\$20 615/ton) per tonne of seed potatoes imported while Senegal was the lowest (N\$8 177/ton).

Table 4: Top 10 seed potato importing countries in Africa

Country	Exported metric tonnes in 2020 (Thousand)	Export value (N\$ Million)	Average: 2016-2020 - Value per metric tonne N\$ Exported
Egypt	115	1,248	20,615
Algeria	62	565	9,167
Morocco	61	487	8,199
Tunisia	22	223	9,802
Senegal	10	60	8,177
Mali	9	84	8,962
Sudan	7	57	9,093
Zimbabwe	7	76	10,268
Nigeria	3	49	18,091
Niger	2	32	12,113

Source: ITC (2021)

SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) PERSPECTIVE:

PRODUCTION: Potato production in Southern Africa was at 2.7 million tonnes in 2020, harvested from more than 82 thousand hectares, whereas, the average yield stood at 33 tons/ha, higher than the African continental average, which is at 15 tons/ha (FAOSTAT, 2021). Statistics from FAOSTAT (2021) reveal that South Africa produced 2.6 million metric tonnes (average: 2016-2020), making it the largest potato-producing country in SADC.

Other selected SADC countries produced as follows: Malawi about 1.3 million metric tonnes, Angola with 446 000 metric tonnes, Mozambique with 313 000 metric tonnes, Madagascar with 248 000 metric tonnes, and Lesotho with 129 000 metric tonnes (FAOSTAT, 2021). The yield for South Africa was 37 tonnes/ha, higher than the SADC regional average of 33 tonnes/ha and far better than the African continental average of 15 tonnes/ha.

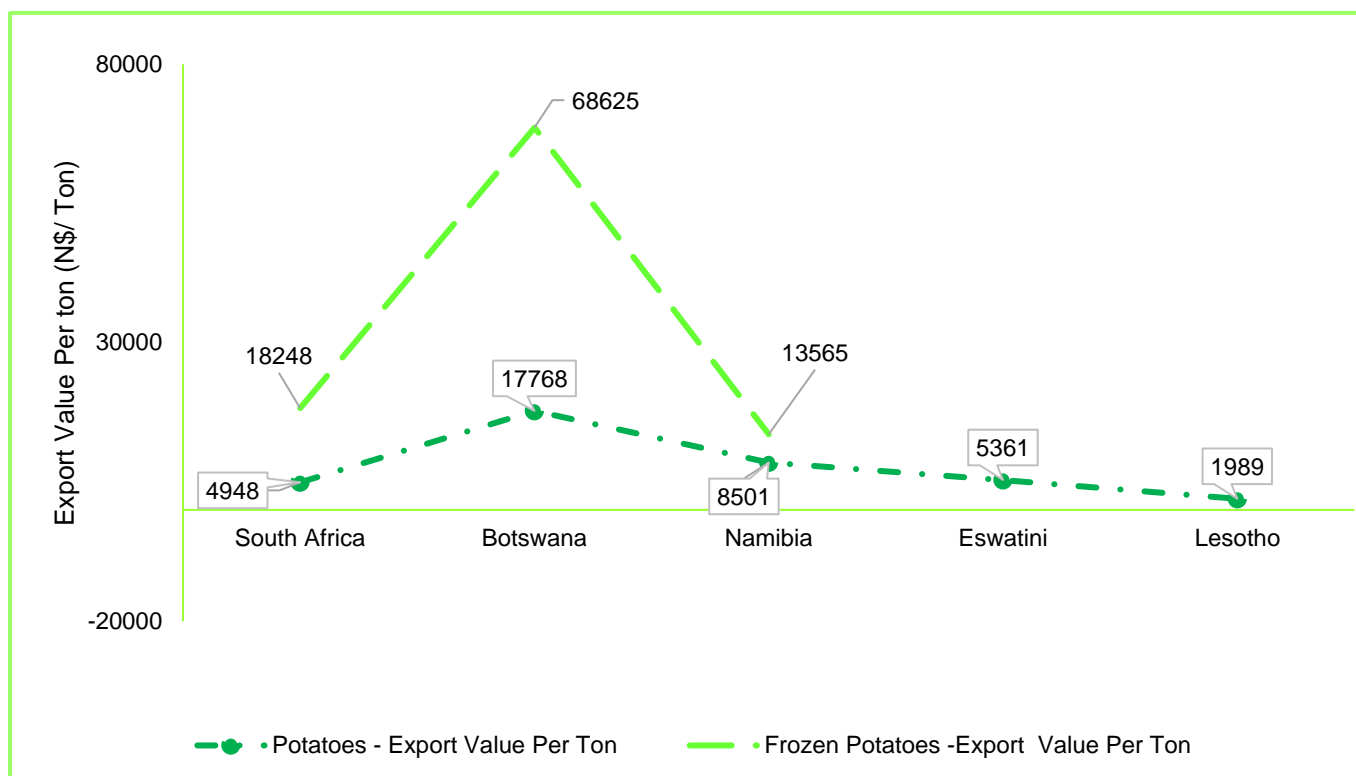
CONSUMPTION: There are no current statistics available to report on the actual consumption of potatoes by Southern Africa. Nevertheless, from 2.7 million metric tonnes produced in Southern Africa, only 158 thousand metric tonnes were exported, including those exported to other African countries, whereas, the imports were also as low as 58 thousand metric tonnes and these are averages of 2016 to 2020 (FAOSTAT, 2021). These figures lead to an assumption that the Southern Africa region consumed approximately 2.6 million metric tonnes of potatoes on average.



EXPORTS: Southern Africa exported more than 158 thousand metric tonnes of potatoes, valued at about US\$49 million (N\$ 763.1 million), as well as more than 16 000 metric tonnes of frozen potatoes worth about US\$19 million (N\$ 295.9 million) (FAOSTATS, 2021). Southern Africa only accounts for 18.5% of potatoes and 19.7% of frozen potatoes exported by the African continent on average from 2016 to 2020.

From 2016 to 2020, the Top 5 average exporters of fresh potatoes were South Africa (157 632 tonnes), Namibia (544 tonnes), Lesotho (48 tonnes), Eswatini (22 tonnes), and Botswana (53 tonnes); while for frozen potatoes, only 3 exporters were found in the SADC and these were South Africa (15 819 tonnes), Namibia (320 tonnes) and Botswana (53 tonnes) (FAOSTAT, 2021). However, exports of frozen potatoes by Namibia and Botswana are likely to be re-exports.

Figure 14 below presents the average value per tonne for fresh and frozen potatoes exported by the Top 5 exporting countries in SADC, where Botswana pays the highest for both fresh and frozen



potatoes.

Figure 14: Export value per tonne of fresh and frozen potatoes exported by Top 5 SADC Countries (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: ITC (2021) & FAOSTAT (2021)

IMPORTS: Southern Africa imported roughly 58 000 metric tonnes of potatoes on average, worth about US\$22 million (N\$342.6 million) (average: 2016 - 2020) and about 32 000 metric tonnes of frozen potatoes worth more than US\$29 million (N\$451.65 million) (FAOSTAT, 2021). However, Southern Africa only accounts for 6.5% of potatoes imported by Africa, whereas, more than 24% of frozen potatoes imported by Africa were landing in Southern African countries. On a five years average (2016-2020), Namibia imported about 24 267 metric tonnes, Botswana 14 300 metric tonnes, Eswatini 10 583 metric tonnes, Lesotho 8 256 metric tonnes, and South Africa 544 metric tonnes of potatoes (FAOSTAT, 2021).

FAOSTAT (2021) further shows that in terms of the annual average frozen potatoes imported per annum from 2016 - 2020, SADC countries were in the following descending order: South Africa 18 196 metric tonnes, Namibia 3 754 metric tonnes, Botswana 8 255 metric tonnes, Eswatini 1 475 metric tonnes and Lesotho 151 metric tonnes.

Figure 15 hereunder presents the average value per tonne for fresh and frozen potatoes imported by a few selected SADC countries, where Lesotho pays the highest (N\$33 094) for imported frozen potatoes and South Africa pays the highest (N\$8 579) for imported fresh potatoes.

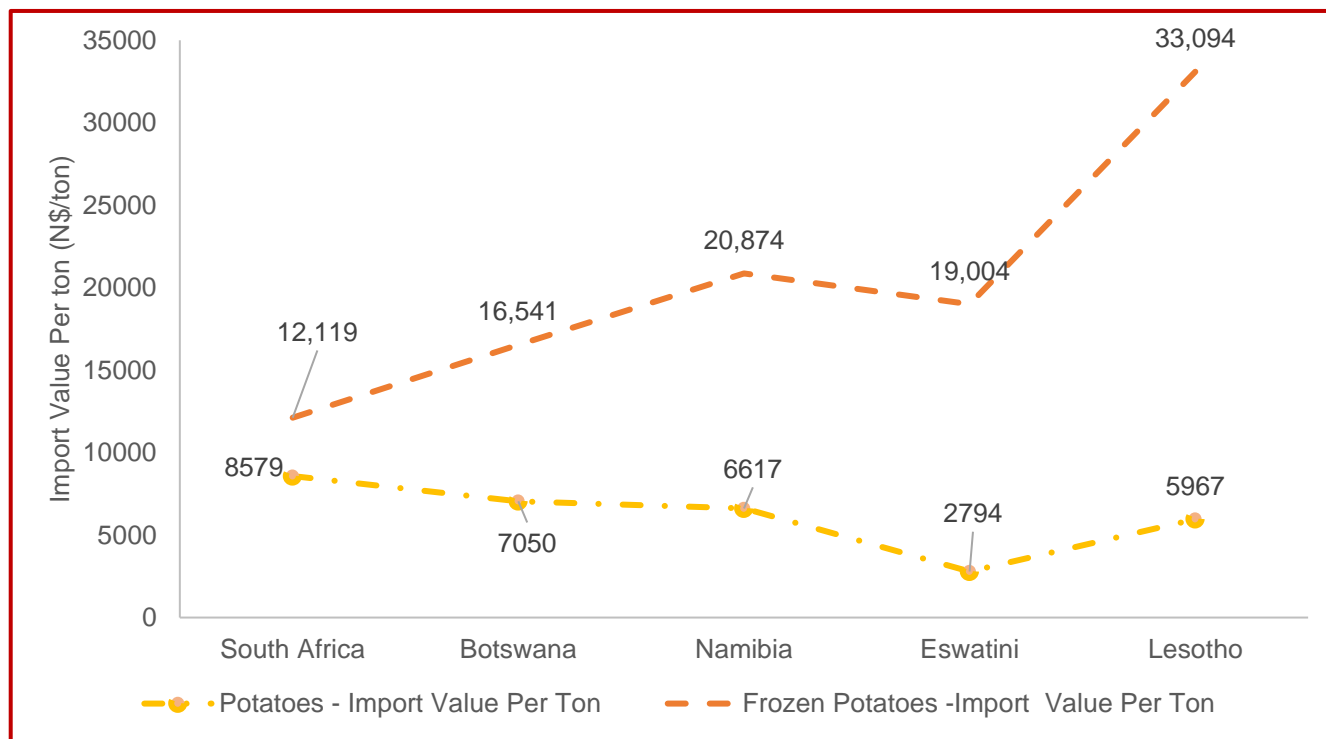


Figure 15: Import value per tonne of fresh and frozen potatoes (average: 2016 - 2020)

Source: ITC (2021) & FAOSTAT (2021)

SEED POTATOES: SADC exported about 12 138 metric tonnes of seed potatoes valued at nearly N\$115 million and South Africa accounts for over 99% of these exports, exported at N\$9 485/tonne on average, whereas, only a few exports of seed potatoes were by Zambia at N\$5 505/tonne and mainly by Eswatini at N\$9 540/tonne (ITC, 2021). SADC has a trade deficit on seed potatoes as well, evidenced by a negative trade balance from 2009 to 2020 (Jooste, 2018). About 13 160 metric tonnes of seed potatoes were imported by SADC during 2019, at an aggregate value of more than N\$152 million (ITC, 2020). While there are no quantities specified, SADC imported seed potatoes valued at more than N\$177 million in 2020 (ITC, 2020).

Table 5 presents the seed potatoes traded by a few selected SADC countries. South Africa was the only country with a positive seed potato trade balance of nearly N\$110 million. Zimbabwe was the highest in the importation of seed potatoes among the selected countries as it imported nearly 7 000 metric tonnes at an average value of N\$11 152/tonne, followed by Namibia with over N\$2 000 metric tonnes at an average value of N\$9 294/tonne. With an exception of Angola, Mauritius, and Tanzania, seed potatoes supply in SADC is mainly dependent on South Africa. The former mainly source their seed potato supplies from overseas countries such as the Netherlands, France, Australia, Portugal, Germany, the United Kingdom, and seldomly China (Table 5).

Table 5: Seed potatoes trade in a few selected SADC countries during 2020

Country	Import tonnage	Import value (N\$ Million)	Export tonnage	Export value (N\$ Million)	Trade balance (N\$ Million)	Importer countries during 2020	Exporter countries during 2020
Zimbabwe	6 775	76			-76		South Africa 87.6% and Netherlands 12.4%
Namibia	2 173	20			-20		South Africa 99.8% and Austria 0.14%
Mauritius	1333	20			-20		France 50.9%, Australia 34.7%, Netherlands 11.6%, South Africa 3.7%, and China
Botswana (2019)	1 140	14			-14		South Africa 78.4%, Netherlands 21.6%
Angola (2019)	1 042	16			-16		Netherlands 31.2%, South Africa 20.4%, Portugal 19.5%, Belgium 17.9%, France 7.5%, Denmark 1.7%, China 0.98%, Namibia 0.53%, Brazil 0.09%
Zambia	763	12	101	0.6	-12	Zimbabwe 100%	Netherlands 29.4%, South Africa 60.5%, Germany 10.1%
Tanzania	408	1.5			-1.5		Netherlands 70.6% and Kenya 29.4%
South Africa	402	5	12 012	114	+110	Zimbabwe 51%, Namibia 18.3%, Botswana 16.3%, Mozambique 4.3%, Zambia 2.5%, Area Nes 2.3% and Others 5.3%	Netherlands 92.8%, France 4.7%, United Kingdom 2.5%
Lesotho	367	2.9			-2.9		South Africa 100%
Mozambique	309	5.8			-5.8		South Africa 84% and Netherlands 16%

Source: ITC (2021)

DOMESTIC PERSPECTIVE

PRODUCTION, EXPORTATION AND IMPORTATION: As of the 2018/19 financial year, Namibia's potato demand accounted for 39% of horticultural produce demand, whereas domestic potato farmers harvested around 10 328 metric tonnes valued at N\$ 8.8 million and these are traded in the formal market. Potatoes traded at informal markets are estimated to have a ratio of 41% in relation to the tonnage traded via formal markets. Hence, about 7 117 metric tonnes are estimated to have been domestically harvested and sold via informal markets (NAB, 2019). According to FAOSTAT (2021), Namibia produced 14 138 metric tonnes during 2020, whereas 20 053 metric tonnes were imported in the same year. In addition to fresh potatoes, from 2016 to 2020, the domestic market imported about 3 754 metric tonnes on average of frozen potatoes (FAOSTAT, 2021).

Figure 16 presents metric tonnes of potatoes produced, exported, and imported by Namibia during the 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 financial years. Figure 17 presents the values of these particular metric tonnes. The domestic production of potatoes grew by 36%, exports decreased by 90%, whilst imports grew by 18%. The diminishing Angolan export market may have largely contributed to the 90% decline in potato exports.






 2014/15	 2015/16	 2016/17	 2017/18	 2018/19
Local Tonnage: 6 614	Local Tonnage: 7 055	Local Tonnage: 5 544	Local Tonnage: 7 843	Local Tonnage: 10 328
Export Tonnage: 2 715	Export Tonnage: 3 213	Export Tonnage: 349	Export Tonnage: 456	Export Tonnage: 262
Import Tonnage: 19 126	Import Tonnage: 19 651	Import Tonnage: 17 048	Import Tonnage: 23 655.	Import Tonnage: 23 427

Figure 16: Tonnage of potatoes produced (local consumption & exports) and imported by Namibia Source: NAB, 2019






 2014/15	 2015/16	 2016/17	 2017/18	 2018/19
Local Value: N\$ 34, 8 million	Local Value: N\$ 45, 8 million	Local Value: N\$ 43, 2 million	Local Value: N\$ 27,9 million	Local Value: N\$ 58,8 million
Export Value: N\$ 8, 3 million	Export Value: N\$ 12, 03 million	Export Value: N\$ 1,7 million	Export Value: N\$ 2, 09 million	Export Value: N\$ 1.2 million
Import Value: N\$ 111, 5 million	Import Value: N\$ 125, 8 million	Import Value: N\$ 108, 6 million	Import Value: 120,9 million	Import Value: N\$ 109,2 million

Figure 17: Value of potatoes produced (local consumption and exports) and imported by Namibia (Source: NAB, 2019)

“Potato farming remains a challenge, especially in terms of access to seed potatoes and value addition. Availability and access to good quality seed potatoes remain the biggest concern to Namibian potato producers as they have to order seed potatoes in bulk and at least three months in advance, which has negatively affected local potato production” (NAB, 2021). Due to the accessibility of seed materials and

related inputs, potatoes are mostly produced at a large scale and commercial level in Namibia. However, efforts are being made by the NAB to facilitate the accessibility of seed materials to small-holder producers who want to venture into potato production. According to ITC (2021), Namibia imported 2 173 metric tonnes of seed potatoes during 2020, worth over N\$20 million, while there are no exports.

CONSUMPTION: About 41% (7 117 metric tonnes) of potatoes produced in Namibia is informally traded, which often goes unrecorded (NAB, 2019). Records of the formal market may not fully represent Namibia's full consumption of potatoes. However, Namibia's consumption of fresh potatoes could be estimated using the 2018/2019 figures as follows: local production that went to formal markets (10 328 tonnes) minus export quantities (262 tonnes) plus import quantities (23 427 tonnes) and informal market quantities that are estimated at 7 177 metric tonnes. Thus, the total annual domestic potatoes consumption is approximately 40 670 metric tonnes, calculated as $10\,328 - (262 + 23\,427 + 7\,177) = 40\,670$ metric tonnes. According to FAOSTAT (2021), in 2020, Namibia's domestic production quantity was 14 328 metric tonnes, whereas exports were only 174 metric tonnes, whilst the imports were 20 053 metric tonnes.

Besides fresh potatoes and seed potatoes, FAOSTAT (2021) shows that Namibia imported 3 754 metric tonnes of frozen potatoes (average: 2016-2020) at an average value of about N\$79 million, while 320 metric tonnes valued at about N\$3.9 million were exported, perhaps as re-exports. Since there is no known production of frozen potatoes in Namibia, imports minus re-exports may justify the consumption. The consumption of frozen potatoes is therefore about 3 434 metric tonnes (average: 2016 – 2020). These statistics imply that Namibia's potato industry is highly dominated by imports.

KEY POTENTIALS TO UNLOCK GROWTH IN POTATO FARMING:

The statistics in this report reflect that SADC countries, except South Africa (SA), are net importers of seed, fresh and frozen potatoes. SA is a net importer of frozen potatoes as well. Improved investment in potato value chain activities could be the number one key potential to unlock growth in potato farming. Local and foreign investment opportunities in the potato value chain also include the following: Production and manufacturing of farm inputs production such as seed potatoes multiplication and agrochemicals production (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and nematicides) and development infrastructures such as storage, washing, and agro-processing facilities. Namibian traders of fresh produce are committed to sourcing local produce in line with the requirements of the Market Share Promotion (MSP) scheme and under this scheme, traders are required to buy a minimum percentage of their horticultural products from local farmers, which currently stands at 47% (NAB, 2019).

REFERENCES

- FAOSTAT. (2021). Crop. <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QC/visualize>. Retrieved on 05.01.2022.
- Helgi Library (2022). <https://www.helgilibrary.com/indicators/potato-consumption-per-capita>. Retrieved on 14.01.2022.
- International Trade Centre (ITC, 2021).
https://www.trademap.org/Country_SelProduct_TS.aspx?nvpmptatoes. Retrieved on 07.01.2022.
- International Potato Centre (2018). https://cipotato.org/press_room/blogs/potato-production-in-africa-can-be-increased-by-140. Retrieved on 16.01.2022.
- International Potato Centre (2017). https://cipotato.org/press_room/blogs/potato-production-in-africa-can-be-increased-by-140-find-out-why/. Retrieved on 01.03.2019.
- Jooste, A. (2018). Potatoes: A view from the South. University of Stellenbosch. Department of Agriculture Economics.
- Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB). (2019). Annual Report.
- Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB). (2021). The adaptability of French Potato Varieties in Namibia. <https://www.nab.com.na/research-and-development/research-reports>. Retrieved on 25.01.2022.
- Olsen, P. (2015). Global potato production. A report for the New Zealand Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust. New Zealand.
- Zarka, K. A., Kells, D.C., Douches D. S & Buell C. R (n.d.). *Guide to Growing Potatoes in Your Home Garden*. Michigan State University and the MSU Potato Breeding and Genetics Program. The USA.



PUBLISHED BY:
NAMIBIAN AGRONOMIC BOARD
Agronomy and Horticulture Development Division
Research and Policy Development Subdivision

Address: P.O. Box 5096, Windhoek

Tel: 061 379 500

Website: www.nab.com.nab

DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this document results from desktop research conducted wholly by the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) for information purposes and in good faith. Sentiments, attitudes, and points of view expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the NAB. The NAB makes no claims and assurances about the accuracy and inclusiveness of the contents of this document, and the author(s) or NAB, therefore, accepts no liability for losses incurred resulting from the use of this information. Any reference made to a specific product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, and a manufacturer or other commercial commodity or entity is for information purposes only and does not imply approval, endorsement, or favouring by the NAB.

