



NUST BRIEF

Developing the Home-Grown School Feeding Initiative



Bai Mankay Sankoh, Country Director: World Food Programme (left), and Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST Vice-Chancellor.

NUST, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC), and the World Food Programme (WFP), signed a Partnership Agreement to develop the Home-Grown School Feeding Project (HGSFP).

The HGSFP is set to help small holder farmers become more self-sufficient, increase household income while enriching school meals with nutritious fresh foods.

The HGSFP is aligned to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. According to statistics, every school day about 330 000 pre-primary and primary school learners in 1 400 schools across the country are fed by the MoEAC. School feeding programmes are aimed at improving the nutritional health status of children, including cognitive development.

Through the Agreement, NUST will provide support in designing and drafting the programme together with a multi-sectoral design team. This team is composed of representatives of the WFP, the MoEAC, the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry, the Ministry of Industrialisation and SME Development, and Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations.

The NUST team will be led by Dr Hylton Villet,

Director of the Harold Pukewitz Business School, with support of staff from the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences and the Namibia-German Institute of Logistics. The NUST Projects Services Unit will facilitate the collaboration to ensure the project outcomes and deliverables.

The Partnership Agreement and its respective addendum, was signed by the WFP Country Director, Bai Mankay Sankoh, and the NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tjama Tjivikua.

"This collaboration complements the capacity building for the sustainable development notion which is critical for the WFP," remarked Sankoh. The Partnership Agreement facilitates collaboration focused on the provision of evidence-based policy and strategic support to the development agenda of the Republic of Namibia.

The Vice-Chancellor echoed with similar sentiments indicating that: "NUST strongly believes in a bottom-up involvement to ensure that communities at the grass-roots level are involved in shaping their own food security in the future."

And the winner is...

Windhoek International School!

First-time entrant in the third NUST Annual Brain Match, Windhoek International School, won the top prize, beating more than 30 high schools that took part in this year's competition. The match is organised by the Faculty of Engineering.

About 600 learners from the Khomas, Hardap and Otjozondjupa regions, gathered at the NUST campus for the two-day event.

The aim of the Brain Match is to sensitise learners about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). In the final lap, St George's Diocesan High School, Delta Secondary School, Hage Geingob High School and Windhoek International went head-to-head being quizzed on questions that ranged from general knowledge of Namibia to chemistry, mathematics, physics and renewable energy.

The first runner-up was Windhoek International School, followed by Delta Secondary School and Hage Geingob High School, respectively. In the last two years, the accolades went to St George's Diocesan School.

During the closing ceremony, Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor, encouraged the learners to stay focused and to strive continuously to be come

better in the STEM subjects. He further thanked all the schools and learners for their participation in the match, emphasising that even though there could be only one winner, they all deserved recognition for their hard work.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr Samuel John, commended the inclusion of questions focused on renewable energy in the competition. He said renewable energy is becoming a hot topic, specifically in Namibia where renewable energy resources are in abundance.

Prof Victor Kamara, Associate Dean: Teaching and Learning, in the Faculty of Engineering, encouraged learners to consider pursuing careers in STEM-related fields, with a particular focus on NUST being their university of choice.

The competition is open to both public and private schools and the organisers envisage that this will become a national event in the near future.



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LEARNERS, from left: Ilja Krafft; Janine Tibazarwa; Jacob Oluwasanmi (Teacher); Lucy Hopwood, and Daniel Sindila, posing with the NUST Brain Match Trophy.

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