

Attendance at Ogongo Campus Annual Rice Harvest Festival (June,11, 2024)

2024/6/11

On June 11, 2024, Mr. Yamada, the Head of Economic and Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Japan attended at Ogongo Campus Annual Rice Harvest Festival held at the Ogongo Campus of the University of Namibia. The Okalongo Constituency Councilor and Member of Parliament Hon. Laurentius M. lipinge, Mr. Willy Mertens the CEO of DEBMARINE Namibia as well as the top officials of the University of Namibia including Vice Chancellor Prof. Kenneth Matengu expressed their appreciation for the Japanese government's longstanding support to Namibia in the agricultural and educational sectors and for the Japanese contribution to Namibia's food security through such support. The interest of the Namibian people in Ogongo rice cultivation was very high, and there were many attendees from all over the country as well as local farmers who are already producing Ogongo rice. The Ogongo rice, grown by local secondary school students as part of their agricultural training was harvested this year, making the harvest festival a collaborative effort between the university and the locals.

Japan's rice farming cooperation with the University of Namibia began in 2001 when the University of Namibia requested Nagoya University to cooperate with. To date, several programs have continued for more than 20 years, and for now rice cultivation guidance and academic research with Kinki University and Fukushima University are being implemented. The fact that the Embassy of Japan has been invited to this harvest festival every year is an expression of the gratitude of the University of Namibia and the people of Namibia for the contribution of Japanese support to food security in Namibia, including rice cultivation at the University of Namibia.



The speech of the Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nishimaki was read by Mr. Yamada, Head of Economic & Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Japan in Namibia.



(From Left) Prof. Kenneth Matengu– Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Willy Mertens the CEO of DEBMARINE Namibia, Okalongo Constituency Councilor and Member of Parliament Hon. Laurentius M. lipinge and Prof. Simon Awala – Head of Department Crop Production and Agricultural Technologies.

