

## Attendance at the 2025 UNAM Ogongo Campus Annual Rice Harvest Festival (19 June 2025)

On June 19, 2025, Ambassador Asazuma was the keynote speaker at the 2025 Ogongo Campus Annual Rice Harvest Festival held at the Ogongo Campus Farm of the University of Namibia in Omusati Region.

The Ogongo rice production efforts stems from the Japan–Namibia Rice and Mahangu Project (2012 – 2017) which was led by JICA and other Japanese Institutions in partnership with UNAM Ogongo Campus. JICA Country Representative Mr. Akahiko Hoshino also attended the event with other dignitaries such as Governor of Omusati Region Hon. Erginus Endjala, Governor of Oshana Region Hon. Elia Kaulifewangali Irimari, Member of Parliament Hon. Gerhard Shiimi Regional Constituency Councilor of Elim Constituency and other regional constituency councilors of Ogongo and Oshikuku constituencies, etc. DEBMARINE Namibia EXCO member and Mineral Resources Manager Mr. Godfrey Ngaisiue as well as the top officials of the University of Namibia including Vice Chancellor Prof. Kenneth Matengu and the Ogongo Campus Director Dr. Chris Mberema expressed their appreciation for the Japanese government's legacy in rice production and the longstanding Japan support to Namibia in the agriculture and education sectors leading to Namibia's improving food security through such support.



(Left) Ambassador Asazuma delivering the keynote address and (right) two smallholder farmers from different villages sharing their experiences on how producing rice have improved their livelihoods.



Ambassador Asazuma (Left) and Mr. Hoshino of JICA (Right) participating in the harvesting of rice at Ogongo.





(Left) Prof. Simon Awala – UNAM Head of Department Crop Production and Agricultural Technologies demonstrating the transplanting of rice. Prof. Awala was one of the first recipients of scholarship opportunities from his Masters(Nagoya University) up to his PHD (Kindai University) through the Japan-Namibia Rice and Mahangu Project and now heads the rice production at UNAM Ogongo Campus.



(Above) Some of the products produced at Ogongo



(Left and Above) Some of the JICA sponsored equipment in use for rice production at the UNAM Ogongo campus farm.