



## Factsheet #14



# How to bring knowledge and policies to farmers

## Why this is important

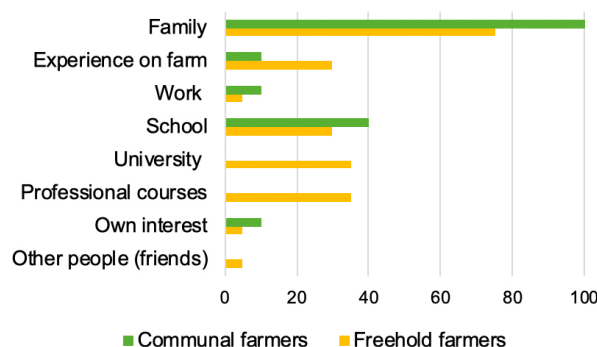
Rangeland management is guided by farmers' management motivation, farmers' knowledge, local or state rules and the context of climatic, ecological and economic conditions. Land degradation and climate change in Namibia make sustainable rangeland management necessary for a future preservation of the rangeland for livestock and wildlife.

Based on our study of farmers' experiences and perceptions in Kunene region, the Namibian state has two main approaches to foster sustainable rangeland management: Bringing knowledge to the farmers and better implement existing policies. The ways to reach communal and freehold farmers differ, therefore the state needs adapted strategies for both.

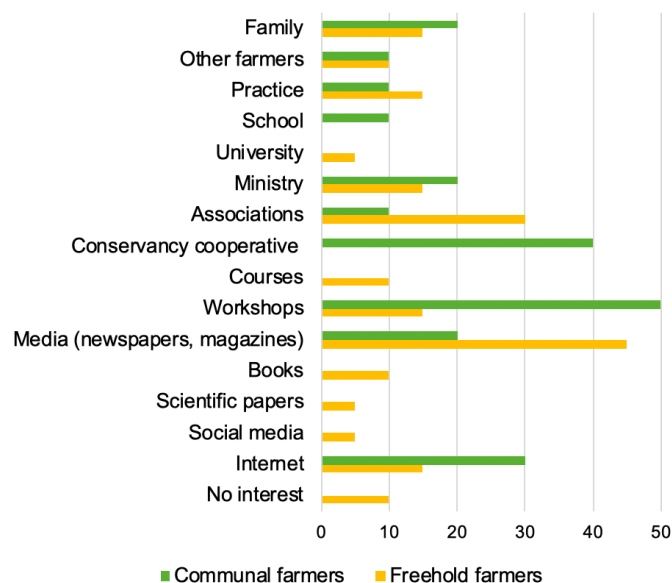
## Key findings on knowledge

- Farming education is the basis for farmers' knowledge, which is partly updated afterwards.
- The transmission of farming knowledge from generation to generation within the family and through the exchange of experience between farmers is a main way of farming education outside the reach of the state.
- The state is responsible for school education addressing communal and freehold farmers and for university education, which is at present particularly relevant for freehold farmers.
- The state should incorporate sustainable rangeland management into the school and university syllabi.
- To update farming knowledge communal farmers rely mainly on workshops while freehold farmers get their information from the media.
- Institutions are key facilitators for new knowledge. The conservancies are important for communal farmers and associations for freehold farmers and to a minor extent also the ministries for both groups.

## Farming education

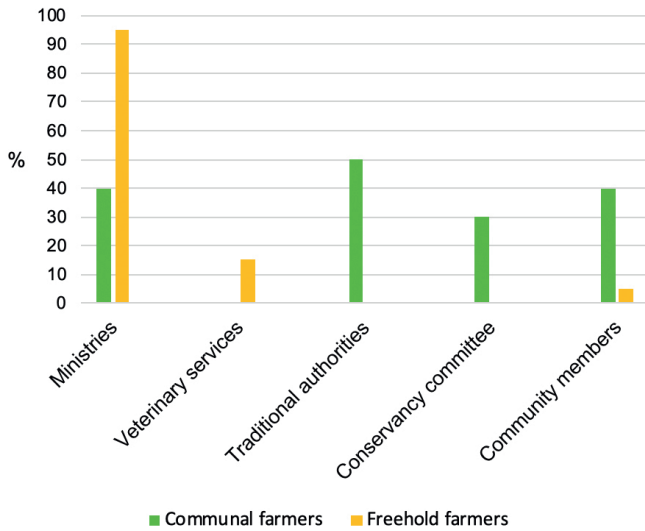


## Sources to update farming knowledge



Tables: Results from a survey with 30 farmers in Kunene region, results are shown in percentage

### Rule-setting institutions



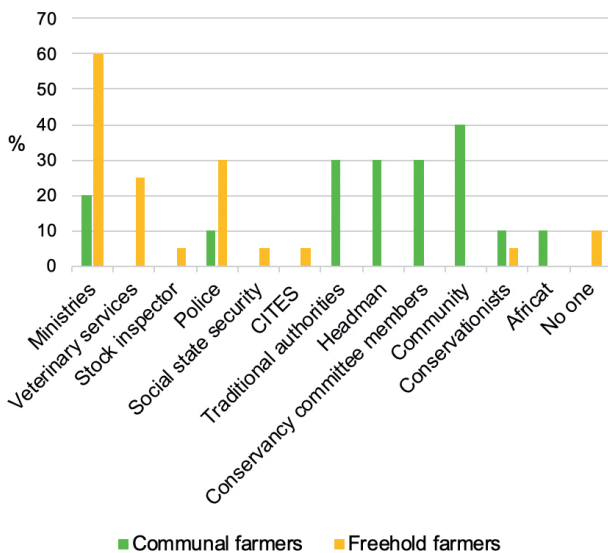
- The state should elaborate a strategy tailored to the different knowledge sources of communal and freehold farmers.
- Communal and freehold farmers have a good knowledge about their surrounding environment. Therefore, education and knowledge transfer should be co-designed between farmers and the state.
- Communal and freehold farmers have a different understanding of nature, which should be taken into account.

### Key findings on policies

- Rules have to be set and then controlled.
- For freehold farmers rules are defined by national ministries.
- For communal farmers rules are also set by ministries but mainly by local institutions. They identified traditional authorities, but also the conservancy as a relatively new institution. This leads to a lack of clarity.
- Rules are influenced by UN conventions (e.g. CITES) that are not recognized by the farmers.
- Freehold farmers see the control of rules in the hands of different state entities (ministries, veterinary services and police).
- For communal farmers ministries and police, but mainly traditional authorities and the conservancy control the rules.

While the communication between the state and freehold farmers is direct, traditional authorities and conservancies act as intermediaries between state and communal farmers.

### Controlling institutions



### Authors

Markus Rauchecker (ISOE<sup>1</sup>, SBIK-F<sup>2</sup>), Alice Cimenti (University of Potsdam), Stefan Liehr (ISOE<sup>1</sup>, SBIK-F<sup>2</sup>)

- 1 ISOE – Institute for Social-Ecological Research
- 2 Senckenberg Biodiversity & Climate Research Centre

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Tables: Results from a survey with 30 farmers in Kunene region, results are shown in percentage

### The ORYCS Project

The German-Namibian research project “ORYCS – Options for sustainable land use adaptations in savanna systems” aims to assess the suitability of wildlife management strategies in Namibia as options for adapting land use to climate change in savanna ecosystems.

[www.orycs.org](http://www.orycs.org)

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### Project Coordination

**German Coordination:**  
PD Dr. Niels Blaum  
E-Mail: [blaum@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:blaum@uni-potsdam.de)

**Namibian Coordination:**  
Dr. Morgan Hauptfleisch  
E-Mail: [mhauptfleisch@nust.na](mailto:mhauptfleisch@nust.na)



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