

Domain	AGRONOMIC CROPS	Unit ID:	1295
Title:	Harvest field crops		
Level: 2			Credits: 2

Purpose

This unit standard specifies the competencies required to harvest horticultural products. It is intended for those who work in agriculture as well as people in other occupations that work with plants. It includes:

- Perform assessment for harvest
- Prepare equipment for harvesting
- Harvest the crop
- Transport the produce.

Special Notes

1. Entry information:

Prerequisite:

- *Unit 1379 - Operate simple farm machinery*

2. This unit standard is to be delivered and assessed in the context of agricultural operations and can be assessed in conjunction with other relevant technical unit standards.

3. The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations.

4. Assessment evidence may be collected from a real workplace or an appropriate simulated environment in which agricultural operations are carried out.

5. All inspection, operation and maintenance procedures associated with the use of tools and equipment shall comply with manufacturers' guidelines and instructions.

6. Demonstration of competence, at a minimum, requires evidence in the harvest of at least one cereal, one legume and a third crop listed in '*Field Crops*' of Section '7. Glossary of terms' below.

7. Glossary of terms

- '*Field crops*' may include, but are not limited to, maize, pearl millet, sorghum, sunflower and legumes.
- '*Tools, equipment and machinery*' may include, but are not limited to, specification charts or aids, bags, tractors, trailers, containers, buckets and bins.
- '*Safety requirements*' may include, but are not limited to, safe systems and procedures for safe use of machinery, tools and equipment, hazard and risk control, manual handling, handling, application and storage of hazardous substances, outdoor work and the use of personal protective equipment.
- '*Workplace procedures*' may include, but are not limited to, industry best practice guidelines on quality, food safety and hygiene, productivity rates required by the

enterprise, work notes, plans, product labels, manufacturer's specifications, operator's manuals, safety plans, fire control, waste disposal.

- 'Hazards' may include, but are not limited to, noise, fumes, hazardous substances, manual handling, sharp tools, slippery or uneven surfaces, soil-borne micro-organisms, electricity, solar radiation, dusts, adverse weather conditions, moving machinery and machinery parts.
- 'Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)' may include, but are not limited to, boots, hat, overalls, gloves, eye and hearing protection, respirator or face mask, waterproof clothing, high visibility clothing and sun protection.

8. Regulations and legislation relevant to this unit standard include the following:

- Labour Act, No. 11, 2007
- Regulations relating to the Health and Safety of employees at work, 1997
- National Agricultural Policy, 1995
- Agronomic Industry Act, 20, 1992
- Standards Act, 2005, Standards Regulations: Standards Act, 2005 and relevant Namibian Standards as established

and all subsequent amendments to any of the above

- All current sets of *Good Agricultural Practices* to which Namibia subscribes and that regulate agricultural products entering a country to which Namibian producers may export.

Quality Assurance Requirements

This unit standard and others within this subfield may be awarded by institutions which meet the accreditation requirements set by the Namibia Qualifications Authority and the Namibia Training Authority and which comply with the national assessment and moderation requirements. Details of specific accreditation requirements and the national assessment arrangements are available from the Namibia Qualifications Authority on www.namqa.org and the Namibia Training Authority on www.nta.com.na.

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element 1. Perform assessment for harvest

Range

Maturity may include, but is not limited to, size, weight, length, shape, colour, and moisture content. These characteristics may be measured by observation and maturity testing tools and equipment such as moisture meters.

Market requirements may include, but are not limited to, variety purity, grain size, average weight, freedom from foreign material, diseased grains and quality depending market forces.

Performance Criteria

- 1.1 Estimate of produce maturity is reported to the supervisor.
- 1.2 The field crop selected for harvesting conforms to market requirements.

Element 2. Prepare equipment for harvesting

Performance Criteria

- 2.1 Tools, equipment and machinery appropriate to the task being undertaken are selected.
- 2.2 Safety requirements are followed in accordance with safety plans and policies.
- 2.3 Pre-operational and safety checks are carried out on tools, equipment and machinery according to manufacturers' specifications and workplace procedures.
- 2.4 Hazards are identified and reported to the supervisor.
- 2.5 Suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is selected, used and maintained.

Element 3. Harvest the crop

Range

Harvesting procedures may include, but are not limited to, correct use of equipment, selection, picking and reporting or recording yields. Plant and produce damage may be minimised by wearing gloves, maintaining sharp tools, observing fill heights or packing instructions for containers, protecting produce from inclement weather and correctly stacking containers on transport.

Problems may include, but are not limited to, hazards, pests, tools, equipment and machinery, crop quality, other team members, climate or plant health.

Performance Criteria

- 3.1 Safety requirements are followed in accordance with safety plans and policies.
- 3.2 Harvesting procedures used minimise plant damage and reflect efficient use of time and resources according to workplace procedures.
- 3.3 Harvesting the crop is undertaken safely according to industry standard and workplace procedures.
- 3.4 Harvesting tools, equipment and machinery are cleaned, maintained and stored according to workplace procedures.
- 3.5 Problems are reported to the supervisor.

Element 4. Transport the produce

Range

Containers may include, but are not limited to, boxes and cartons, bulk bins, plastic bags, customised packaging, and crates.

Transport may include, but is not limited to, by tractor, trailer, truck, wheelbarrow or manually.

Performance Criteria

- 4.1 Safe manual handling techniques are employed when handling containers.
- 4.2 Safety requirements are followed in accordance with safety plans and policies.
- 4.3 Hazards are identified and reported to the supervisor.
- 4.4 Quality of the produce is maintained at the levels set by industry and workplace procedures.
- 4.5 The produce is transported from the field to the processing or storage area.
- 4.6 Containers are cleaned and maintained according to workplace procedures.

Registration Data

Subfield:	Agronomy and Horticulture
Date first registered:	25 November 2015
Date this version registered:	25 November 2015
Anticipated review:	2020
Body responsible for review:	Namibia Training Authority