

# Wastewater reuse for fodder production at Outapi

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OUTAPI, 27 APR (NAMPA) A three-year wastewater pond research project, Enhancement of Ponds in Namibia (EPoNa), was launched at Outapi in the Omusati Region on Wednesday.

It is aimed at upgrading wastewater stabilisation pond systems for the water to be used in the irrigation systems of animal fodder production.

Head of Wastewater Engineering Research Group at the Technical University Darmstadt in Germany, Professor Susanne Lackner told attendees at the launch that the initiative will investigate the viability of combining two wastewater treatments: an anaerobic biological process of decomposition and then a mechanical

micro-strainer.

She said walls in the ponds will be used to ensure better wastewater flow control, while an affluent filter will be used to improve the water quality with regard to solids, algae and hygiene.

These methods are being combined for the first time and adapted for use under the constraints that exist in Africa.

EPoNa is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to the tune of some N.dollars 37 million, and brings together the scientific and technical expertise of six project partners from different fields.

These partners include host Outapi Town Council (OTC); Technical University of Darmstadt; Institute for Social Ecological Research in Germany; Ministry of Urban and Rural Development; Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry; University of Namibia; and Olusandja Sub Basin Management Committee.

OTC Chief Executive Officer, Ananias Nashilongo said in a media statement that EPoNa is to develop an approach for the rehabilitation and extension of existing wastewater ponds for irrigation purposes, as well as to consider wastewater not as waste but as a resource.

Outapi was chosen because of the available laboratory facilities there following the former Namibian/German CuveWater project.

The CuveWater project involved integrated water management that examined rainwater harvesting and storage, desalination and sanitation.

EPoNa will run until the end of August 2019.

Its design and upgrading will be completed in June or July when the plant will start operation.

(NAMPA)

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