

Friday, 12 June 2026

Media Release: NUST Appoints Dr Venaune Hepute as Agricultural Campus Head

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Venaune Hepute as Head of its Agricultural Campus.

Dr Hepute brings over 16 years of experience spanning academia, research, project management, operational management, and stakeholder engagement, while his professional journey has included roles at the Namibian Agronomic Board, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, and as a Lecturer in Soil Science at NUST.

He holds a PhD and a Master's Degree in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of the Free State in South Africa, in addition to a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Management from NUST. He is also currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Leadership and Change Management at NUST.

His strong academic foundation is complemented by hands-on experience that has seen him contributing to national agricultural initiatives, participating in international training programmes, and authoring several research publications.

In his new role, Dr Hepute will provide strategic and operational leadership for the campus, ensuring the delivery of high-quality academic programmes within a student-centred environment.

Strategically Positioned

"I view this appointment as a significant responsibility, but also a great opportunity to strengthen technical capacity building and advance a modern, technology-driven agricultural campus that delivers impactful research, purposeful teaching and learning, and sustainable agribusiness outcomes for Namibia and beyond," he said.

He described being appointed to the role as “an honour”, adding that the Agricultural Campus is strategically positioned in alignment with the University’s objective of being a leading institution rooted in technology and innovation.

Dr Hepute’s appointment comes at a significant moment for the University, following a recent decision by the NUST Council to relocate the Agricultural Campus from Rietfontein to Otavi in the Otjozondjupa Region. This forms part of a broader strategy to expand access to higher education, support national development priorities, and strengthen regional knowledge and innovation ecosystems.

On the move, he assured that NUST will ensure a smooth transition, with the continuity of teaching, learning and research projects remaining paramount.

Dr Hepute further noted that his vision for the Agricultural Campus is that of a technical and technological centre of excellence that promotes practical agricultural training with cutting-edge research and digital agronomy, horticulture and livestock.

He highlighted strategic investment in technical infrastructure, solar-powered irrigation systems and smart-farming technologies as central to achieving this goal, alongside collaboration with stakeholders in the Otjozondjupa Region and nationally.

Looking ahead, he hopes to lead the charge in transforming the Namibian agricultural industry in alignment with national priorities, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and modern demands.

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