

NSI CORNER



PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH SCIENCE

Welcome to the NSI Corner, a space dedicated to highlighting the people behind the work of the Namibia Standards Institution. Each edition shines a spotlight on an NSI professional whose expertise, dedication, and daily contributions help uphold quality, safety, and standards in Namibia.

Through this feature, we aim to give the public and our stakeholders a closer look at the individuals who ensure that standards are not just documents, but living practices that protect consumers, support industry, and strengthen trust in products and services.

In this first issue, we feature Ms. Sally Shiindi, Section Head of the NSI Microbiology Laboratory, whose work plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and quality of products tested at NSI



MEET SALLY SHIINDI
SECTION HEAD: MICROBIOLOGY

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In this edition of NSI Corner, we sat down with Sally Shiindi, Section Head: Microbiology Section at the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI), to learn more about the important work done behind the scenes to keep products safe for Namibians.

The Microbiology Laboratory plays a key role in detecting harmful microorganisms such as bacteria, yeasts and moulds that cannot be seen with our naked eyes. Through accredited testing, the team ensures that products meet national and international safety standards before reaching consumers. The laboratory works with food manufacturers, water producers, and other industries to verify product quality and safety.

Many products used daily including food, dairy, bottled water, beverages, and environmental samples undergo microbiological testing. This work helps prevent contamination, reduce foodborne illnesses, and protect both consumers and businesses from costly recalls or safety risks.

According to Sally, one common misconception is that products that look or smell normal are automatically safe. In reality, harmful microorganisms are invisible and can only be detected through proper laboratory testing. She also highlights that testing is most effective when done proactively before products reach the market. Beyond consumer safety, microbiological testing strengthens Namibia's trade and industry by helping businesses meet recognized standards, improve market access, and build trust with consumers and trading partners.



Sally emphasizes that companies should view NSI as a partner in quality assurance and product safety. Her message to the public is simple: behind every safe product is a rigorous system of checks aligned with internationally recognized standards, and the Microbiology Section is proud to part of this system contributing to protecting public health.

To young Namibians interested in laboratory sciences, Sally encourages curiosity, discipline, and a strong foundation in Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics. Microbiology allows you to explore the unseen world that impacts our daily lives while contributing to national development," she says. Through its Microbiology Section, NSI continues to work quietly but effectively to ensure safer products, stronger industries, and healthier communities.