



NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS, FOOD SECURITY AND DROUGHT SITUATION REPORT

JUNE 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Namibia is experiencing yet another drought episode associated with the 2015/2016 El Niño event as most parts of the country noted poor and below normal rainfall performance this season. Since the start of the 2015/2016 rainfall season, the country received poor and below normal rainfall performance which was also the case in the previous season. According to farmers, significant delay in the onset of the rainfall season, erratic and insufficient rainfall patterns as well as prolonged dry spells was observed in the season before the rainfall ended abruptly.

Crop estimates showed a slight improvement of last season's harvest but is still below the average production. The aggregate coarse grain indicated that the country noted a slight improvement in harvest of 18% higher than last season, but 31% below the average production. The slight improvement came as a result of a small increase in the harvest from most of the major crop producing regions, except the Zambezi and Oshana which were the most hit regions by drought this year.

Household food security remained weak in various parts of the country, as the recent agricultural production is too small to provide significant improvement to the ailing food security. Many households in various parts of the country are reported to be facing food insecurity as a result of the devastating drought episodes associated with the 2015/2016 El Niño event which negatively impacted on the livelihoods and quality of lives. The whole agricultural production and water supply is affected by the drought.

Poor grazing conditions were reported in various parts of the country due to the on-going drought and many livestock are facing starvation this year. The situation is expected to deteriorate by September this year when most of the available grazing materials in the affected areas will be depleted. The western and north central parts of the country are said to be the worst affected areas in the country

This report is prepared by the Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) with information from official and unofficial sources. Since conditions may change rapidly, please contact the undersigned for further information if required.

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OVERVIEW

The Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) in collaboration with its cooperating partners undertook its second Crop Assessment mission in the seven major communal crop-producing regions¹ as from 9th May to 06th June 2016. The main purpose of this assessment was to assess and quantify the 2016 crop harvest in the major crop-growing regions of Namibia and provide early warning report on geographic locations of agronomic anomalies, the effects of floods, droughts, and other significant events. Moreover the mission assessed changes in household food security, livestock and pasture conditions. Information regarding the impacts of drought on agricultural production in other parts of the country was gathered through a rapid assessment and reports from the Agricultural Extension staff and was incorporated in the main report. The assessment team was composed of the following staff:

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11/07/2016

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Since the situation may change, it should be noted herein that, this report present the results of the assessment that took place during the abovementioned dates supplemented by rapid assessment and reports from the Agricultural Extension staff in Kunene, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, //Karas, Erongo, Khomas and Hardap regions .

Secondary information on the crop estimates in the commercial areas was obtained through the Namibia Agronomic Board (NAB), Agricultural Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) and Agricultural Business Development (AgriBus Dev).

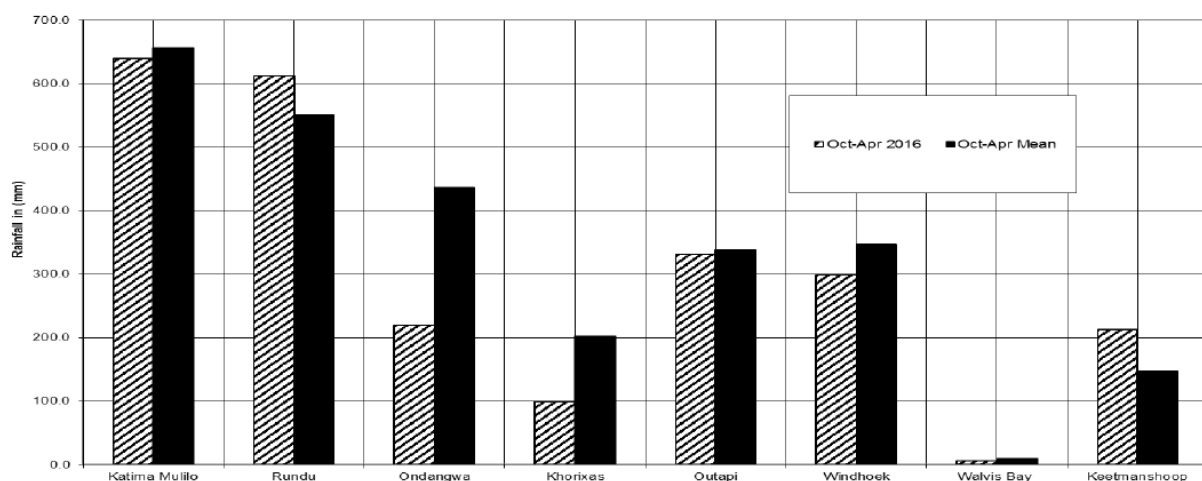
AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

2015/2016 Rainfall Performances for Namibia

Since the start of the 2015/2016 rainfall season, the country received poor and below normal rainfall performance which was also the case last season. According to farmers, the country noted a considerable delay in the onset of the rainfall season. Most parts of the country only received productive rainfall as from December last year as opposed to normal one in November. In addition to sporadic and insufficient rainfall patterns that are said to have dominated the season, the country noted a severe and prolonged dry spells between mid January and February before the season terminate prematurely in March this year.

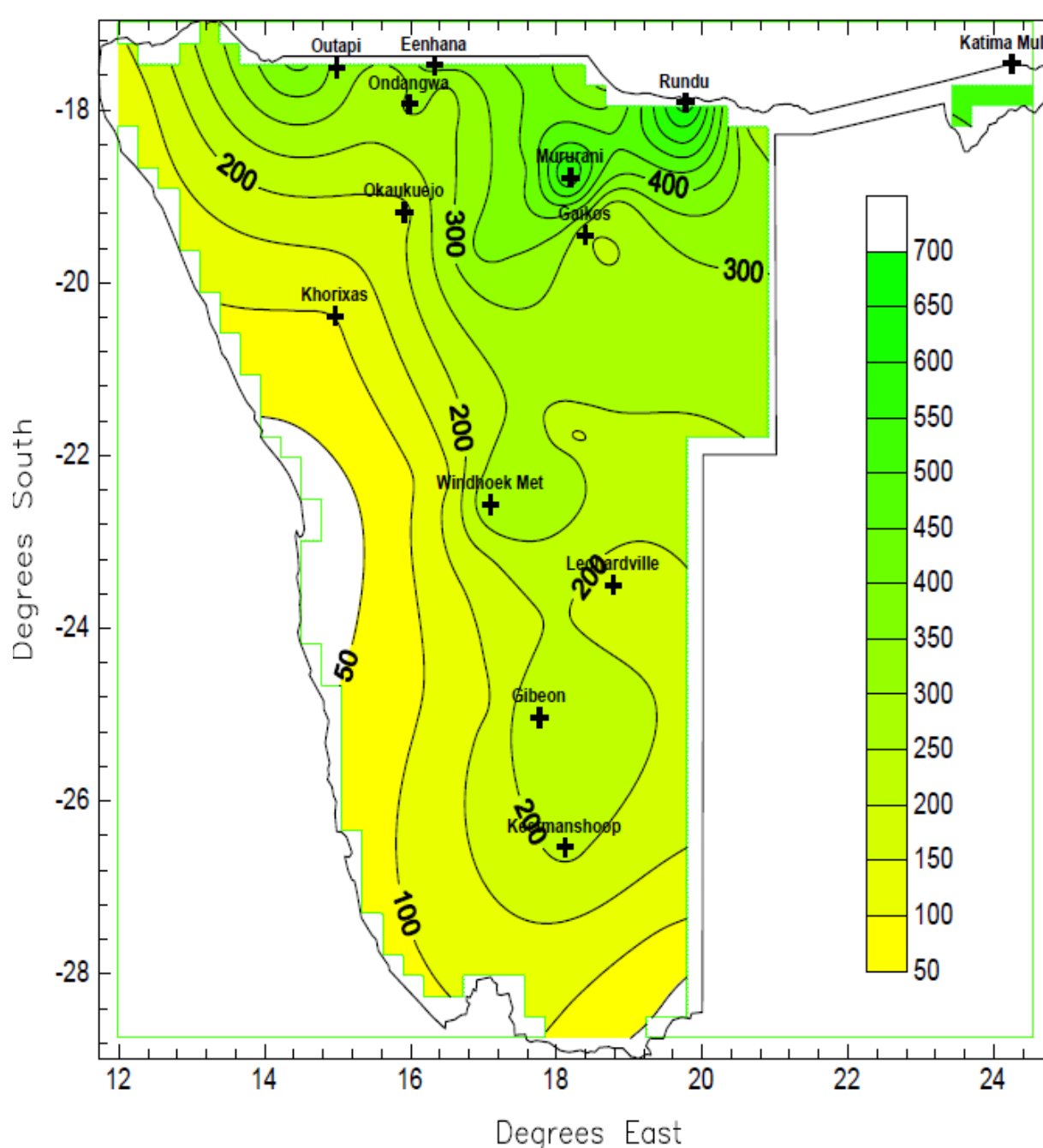
These observations were corroborated by the Namibia Meteorological Service (Met service) who reported that rainfall season started at the time of El-Nino phenomena strengthening and reaching pick values. This, very strong El Nino event was the key determinant of the rainfall in southern Africa, including Namibia where severe drought conditions were strongly, resulting in water stress, livestock losses, crop failure and many other socio-economical challenges. The seasonal rainfall forecasts issued by the Namibia Meteorological Service predicted below normal rainfall over the entire Namibia. According to Figure 1 and 2 below, most parts of the country are reported to have received below normal rainfall for the entire 2015/2016 rainfall season.

Figure 1: Rainfall Relative Performance Chart - October 2015 to April 2016 relative to Normal in various towns in Namibia



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

Fig 2: Cumulative Seasonal Rainfall in millimetres - October 2015 to April 2016



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

The Namibia Meteorological Service further added that, the overall performance of the rainfall season was in the below normal category across the entire country except few places in the Southern part of the country such as Gibeon, Keetmanshop, etc. However, these figures if treated in isolation could be deceptive of the real situation on the ground, specifically taking into account that isolated heavy showers of 199.4 mm fell within five days in January. Such

rainfall when preceded and followed by prolonged dry spells is of little economic or agricultural benefit. Fig. 2, also shows that most towns received below normal rainfall. The Met service cautioned that places such as Windhoek and Keetmanshop received about 60 mm of rain in a single day that may provide a misleading picture when the distribution of rainfall throughout the season is considered together with the effect of long dry spells, particularly during the essential crop growth stages. In contrast, the 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 rainfall seasons were also below normal thus, aggravating the drought situation which is being experienced across the entire country

Poor rainfall performance did not only affect the agricultural production, but also water supply particularly for the livestock that are heavily dependent on the surface/ rainfall water for consumption. Most water catchments such as earth dams, ponds, Iishana, and so forth have little or no water because of inadequate inflow received this season.

CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

The post harvest crop estimates indicated that all the dry land crop producing regions received poor crop harvest which is below the average production. However, the regions noted a slight improvement of last season's harvest, except the Zambezi and Oshana regions which were the hardest hit areas by drought this year. The poor harvest according to farmers is mainly due to the protracted drought conditions which started last season and was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall coupled with frequent dry spells and early cessation of the rainfall season.

In the Zambezi region, farmers reported that the 2015/2016 rainfall season started late in November to early December but was followed by irregular and insufficient rainfall with dry spells in December and February. This is said to have caused poor crop germinations, wilting of crop and subsequently poor crop harvest with maize and sorghum being the worst affected crops.

Severe impacts of drought conditions were felt greatly in the Oshana region with most constituencies noted a poor crop harvest which is worse than the previous season's drought. It was reported that farmers attempted to plough their crop fields, following some showers received in December and January, but germination was very poor and even those germinated have wilted due to lack of moisture in the soil. Majority of farmers attempted to replant several times with limited or no success. It was further noted that, even the crops that managed to germinate have since dried up because of dry spells accompanied by higher temperatures and dry windy conditions, particularly when the rainfall ended abruptly.

However, the Kavango West, Kavango East, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshikoto regions noted an improvement in the crop harvest which is better than last season but still below the average production. Figure 3: below, shows one of the luck farmers who obtained a good harvest in Omega I in the Kavango East region



Figure 3: shows one of the farmers who received a better pearl millet harvest in Omega I in the Mukwe constituency in the Kavango East region



Figure 4: shows one of the worst drought affected crop fields in Oshakati West constituency in Oshana region

	National Cereal Production Statistics Trend (in '000 metric Ton) and 2015/2016 estimates compared with a 5 - year average and 2014/2015 Production								
	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	5 - year average	2015/2016 as % of average	2015/2016 as % of 2014/2015
Maize (Communal)	5.2	4.6	2.5	5.2	1.4	1.2	3.8	-68	-16
Maize (Commercial)	64.0	83.1	37.2	68.2	36.7	45.2	57.8	-22	23
Millet	41.1	55.9	24.7	44.1	15.3	19.4	36.2	-46	27
Sorghum	5.8	7.7	2.2	4.1	1.7	1.5	4.3	-65	-10
Wheat	11.5	17.2	14.9	10.3	12.7	12.7	13.3	-5	0
Aggregate	127.6	168.5	81.5	132.1	67.8	80.0	115.5	-31	18

Table 1: National cereal production statistics and 2015/2016 forecast compared to 2014/2015 harvest and 5– year average

Table 1 above shows the aggregate cereal production statistics as from 2010/2011 to 2014/2015 crop seasons. The table also indicate the harvest estimates for the 2015/2016 crop season, a 5- year average, and the 2015/2016 estimated production as percentage of average and 2014/2015 crop season. The table indicated that maize production in the communal area (Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions) has decline by 16% of last season's harvest and 68% below the average production. On the other hand, maize harvest production in the commercial area showed an improvement of 23% higher than last season's harvest but is 22% below the average production. It was noted that many commercial dry land maize producers had only covered about 50% of their crop fields in fear of a crop failure which they incurred last season when they cultivated a large portion of their crop fields. Despite the poor rainfall performance and the fact that, these farmers only cultivated half of their crop fields, their maize harvest is much better than the previous season.

On the other hand, pearl millet production showed an improvement of 27% of last season's harvest, but is 46% below the average production. In contrast, sorghum production is said to have been affected by poor rainfall performance as well seed shortages experienced this season. As a result, sorghum production showed a reduction of 10% below last season's poor harvest and is also 65% below the average production. Wheat is a winter crop and its production is ongoing. However, for the purpose of national aggregate and analysis, harvest estimates for the 2014/2015 were used to develop the 2015/2016 estimates. Therefore, as a country, the national coarse grain aggregate production (maize, millet, sorghum and wheat) showed a slight improvement in the harvest of 18% above last season's harvest, but is 31% below the 5-year average production.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Following the past three consecutive seasons of below average production, of which the last two seasons were severe drought years, the household food security remained a challenge in the country. Many households in various parts of the country are facing food insecurity situations caused by the devastating drought episodes associated with the 2015/2016 El Niño event and had impacted negatively on livelihoods and quality of lives. The whole agricultural production and water supply is affected by the drought. According to the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee, about 595 839 people countrywide will be in need of food assistance by August this year. It is for this reason that on the 30 June 2016, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia Dr. Hage Geingob declared disaster drought emergency for Namibia.

Most of the major communal crop producing regions where most of the Namibian population live noted a slight improvement in crop harvest this year when compared to last season. However, such improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is only expected to last at most August this year. The assessment noted that, majority of the farmers are currently dependent on the market purchases to supplement their poor harvest in order to prolong its availability. Farmers and the Regional Council officials are therefore requesting the government to provide them with drought relief foods and water for both human and livestock consumption. In a good season, household food security situation improve as from March when the green harvests such as green maize, cow peas, squash, etc become available and ready for consumption until the main harvest. However, farmers indicated that, the availability of these crops were very limited this season.

The assessment team took note of the drought relief foods which are sent to the regions for the vulnerable people. However, it was noted that, the supply of drought relief food is inadequate when compared to the number of people that are food insecure. Households argued that, the drought relief food distribution takes too long to come to them and is only targeting certain households that are regarded as most vulnerable. Household owners are therefore requesting the government to improve the supply of the drought relief food, ensure timely delivery of the food and cover all the households affected by the drought condition.

NEWFIU will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds and provide update information accordingly.

PASTURE, LIVESTOCK AND WATER SUPPLY SITUATION

Pasture, livestock and water supply situation

Poor grazing conditions were reported in most parts of the country due to the ongoing drought condition in the country and many livestock are facing starvation this year. The situation is expected to deteriorate by September this year when most of the available grazing materials in the affected areas will be depleted. The western and north central parts of the country are said to be the worst affected region in the country.

Poor to fair grazing conditions were reported in the north central, west and southern parts of the country. Good grazing conditions were reported in the northeast, while the central and eastern parts of the country, grazing was reported to range between fair and good. However, in light of the ongoing drought in the country and the fact that, some farmers in the areas affected by poor grazing conditions are moving their livestock from one area to another in search for better grazing conditions, grazing remained fragile in these areas. At the time of the assessment, livestock body conditions were reported to range between fair and good in most areas, except in the Southern parts of the Kunene and Erongo regions where fair to very poor body conditions and some deaths due to poor grazing were reported.

In the north-eastern part of the country (Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions), grazing was reported to be in good condition and expected to sustain livestock till the next rainfall season if no veld fires occurred. Water availability for livestock, were also said to be satisfactory either through the river and streams in areas along the rivers or boreholes, pipelines and some water catchments in the inland areas. In the east, central and southern part of the country, grazing conditions range between fair and good in Otjozondjupa, Khomas ,Omaheke, //Karas and Hardap regions, following some good showers received between December and March this season.

In the north central regions, grazing condition in most areas of Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati regions is said to range between poor and fair, but slightly better than last season. Livestock body conditions were noted to range between fair and good. These areas are reported to have suffered a very poor rainfall performance which is said to have dominated the season. Many of the affected farmers in these areas are said to have moved some of their livestock to other areas in the north-central for better grazing condition. Water for livestock,

particularly rain water in these areas is also limited, as most water catchments could not get significant inflow this season. Most livestock in the north central regions area are heavily dependent on surface water (mainly rainfall) for water supply.

In the Kunene region, grazing condition was reported to be fair in the northern part of the region. However, the central and southeast of the region, grazing is reported to range between poor and extremely poor. Many farmers (affected by poor grazing conditions especially the eastern side of Khorixas, Gainatseb and Braunfels areas) are reportedly moving their livestock from one place to another in search for better grazing and water conditions. It was further reported that, some farmers in these areas have started losing some of their livestock because of the current drought conditions. Furthermore, poor grazing conditions were also reported in various parts of the Erongo region with Daures constituency, Okombahe, Uis and Otjimbingwe being the hardest hit areas. It was further noted that even the water supply situation in these areas is poor as some of the borehole run dry or yielding salty water. In the central and southern part of the country (Khomas, Hardap, Karas) both grazing and livestock body conditions are reported to range between fair to good and much better than last season. Water supply situation in these areas was also reported to be satisfactory, mainly from the boreholes. Figure 5 below show some one of the areas affected by poor grazing condition in Uuvudhiya constituency in the Oshana region.



Figure 5: Shows one of the areas affected by poor grazing condition in the cattle post area of Uuvudhiya constituency in the Oshana region

Dams levels

Figure 6 below provides a summary of the dams/ reservoirs levels in the country as at 11th July 2016. It is noted that most of the dams/reservoirs did not receive significant water inflow this year; hence their water levels are extremely low. However, only Goreangab and Naute Dams which are near full with 100% and 85% of their holding capacity respectively. The rest of the dams are less than 40% of their capacity with Omatako, Dreihuk, Bondels, Omaruru Delta and Omatjenne Dams empty.

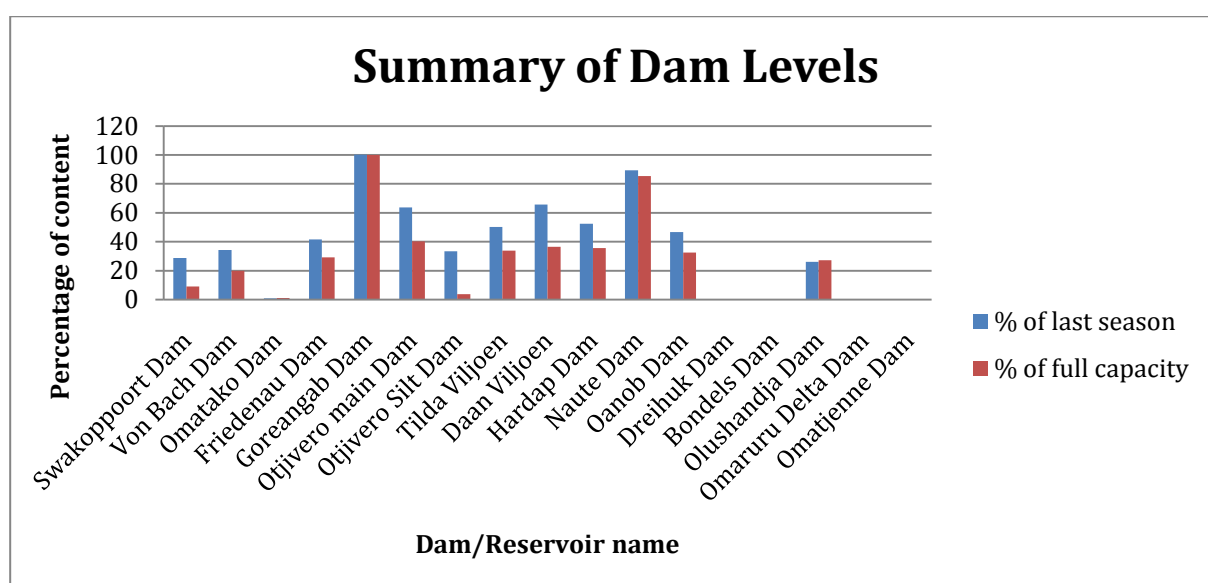


Figure 6: Summary of the Dam levels in the country as at 11th July 2016

REGIONAL CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Zambezi region

The region noted yet another poor crop harvest this season which is significantly lower than the previous drought season last year. The region received light to good rains as from November last year resulting in good crop germinations. However, poor rainfall performance in the forms of dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rainfall was experienced during mid-December, January and February, resulting in wilting of the crops. Analysis on the crop estimates showed a massive reduction in the harvest with maize 80% below average and 21% lower than last season's harvest. Pearl millet production is estimated to have drop by 82% below the average production and 1% lower than last season's production. Moreover, Sorghum production is down by 53% below average and 18% lower than last season's poor harvest. Figure 7 below provides a summary of the cereal harvest estimates in various constituencies in the region.

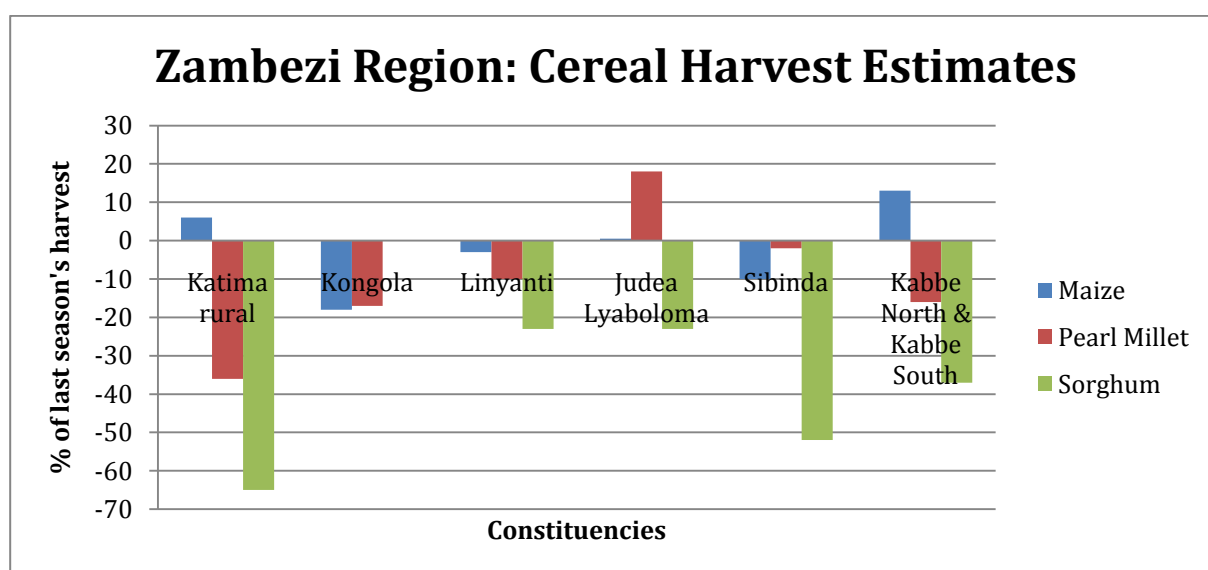


Figure 7: Summary of the preliminary cereal harvest estimates

Average planted area is estimated at 61% of the crop fields, which is approximately 20% lower than the same period last year. Pasture conditions were reported to range between good in the flood plain areas and very good elsewhere in the region. Livestock are also said to be in good conditions. Water supply, particularly for livestock was noted to be satisfactory either from the rivers, streams, boreholes and swamps or ponds. However, the eastern part of the region suffered the effect of flood which affected both crop and grazing. On the household

food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly following the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to be depleted by at most August this year. Household owners are therefore requesting the government to continue providing them with the drought relief food during this difficult time until they gain their normal livelihood.

Constituencies

Katima Urban

Most part of this constituency is a town and residential area. With the exception of few home gardening and irrigation projects that exist in this area, no farming activities other than these are taking place. Hence it is irrelevant from the assessment team to report on the crop situation in this area.

Linyanti

The constituency suffered the effect of poor rainfall performance which was seen in the forms a delay in the onset, insufficient and erratic rainfall with frequent dry spells. As a result, farmers noted poor crop harvest this year which is even worse than the previous season's drought. Farmers indicated that, the dry spell experienced in the last two weeks of December prompted them to replant several times with little or no success. Although inputs such as free & subsidy seeds and fertilisers were received on time, farmers indicated that seeds were not enough and only some farmers benefited from free seeds. Average planted area is estimated at 54% of their cropped area. Analysis on the crop production indicated that maize, pearl millet and sorghum recorded a very poor harvest this season of 75%, 42% and 20% below last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, harvests for non-cereal crops were also noted to be poor this year when

compared to last season. Crop pests reported included isolated cases of false armyworms during the dry spell period.

On livestock health, cases of tick's infestations and Lumpy Skin Disease were widely reported in the area. The affected farmers were advised by the Regional Directorate Veterinary Services to buy appropriate medications to treat their livestock. Both livestock body condition and grazing establishment were said to be good. Most water catchments in the inland are reported to have little water for the livestock, which are expected to dry up. Regarding the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last for a short period of time before it get depleted.

Judea Lyaboloma

As it was noted in the Linyanti constituency, farmers described the current rainfall season as generally poor and worse than the previous season. Farmers reported the 2015/2016 noted a delay in the start of the rainfall season, insufficient and sporadic rainfall patterns with prolonged dry spells. However, moderate to good showers were only received during January and March. Average planted area is estimated at 60% of the cropping area. On inputs, farmers indicated that they

benefitted from the government free seeds, which was supplemented by the subsidized seeds. On fertilizers use, the demand from the farmers was noted to be low due to affordability. On pests, wild animals were widely reported destroying/trampling crops, especially elephants at Lubuta and surrounding villages. Many farmers are reported to have received poor harvest this season with maize production noted a reduction of 29% and sorghum is down by 20% lower than last season. However, pearl millet production showed a slight improvement of about 9% higher than last season's poor harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to be poor when compared with the previous season.

Grazing and livestock were reported to be in good condition. On household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as it is expected to get finish by end of July this year. Households owners had also added that, they area mostly dependent on the market and to some extend the government Drought Relief Food Programme for food access.

Kongola

Despite the poor rainfall performance which is said to have dominated the season, farmers indicated that this season's rainfall was slightly better than the previous season. According to the crop estimates in this area, both pearl millet and sorghum have showed an improvement of 37% and 29% of last season's harvest respectively. However, sorghum production shows a reduction of about 8% lower than last season's harvest. Farmers attributed poor rainfall performance as well as limited seed availability as major causes of the poor harvest.

Moreover, harvest outlook for non-cereals such cow peas, melons, squash and Bambara nuts are also said to be poor this year because of the poor rainfall performance. Average planted is estimated at 67% of the cropping area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing and livestock are said to be in good condition. Household food security is reported to have improved, following as recent harvest. However, according to household owners, this improvement is too little and is expected to September this year.

Katima Rural

This area suffered the effect of poor rainfall performance which is reported to have dominated the season. According to farmers, the 2015/2016-rainfall season has been poor and characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent dry spells. Crop estimates indicated a reduction in the crop harvest which is even worse than the drought season last year. It was noted that, maize harvest recorded a reduction of 7%, pearl millet is down by 1% and sorghum is 20% lower than last season's poor harvest. Harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to be poor as it was the case last season. Average planted area is estimated at 50% of the cropping area. It was further noted that, the inputs, particularly seeds as well as ploughing services were sufficient for the season, and farmers attributed poor rainfall performance as the main cause of the poor crop harvest.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock were reported to be in good condition, following significant improvements in grazing condition. Water availability was also noted to be satisfactory in

most places either through the rivers, streams, boreholes or pipeline being the sources. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to household owners, the current harvest is only short-lived and expected to last till end of August this year.

Kabbe north and Kabbe south

As it was reported in other parts of the region, rainfall performance has been poor throughout the 2015/2016-rainfall season. It was noted that the area experienced a serious dry spells for most of December and early January, affecting crop production negatively. What is more, this area was also flooded during February and March, affecting both crop and livestock production. As a result, crop harvest is reported to be poor with maize being the hardest hit, followed by sorghum with their respective reductions of 32% and 20% of last season's harvest. Pearl millet harvest is also poor and is more or less the same as last season's harvest and was noted to be 1% lower than last season. Most farmers were able to cover about 73% of their crop fields. No major crop pests were reported and farmers attributed poor rainfall performance and flood in the flood prone areas as the only causes of poor harvest.

Both pasture and livestock are said to be in good condition. Water availability, particularly for livestock consumption was noted to be satisfactory. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of tick's infestation were reported to be a problem in the area. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, according to farmers this

improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of July this year.

Sibbinda

According to farmers, this season's rainfall performance is worse than the previous season. Farmers indicated that, since the beginning of the rainfall season in November last year, rainfall performance has been poor and characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall with prolonged dry spells experienced in December, and February. This is said to have caused poor crop germinations and wilting of crops. However, rainfall conditions improved in March, but it was too late for crop and the rain has only made some positive impacts on grazing. As a result, majority of farmers conceded a reduced crop harvest which according to farmers is poor than last season's harvest. Therefore, crop production indicated that maize production is down by 21%, followed by sorghum with 20% and sorghum by about 1% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops such as legumes, melons and squash were also reported to be poor. It was noted that, basic inputs and services such as improved seeds; fertilizers and tractor services were sufficient and available on time at the beginning of the crop season.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture establishment as well as the livestock body conditions were reported to be good. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is limited as the harvest is expected to get depleted by August this year.

Kavango East and Kavango West regions

Most farmers in these regions received a better crop harvest than the previous season amidst the poor rainfall performance, but still below the average production. Despite a considerable delay in the start of the 2015/2016-rainfall season, the dry spells in February and the general poor rainfall performance many farmers were able to receive a better crop harvest than last season. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated that pearl millet noted an improvement of 102% of last season's harvest, but 66 % below the average production. Maize production noted an increase of 33% of last season's harvest but 86% below the average production. Sorghum production recorded an increase of 34% above last season's production, but 75% below the average production. Average planted area is estimated at 70% of the cropping area, which 4 % lower than last season. Figure 8a and Figure 8b below, shows the cereal harvest estimates for various constituencies in the Kavango West and Kavango East regions

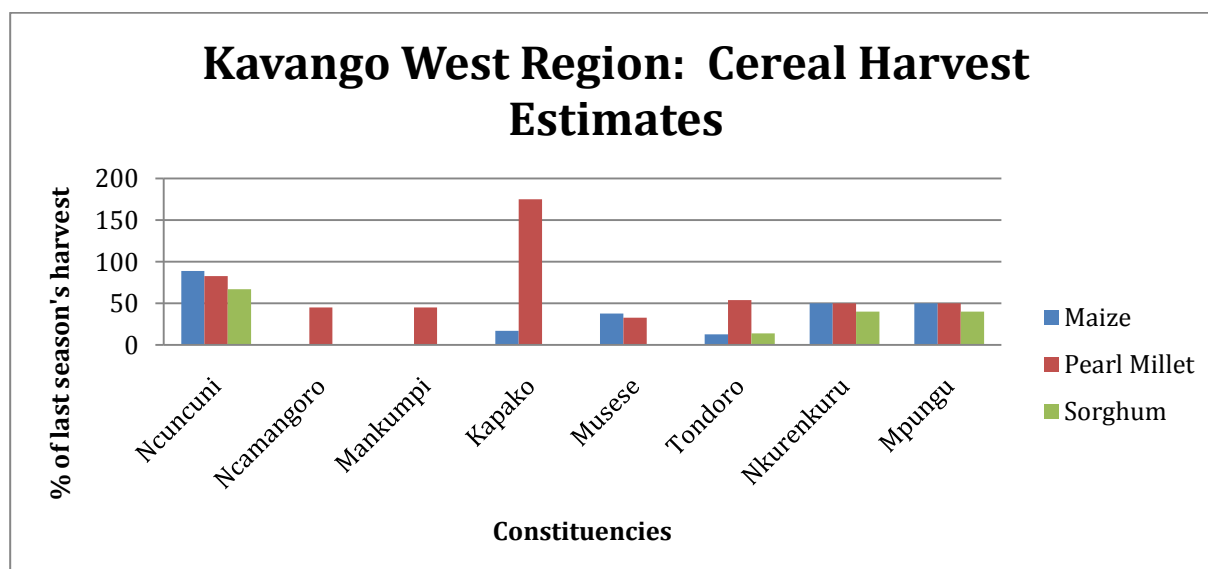


Figure 8a: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates in the Kavango West region

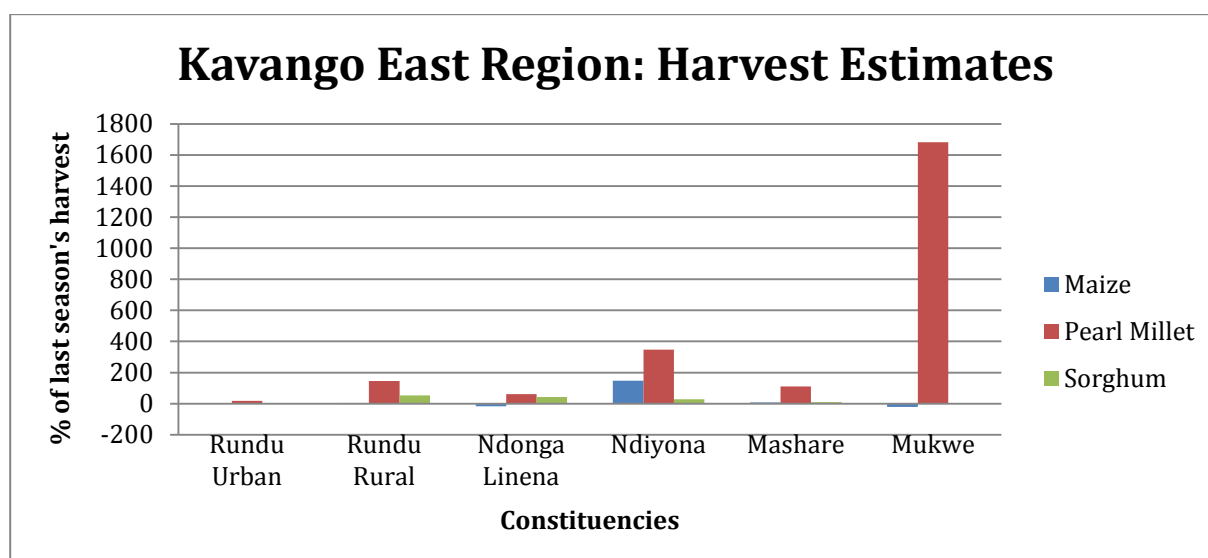


Figure 8b: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates in the Kavango East region

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, it was noted that farmers are still unable to market their livestock due to the closure of the Meat-co abattoir last year. It was further reported that, after a new strategy by Meat-co of a mobile slaughtering facilities, Meat-co is not interested in buying cattle that were recently vaccinated against the FMD. Pasture condition was reported to range between fair to good in areas along the river and good in the inland areas. Water for livestock was also noted to be satisfactory as the river and boreholes are the main sources of water supply. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to have improved following a recent harvest. However, it was noted that the harvest is below the average production, farmers indicated that on average, their harvest is expected to last up to September this year.

Constituencies

Rundu Urban

This constituency consists of urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Farmers in the rural areas of this constituency indicated that the 2015/2016-rainfall season is poor, but slightly better than previous season. Farmers noted that, productive rainfall was received as from December and this was followed by sporadic and erratic rainfall with prolonged dry

spells during mid January and February. However, good showers were received in March, which subsequently improved crop production. Average planted area is estimated at 72% of the cropping area. Many farmers are reported to have attained good crop harvest this season, which is better by far than last season. In this case, pearl millet recorded an increase of about 18%, maize 23% and sorghum 27% higher than the last season's poor harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops were also

reported to be better as than the previous season. No major crop pests or livestock diseases were reported.

With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent main harvest during May and June this year. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived and is expected to last till August this year. Grazing was reported to range between fair in areas along the river and good in the inland. Livestock were reported to be in good condition. For the next season, farmers are requesting the government subsidize them in acquiring fencing materials and inputs for vegetable gardens along the river.

Ncuncuni

Despite the general poor rainfall performance, which was reported to have dominated the season, many crop farmers are reported to have attained a reasonable harvest this year. According to farmers this season's crop production is much better than the previous drought last year. Accordingly, maize, pearl millet and sorghum noted a significant increase in the harvest of 89%, 83% and 67% higher than last seasons' harvest respectively. Harvest for non-cereal crops was also noted to be better than last season, but according to farmers is still below average production. Farmers reported that this season's rainfall performance was slightly better than last season in terms of amount and distribution. Average planted area is estimated at 86% of the cropping area. On the basic inputs, majority of farmers managed to buy subsidized seed and fertilizers from their local agricultural office.

The pasture as well as the livestock body condition was reported to be good. On household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to household, this improvement is short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of September this year. Households are therefore requesting the government to continue providing them with the drought relief food until they are able to gain their livelihood.

Musese

Farmers reported that the 2015/2016-rainfall season is slightly better than the previous season, but still below normal. Farmers indicated that, the season was characterised by delay in the onset of the rainfall season, insufficient and sporadic rainfall, but all in all is better than last season. This year most farmers received a better crop harvest than last season with maize recorded an increase of 38%, pearl millet by 33% and sorghum by 40% higher than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops was also noted to be better than last season, but still below average. Crop pests reported included Elephants that are said to be feeding on crop, particularly maize. The affected villages included Musese, Siko, Rupara, Rugcuva, Maenzere and Gcwagi.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both grazing and livestock were noted to be in good conditions. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest this year. However, farmers indicated that this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till August this year.

Mankumpi

As it was noted in other constituencies in the region, the 2015/2016-rainfall season is said to have started towards end of December, which farmers said was late. Productive rainfall was only received during January and this prompted farmers to start ploughing. Many farmers were able to cultivate about 74% of their crop fields. Crop harvest was reported to be slightly better than last season, but still below the average production. According to the crop estimates for this area, pearl millet harvest is said to have increase with 45%, maize is up by 43% and sorghum by 40% more than last season's harvest. On the basic inputs, most farmers managed to acquire subsidized and free seeds, from the government. However farmers reported that the quantity of seeds was not enough. Moreover, the demand for fertilizers was generally fair. Majority of farmers used draft animal power to cultivate their crop fields. No major crop pests or livestock diseases were reported for this season.

Livestock body condition and the grazing were reported to range between fair and good. With regards to household food security the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, households indicated that, this improvement is short-lived as the harvest is only enough till end of August this year.

Ncamangoro

Rainfall performance for the 2015/2016-rainfall season was noted to be poor, but slightly better than last season. It was noted that, the rainfall season started in December as opposed to November. Farmers added that productive rainfall was only received during January, which prompted them to start ploughing their crop fields. Average planted area is estimated at 74% of the cropping area. Crop

harvest estimates shows that majority of farmers received a better harvest than last season with pearl millet increase by 45%, maize by 43% and sorghum by 40% higher than last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops is also said to be better than last season, but still below average production.

No major crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition and grazing were reported to be good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest in May/June this year. However, according to farmers, this improvement is short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till August this year. Household owners are therefore requesting the government to continue providing them with the drought relief food until they are able to gain their normal livelihood.

Kapako

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, this constituency also noted the late start of the 2015/2016-rainfall season. According to farmers, productive rains were only received as from early December. Farmers responded to good showers received and at the time of the assessment, many farmers were able to cultivate about 67% of their crop fields. Majority of farmers are reported to have attained a better crop harvest this season, than the drought season last year, but still below average production. In this regard, pearl millet increase by over 175%, maize by 17% and sorghum is about 40% higher than last season's poor harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops was also reported to be better than last year. No major crop pests were reported this season.

Grazing as well and the livestock body conditions were reported to be good, following some good showers received. Water availability especially for livestock was also noted to be satisfactory either through the River, streams in areas along the river and boreholes in the inland areas. On household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to households this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Mashare

According to farmers, the 2015/2016-rain season is slightly better last season, but still below average. The season was noted to have been characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with prolonged dry spells. Average planted area is estimated at 79% of the cropping area. Farmers indicated that, crop harvest was better this year than last season with pearl millet harvest estimated to increase by 110%, maize by 8% and sorghum is 28% higher than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non cereal crops were also reported to be slightly better than last year, but still below average production.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing and livestock were both reported to be in good conditions. On household food security, the situation is reported to have improved, following a recent main harvest in May/June this year. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Rundu Rural

As it was reported by other constituencies in the area, this area also reported poor rainfall performance which is said to have affected both crop and livestock productions. Farmers indicated that, the poor rainfall performance was observed in the forms of the delay in the onset of the rainfall performance, erratic and sporadic patterns with prolonged dry spells. Farmers noted that productive rains were only received towards the end of December. Planted area is estimated at 73% of the cropping area. This season majority of farmers are reported to have received a better crop harvest than last season. In this regards, pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by 146% of last season's harvest. However, maize and sorghum harvest are reported to have suffered the impact of poor rainfall performance with maize harvest showed a reduction of 2% of last season's harvest and sorghum is same poor as it was the case last year. No major crop pests were reported at the time of the assessment.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing and livestock were reported to be good and water availability also being satisfactory through boreholes, Rivers and streams. Household food security in the area was reported to be satisfactory following a recent harvest in May/June. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Mpungu and Nkurenkuru

Despite the poor rainfall performance which is reported to have dominated the season, farmers indicated that, crop harvest is slightly better than those of the drought season last year. Both Maize and pearl millet production is said to have increased

by over 50% each and sorghum is 40% higher than last season's harvest. Planted area is estimated at 50% of the crop fields and farmers indicated that, they could not cover the remaining portion due to poor rainfall performance in the area. Moreover, harvests for non-cereals crops such cowpeas, melons and Bambara nuts were also reported to have improved when compared to last season's production. Cases of Elephants destroying crops were reported at Same and Katope villages.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition and pastures were noted to be good. Water availability, particularly for livestock consumption was also noted to be satisfactory mainly through boreholes. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory following a recent harvest in May/June. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till October/November this year.

Tondoro

According to farmers, productive rainfall was only received as from December last year. Subsequently farmers responded to good showers received and covered about 50% of their crop fields. Despite the general poor rainfall performance, majority of farmers were reported to have noted a slight increase in the crop harvest. It is estimated that, pearl millet harvest increase by 54%, maize by 13% and sorghum by 14% higher than last season. Cases of crop destructions by elephants were reported at Kamupupu, Musese, Siko, Rupara, Rugcuva, Maenzere and Gcwagi areas during February. Farmers further added that, harvests for non-cereal crops such as legumes and melons are also good this season when compared to previous season.

Grazing was reported to be good and livestock were also noted to be in good condition. Water availability was noted to be satisfactory either through the River in areas along the River and boreholes in the inland. There were no major livestock diseases were reported in the area. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest in May/June this year. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Mukwe

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced during the season, majority of the farmers in this area noted a good crop harvest, particularly for pearl millet. According to farmers, an improvement of about 1682% for pearl millet and 10% for sorghum was realised. However, maize production is said to have been affected negatively by poor rainfall performance and a reduction of at least 21% lower than last season is expected. Planted area is estimated at about 80% of the cropping area. Farmers raised concerns about lack of seeds at their local agricultural centre, which they say have also contributed negatively to agricultural production this season. Harvest prospects for non-cereal crops were also said to be better than last season for legumes, melons and squashes. No major crop pests or diseases were reported at the time of this assessment.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both livestock body condition and grazing were said to be good. Water for livestock was also noted to be satisfactory through boreholes for the inland areas and river for the areas along the river. With regards to household

food security, the situation is said to have improved following a recent harvest. Households indicated that the current harvest is expected to last till end of November this year. The government Drought Relief Food Programme is also taking place in the area, but according to farmers, the food received is insufficient, taking too long to come and only targeting certain people.

Ndiyona

Although, the area noted a poor rainfall performance this season, farmers said this season is better than the previous season. Most farmers were able to attain a better crop harvest. Crop estimates indicated that, majority of farmers are expecting an improvement in pearl millet, maize and sorghum with their respective harvest estimates of 347% 147% and 43% higher than last season. Planted area is estimated at about 67% of cropping area. It was further noted that, harvest for none cereal crops such as legumes and melons are slightly better than

last season. Farmers indicated that sorghum production was limited area this season because of poor rainfall as well as lack of seed in the area. No major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment.

With regards to livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both livestock and grazing are said to be in good conditions. Water availability was noted to be satisfactory in areas along the river and boreholes in the inland. On the household food security, the situation is said to be improved, following the recent main harvest in May/June. However, according to households, the harvest is only able to sustain them up to end of September this year. Households also indicated the government Drought Relief Food Programme is also ongoing in the area, but households indicated that the food is not enough, only reaches them sometimes and targeting only few households.

Omusati region

The region noted an improvement in crop harvest this year, which is better than last season, but still below the average production. Despite the general poor rainfall performance, which is said to have dominated the season, most farmers in the region recorded an improvement in the crop harvest. Pearl millet harvest is said to have noted an increase of about 44% higher than last season but, is nearly 70 % below the average production. Sorghum production showed a slight increase of 16% higher than last season but is 93% below the average production. It was noted that, seed shortages experienced in the region coupled with poor rainfall performance which caused farmers to attempt replanting with little or no success, were the major causes of below average production. Planted area is estimated at 81% of the cropping area. Most areas in the west, south and northern part of the region recorded better crop harvest than the extreme eastern part of the region particularly constituencies bordering with Oshana region. Figure 9 below show the summary of the harvest estimates in various constituencies in the region.

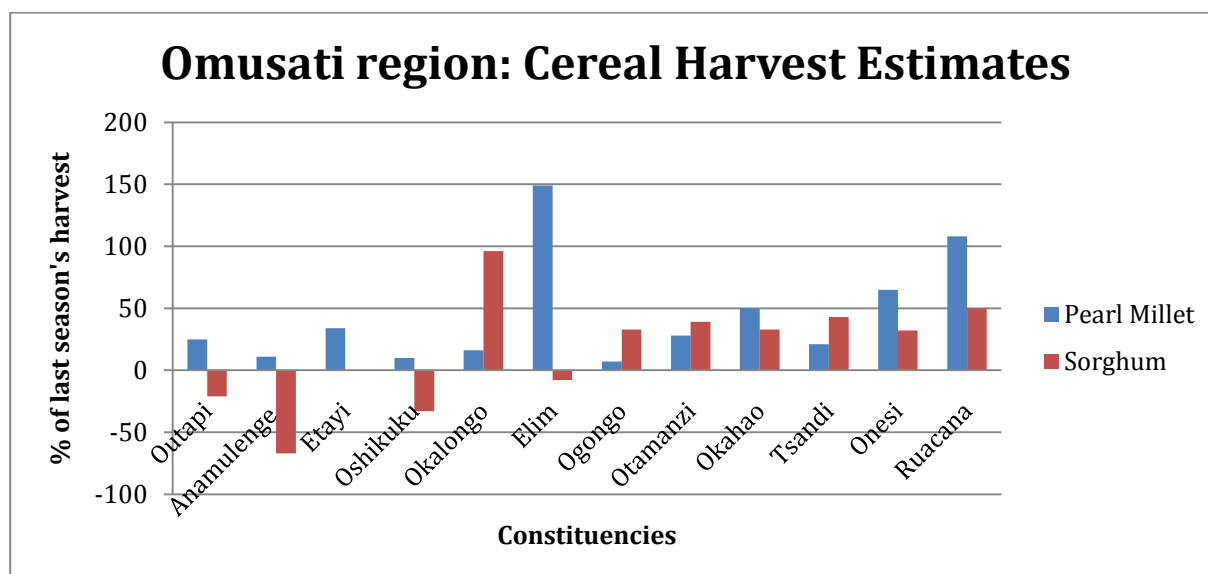


Figure 9: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates

It was further noted that, harvest for non-cereal crops such as cowpeas, Bambara nuts, melons and squash are also slightly better than the previous season, but still below the average production. Crop pests reported included Cricket and to some extent quelleda birds during the grain formation period. Grazing condition ranges between fair and poor in the west, south and northern part of the region, whereas the extreme eastern part of the region grazing is poor. On

the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest, but according to farmers, this improvement is only short lived and is expected to last on average till December this year.

Constituencies

Onesi

Farmers in this area showed mixed views about this season's rainfall performance. Some farmers said this season's rainfall performance was better than the previous season, while other farmers indicated the opposite. This constituency was one of the areas received some good showers in the region. However, majority of the farmers indicated that, crop harvest is slightly better than last season. Crop estimates indicated an improvement in the crop harvest, where pearl millet is said to have increased by 65% and sorghum is 32% better than last season. However, farmers indicated that, harvest for non-cereal crops is poor on legumes as it was the case last season, but better than last seasons on melons and squash. Planted area is estimated at 70% of the cropping area and farmers indicated that, they were not able to cover the remaining part because of poor rainfall performance. Crop pests reported included crickets and quelea birds during March which are said to have also contributed to the below average harvest.

With regards to livestock health, cases of Sarcoptic Mange in goats and Anaplasmosis in cattle were reported at Oshihole village. Grazing is said to have improved slightly and was noted to range between fair in the common grazing area to good in the enclosures. According to farmers, grazing is better than last season, but is expected to deteriorate during the dry season. Water for livestock consumption was noted to be satisfactory and farmers said that many water catchments still have

water, but expected to dry up by end of August. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following the recent harvest. According to households, this improvement on average is expected to last till end of December this year. Moreover, the Drought Relief Food Distribution Programme is also taking place in the area, but farmers argued that the distribution of food is not frequent and the quantity of food given to them is too little.

Ruacana

According to farmers, the 2015/2016-rainfall season was poor but slightly better than the drought season last year. Many farmers are reported to have noted an improvement in their crop harvest which is much better than last season, but still below the average production. In this regard, pearl millet production noted an increase of 108%, while sorghum is estimated to have increase by 50% over the last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop were also reported to be better than last season, but still below the average production. It was further reported that some parts in the northern part of the constituency were flooded by water from Angola and the affected farmers had their crop fields submerged, leading to poor crop germinations. Few cases of crop pests such as mouse (during germinations) and crickets (on crops at vegetative stage) were reported at in the area.

Grazing condition range between fair and poor and farmers indicated that, pasture is also affected by

poor rainfall performance experienced in the area. On the household food security, the situation was noted to improved, following a recent harvest in May/June. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to get finish by end of October this year.

Tsandi

According to farmers, this season's rainfall performance was slightly better than last season. Although the rainfall season started late with the general poor rainfall performance, many farmers indicated that, the agricultural production is better than last season. Many farmers noted a slight improvement in crop harvest this season, where pearl millet production recorded an increase of about 21% and sorghum is 43% higher than last season. Planted area is estimated at about 70% of the cropping area. Non-cereal crop also is also reported to have noted a slight improvement of last season's production, particularly on melons and squash. Crop pests reported included Crickets during February and March period which according to farmers made some significant damage to pearl millet during grain formation stage.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, few cases of internal parasites in small stock were reported. Grazing was noted to range from fair to poor, but farmers said the condition is better than last season. Livestock were also reported to have recovered from drought and the condition range between fair to good. Water for livestock was noted to be satisfactory, but is feared to deteriorate since the catchment areas did not get sufficient water inflow this season. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved following the recent harvest. However, the current

improvement according to farmers on average is expected to last till end of January next year. The Drought Relief Food Programme is also said to be taking place in the area, but farmers indicated that, it takes too long to come, insufficient and only targeting households that regarded as vulnerable.

Outapi

Poor rainfall performance was also reported in most parts of this constituency causing crops which germinated well at the beginning of the season to wilt. However, farmers indicated that, this season's rainfall was slightly better than last season. It was noted that, most farmers in this area noted a slight improvement in the pearl millet harvest which is estimated to have increased by 25% of last season's harvest. However, sorghum production was reported to have suffered the effects of poor rainfall performance and as such a reduction of 21% of last season's harvest is estimated. Furthermore, farmers indicated that, there was a serious sorghum seed shortage in the region and the poor rainfall performance had just worsened the situation. Harvest for non-cereal crops was also reported to be poor as it was the case last season. Planted area is estimated at 90% of the cropping area.

Pasture was reported to range between fair and poor. According to farmers, grazing situation is expected to deteriorate as from end of July where a lot of livestock are expected to face starvation. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation is said to improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to households, the current harvest is too little and is expected to last till end of July this year.

Etayi

Farmers indicated that, the 2015/2016 rainfall season is very poor and both crop and livestock productions are affected. According to farmers, productive rains were only received as from December and since then, the rainfall became, erratic, sporadic and insufficient with frequent serious dry spells. According to farmers, good showers received in March helped them to get some harvest which is slightly better than last season. Planted area is estimated at 52% of the cropping area and farmers indicated that they were unable to cover the bigger portion because of the poor rainfall performance experienced in the area. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated a slight improvement in pearl millet production of 34% better than last season's harvest. However harvest for sorghum and non-cereal crops was reported to be poor and same as it was the case last season. The constituency reported that both seeds and fertilizers came late and were insufficient.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was noted to be poor as it was negatively affected by poor rainfall performance. Livestock body condition was reported to range between fair and good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory, following the recent harvest. However, according to households, the improvement in harvest is short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of June this year.

Okalongo

Farmers reported that the 2015/2016-rainfall season started late as productive rainfall was only received as from December instead on the normal one in November. However, according to farmers, this season's rainfall performance is a bit better

compared to last season, but still below average. Due to poor rainfall performance which dominated the season many farmers are said to have replanted more than two times with little or no success. Average planted area is estimated at 96% of the crop fields. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated a slight improvement in the pearl millet harvest whereby an increase of about 16% of last seasons' harvest is estimated. Moreover, sorghum production showed an improvement of about 96% of last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to be better than last season. Farmers added that, this improvement is still below the average production. Both seeds and fertilizer were reported to have arrived on time in the area, but were not enough.

Grazing was noted to be poor in the common area and fair in the enclosure. According to farmers, the grazing is expected to deteriorate by end of July this year. Livestock body condition were noted to range between fair and good, but expected to deteriorate with poor grazing condition. On the livestock health, no major diseases were reported at the assessment time. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to have improved following the recent harvest. However, according to farmers, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of July this year.

Anamulenge

As it was noted in other constituencies in the region, productive rainfall was only received as from December as opposed to the normal start in November. Most farmers reported that this year the rainfall is much less when compared to that of the previous season. On average most farmers manage were able to cultivate about 82% of their crop fields. However, farmers reported that, there were

shortage of seeds in the region which is also said to have contributed negatively to the below average harvest. Nevertheless, farmers indicated that pearl millet showed a slight improvement of about 11% higher than last season. However, sorghum production was reported to have suffered the most by poor rainfall performance as much of the crops have wilted and as a result, losses of about 67% of last season's poor harvest is estimated. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to be poor as it was the case last season.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good. However, grazing condition is poor and the situation is expected to deteriorate soon especially as from August this year. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is not significant as the harvest is expected to last on average at most end of July this year.

Ogongo

Farmers described the 2015/2016-rainfall season as very poor and worse than last season. According to farmers, rainfall performance was very poor, characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with severe and prolonged dry spells. However, it was noted that good showers received in March this year improved crop production slightly and to some extent the grazing condition. Analysis of the crop estimates indicated a slight improvement in the harvest where pearl millet is said to have increased by 7% and sorghum is 33% above last season's harvest. However, harvest for non-cereal crop was reported to be poor as it was the case last season. On average most farmers were

able to cover about 83% of their crop fields. Both seeds and fertilizers were reported to have come late and not enough. No major crop pests were reported this season, except few cases of False Army worm during the dry spells in February.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock were noted to be in fair to good condition, but grazing is poor. Water availability for livestock was also noted to be of a greatest concern as most water catchments have little or no water. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory, following a recent harvest. However, according to households, the current harvest is very little and is expected to only last at most July this year.

Okahao

As it was noted in other constituencies in the region, farmers indicated that the 2015/16 rainfall performance was slightly better than the previous season. Although, farmers emphasized the impacts of a severe and prolonged dry spells between January and February, this season's harvest is said to be better than last year. According to farmers, both pearl millet and sorghum recorded an improvement of 50% and 33% of last season's harvest respectively. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to be better than last season. Regarding the inputs, subsidized seeds and fertilizers were received on time and the demand for both was very high. On ploughing services, the government tractor started very late and only managed to plough 26 hectares while 8 private tractors managed to plough 558 hectares. Two weeding groups were registered and actively participated in the weeding subsidy. Crop pests

reported included crickets at Omukondo and Uukuvu villages during February and March.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture is reported to be poor especially in the inland while at the cattle post areas grazing is said to range between fair and good. Livestock body condition was reported to range between fair and poor in the inland and fair to good in the cattle post areas. Water availability, particularly for livestock consumption was noted to be a challenge as most earth dams have dried up and those with water is either muddy or salty. Regarding food security, farmers expressed mixed feeling about their household food security situation. Majority of farmers indicated that their current harvest will sustain them until the next harvest but only if supplemented with market purchases, while few farmers said their harvest will last up to January next year.

Otamanzi

As it was the case last season, farmers indicated that this season's rainfall was poor and below normal. According to farmers the 2015/2016 rainfall season was sporadic and erratic with severe dry spells during January and February. This is said to have caused poor crop germination and wilting of crops. Nevertheless, most farmers indicated that they have noted an improvement in the crop harvest this season which is better than last season. Accordingly, pearl millet and sorghum harvest recorded an improvement of 28% and 39% of last season's poor harvest respectively. However, harvest for non-cereals was reported to be poor as it was the case last season. Average planted area is estimated at 80% of the cropping area. On the agricultural inputs, most farmers used improved seeds from their local Agricultural Development Centre. However, according to the agricultural

extension official responsible for this area, seeds were not enough and came very late. Cases of crickets and quelled birds were reported during the grain formation stage.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both grazing establishment and livestock body condition were reported to range between poor and fair. Water availability for livestock remained to be a challenge in the area as most water catchments dried up. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved following the recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short-lived as it is only be able to sustain them until months of October and November with the supplement from the market purchases.

Elim

Despite the poor rainfall performance which is said to have dominated the season, farmers said, rainfall performance was slightly better than the last season. According to farmers, good showers received in March before the rainfall season terminates abruptly helps crops to mature properly. As a result, many farmers noted an improvement on pearl millet production with an estimated increase of over 149% better than last season. However, sorghum production was affected negatively by poor rainfall performance and lack of seed and hence a reduction of about 8% of last season's harvest was reported. Furthermore, non-cereal crops were reported to be generally better when compared to the previous season, especially melons and squashes. Average planted area is estimated at 85%, of the cropped area. Crop pests reported included crickets and birds at Othika, Etope, Ontanga, Onawa and surrounding villages during March.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good. Grazing was reported to be in fair state, but expected to deteriorate much earlier than usual. Household food security was reported to have improved following the recent harvest. However, this improvement according to household owners is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of October.

Oshikuku

Since the beginning of the crop season, this constituency was one of the areas that were worst affected by poor rainfall performance in the region. Farmers reported that poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of delay in the onset of the rainfall season, sporadic and erratic rainfall with prolonged dry spells, causing crops and grazing to wilt and poor germination. However, good showers received in March this season resulted in a slight improvement in the pearl millet production. Crop estimates indicated that, pearl millet harvest this

season is about 10% higher than last season's poor harvest. However, sorghum production on the other hand showed a reduction in harvest of over 33% below last season's meagre harvest. Apart from poor rainfall performance which is a major cause of poor harvest, farmers added that lack of seed availability particularly sorghum have also contributed to poor harvest. Planted area was estimated at 93% of the cropping area. False Armyworms were reported in various parts of the constituency during the dry spells period in February.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing condition was reported to be poor and livestock body condition ranges from fair to poor. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved slightly following the recent harvest. However, according to farmers, this improvement is too little and only expected to last less than two months.

Oshana region

The region suffered the worst impact of drought this season and as a result poor agricultural production was widely reported throughout the region. Many farmers in this region experienced a severe drought condition which is one of the worst in the history and was even harsh than the previous drought last year. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of considerable delay in the onset of the rainfall season, erratic and sporadic rainfall patterns, prolonged dry spells and the early cessation of the rainfall season. Consequently, this has leads to poor agricultural production in terms of the crop harvest, grazing condition and water availability in the region. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated a massive reduction in harvest with pearl millet recorded a decrease of 74% below the average production and 33% lower than last season's poor harvest. Sorghum production is down by 89% below the average production and 22% lower than the last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvests for non-cereals such cowpeas, squash and melons are were also reported to be poor this season. Out of the 10 constituencies in the region only two constituencies, namely Okatana and Ondangwa that recorded an improvement in the crop harvest. Figure 10 below shows the summary of the harvest estimates in various constituencies in the region.

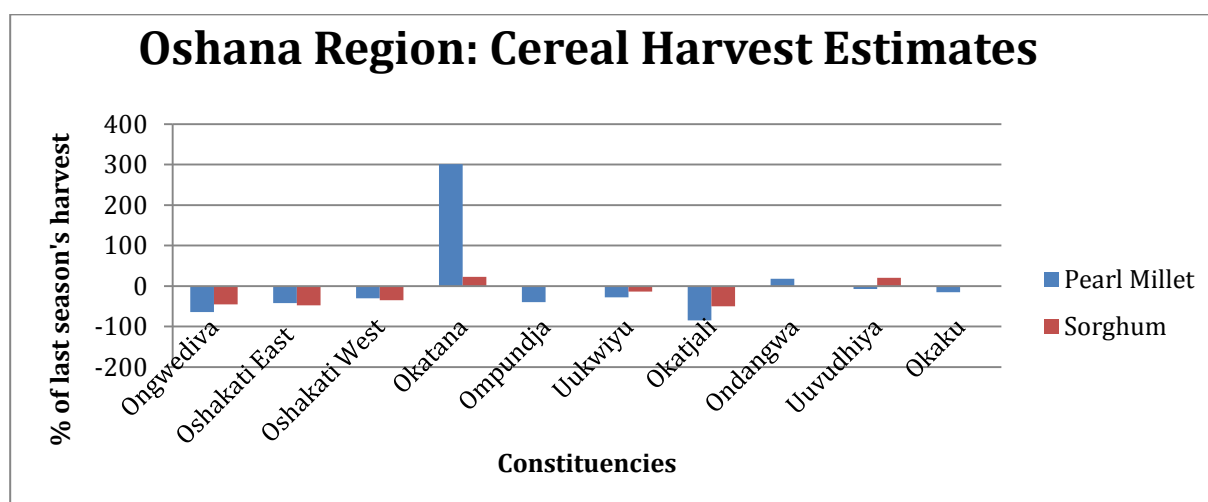


Figure 10: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates

Fair to poor grazing conditions were reported throughout the region and the situation is expected to deteriorate much earlier than last season's drought. Even in the cattle post areas,

particularly the extreme western part of the region poor grazing and water supply conditions were reported. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair to good in the inland and good in the cattle post areas. Water availability especially for livestock is said to be a challenge, as many catchment areas were still dry due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the area. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. With regards to household food security, the situation remained fragile since the recent harvest was poor and did not provide any significant improvement to household food security. Most households are reported to still dependent on the market and the Drought Relief Food Programme from the government, supplemented by their meagre harvest for food access.

Constituencies

Ongwediva

The 2015/2016-rainfall season was reported to be very poor worse than the drought season last year. The season was reported to have been dominated by erratic and sporadic rainfall patterns with severe and prolonged dry spells which affected the whole agricultural production negatively. Moderate to good showers received in March came late and did not have any significant impact on both crop and grazing conditions. As results, many farmers received poor crop harvest with pearl millet declined by 64% lower than last season and sorghum is down by 45% of last season's harvest. Harvest for non cereals was also reported to be poor this season apart from melons which were reported to be more this year than last season. In addition, farmers noted that improved seeds were received very late and was insufficient. As a result, only few farmers benefited from the subsidised improved seeds this season. Furthermore, fertilizers were also received late and the demand was very low. Cases of crickets and *Quellea* birds were reported in the area but the damage was said to be minimal.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, few cases of internal parasite in goats were reported in Okaandje village between February and March but the situation has now normalised. Grazing was reported to be poor throughout the area but livestock were noted to be in a fair to good condition. Water availability for livestock consumption was also noted to be a challenge as many earth dams and ponds are dry. On household food security, the situation was reported to have slightly improved, following the recent harvest. However, this improvement is expected to last till August this year.

Okatana

Although the area noted a poor rainfall performance for the 2015/2016-rainfall season, farmers indicated that this season's rainfall is slightly better than the previous season's rainfall. As a result, majority of farmers noted an improvement in the crop harvest which is far better than last season, but still below the average production. According to the analysis on the crop estimates, pearl millet and sorghum

recorded an increase of 301% and 23% of last season's harvest respectively. However, non-cereal harvest was reported to be poor as it was the case last season due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the area. Planted area is estimated at about 86% of the cropping area, reflecting a 6% increase of last season's cultivated area. Farmers added that, there are a significant number of private tractors operating in the area, which are currently being supplemented by government tractor. No major crop pests were reported.

Poor rainfall performance did not only affect crop production, but also livestock conditions in terms of grazing as well as water availability. According to farmers, water (rainfall water) for livestock is limited since most water catchments did not get any significant water inflow this season. Grazing was noted to range between fair and poor, but is expected to deteriorate soon after winter. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved following the recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short-lived and expected to be depleted by end of September this year. Drought Relief Food Programme is also taking place in the area, but household owners indicated that the drought relief food received is insufficient and only targeting households that are regarded as most vulnerable ones. Households are therefore requesting the government to increase the quantity of drought relief foods and cover all households affected by drought.

Oshakati West

This is one of the worst affected areas by poor rainfall performance in the region. According to farmers, the start of the current rainfall season was

delayed by over a month. Farmers added that, even when productive rains were received in December last year, rainfall performance has been poor and characterised by sporadic and erratic patterns with inadequate rainfall. As a result farmers conceded poor crop harvest and poor grazing establishment. Average planted area is estimated at 70% of the crop fields. Farmers added that, due to poor rainfall performance, crop germination is poor and those germinated, have since wilted due to limited moisture in the soil. Moderate to good showers received during March are said to have no significant impact on the harvest and grazing. Subsequently, crop production are extremely poor with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to have dropped by 30% and 35% of last season's poor harvest respectively. Harvest prospects for non-cereal crops were also reported to be poor this year because of poor rainfall. It was further noted that some farmers suffered a complete crop failure this year, as they did not have any single harvest this season.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing condition is very poor in most areas and livestock were noted to be in fair condition. Water for livestock was also reported to be a challenge as most water catchments were still dry because of lack of rainfall. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to have improved slightly. However, the improvement according to households is too little and on average can last up to two months. Household owners are therefore requesting the government to continue providing them with the drought relief foods until they are able to regain their livelihood.

Uuvudhiya

This area suffered the effect of poor rainfall

performance, which is said to have affected the agricultural production. Farmers indicated that, at first the season noted a considerable delay in the onset of the rainfall, insufficient and sporadic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and premature ending of the season followed this. As a result, majority of farmers received a poor crop harvest for pearl millet with an estimated reduction of at least 7% lower than last season. However, sorghum production on the other hand showed an improvement of about 20% higher than last season's harvest. Farmers argued that, crop germinations were poor and made several attempts to replant with limited or no success. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals such as legumes, melons and squash was also reported to be poor. It was further noted that limited availability of seed experienced in the area has also contributed negatively to the poor crop harvest. No major crop pests were reported. Average planted area is estimated at 86% of the cropping area, which is nearly 10% less than last season.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing was reported to range between poor and fair in most areas and good in the cattle post areas. Livestock body condition was noted to be good. Water availability for livestock was also noted to be a challenge as many water catchments were still dry. According to farmers, the major lake Oponona did not get enough inflow this season because of the drought and the little water available has since gone sour. Many farmers are using wells and pipeline to supply water to their livestock, which they said is very expensive for them. Farmers are therefore requesting the government to pump water from Oshakati Canal to the lake Oponona for their livestock. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following the recent harvest. However, households indicated that

this improvement is only enough till the end of September.

Oshakati East

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, this area suffered the effects of poor rainfall performance which resulted in many farmers experienced crop failure. Sorghum production received a massive reduction of 48% and sorghum is down by over 42% when compared to last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to be poor as it was the case last year. Average planted area is estimated at 96% of the cropping area. Farmers added that seeds were received on time but fertilizers were received very late. Cases of crickets were reported at Oshandumbala village during April and May period.

On livestock health, isolated cases of orf in small stock were reported in the eastern part of the constituency and the affected farmers were advised by the Directorate of Veterinary Services to treat their livestock. Livestock body condition was reported to range between fair and good while pasture establishment was noted to be fair throughout the constituency. Regarding the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, according to household owners this improvement is expected to last till August this year.

Ompundja

As it was reported in other areas in the region, the 2015/2016 rainfall season was very poor in terms of amount and distribution. Apart from the delay in the onset of the rainfall season, productive rainfall

was received during January and this was followed by a prolonged dry spells in February causing the crops to wilt. Even moderate to good showers that were received in March did not make any significant impacts to crops or grazing conditions. As a result, majority of farmers received poor crop harvest. Crop estimates for this area indicated that, pearl millet and sorghum productions are very poor with their respective estimates of 40% and 22% below last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvests for non-cereals were also reported to be poor as it was the case last year. Average planted area is estimated at 70 % of the cropping area. Farmers reported that Armyworms were experienced during January and February.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition as well as pasture was reported to range between fair and poor. On the household food security, the situation is said to have not yet improved. According to households, the recent harvest was very poor and some households are reported to have no harvest due to the current drought condition. Households are therefore reportedly still relying on the market and the government Drought Relief Food Programme for food access.

Ondangwa

According to farmers, this season's rainfall was slightly better than the previous season. Majority of farmers are reported to have received a slight improvement in pearl millet harvest of about 18% higher than the last season. However, sorghum production on the other hand was severely affected by drought and also lack of seed in the area. As such, harvest losses of at least 22% below last season's harvest are estimated. Average planted area is estimated at about 91% of the cropping area.

Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops were also said to be poor as it was the case last season.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock were reported to be in fair to good conditions and pasture was noted to be poor. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly with the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is not significant as the current harvest is expected to last till August this year. It was further reported that, many households are still dependent mainly on the market and to some extend the government Drought Relief Food Programme for food access.

Okaku

During February crop and Households food security assessment, farmers indicated that this rainfall season is slightly better than last season. According to farmers, crop germination was good with good harvest prospects. However, rainfall performance became poor and ended prematurely in March instead of the normal ending in April. As a result, much of the crop died due to lack of rainfall. Therefore, harvest estimates in this area showed a reduction in the harvest with pearl millet production is down by 15% and sorghum is 22% lower than last season's harvest. In addition, harvest for non-cereal crops such as cowpeas and melons are also poor as it was the case last season. Average planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropping area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition is said to range between fair and good. Grazing condition was also reported to range between poor and fair. Farmers added that water availability, particularly for livestock in the rain fed catchment

areas is poor. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be poor as the recent harvest did not provide significant improvement to the food insecurity situation in the area. Many households are reported to still dependent on the market and the government Drought Relief Food Programme for food access.

Okatyali

Since the start of the 2015/2016 rainfall season, rainfall performance has been poor. First, the onset of the 2015/2016 rainfall season was delayed as productive rains were only received in January. Light showers received in December were not enough to trigger off the cultivation activities. It was reported that, this season's rainfall is characterised by sporadic and erratic patterns with prolonged dry spell as from mid January and February, moderate to light showers in March, before the rainfall season ended prematurely. As a result, both crops and grazing were severely affected and according to farmers this season's drought was much more severe than the previous drought last year. According to the crop estimates pearl millet and sorghum production declined significantly by over 85% and 50% of last season's harvest respectively. Furthermore, harvests for non-cereals were also reported to be poor as it was the case last season. Despite the fact that, farmers cultivated their drop fields, some households were reported to receive no harvest at all. Average planted area is estimated at 90% of the cropping area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good, while pasture is poor. Water for livestock was also

reported to be a major challenge in the area as no rainfall water was available in the catchment areas during the assessment time. Regarding household food security, the situation was noted to have not yet improved since the recent harvest did not improve the food insecurity situation in the area. It was reported that, majority of the households are still dependent on the market and the Government Drought Relief Food Programme for food access.

Uukwiyu

As it was reported in other parts of the region, poor rainfall performance was much severe than the last season's drought. Inadequate seeds in the area were also noted to be a major setback for farmers. Majority of the interviewed farmers were able to cultivate at least 92% of their crop fields. According to farmers, this season's production is extremely poor with pearl millet production down by 85% and sorghum is 50% lower than last season's harvest. Non cereal crop were also said to be poor as it was the case last season.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good conditions while grazing reported to range between fair and poor in the whole area. Limited or no water available in most rain fed catchment areas. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to have not yet improved, since the recent harvest was too little and provided no significant improvements to household food security. Many households are said to still dependent on the market and to some extend the government Drought Relief Food Programme for food success.

Ohangwena region

Majority of farmers noted an improvement in the crop harvest which is better than last season, but still below the average production. Although the 2015/2016 rainfall performance was poor and below average, farmers indicated that, this season was slightly better than the previous drought last year. With the exception of Epembe and Oshikunde constituencies, the rest of the constituencies recorded an improvement in the pearl millet production. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated an improvement in the pearl millet production of about 75% of last season's harvest, but is 71% below the average production. However, sorghum production on the other hand showed a reduction of 7% below last year's harvest and 83% below the average production. In addition, harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to be below average as it was the case last season. Average planted area is estimated at about 84% of the crop fields. This reduction according to farmers is due to the effect of dry spells which are associated with high temperature causing crops to wither and the shortage of seeds experienced this season. Figure 11 below shows a summary of the harvest estimates in various parts of the region.

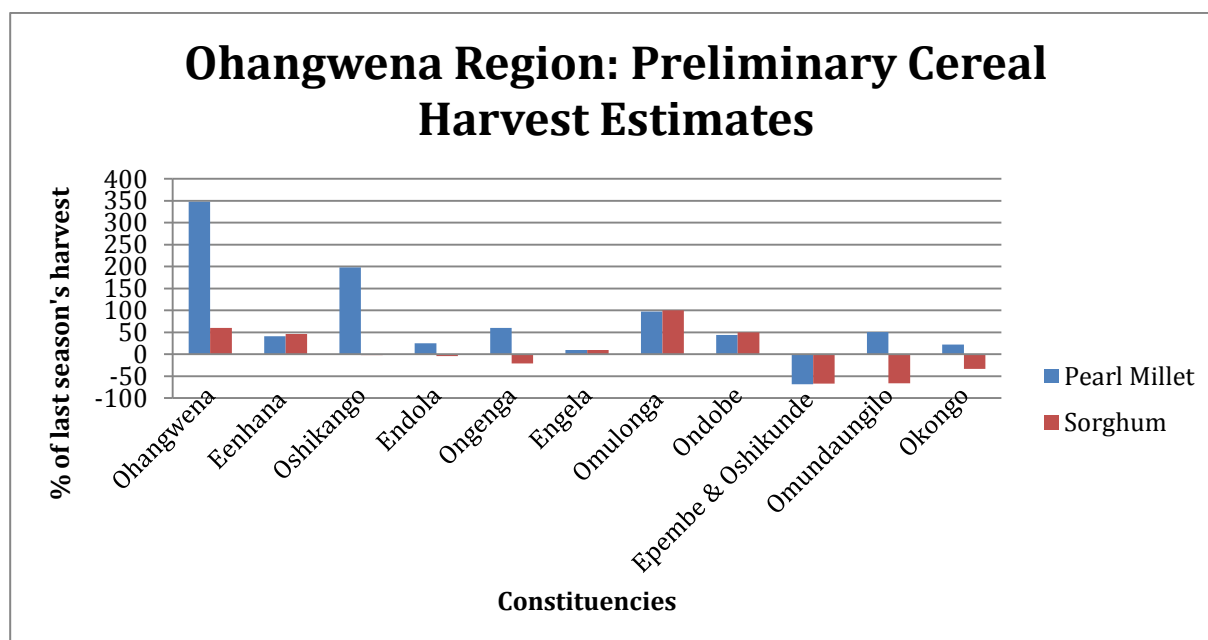


Figure 11: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates

Grazing condition ranged between poor and fair in the western areas of the region, while the eastern part reported fair to good grazing conditions were reported. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment and livestock body condition ranged

between fair to good. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short lived as the current harvest is expected to last between August and October this year. Households noted that the drought relief food takes too long to reach them which in most cases comes after three months and when it comes, it is only targeting households that are regarded as vulnerable. Households are therefore requesting the government to provide them with the drought relief food on time and cover all households affected by drought this year.

Constituencies

Ohangwena

Farmers indicated that this season's rainfall performance was slightly better than last season, though was still below average. Majority of farmers recorded a better crop harvest this season when compared to the previous season. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated that, most farmers received over 348% increase of last season's harvest for pearl millet while sorghum production recorded 60% higher than last season's harvest. Crop pest reported included few cases of False Army worms during January, but the impact to the harvest is said to be minimal. Planted area was estimated at 95% of the cropping area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing condition was noted to range between fair in the enclosure and poor elsewhere in the area. Livestock body condition is reported to be good but expected to deteriorate during the dry season. Water for livestock is also said to be limited in the area, since the catchment areas did not received enough inflows this season. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as

the harvest is expected to last on average till end of October this year. Drought Relief Food Programme is also taking place in the area, but households indicated that, the programme takes too long to reach them and only target few households which are regarded as most vulnerable.

Ongenga

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in the season, majority of farmers are reported to have received a slight improvement in the agricultural production, but yet is below average production. According to farmers, the 2015/2016 rainfall season was slightly better than the previous season. Crop estimates indicated that, pearl millet production noted an increase of about 60% higher than last season. However, sorghum production is poor due to poor rainfall performance as well as seed shortages experienced in the season and as such harvest losses of over 21% lower than last season was reported. Moreover, harvest for non cereals were also reported to be poor, particularly for legume.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture establishment was reported

to be poor while livestock body condition was noted to be good. However, water availability for livestock was noted to be a problem as a result of less rainfall received and many water catchments have little or no water. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following the recent harvest in May this year. However, according to household owners, the current harvest will only be enough till September this year.

Eenhana

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced this season, farmers indicated that, rainfall performance this season was slightly better than last season, but still below normal. Many farmers are reported to have noted an improvement in their crop harvest this year. Therefore, harvest estimates indicated an increase of 41% for pearl millet and sorghum is 46% better than last season's poor harvest. Farmers further indicated that there was a shortage of sorghum seeds following 2014/15 poor harvest. In addition, non-cereal crops especially melons were said to be better than last season.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition and pasture were both reported to range between fair and good throughout the area. Water availability was however not a big concern because water was still available in the earth dams at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as it is expected to last till September this year.

Ondobe

Despite the poor rainfall performance, majority of farmers are reported to have received a better harvest that according to farmers is better than last season. In this regard, pearl millet harvest is said to have improved by 44% while sorghum is up by 50% of last season's harvest. Farmers noted that crop germination was good, but due to poor rainfall performance, most crops have since wilted. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals crops are also said to be slightly better than last season.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition and pasture were both said to be fair throughout the area. Regarding the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to farmers, this harvest is only short-lived as the harvest only enough till end of September this year.

Omulonga

According to the farmers, last season rainfall was better compared to the current rainfall. Harvest estimates indicated an increase in overall cereal production with pearl millet and sorghum expected to increase by 97% and 100% of last season's harvest respectively. Planted area is estimated at 83% of the cropping area. Furthermore, harvest for legumes were noted to be poor this season, but melons and squash are said to be better than last season. Cases of false Armyworms, grasshoppers and cut worms were reported in the area especially during the dry spells in January but the damage was said to be minimal.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both livestock body condition and grazing are said to be fair. However, water availability, particularly for

livestock is still a problem. At the time of this assessment most rain fed reservoirs were still dry and livestock have to travel long distances to access water at the nearby areas. On household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to households this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of September this year.

Endola

According to farmers, rainfall performance this season was slightly better than last season. However, the southern part of the constituency received less rainfall and the agricultural production is poor compared to the rest of the constituency. Although there was a dry spell between January and February, most farmers managed to cultivate at least 94% of their crop fields. Nevertheless, majority of farmers are reported to have attained a slight improvement in Pearl millet production which is estimated to be about 29% higher than last season's harvest. However, sorghum production is said to have dropped by more than 4% of last season's harvest. Non-cereal production especially melons is reported to have performed better this season but legumes was poor as it was the case last season. Few cases of false army worms were reported in Okandolwena and Oshikwiyu villages in March but the damage is said to be insignificant. Quella birds were also reported in the area during harvest but the impacts were not severe.

Grazing was reported to be poor while livestock body condition was noted to range between poor and fair throughout the constituency. Suspected cases of Lumpy Skin Disease were reported at Okaku village. According to farmers, these cases were reported to the Directorate of Veterinary

Services who advised them to treat their affected livestock. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, according to farmers this harvest is only short-lived and expected to get finished by October this year.

Oshikango

Like other constituencies in the region, this area also noted the late start of the rainfall this season, sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall patterns as well as premature ending of the rainfall. Nonetheless, farmers indicated that, there is a significant improvement in pearl millet harvest and grazing establishment this season as compared to last season. In this regard, pearl millet harvest is said to have increased by about 198% of last season's harvest. However, sorghum production on the other hand is reported to have been affected by drought and a reduction of about 2% lower than last season is estimated. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops such as Bambara nuts and cowpeas are were also reported to be poor and same as last season. Watermelons are however reported to have improved slightly from the very poor harvest experienced last season. No major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment. Planted area is estimated at 82% of the cropping area and most farmers indicated that they could not cover the remaining area because of the drought.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition was noted to be good, but the situation is expected to weaken during the dry season. Water availability especially for livestock is said to be limited since most water catchments are dry due to poor rainfall received in the area. It was also noted that, due to inadequate grazing in the

area, some farmers are reported to have moved some of their livestock to Angola for better grazing and water conditions. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved, following a recent harvest during May this year. However, household owners indicated that the current harvest is expected to last till end of October this year. Drought Relief Food Programme is also taking place in the area, but households argued that, the food is insufficient, taking too long to reach them and is only targeting certain households who are regarded as vulnerable.

Engela

Poor rainfall performance was reported in most parts of this constituency during the 2015/2016 rainfall season. According to farmers, delayed rainfall, prolonged dry spells, insufficient rainfall and premature cessation of the rainfall season were the main features observed in the season. Nevertheless, farmers indicated that this season's crop harvest is slightly better than last season. Analysis on the crop estimated a slight improvement in the harvest with pearl millet and sorghum each recorded 10% increase of last season's harvest. Harvest for no-cereal crops on the other hand was reported to be poor on legumes (cowpeas and Bambara nuts) but slightly better on lemons and squashes. Planted area is estimated at about 83% of the cropping area. No major crop pests reported. It was noted that, demand for seeds was very high this season due to too much replanting caused by poor rainfall performance.

On livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was noted to be poor and is expected to deteriorate during the dry season. Water for livestock was also noted to be limited as most catchment areas did not receive significant inflow

this season. Livestock body condition range between fair and good. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved following the recent harvest. However, according to households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of August this year. Drought Relief Food Programme is also said to be taking place in the constituency. However, household owners argued that, the drought relief foods take time to come to their rescue and is inadequate and only targeting certain households that are regarded as vulnerable.

Okongo

Although the 2015/2016 rainfall performance was also noted to be poor, farmers said the rainfall performance is a little bit better than last season. Farmers noted that, despite the delay in the start of the season, the sporadic and erratic nature of rainfall this season, crop germination is much better. However, due to severe dry spells experienced as from mid January and February, much of the crops have since wilted. Sorghum and maize productions are the hardest hit by the dry spells. Harvest projects suggested that, pearl millet production made an improvement of 22% of last season's poor harvest. However, sorghum production on the other hand noted a significant reduction of about 33% of last season's poor harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 84% of the cropping area. Most farmers in this area use draft animals to cultivate their crop fields. However, about two government tractors do also serve farmers in this area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing condition was reported to range between fair and poor with livestock body condition ranges from fair to good.

On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is expected to last till October this year.

Omundaungilo

Farmers indicated that, since the start of the season, rainfall performance has been poor and is characterised by erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with prolonged dry spells in January and February. Nevertheless, farmers added that this season's rainfall was slightly better than last season. According to the harvest estimates, pearl millet harvest is estimated to have improved by about 51% of last season's harvest. However, sorghum production on the other hand is said to have been affected by dry spells and much of the crops have since wilted. Therefore, harvest estimates for sorghum suggested a considerable reduction in the harvest with losses of over 66% of last season's harvest estimated. Planted area was noted to be approximately 80% of the cropping area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture was reported to be fair and Livestock body condition ranges from fair to good. On the household food security, situation

was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till September this year.

Epembe and Oshikunde

According to farmers, the 2015/2016 rain season is poor and worse than the previous season. Since the start of the season, rainfall performance has been poor and characterised by erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with prolonged dry spells during mid January and February. Farmers added that, rainfall ended earlier in March than in April the normal one. Therefore, crop losses of about 68% for pearl millet and 67% for sorghum can be are estimated. Harvest for non-cereal crops are also said to be poor as it was the case last season. Average planted area is estimated at 80% of the crop fields.

No major livestock diseases were reported. The livestock body condition and the grazing were reported to be fair. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, according household this improvement is too little as the harvest is expected to last at most end of August this year.

Oshikoto region

The region noted a slight improvement in the crop harvest which is better than the previous season, but far below the average production. Although the region experienced poor rainfall performance throughout the season, most constituencies noted an improvement in crop harvest which is better than last season. However, Olukonda, Onyaanya, Eengodi and Nehale LyaMpingana constituencies recorded a reduction in harvest when compared to last season. Farmers reported that, since the start of the current rainfall season, the region has been experiencing poor rainfall performance which was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent serious and prolonged dry spells in January and February. Some crops are reported to have wilted due to insufficient moisture in the soil. Analysis of the crop estimates indicated that pearl millet received an increase of 23% higher than last season, but still 54% below the average production. However, sorghum production is still poor as it was the case last season and noted a reduction of 1% lower than last season and 89% below the average production. Figure 12 below shows a summary of the harvest estimates in various parts of the region.

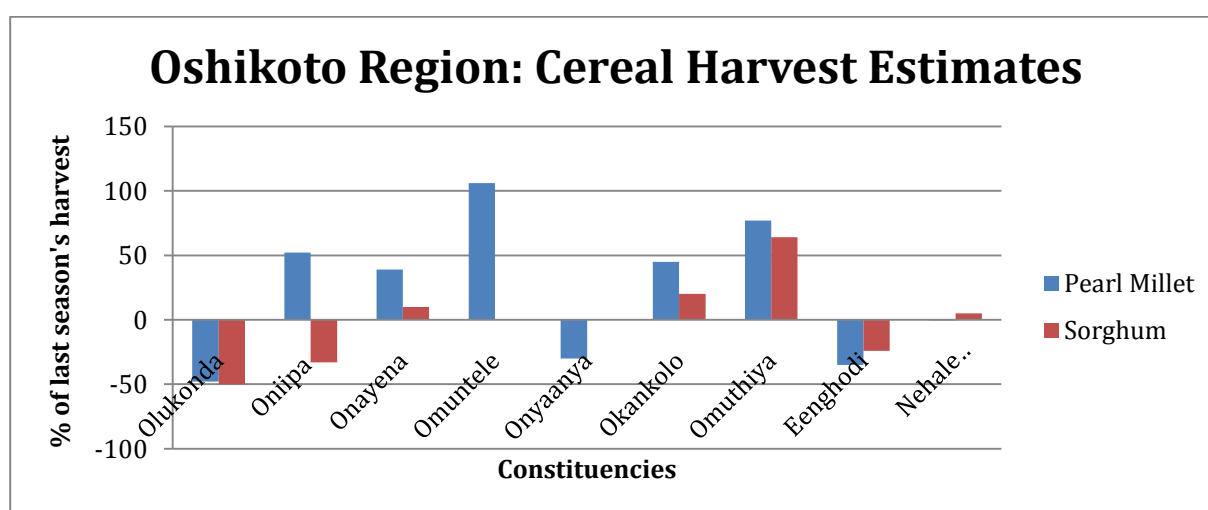


Figure 12: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates

Harvest for non-cereal crop was reported to be poor as it was the case last season. Average planted area is estimated at 85% of the cropping area, which is slightly higher (by 2%) than the previous season. Pasture condition was reported to range between poor and fair in the western part of the region which according to farmers is better than last season. The extreme eastern part of the region (Tsumeb and to some extent Guinas, and Nehale LyaMpingana

constituencies) fair to good grazing conditions were reported. Livestock body condition was noted to be in good condition. Water availability, especially for livestock was noted to be a problem in the region, as most water catchments did not receive sufficient inflow this season. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved following a recent harvest. However, according to farmers, the harvest is only short-lived and is expected to last on average end of October this year.

Constituencies

Omuthiya

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in the area, most farmers are expecting a better crop harvest when compared to the previous season. According to farmers, the start of the rainfall season was delayed by over one month as productive rainfall was only received as from December, instead of the normal one in November. Farmers further added that since the start of the 2015/2016-rainfall season, rainfall performance has been poor and was seen in the forms of erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent severe dry spells experienced in January and February. Farmers further noted that, the rainfall has also ended prematurely in March as opposed to the normal fading in April. Planted area is estimated at 83% of the cropping area, reflecting a reduction of about 10% of last season's ploughed area. Nonetheless, most farmers are reported to have received a better harvest this season with pearl millet noted an increase of 77% and sorghum by 64% higher than last season's harvest. However, non-cereal harvest was reported to be poor for legumes, but better for melons and squash. Cases of crickets were widely reported in the area. According to farmers, the crickets came in March affecting pearl millet grains.

On the livestock health, no diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was noted to range between poor and fair and livestock body condition noted to be good. Household food security was reported to have improved as a result of a recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived since it is expected to last till end of November this year. Drought Relief Food Programme is also taking place in the area, but household owners argued that the food takes time to reach them, insufficient and only targeting some households which are regarded as vulnerable.

Nehale LyaMpingana

This area noted a poor rainfall performance which according to farmers is more or less the same as the previous season. According to farmers, the start of the season was delayed as rainfall was only received in December compared to the usual one in November. Moreover, the area noted a serious prolonged dry spells in February, insufficient and sporadic rainfall as well as the early secession of the rainfall season. The northern part of the constituency is said to have suffered the most, while the southern part is said to be better than last season. Planted area is estimated at 72% of the cropping area. Analysis on the crop harvest

indicated that, this season's harvest is almost similar to last season's harvest for pearl millet which showed a reduction of 0.5% lower than last season. However, sorghum on the other hand showed an improvement of about 5% better than the previous season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals is also said poor for legumes when compared to last season, but better for melons and squash. Cases of crickets were widely reported in the area and is said to have caused considerable damage on pearl millet. False Armyworms were also reported in the area especially during the dry spell in February.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing was noted to range between fair in the common grazing area and good in the enclosure while livestock body condition was noted to be good. Insufficient water especially for livestock were widely reported in the area, as most of the water catchment did not receive significant inflow this season. Most livestock are however reported to be highly depending on the boreholes for water supply. On household food security, the situation is said to have improved after a recent harvest in May this year. According to most households interviewed, the current harvest is expected to last till the next harvest. Farmers are requesting the government to provide them with the government tractors, drill boreholes and livestock supplements in their area.

Oniipa

Majority of farmers are reported to have noted an improvement in the crop harvest this season, better than last season. However, some crops are said to have wilted due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the area. Majority of farmers were

able to cultivate over 90% of their crop fields. Crop estimates indicated that pearl millet production has increased by more than 52% of last season's harvest. However, sorghum production on the other hand is said to have been affected negatively by poor rainfall performance and losses of over 33% of last season's harvest are estimated. Furthermore, harvest prospects for non-cereal crops were reported to be better than last season.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to range between poor and fair with few water catchments having water. Livestock body condition was observed to range between fair and good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the current harvest is expected to last between August and September this year.

Olukonda

This constituency is one of the worst affected areas by the drought in the region. Farmers indicated that, since the start of the 2015/2016-rainfall season rainfall performance has been poor. Following the delay in the onset of the season, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall affecting both crop and livestock production. It was noted that, this area received very little rainfall. Nevertheless, due to significant number of private tractors in the area, majority of farmers were able to cover about 94% of their crop fields. Despite the relative big area covered, many farmers noted poor crop harvest this season, which according to farmers is even worse than last season's drought. Accordingly, pearl millet and sorghum production recorded a

significant reduction of over 48%, and 50 % of last season's poor harvest respectively. No major crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment.

Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor. Water for livestock (rain water) is also reported to be limited since no significant water inflow was received this season. As such, most swamps and earth dams were dry. Household food security have not yet improved, since the recent harvest did was very poor and too less to improve the situation. Majority of households are reported to still dependent on the market and to some extend the government Drought Relief Food Programme for food access. However, it was reported that, the drought relief food distribution is irregular, insufficient and only targeting certain households that are regarded as most vulnerable and in desperate need for food assistance. Household owners are therefore requesting the government to improve the quantity of the drought relief food, improve the timeliness of delivery and cover all the households affected by the drought.

Okankolo

Despite the poor rainfall performance, which is said to have dominated the season, majority of farmers in this area noted an improvement in their crop harvest. Accordingly pearl millet and sorghum production noted an increase of about 45% and 20% of last season's poor harvest respectively. Farmers added that, rainfall performance this season was slightly better than the previous season. On average, majority of the farmers managed to cultivate about 80% of their crop fields improved. On non-cereal harvests, melons and watermelons production were reported to be more than last season, but poor for legumes.

On animal health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good with good grazing in the north and north-eastern part but poor in the southern part. Regarding household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following the recent harvest. However, this harvest according to farmers is only expected to last at most September this year.

Eengodi

As it was noted with other constituencies in the region, rainfall this season is said to have performed poorly compared to last season. However, despite the sporadic and erratic rainfall experienced, majority of farmers managed to cultivate at least 85% of their crop fields. Farmers added that crop germinations were very good at the beginning, but later on wilted as a result of a prolonged dry spells in February. Even those crops which manage to get through the season, grain formations were poor. As a result, most farmers are expecting poor crop harvest this year which according to farmers is even worse than the previous season. Both pearl millet and sorghum production noted a reduction in harvest of 35% and 24% below the last season's harvest respectively. Furthermore, non-cereals production was also reported to be poor as it was the case last year, but melons and squashes are said to be more than the previous season. Cases of crickets feeding on pearl millet grains were reported at Taambompunya and Onamishu yomwoonde villages with severe damages reported.

On livestock health, cases of internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the area. Pasture establishment and livestock body condition were

both reported to be good. However, water availability particularly for livestock was reported to be a great concern in the area as most earth dams and ponds are dry. According to farmers many livestock are currently dependent on pipeline water for consumption which is too expensive for the farmers. On household food security, only few of the interviewed farmers indicated that their current harvest might take them to the next harvest with maize meal supplement from the market and drought relief. However, majority of farmers indicated that their harvest is expected to sustain them till this year.

Onayena

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in the area, majority of farmers received better crop harvest this season than last season, though is still below average. Farmers reported that, last season and the current seasons are both drought years, but this season is slightly better than last season. Crop estimates indicated that, pearl millet production increased by at least 39% and sorghum is up by 10% of last season's poor harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 80% of the crop fields. Crop pests reported included grasshoppers and false Armyworms during January and partly February.

Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor. According to farmers, pasture recovery was affected by poor rainfall performance. On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Water for livestock is scarce in the area, as most water catchments did not receive any significant inflow this season. On to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, according to households,

this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last at most August this year.

Omuntele

Although this season's rainfall performance was poor, majority of farmers noted good crop harvest which is significantly better than last season's poor harvest. According to farmers, pearl millet production recorded an increase of 106%, of last season's harvest. However, sorghum on the other hand is said to have been affected negatively by poor rainfall performance and lack of seed. Therefore, harvest losses for sorghum are estimated at about 1% lower than last season. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals were also reported to be poor this season in legumes, but higher in melons and squashes. Average planted area is estimated at 88% of the cropping area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to range between poor and fair since its recovery was also affected by poor rainfall performance. Livestock condition was noted to range between fair and good, but expected to deteriorate with poor grazing condition. Water availability, particularly for livestock was also noted to be a challenge as many water catchments were still having little or no water at the time of this assessment. Majority of farmers are reported to be either using tap water or wells to supply water to their livestock. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved slightly following the recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of September this year.

Onyaanya

Most farmers in this area are reported to have received poor crop harvest, following the drought conditions which dominated the season. Farmers indicated that, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with prolonged dry spells as well as premature ending of the rainfall season. Subsequently, crop estimates indicated a significant reduction in harvest with pearl millet recorded a reduction of 30% and sorghum by 1% lower than last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals are also said to be poor as it was the case last season. On the basic inputs, the demand for seeds was generally high as many farmers were

unable to retain sufficient seed from last season's harvest.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor, while livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory following a recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last at most August this year.

NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION ANALYSIS FOR 2015/2016 CROP SEASON

The national's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, sorghum, pearl millet and wheat) is presented in the Table 2 below and is estimated at **80,000 metric tonnes**. This consists of 46,400 tonnes of white maize, 19,400 tonnes of pearl millet, 1,500 tonnes of sorghum and 12,700 tonnes of wheat².

Table 2: Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2015/2016 compared to a 5-year average (2010/2011 to 2014/2015) and 2014/2015 harvest.

Region/Sector	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	5-year average	2015/16 as % of average	2015/16 as % of 2014/15
Zambezi	5.7	5.6	3.5	7.5	2.5	2.1	5.1	-59	-17
Kavango East & West	5.6	4.0	1.8	3.8	1.1	1.8	3.2	-43	86
Omusati	11.1	12.6	3.2	7.4	3.3	4.7	7.5	-37	43
Ohangwena	8.0	12.3	4.9	7.3	2.6	4.3	7.0	-39	67
Oshana	5.0	13.6	4.4	8.9	3.3	2.2	7.0	-68	-33
Oshikoto	16.7	20.2	11.5	18.6	5.8	7.1	14.5	-52	22
Commercial	75.6	97.6	52.2	78.6	49.4	57.9	71.2	-19	17
Namibia	127.7	165.8	81.1	132.1	67.8	80.0	115.5	-31	18

As noted in Table 2 above, the aggregate coarse grain represents a slight improvement in output of **18 percent** higher than last season, but **31 percent** below the average production. The slight improvement came as a result of a small increase in the harvest from most of the major crop producing regions, except the Zambezi and Oshana which were the worst affected regions by drought this year. The national planted area to coarse grain production in various parts of the major crop producing regions is presented in Table 3 below.

² This is a provisional estimate, since wheat is a winter crop and production thereof is ongoing

Table 3: Namibia: Total planted area trend ('000 hectares) and 2015/2016 compared to a 5-year average (2010/2011 to 2014/2015) and 2014/2015 crop season.

Region/Sector	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	5-year average	2015/16 as % of average	2015/16 as % of 2014/15
Zambezi	20.9	20.1	20.6	19.4	20.4	15.4	22.5	-14	-6
Kavango East & West	23.1	20.6	20.6	21.6	18.4	17.4	20.1	8	5
Omusati	82.6	73.4	61.5	78.0	64.3	74.4	89.1	-12	27
Ohangwena	85.2	84.3	76.2	79.8	65.5	75.3	87.10	-8	5
Oshana	36.3	35.1	33.2	35.1	30.8	33.9	45.0	-22	6
Oshikoto	62.1	60.1	54.1	58.1	54.8	56.1	69.1	-15	7
Commercial	15.4	18.1	16.0	15.8	14.4	11.7	14.3	11	-1
Namibia	325.5	311.6	307.9	307.8	268.5	284.2	346.4	-11	9

As shown in table 3 above, the area planted to cereal this season is estimated at 284,200 hectares. This represents a slight increase of about 9% of last seasons' area, but is 11% below the average planted area. The below average planted area came as a result of severe drought conditions experienced this season which was also the case last season. A substantial reduction in planted area according to the table 3 were more severe in the communal crop producing regions, of Zambezi, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions. The Kavango West, Kavango East regions as well as the commercial dry land areas, most farmers covered a greater parts of their crop fields, but the harvest was still poor since much of the crops wilted because of the drought.

CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION UPDATE

Table 4: Cereal supply and demand situation report

Namibia: Cereal Supply/Demand Forecast for 2016/17 Marketing Year (May/April) ('000 metric tonnes)				
	Wheat	Maize	Millet/Sorghum	Total
Domestic Availability	15.6	74.5	22.2	112.3
Opening stocks (as at May 2016*)	2.9	28.1	1.2	32.2
Forecasted Production**	12.7	46.4	21.0	80.0
Total Utilization***	80.1	172.7	74.3	327.9
Food use	69.5	158.9	56.1	284.5
Losses and other uses	0.6	4.6	3.1	8.4
Closing stocks (as at April 2015*)	10.0	10.0	15.0	35.0
Shortfall to be covered by import	-64.5	-99.1	-52.1	-215.7
Commercial imports received	12.20	14.6	1.20	28.0
Commercial imports expected	0	0	0	0
After trade Deficit/Surplus	-52.3	-84.5	-50.9	-187.6

Notes: * Includes commercial, food aid and on-farm stocks

** Exclude cereal production for animal feed

*** 2.3 million people (NSA, 2015 est.) each consuming 124kg of cereal per annum

Source: Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit

The balance sheet as indicated in table 4 shows that, the available cereal locally for the current marketing/ consumption period is estimated at 112,300 tonnes. This comprises of 15,600 tonnes of wheat, 74,500 tonnes of white maize and 22, 200 tonnes of pearl millet and sorghum. In contrast, the current cereal domestic availability is only about 34% of the domestic cereal requirements; hence 215,700 tons is required to cover the shortfall. This is consisted of 64, 500 tons of wheat, 99,100 tons of maize and 52 100 tons of pearl millet and sorghum. The cereal food balance sheet further noted that, after the considerations of imports received during May and June this year, an after trade deficit of 187, 600 tonnes is estimated. This deficit is consists of 52, 300 tonnes of wheat, 84, 500 tonnes of maize and 50,900 tonnes of millet/sorghum. This deficit under the normal circumstances is expected to be covered through commercial imports in the form of either grains or meals. According to the major

local commercial millers, the situation is under control as there are no major problems experienced so far in importing cereals in the country. The millers assured the nation that, there will be no major price increase in the next few months to come, except in the event of significant weakening of the South African Rand (where Namibian dollar is pegged) against the US\$.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

The main findings of this assessment indicated that, the country is once again seriously affected by drought condition this year, due to poor and below normal rainfall performance received this season. However, when compared to the previous season, this season's drought is said to be slightly better as majority of crop farmers noted a slight improvement in crop harvest this year. The report noted that, poor grazing conditions were reported in the western and north central regions with many livestock facing starvation this year. Water availability particularly for livestock consumption was noted to be a cause of concern, particularly in the areas affected by poor grazing as most water catchments did not receive significant inflow this season and boreholes have either dried up or yielding salty water. The report further noted that household food security is still under threat; since the recent harvest was insufficient to provide the much needed improvement to households that are facing food insecurity. It was also reported that the government drought relief food is inadequate and takes time to reach the beneficiaries and is only targeting households that are regarded to be in desperate need of food assistance.

Therefore, based on these findings, the following recommendations are made for possible interventions and future assistance to mitigate the impacts of drought conditions:

- On the weakening food security and inadequate supply of the drought relief food it is recommended that the current Drought Relief Food Programme should be allowed to continue till March 2017, pending the outcomes of the next season's agricultural production. It is also recommended that, the Drought Relief Food Programme be strengthened by increasing the supply of the drought relief food to the regions, ensure time delivery and cover all the households affected by drought conditions.
- In light of the below average crop harvest, the Directorate of Agricultural Research and Development as well as Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services are advised to produce improved pearl millet and also sorghum seeds under irrigation during offseason for the next cropping season.
- Areas affected by poor grazing conditions, it is recommended that the Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services advice the farmers

affected by poor grazing conditions to take the necessary precautionary measure such as destocking, culling, etc while livestock are in good condition to avoid a complete loss. It is also advisable to provide support in terms of marketing incentives to farmers who are willing to sell their livestock on the designated markets.

- On the water shortages in the affected regions, the Directorate of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination (DRWSC) is advised to monitor the situation closely and provide appropriate intervention in the affected communities.

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- Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services (DEES)
- Directorate of Research and Training (DRT)
- Regional Councils
- Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB)
- Northern Namibia Farmers Seed Growers' Cooperative
- Likwama Farmers Association
- Meteorological Services of Namibia
- Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (DDRM)
- Directorate of Veterinary Services
- Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)