



NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION REPORT

JUNE 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

Despite a delay in the onset of the 2016/2017 rainfall season and the generally poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season, rainfall conditions are reported to have improved significantly, resulting in good and above normal rainfall received in the greater part of the country. Farmers reported that, productive rainfall was only realised as from ends of November to early December as opposed to a normal start of the season in early November. It was further reported that, some parts of the country especially the north central, northwest and southeast were affected by poor rainfall performance in the first half of the season stretching to early February.

The revised crop estimates indicated a substantial improvement in the crop harvest which is much better by far than last season's harvest in all the regions. Aggregate cereal estimates showed that, the country is expecting an increase of at least 84% of last season's harvest and 16% above the average production.

Household Food security is reported to have improved, following a significant improvement in agricultural production recorded this year. At the time of this assessment in the major communal crop producing regions, it was noted that majority of households were dependent on the current production which according to farmers is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

An outbreak of Lumpy Skin disease was reported in the North Central regions, Omaheke, Erongo and Otjozondjupa regions. At the time of this assessment, the Directorate of Veterinary Services was in the process of mobilizing resources in order to procure vaccines to respond to the situation. Most parts of the country reported good grazing conditions following the good rainfall received almost throughout the country this season.

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.

Namibia Early warning and Food Information Unit of the Directorate of Planning and Business Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Private Bag 13184, Windhoek. Tel. 09 264 61 2087662. Fax. 2087767 email: Matheus.Ndjodhi@mawf.gov.na

Table of Contents

1.0	OVERVIEW	1
2.0	AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION.....	2
3.0	CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS	4
4.0	FOOD SECURITY SITUATION	6
5.0	PASTURE, LIVESTOCK AND WATER SUPPLY SITUATION	7
6.0	REGIONAL CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION	10
7.0	NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION FOR 2015/2016 CROP SEASON	49
8.0	CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION UPDATE	51
9.0.	CONCLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	53
10.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	54

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 8th May to 05th June 2017. The main purpose of this assessment was to assess and quantify the 2017 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 grazing conditions. Information regarding the agricultural situations 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:

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF)

Mr Matheus Ndjodhi (team leader) (MAWF)



12/07/2017

Date

Ms Johanna Shapwa (MAWF)

Mr Titus Kayawala (MAWF)

Mr Petrus Uushona (MAWF)

Mr Gerhard Neumbo (MAWF)

Mr Job Shikongo (MAWF)

Mr Aktofel Amalungu (MAWF)

Mr Stephanus Sanda (MAWF)

Ms Charlene Binga (Meteorological Services of Namibia, Ministry of Works and Transport)

Ms Isabella Kapolo (Directorate Disaster Risk Reduction, Office of the Prime Minister)

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 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).

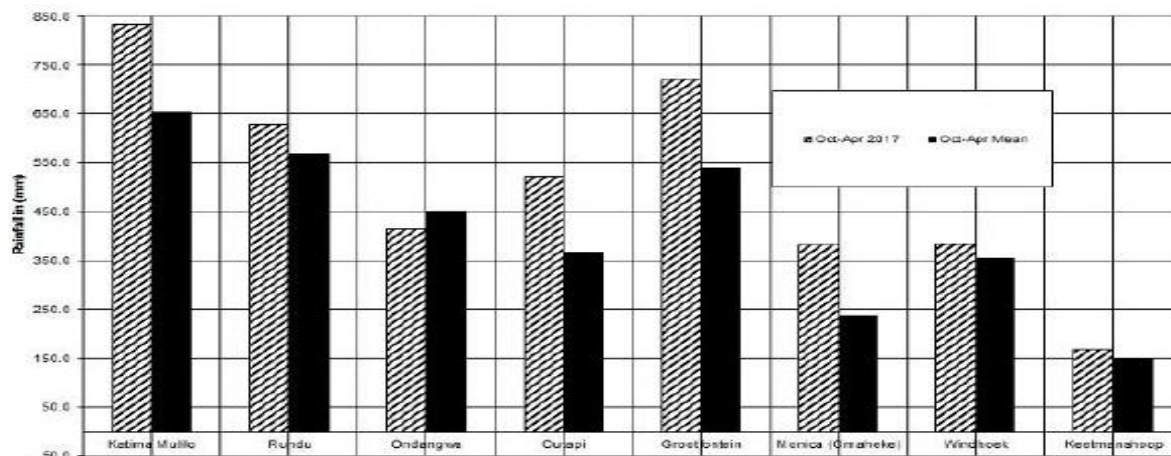
¹ Crop producing regions included Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and

AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

2016/2017 Rainfall Performances for Namibia

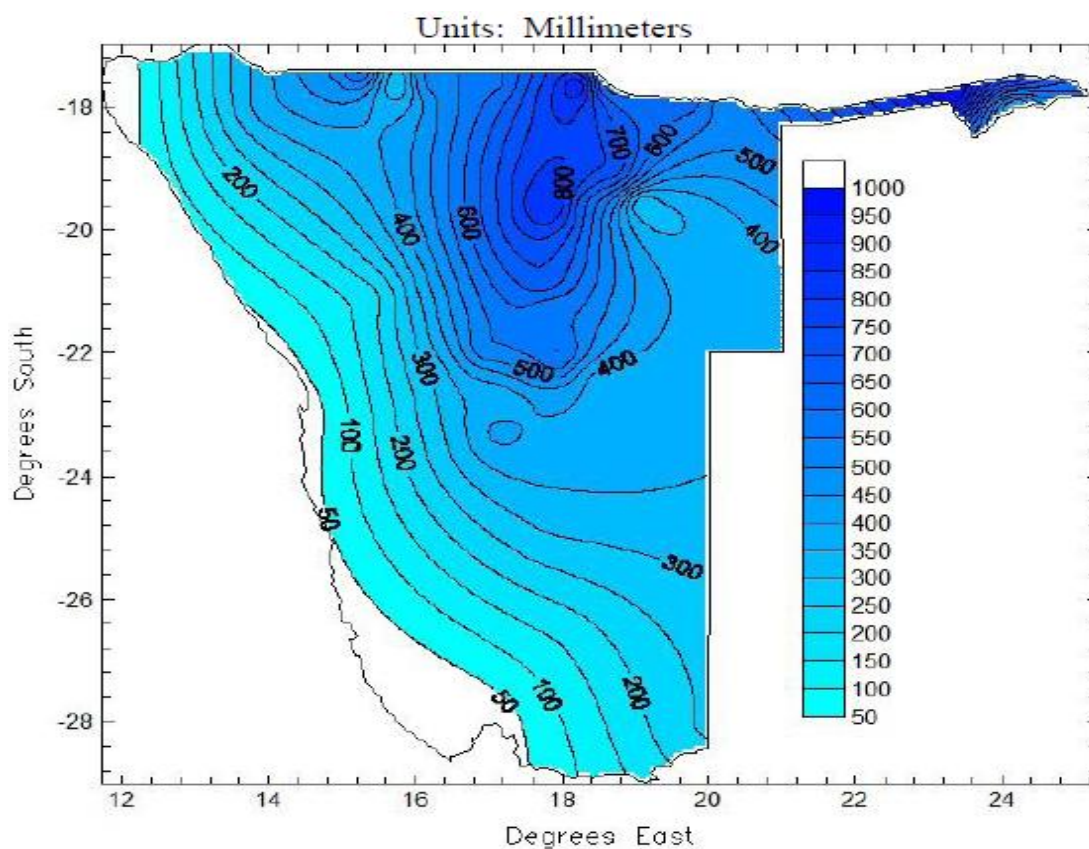
Despite the delay in the onset of the 2016/2017 rainfall season and the generally poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season, rainfall conditions are reported to have improved significantly, resulting in good and above normal rainfall received in the greater part of the country. Farmers reported that, productive rainfall was only realised as from ends of November to early December as opposed to a normal start of the season in early November. It was further reported that, some parts of the country especially the north central, northwest and southeast were affected by poor rainfall performance in the first half of the season stretching to early February. Nonetheless, the situation is reported to have improved considerably as from mid February. Consequently, many farmers recorded a good agricultural production this year. According to farmers, this improvement brought reliefs and significant recovery to the ailing agricultural production which was hit by devastating drought conditions for the past two successive seasons. However, the north east, particularly the Zambezi region have suffered excessive rainfall and floods resulting in some crop fields flooded. Furthermore, the north central regions especially Omusati, Oshana, western part of Ohangwena and the extreme southwestern part of Oshikoto are reported to have been affected by flood water which came as a result of heavy rains received in the southern part of Angola. These reports were corroborated by the Namibia Meteorological Services report which depict a trend of above normal rainfall received, relative to normal (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 below).

Figure 1: Rainfall Relative Performance Chart - October 2016 to April 2017 relative to Normal in various towns in Namibia



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

Fig 2: Cumulative Seasonal Rainfall in millimetres - October 2016 to April 2017



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

The Namibia Meteorological Service further added that, the overall performance of the rainfall season was within the normal to above-normal categories across the entire country except few places in the Western part of the country particularly Omatjete area in the Daures constituency as well as a larger part of //Karasburg, Warmbad and Aus areas in the //Karas region in the south.

Good rainfall did not only improve the agricultural production, but also water supply particularly for the livestock that are heavily dependent on the surface/ rainfall water for consumption. At the time of the assessment in the northern major crop producing regions, most water catchments such as earth dams, ponds, Iishana, and so forth are either full or have sufficient water to sustain livestock to the next rainfall season.

CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

Following good rainfall reported in most parts of the country, all the crop producing regions (subsistence and commercial) recorded a significant improvement in crop harvest this season. Crop estimates indicated a considerable improvement in the crop harvest which is significantly better by far than last season's harvest in all the regions. However, according to the crop estimates only the Oshana and Oshikoto regions as well as the commercial area recorded above-average harvest this season. The rest of the regions noted near normal to below normal crop harvest. Nevertheless, aggregate cereal estimates showed that, the country is expecting an increase of at least 84% of last season's harvest and 16% above the average production.

National Cereal Production Statistics Trend (in '000 metric Ton) and 2016/2017 forecast compared with 18 - year average and 2015/2016 Production										
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	18 - year average	2016/2017 as % of average	2016/2017 as % of 2015/16
Maize (Communal)	5.2	4.6	2.5	5.2	1.4	1.2	3.3	6.6	-50	175
Maize (Commercial)	48.0	63.2	72.4	71.3	38.9	42.4	64.8	40.7	59	53
Pearl Millet	41.1	55.9	24.7	44.1	15.3	19.4	57.6	56.2	2	197
Sorghum	5.8	7.7	2.2	4.1	1.7	1.5	2.8	7.4	-63	85
Wheat	11.5	11.9	14.8	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.6	19	0
Aggregate	111.6	143.4	116.6	136.1	68.9	76.0	140.0	120.7	16	84

Table 1: National cereal production statistics and 2016/2017 forecast compared to 2015/2016 harvest and 18 - year average

Table 1 above shows the cereal production statistics as from 2010/2011 to 2015/2016 crop seasons. Table 1 also indicate the crop estimates for the 2016/2017 crop season, 18-year average and the 2016/2017 estimated production as percentage of the average and 2015/2016 crop season. As shown in Table 1, maize production in the communal area (Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions) indicated a significant improvement of 175% of last season's poor harvest, but is 50% below the average production. Much of this improvement about 91% comes from the Zambezi region while the remaining 9% is from the Kavango West and Kavango East region. During the February assessment, preliminary crop estimates (which were base on crop germinations) suggested a normal production this season. However, this could not be achieved because of the excessive rainfall and Fall Army worms experienced this season.

Maize production in the commercial area on the other hand showed a considerable improvement of 53% higher than last season's harvest and 59% above the average production.

Much of this improvement is as a result of a recovery and good harvest received from the dry land maize producers. It was noted that the dry land maize area received good rainfall this season when compared with severe drought conditions experienced in the past two successive seasons.

Pearl millet production showed a significant improvement of 197% of last season's harvest, and 2% above the average production. Much of this improvement comes from Oshana and Oshikoto regions where above average production/ bumper harvest was reported. Similarly, sorghum production has also showed a remarkable improvement of about 85% of last season's poor harvest, but is 63% below the average production. According to farmers, much of the below average is attributed to seed shortages for sorghum which was experienced at the beginning of the season. Wheat is a winter crop and production thereof is ongoing. However, for the purpose of national aggregate and analysis as already shown above, harvest estimates for the 2015/2016 were used to develop the 2016/2017 estimates.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Household Food security is reported to have improved, following a significant improvement in agricultural production recorded this year. At the time of this assessment in the major communal crop producing regions, it was noted that majority of households were dependent on the current production which according to farmers is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

In the north eastern regions (Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions) most households interviewed indicated that, this season's harvest was much better than last season. Although the current harvest was noted to be below the average production because of the Fall Armyworms on maize and excessive rainfall which affected all crops, according to most farmers interviewed indicated that the current harvest was significant and is expected to last till the next harvest.

Food security in the north central regions (Omusati, Oshikoto, Oshana and Ohangwena), was reported to have improved considerably, following a recent good crop harvest received this year. According to farmers, crop harvest was good this year and is expected to sustain households to the next harvest. The Oshana and Oshikoto region recorded a bumper harvest, while Omusati and Ohangwena regions recorded near normal crop production this year.

Food security elsewhere in the country was also noted to have improved as many places are reported to have recorded good agricultural production following good rainfall received this season. However, some few places in the //Karas and Erongo regions, particularly Omatjete area in the Daures constituency as well as a greater part of //Karasburg, Warmbad and Aus areas in the //Karas region are still experiencing food insecurity due to poor rainfall received in these areas.

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

Most parts of the country reported good grazing conditions following the good rainfall received almost throughout the country this season. According to farmers grazing has improved considerably and was noted to range between fair and very good.

In the north eastern regions (Zambezi, Kavango west, and Kavango east) good to very good grazing were widely reported in the area. Fair to good grazing conditions were reported in the north central regions (Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto) and Erongo region. However, it was noted that, there are some pockets in communal areas in Erongo region with poor grazing especially partly Otjimbingwe, Spitzkoppe, Omatjete, Uis and Usakos areas. Furthermore, grazing status in //Karas region was reported to range between fair and poor but according to farmers is still much better than last year. The most affected areas in the region are Aus and Bethanie with very poor grazing condition. However, grazing in Keetmanshoop, Karasberg, Helmeringhausen, Berseba, Aroab and Koës areas is still good as a result of good rainfall received in these areas. Hardap Region reported fair to poor grazing condition with Maltahohe area severely affected.

The livestock body condition in most regions was reported to have improved significantly, because of good grazing. Livestock in the north east regions (Zambezi, Kavango west, and Kavango east) were reported to be in a good to very good condition while in the north central regions livestock body condition is said to be in good. Down south, a larger part of //Karasburg is affected by poor grazing thus overall livestock body condition ranges from good to fair. At the time of the assessment, many farmers were noted to be supplementing their livestock with fodder and licks, especially in Aus and Warmbad area. It was further reported that most Livestock from the Warmbad commercial area were moved to north-east for better grazing condition. The livestock condition in Hardap region was rated between good and fair but livestock in Maltahohe are said to be poor as a result of poor grazing. In addition, livestock in Erongo region were also reported to be in good condition.

With regard to livestock health, an outbreak of Lumpy Skin disease was reported in the North Central regions, Omaheke, Erongo and Otjozondjupa regions. At the time of this assessment,

the Directorate of Veterinary Services was in the process of mobilizing resources in order to procure vaccines for them to respond to the situation. It was further noted that, many of the affected farmers made regular visits to their local pharmacy in order to buy the vaccine which was still not yet available at the time of the assessment. Furthermore, cases of ticks infestations were also reported inland areas of the Zambezi region. Isolated cases of abortion in small stock were also reported in most parts of Hardap and //Karas region. Internal parasites in small stock were also reported in north central regions, with clinical sign of diarrhea and thin body condition of the animal.

Given good rainfall received this season, the water supply situation was reported to have improved in most parts of the country. However, some areas such as Bethanie and Berseba in //Karas region as well as Maltahohe in Hardap region are reportedly facing underground water shortages as a result of low rainfall received in these areas this season.



Figure 3: Shows one of the cattle affected by the Lumpy Skin disease at Omunkuzi village in Onesi Constituency, Omusati region.

Dams levels

Figure 4 below provides a summary of the dams/ reservoirs levels in the country as at 10th July 2017. It is noted that most of the dams/reservoirs received significant water inflow this

season; hence their water levels are reasonably good and much better than last season. The graph shows that Goreangab is still 100% full. Naute, Oanob, hardap and Von Bach dams are nearly full with 90%, 86% and 66% of their holding capacity respectively. The rest of the dams are less than 60% of their capacity with Otjivero silt, Omaruru Delta and Omatjenne Dams empty.

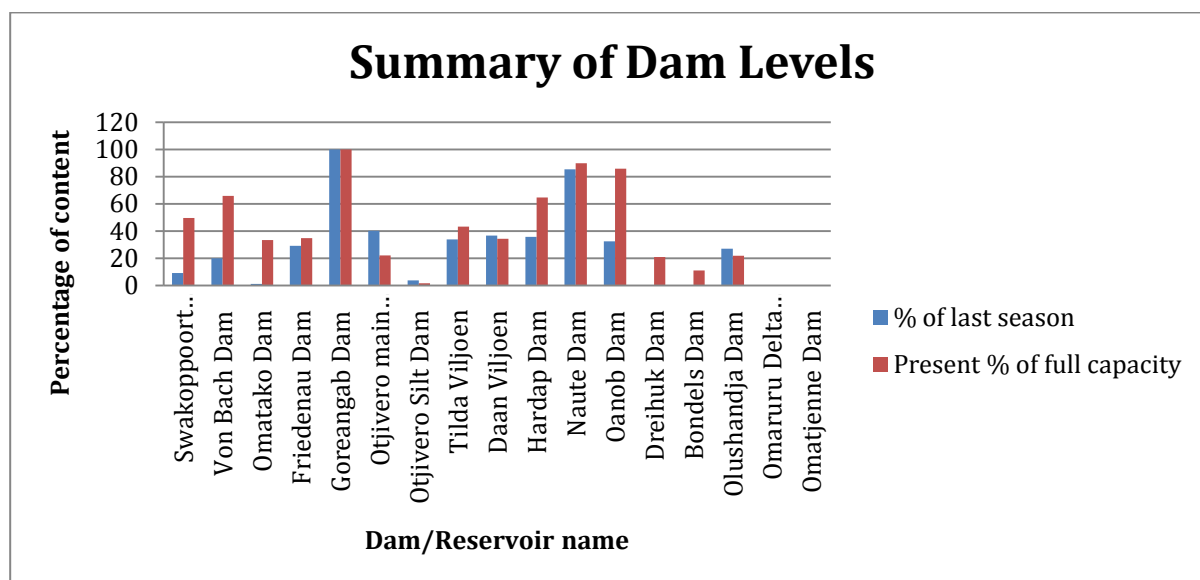


Figure 4: Summary of the Dam levels in the country as at 10th July 2017

REGIONAL CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Zambezi region

Majority of farmers noted a significant improvement in the agricultural production following above-normal rainfall received during the 2016/2017-rainfall season. Despite the delay in the onset of the rainfall season, sporadic cases of the fall army worms and heavy rainfall conditions which were reported in various parts of the region, most farmers are said to have attained good crop harvest, which is better and much higher than the past two seasons productions. However, due to the delayed start of the rainfall season, farmers only started cultivation in December as opposed to the normal start in November. Farmers argued that the problem of excessive rainfall, which affected both ploughing and weeding activities, as well as the attack of fall worms on maize had negatively affected what could have been a bumper harvest this year. Nevertheless, analysis on the crop estimates indicated a significant increase in the harvest with maize production increased by 196% of last season's harvest but is 40% below the average production. Pearl millet production is estimated to have increase by 40% of last season's harvest, but is 73% below the average production. According to farmers pearl millet production was affected by excessive rainfall, causing waterlogging condition that eventually killed the crop. Moreover, Sorghum production is estimated to have increased by 36% of last season's harvest, but is 34% below the average production. Figure 5 below provides a summary of the cereal harvest estimates in various constituencies in the region.

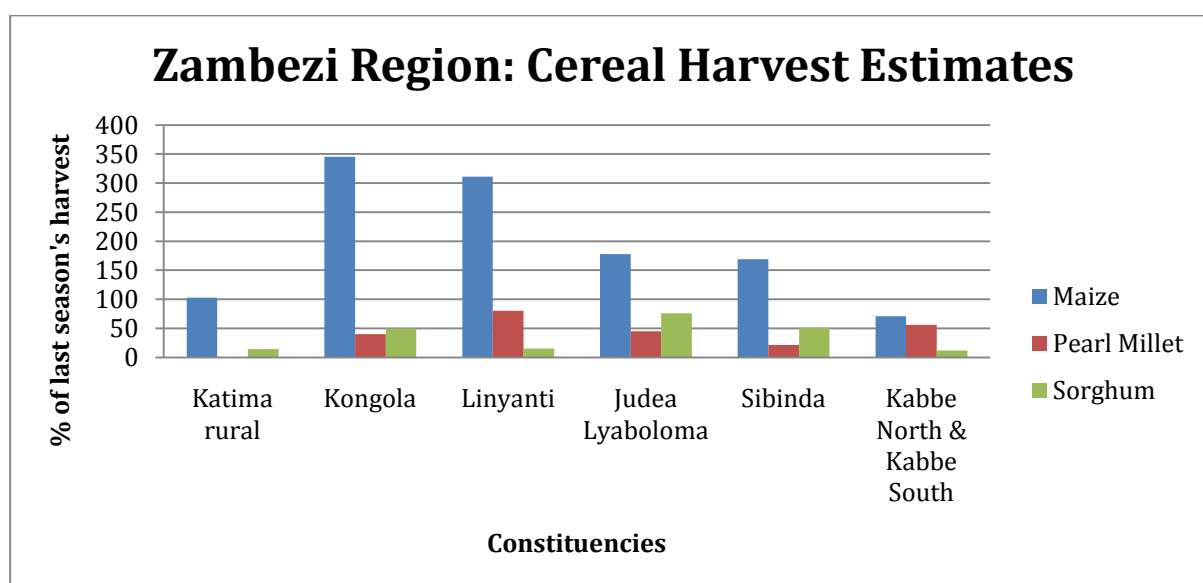


Figure 5: Summary of the preliminary cereal harvest estimates



Figure 6: shows images of maize harvest from some of the farmers who received good maize harvest in Kongola and Linyanti constituencies in the Zambezi region

Planted area is estimated at 80% of the crop fields, which is approximately 19% higher than the corresponding period last year. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, livestock farmers are very much concerned about lack of formal market in the region, following the closure of the Meat-co abattoir two years ago. It was noted that, public auctions to sell livestock are taking place in the region, but the outcome is always poor and farmers are not happy about this arrangement. Farmers are therefore requesting the Government to find investors to reopen the abattoir in order for them to resume with marketing of their livestock. Grazing conditions were reported to have improved significantly and noted to range between very good in the flood plain areas and excellent elsewhere in the region. Livestock are reported to be in good conditions. Water supply, particularly for livestock consumption was noted to be satisfactory either from the rivers, streams, boreholes and swamps or ponds. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved following the recent harvest. According to households, this improvement is significant and expected to sustain households till the next harvest.

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

Despite the excessive rainfall, fall Armyworms and the late start of the season, majority of farmers were able to obtain good crop harvest this season. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with maize estimated to have increased by at least 311% of last season's poor harvest. Pearl millet and sorghum production is also said to have increased by 80% and 15% of last season's respectively. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also noted to be good especially legume, but slightly poor on melons because of the excessive rainfall. The constituency reported sporadic cases of fall Armyworms during February and March period. The affected farmers are said to have conceded significant losses of their maize harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 85% of the cropping area, reflecting an increase of about 29% of last season's estimated planted area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both livestock body condition and grazing establishment were said to be good. Most water catchments in the inland are reported to be in abundance and expected to last till the next rainfall season. Regarding the household food security, the situation was reported to have

improved significantly following the recent harvest. Household owners noted that, this improvement is significant and expected to last till the next harvest next year.

Judea Lyaboloma

Most farmers in this area are reported to have obtained a good crop harvest, which according to them is much better than the last two seasons of drought. However, farmer noted that crop germination was very good suggesting a possibility of a bumper harvest but was affected by heavy rainfall and fall Armyworms. Average planted area is estimated at 84% of the cropping area, which is about 24% of last season's area cultivated. Crop pests reported included fall Armyworms during February and March and this according to the affected farmers reduced the harvest significantly. Nevertheless, many farmers are very happy about the harvest, which did not only bring surplus for the market, but also improved the ailing food security at the household level. In this regard, maize production noted an increase of 178% of last season. Pearl millet and sorghum recorded an increase of 45% and 76% of last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to have improved 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 significantly following a recent harvest. Household owners added that the current harvest is good and expected to sustain households till next season's harvest.

Kongola

Following a good rainfall performance received this season, majority of farmers received significant increase in the crop harvest this year. According to the crop estimates in this area maize production noted an increase of over 342% of last season's poor harvest. Moreover pearl millet and sorghum production have also showed an improvement of 40% and 50% of last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, farmers added that non-cereal crops such as legumes have an increase when compared to last season, but melons are said to be lower than last year due to excessive rainfall received this season. Planted area is estimated at about 83% of the cropping area, which is about 16% higher than last season. Crop pests reported included fall Armyworms especially during February, but the extent of the damage according to farmers was not severe.

Grazing and livestock are said to be in good condition. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Household food security is reported to have improved, following as recent harvest. Most farmers added that, the current harvest is expected to sustain them till next harvest. However, farmers in the Omega III area indicated that, their harvest is not enough, and would like the Government to continue assisting them with food until they are fully-fledged farmers.

Katima Rural

Despite the late start of the rainfall season and excessive rainfall received, farmers were able to obtain good crop harvest this season. According to farmers, productive rainfall was received as from December as opposed to the normal start in November. Farmers further added that heavy

rainfall was experienced during February and March, affecting the cultivation activities. Nevertheless, crop estimates indicated a significant increase in harvest with maize production up by 103%. Pearl millet on the other hand is reportedly affected by excessive rainfall and as result; the harvest is about 0.5% higher than last season. Furthermore, sorghum production has also showed an improvement of 14% above last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to be good and much better than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at 60% of the cropping area, reflecting an increase of about 10% of last season. It was further noted that, the inputs, particularly seeds, as well as ploughing services were sufficient for the season.

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. 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. According to household owners the current harvest is enough to sustain households till the next harvest.

Kabbe north and Kabbe south

Despite the late start of the rainfall, excessive rainfall and flood experienced this season, most farmers were able to obtain a good harvest. Farmers reported that productive rainfall was only received as from December as opposed to the normal start in November. Farmers added that, heavy rainfall and flood during the months of February and March affected cultivation and many crop fields were flooded. Nonetheless, farmers indicated that, they

were able to attain good crop harvest with maize and pearl millet noted an increase of 71% and 56% above last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, sorghum production has also recorded an increase of about 12% of last season's harvest. It was further noted that non-cereal harvest has also improved when compared to last year. Average planted area is estimated at 90% of the cropping area. No major crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment.

Both pasture and livestock are said to be in good condition. Water availability, particularly for livestock consumption was noted to be satisfactory. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved following the recent harvest. According to farmers this improvement is significant as the harvest is sufficient to take them through to the following harvest next year.

Sibbinda

Despite the late start of the 2016/2017-rainfall season, the fall Armyworms as well as excessive rainfall, most farmers were able to attain good crop harvest, which is significantly much better than the past two seasons. According to farmers, good crop harvest as well as good grazing and enough water for both livestock and human consumptions are the outcomes of good rainfall received this season. As such, maize harvest is estimated to have increased by over 169% of last seasons' poor harvest. Moreover pearl millet and sorghum production is also said to have increase by 21% and 51% of last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, harvest for no-cereal crops such as legumes, melons and squash were also reported to have improved. Average planted area is estimated at about 78% of the cropping area.

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. According to households, the current harvest is enough to sustain household till the next harvest in May next year.

Kavango East and Kavango West regions

Majority of farmers noted a good agricultural production, which is far better than the previous two seasons. Despite a considerable delay in the start of the 2016/2017-rainfall season, the heavy rainfall as well as sporadic fall Armyworms, 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 143% of last season's harvest, which is near the normal production or 14 % below the average production. Maize production noted an increase of 57% of last season's harvest but 77% below the average production. Sorghum production recorded an increase of 57% above last season's production, but 59% below the average production. Average planted area is estimated at 80% of the cropping area, reflecting an increase of 18 % of last season. Figure 7a and Figure 7b below, shows the cereal harvest estimates for various constituencies in the Kavango West and Kavango East regions

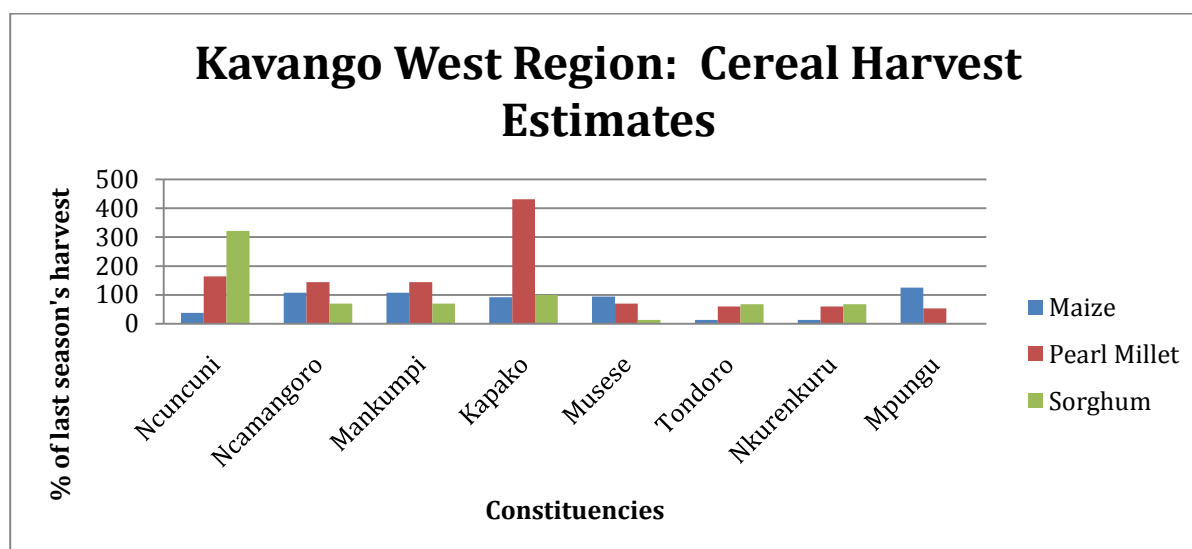


Figure 7a: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates in the Kavango West region

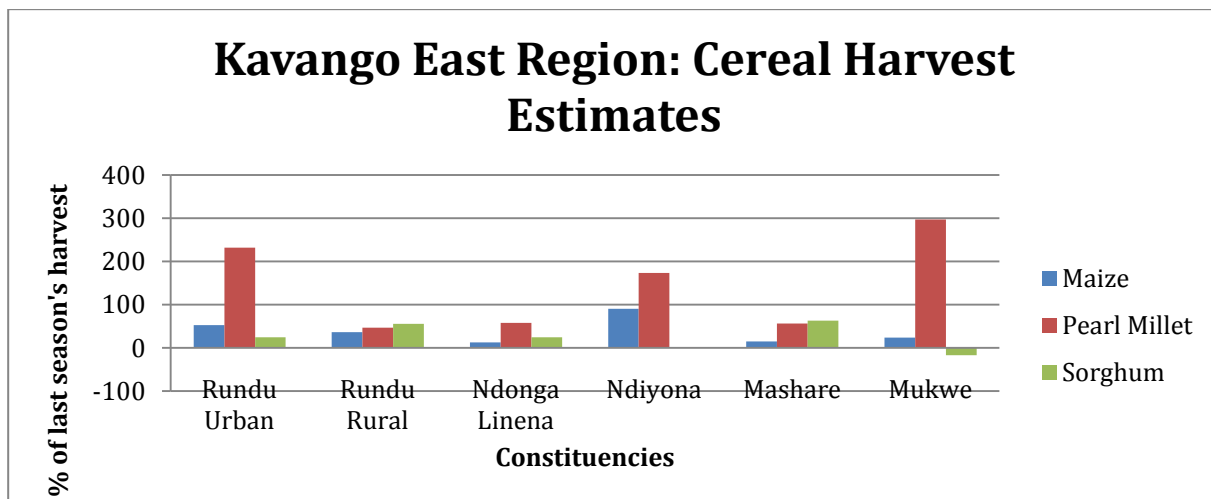


Figure 7b: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates in the Kavango East region



Figure 8: shows some of the heaps of pearl millet harvest which many farmers reported to have attained around Ncaute area 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 through the formal market due to the closure of the Meat-co abattoir two years ago. It was reported that, the Meat-co mobile slaughtering facilities, currently in place has not yet reached many places in the two regions. Farmers are therefore requesting the Government to find investors in order to reopen the abattoir, which was previously operated by Meat-co. Grazing condition was reported to be good in areas along the river and good to excellent conditions 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. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved

significantly following a recent harvest. Farmers reported that the current harvest is sufficient and expected to take them through to next harvest next year.

Kavango West Region

Constituencies

Ncuncuni

Despite the late start of the rainfall season, fall Armyworms and heavy rainfall experienced this season, majority of farmers were able to obtain a good crop harvest this year. Farmers reported that, since the start of the 2016/2017-rainfall season in December last year, rainfall performance has been good resulting in a good agricultural production. Average planted area is estimated at 90 % of the cropping area. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated that pearl millet production recorded an increase of at least 164 %, maize is up by 37 %, and sorghum is 322% higher than the last season. Furthermore, non-cereal harvest has also noted an increase, which according to farmers will have positive impacts on the ailing food security in their area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. The pasture as well as the livestock body condition was reported to be good. On household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest. Farmers indicated that, this improvement is significant and expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Musese

According to farmers, this area received good rainfall since the onset of the season. However, it was reported that dry spells were experienced as in December which caused crops to wilt but recovered thereafter when rainfall strengthen in late December. Average planted area is estimated at 93% of the cropping area. Majority of farmers make use of draft animals to cultivate their crop fields. Farmers are very much happy about this year's harvests, which they say would improve the ailing household food security. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest where pearl millet and sorghum recorded an increase of 69% and 13% above last season's production respectively. Furthermore, maize production is reported to have improved despite the dry spells in December and fall Armyworm. To this end, an increase of about 94% higher than last season is estimated. Crop pests reported included stalk borers and American bollworms (fall Armyworms), which are said to have a tall on the overall maize harvest. It was further reported that harvest for non-cereals have also improved significantly and are much better than last season.

On livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin disease in cattle, diarrhoea and coughing (possibly internal parasites) were widely reported in the constituency. Livestock body condition in general was reported to be good while grazing reported to range between

good to very good. Water supply was noted to be satisfactory mainly through the river in areas along the river and boreholes in the inland areas. With regards to household food, the situation was reported to have improved significantly following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to take them through to next harvest in May next year.

Ncamangoro

As it was noted in other constituencies in the region, farmers noted a good crop harvest this season. Farmers reported that, the rainfall season started in December as opposed to November and have since improved significantly. Average planted area is estimated at 98% of the cropping area, which is about 24% higher than the previous season. Crop harvest estimates indicated a significant improvement in the crop harvest with pearl millet noted an increase of 144%, maize by 107% and sorghum by 70% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops is also said to be good and much better than last season.

Cases of fall Armyworms on maize were reported in the area during February and March period and the affected farmers are said to have lost significant possible harvest to the pests.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition and grazing were reported to be good. Water availability was noted to be satisfactory with boreholes and few ponds as main sources. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to farmers, this improvement is significant and expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Mankumpi

As it was reported in Ncamangoro constituency, the 2016/2017-rainfall season is said to have started in December as opposed to the normal start in November. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cultivate about 98% of their crop fields. Crop harvest was reported to be good and much better than last season. According to the crop estimates for this area, pearl millet harvest is said to have increased with 144%, maize is up by 107% and sorghum by 70% 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 there was as shortage of sorghum this season as there were no sorghum seeds available at their local Agricultural Development Centre. Moreover, the demand for fertilizers was generally fair. Majority of farmers used draft animal power to cultivate their crop fields. Crop pests reported included fall Armyworms on maize during February and March, but according to farmers, the damage was minimal.

Livestock body condition and the grazing were reported to be good. With regards to household food security the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to farmers, the current harvest is significant and expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Mpungu and Nkurenkuru

Although this area reported poor rainfall performance in the first half of the season, many farmers recorded good crop harvest, following significant improvement in the second half of the season. Farmers noted that this area suffered the

effects of dry spells in December causing crops to wilt. As a result, many farmers attempted to replant with limited or no success. Nevertheless, farmers on average were able to cover about 91% of their crop fields. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by over 57% of last season's harvest. Additionally, maize and sorghum production have also with their respective estimated increase of 69% and 34% higher than last season's production. Harvests for non-cereals were also reported to have improved this year and are much better than last season. Cases of American bollworms and maize stalk borers were widely reported in the area and the damage is said to be minimal.

On the livestock health, cases of Pink eyes and Botulism in large stock as well as Mange and diarrhoea in small stock were reported in most parts of the constituency. Grazing was reported to be good in the area while livestock body condition was noted to be good. Water supply was noted to be satisfactory as farmers reported that they are depended mainly on boreholes and wells for water access. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest was significant and expected to sustain households to next harvest in May next year.

Tondoro

Good rainfall was received since the start of the 2016/2017 rainfall season and according to farmers, no serious dry spells were experienced. Average planted area is estimated at 98% of the cropping area. Due to a very high demand for Government tractors, majority of farmers used animal drawn

ploughs and hand hoes to cultivate their crop fields. It was reported that many crop fields were severely affected by American bollworms, stalk borers, bush crickets and birds, affecting both pearl millet and maize crops. Despite all of these, farmers were able to attain good crop harvest. Crop estimates for this area indicated an increase of 13% for maize, 60% for pearl millet and 67% for sorghum above last season's harvest. In addition, non-cereal crops were also reported to have yielded better this year than last season.

Grazing was reported to be good, which resulted in good livestock body condition. Moreover, there is enough water in catchment areas for livestock. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is significant and is expected to sustain them thorough to next season harvest.

Kapako

Despite the late start of the rainfall season, heavy rainfall and fall Armyworms, most farmers were able to obtain a good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, productive rains were only received as from early December as compared to the normal start in November. Farmers responded to good showers received and on average were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields. Pearl millet was reported to have increased by over 432%, maize by 92% and sorghum is about 100% higher than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops was also reported to be good and much better than last year. Crop pests reported included fall Armyworms on maize and aphids on cowpeas of which the impacts were minimal.

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. According to household owners, the current harvest was significant and expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Kavango East Region

Constituencies

Rundu Urban

This constituency consists of urban, peri-urban and rural areas. However, farmers in the rural areas of this constituency indicated that the 2016/2017-rainfall season was good and much better than the previous two seasons. Although, farmers argued that the start of the rainfall season was only realised as from the beginning of December as opposed to November, crop harvest recorded a significant increase, which is almost within the normal limit of this area. Sporadic cases of fall Armyworms on maize during February and March were reported, but according to farmers the impacts were minimal. Analysis of the crop estimates indicated that pearl millet production recorded an increase of about 232%, maize 53% and sorghum 25% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to good and much better than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at 91% of the cropping area, which is 19% higher than the last season.

Grazing was reported to range between good in areas along the river and very good in the inland. Livestock were reported to be in good condition. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to have improved significantly,

following a recent main harvest during May and June this year. According to households, this improvement is significant and expected to last till the next harvest next year.

Mashare

Good rainfall was received this season and most farmers covered about 83% of their crop fields. There were no severe cases of dry spells neither floods were reported. As compared to the previous season, production for maize had improved by 15% while pearl millet and sorghum increased by 57% and 63% respectively. Moreover, farmers indicated that one Government tractor allocated in the constituency is not sufficient to cater for most farmers. Seed supply also need to be increased due to high demand. Furthermore, cases of boll worms and stalk borers were also reported in the area which is believed to have affected production this season especially on maize.

Livestock are reported to be in good condition while grazing reported to be fair and better than last season, both along the river and inland. On livestock diseases, no major livestock diseases were reported apart from cases of diarrhoea and coughing in small stock which were widely reported during

this assessment. Majority of the household indicated that their current production will not last until the next harvest but expected to deplete between December and January 2018.

Rundu Rural

Most part of this area received good rainfall which resulted in better harvest for cereal crops as compared to the previous season. On average, majority of farmers were able to cover about 69% of their crop fields. Farmers reported that they were not expecting good rainfall this season thus were so reluctant to cover a larger portion of their crop fields. Nevertheless, crop harvest is reported to have increased with maize showed an increase of 37% while pearl millet and sorghum increased by over 47% and 56% respectively. The area was also affected by American boll worms, maize stalk borers between December 2016 and February 2017, and is reported to have affected maize production. The areas which were mostly affected are Kamboo, Likwaterera and Ndamu villages. In addition, sting bugs were also experienced, attacking cowpeas but the damage was said to be minimal. On average, non cereal production is reported to be good compared to the previous season.

On livestock health, no major diseases were reported in the area at the time of this assessment. However, cases of tick manifestations mostly in cattle were reported. Livestock body condition is reported to be good while grazing rated fair throughout the constituency. Water for livestock is abundantly available in the river. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved significantly, following the recent harvest which is reported to reach the next harvest by most households. However, for few households

this improvement is expected to get depleted between December and January 2018.

Ndonga Linena

Although the onset of the 2016/2017 rainfall season was realised late in November as opposed to the normal early November, farmers were able to attain a very good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, since the start of the rainfall season good rainfall has been falling across the constituency, resulting in good crop germinations. Crop estimates for this area indicated a massive increase in production with pearl millet increased by over 58% and maize is up by 91% of last season production. However, sorghum production was reported to have been affected by lack of seed experienced this season and farmers said that its production is the same as last season. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to be good and much better than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 93% of the cropping area. Cases of Fall Army worms as well as quelleda birds were widely reported in the area. Farmers said the pests have caused significant damages especially on young maize at some crop fields.

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 with river and streams in areas along the river and boreholes and ponds in the inland. Regarding household food security, the situation was reported to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, according to households, the current harvest was not significant as it will require supplements from the market for them to reach the next harvest in May next year.

Mukwe

Majority of farmers were able to obtain good crop harvest, following good rainfall received this season. According to farmers, an improvement of about 297% for pearl millet and 24% for maize was realised. However, sorghum production on the other hand was reported to be poor due to seed shortages experienced this season. Planted area is estimated at about 82% of the cropping area. Farmers raised concerns about lack of sorghum seeds at their local agricultural centre, which they say have contributed negatively to sorghum production this season. Harvest prospects for non-cereal crops were also said to be better than last season for legumes, melons and squashes. Pests such as locusts and stinkbugs were reported at Shamundambo and surrounding villages.

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 the next harvest in May next year.

Ndiyona

On average, most farmers were able to cultivate over 71% of their crop fields, following good rainfall conditions received this season. Most farmers were able to attain a better crop harvest. Crop estimates indicated that, majority of farmers recorded an improvement in pearl millet and maize production with their respective harvest estimates of 174% and 91% higher than last season. However, farmers added that, due to shortages of sorghum seeds experienced this season, sorghum harvest is the same poor as it was the case last season. It was further noted that, harvest for non-cereal crops such as legumes and melons was reported to be slightly better than last season. Crop pests reported included as fall Armyworms on maize at Livhuyu, Shikoro, Makena, Mukuvi and surrounding villages. Moreover, quelled birds on millet were also widely reported in the area.

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 have improved, following the recent main harvest in May/June. According to household owners, the harvest is significant and expected to take them through to the next season's harvest in May next year.

Omusati region

Despite the general poor rainfall performance experienced in the first half, flood and heavy rainfall in the second half of the season, overall crop harvest showed a significant improvement, which is close to average production. According to farmers, the start of the 2016/2017-rainfall season was late by one month, as productive rainfall was only realised as from December as opposed to the normal start in November. This was followed by sporadic and erratic rainfall toward end of December as well as prolonged dry spells between January and mid February. However, crop germination was good and rainfall conditions improved as from mid February resulting in flood. Nevertheless, crop production, grazing and water supply in the region has improved with many farmers being happy with their crop harvest. Crop estimates indicated that pearl millet production have increased by over 175% of last season but, is about 13 % below the average production. Sorghum production has also recorded an increase of 134% above than last season but is 82% 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 91% of the cropping area, which is about 10% higher than last year. Figure 9 below show the summary of the harvest estimates in various constituencies in the region.

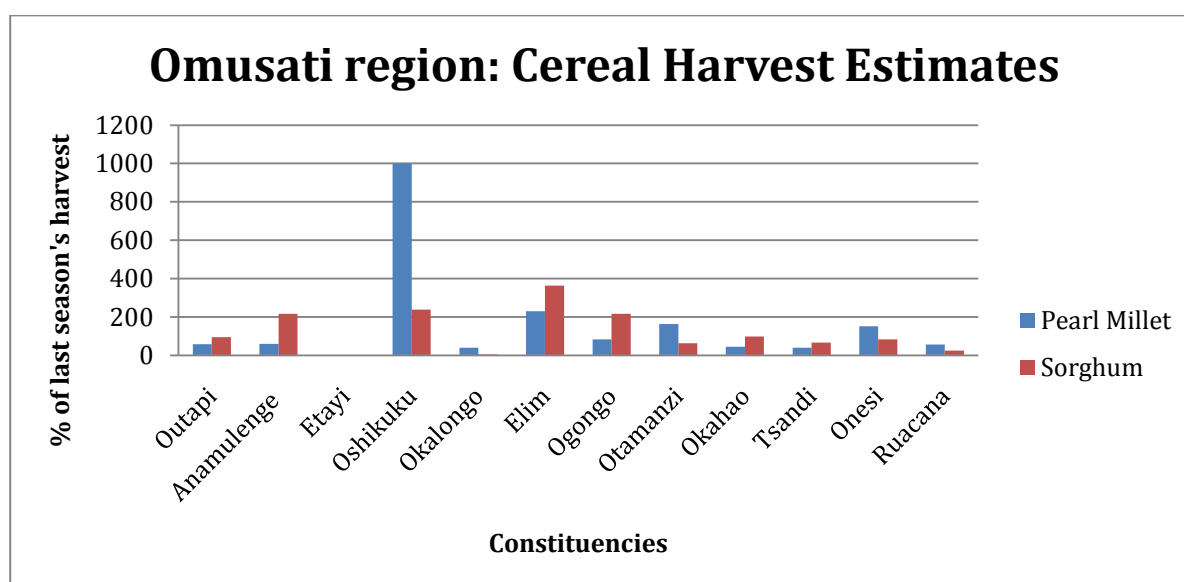


Figure 9: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 10: shows images of good pearl millet harvest which many farmers received in Oshikuku Constituency in the Omusati region

It was further noted that, harvest for non-cereal crops such as cowpeas, Bambara nuts, melons and squash have also improved and much better than the previous season, but still below the average production. Crop pests reported included Cricket and fall Armyworms in Otamanzi area during the grain formation period. On the livestock health, the region reported the outbreak of Lumpy skin disease in cattle. According to the State Veterinarian responsible for this region, the disease was detected in March this year and is said to have affected the entire four north central regions. At the time of this assessment, the Directorate of Veterinary Services was in a process of acquiring the vaccine to vaccinate cattle in the affected regions. Grazing condition was reported to 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. The region also reported lack of formal market for livestock as a challenge, following the closure of Meat-co abattoir last year. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved following a recent harvest. According to farmers, the harvest was significant and expected to take them through to the next season's harvest.

Constituencies

Onesi

Good rainfall performance was reported in most parts of the constituency with dry spell experienced mostly in December and February. Productive rainfall was only received towards the end of February and March. Considering the prolonged dry spell from December to mid-February, majority of farmers managed to remarkably cultivate about 82% of their crop fields. Most farmers are happy with their current harvest with pearl millet showed an increase of about 151% while sorghum increased by 83% more than the previous season. In addition, non cereal crops are also reported to have performed better this season. Isolated cases of bush crickets and birds were reported with moderate damage to crops.

Lumpy skin disease in cattle as well as internal parasites in goats was widely reported in the constituency with only few death cases reported at the time of the assessment. Moreover, farmers indicated that they have vaccinated their cattle against lumpy skin disease though some farmers indicated that the vaccine is way too expensive. Grazing and animal body condition was both reported to be good especially at the cattle post area. Water for livestock is also said to be available but most water reservoirs but drying very fast. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved, following a recent harvest. Most household have indicated that the current harvest will take them up to the next season's harvest but with supplements of maize meal from retail markets.

Ruacana

According to farmers, rainfall started mid-December but productive rainfall was only received between February and March. However, majority of farmers planted about 76% of their crop fields. Crop production estimate showed an increase of 56% and 25% for pearl millet and sorghum respectively as compared to the previous season. In addition non cereal crops are also reported to be better this season. Villages surrounding Etunda Irrigation Project reported cases of fall army worms during the months of January to February. However, it was reported that worms did not cause considerable damage to crops and they disappeared after good showers received in February. In addition, bush crickets were also reported in the constituency but did not pose serious threat to crops.

Animals diseases reported in the constituency include lumpy skin in cattle and internal parasites in small stock, which according to farmers if nothing is done on time to vaccinate animals it could result in an outbreaks and cause considerable deaths in their livestock. Grazing has been reported to be good at cattle post areas and fair elsewhere in the constituency. Generally, animal body condition was said to be good throughout the constituency. Water for livestock is available in most water reservoirs and expected to last until August. On household food security, most households are reportedly dependent on the market for food access and drought relief food from Government due to poor harvest in the previous season. However this is expected to change following the current harvest which is expected to last until the next harvest.

Tsandi

According to farmers, this area received productive rainfall late in November as opposed to normal start of the rain in mid October. Nevertheless, farmers indicated that, this season's rainfall was better than last season and consequently good harvest. Average planted area is estimated at about 92% of the cropping area. Most farmers are very much happy about the harvest, which according to them has improved their ailing household food security. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest where pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by over 39% and sorghum is up by 67% of last season's harvest. Farmers added that, harvests for non-cereals are also good and much better than last season. The constituency reported cases of fall Armyworms, which were only noticed during the dry spells period. Bush Crickets were also reported in some areas but no significant impact on the overall crop production.

Cases of Lumpy Skin Disease were widely reported in the constituency. Grazing condition was reported to be in a fair to poor state with livestock body condition noted to be good. Water availability, particularly for livestock consumptions was reported to be good as many water catchments are either full or have enough water. With regard to the household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to farmers, the current harvest is expected to take them through to the next harvest in May next year.

Outapi

Majority of farmers described the 2016/2017 rainfall season as much better than the previous season. Although the season is reportedly started

late with prolonged dry spells in January till mid February, rainfall condition improved as from mid February, resulting a good harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 96% of the cropping area, with most farmers managed to cover 100% of their crop fields. Farmers reported American bollworms on pearl millet during Mach with Oshihwashekwa and Okapanda villages were affected the most. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet recording an increase of over 58% and sorghum is up by 94% of last season's harvest. It was noted that, production for non cereals has also noted an improvement and farmers are very happy about the harvest.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition was reported to be in fair state with grazing condition ranging between fair and poor. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest during May/June this year. According to the farmers, the current harvest is expected to sustain them through to the next harvest, especially if supplemented with the market purchases.

Etayi

Due to some technical difficulties experienced, the assessment team was unable to conduct the assessment in this constituency.

Okalongo

According to farmers, the 2016/2017 rainfall season was generally better, compared to the previous season. It was reported that, the rainfall season started late as productive rainfall was only received as from December instead of the normal start in

November. The average planted area is estimated at 91% of the cropping area. No major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment. Analysis on crop estimates indicated an improvement with pearl millet increased by 40% and sorghum is up by 5% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, the production for non cereal crops was also reported to be generally better as compared to the previous season, especially cowpeas.

On the livestock health, Lumpy skin disease was reported in the constituency. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor. Livestock body condition was reported to be fair. Household food security was reported to have improved following a recent harvest. Farmers added that the current is expected to sustain them up to the next season's harvest.

Anamulenge

As it was noted in other constituencies in the region, farmers reported that the 2016/2017 rainfall season was very good as compared to the previous season. However, farmers noted that the rainfall became too much towards the end of the cropping season, as a result it caused water lodging in some crop fields. Average planted area was estimated at 92% of the cropping area, with majority of famers managed to cover 100% of their crop fields. Crop pests reported included boll worms which were widely reported in the constituency during April. However, the extent of damage on crop damages was minimal. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet and sorghum production showed an increase of 60% and 217% over last season's harvest respectively. Harvest for non-cereals was also reported to have improved and much better than last season.

On livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease were widely reported in the constituency. Livestock body condition and grazing were reported to be in fair state and are feared to deteriorate much earlier than usual. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to have improved; following a recent harvest in May/June this year. According to household owners, the harvest is expected to last till the next harvest next year.

Ogongo

Farmers described the 2016/2017-rainfall season as good and much better than last season. According to the farmers, rainfall performance was very poor at the beginning, but started to improve as from mid February, resulting in a good crop harvest. Accordingly, crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest where pearl millet is said to have increased by 83% and sorghum is 217% above last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crop was reported to have improved and is much better than the last season. On average most farmers were able to cover about 93% of their crop fields, which is about 10% higher than the corresponding period last year. No major crop pests were reported this season.

On livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock were noted to be in fair to good condition, but grazing was noted to range between fair and poor. Water availability for livestock was noted to be satisfactory as most water catchments are full. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory, following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is significant and

expected to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Okahao

Although farmers noted a slight delay in the start of the 2016/2017 rainfall season, rainfall performance was reported to be good and much better than last season. However, farmers added that poor rainfall was experienced in most January, whereby some farmers replanted more than 3 times with limited or no success. Nevertheless, the rainfall conditions are reported to have improved as from mid February, resulting in excess water which eventually filled up earth dams and swamps. Planted area is estimated at about 96% of the cropping area. On weeding activities, majority of farmers use family members for weeding. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet and sorghum production estimated to have increased by 44% and 98% of last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, harvest for non cereal crops was also reported to have improved and is much better than the previous season. Apart from few cases of crickets that were reported no major crop pests were reported.

Grazing and livestock body conditions were reported to be good. However, an outbreak of Lump Skin diseases was widely reported in the constituency, particularly the cattle post area. On the Household Food Security, the situation is said to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to sustain them to the next harvest.

Otamanzi

As it was reported in the Okahao constituency, the rainfall situation was reported to be much better

than the previous season. Farmers reported that the start of the rainfall season was delayed as productive rainfall were only realised as from December last year. This was followed by erratic, sporadic and insufficient, rains all the way until mid February this year. Nevertheless, rainfall conditions improved as from mid February and consequently, many farmers received good crop harvest this year. Average planted area is estimated at 94 of the cropping area. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to have increased by 163% and sorghum is up by more than 63% of last season's production. Farmers added that, harvests for non-cereals are also good and much better than last season. False armyworms and cricket were widely reported in the area, but the damage is said to be minimal.

Livestock diseases reported included the Lumpy Skin Disease which is said to have claimed live of many cattle in the area. The affected area included Otamanzi, Ondjungulume, Efo Etalala and Aafoti village. Grazing and livestock body condition were reported to be good. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to have improved following the recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to take them through to next harvest in May next year.

Elim

Although this area suffered the effects of poor rainfall performance during November stretching all the way to early February, majority of farmers were able to obtain good crop harvest. According to farmers, rainfall performance improved as from mid February. As a result, many farmers noted a significant improvement on the crop harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by over 230% and sorghum is up by about 363% of

last seasons' harvest. Furthermore, non-cereal crops were also reported to have improved and generally better than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at about 99%, of the cropped area. Crop pests reported included crickets, fall Armyworms and birds, but the damage was reportedly minimal.

On the livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease on cattle were reported in the area. Livestock body condition was noted to 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. According to farmers, this improvement is significant and expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Oshikuku

Majority of the farmers described the 2016/2017-rainfall season as good in terms of the crop harvest. Although the season started late and prolonged dry spells in between January and mid February, crop germination was good and when rainfall conditions

improved as from mid February, crops were able to reach full maturity. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated that, pearl millet harvest this season recorded an improvement of over 1000% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, sorghum production has also increase by over 238% of last seasons' harvest. Farmers further reported that, non-cereal harvest has also showed an improvement, which is significantly much better than the last two successive seasons. Planted area was estimated at 89% of the cropping area. False Armyworms, crickets and American bollworms were reported in various parts of the constituency.

On livestock diseases, Lumpy skin disease in cattle was widely reported in the constituency. Grazing condition was reported to range between fair and poor and livestock body condition was noted to be good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved considerably, following the recent harvest. According to farmers, the current harvest is expected to take them through to next season's harvest.

Oshana region

The region recorded a bumper crop harvest, amidst poor rainfall experienced in the first half the season. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance has dominated the first half of the season and was seen in the forms of delayed onset of the rainfall season, erratic and insufficient rainfall which was followed by a prolonged dry spells as from mid January and most February. However, most farmers recorded good crop germination and when the rainfall conditions started to improve as from mid February; farmers received a significant improvement in their crop production. Aggregate cereal estimates indicated a remarkable increase in harvest of 347% higher than last season's poor harvest and 14% above the average production. In this regard, pearl millet production recorded an increase of 355% above last season's production and 22% above the average production. Sorghum production on the other hand is reported to have been affected negatively by poor rainfall performance but nonetheless, is expecting an increase of 200% over last season's harvest, but 67% below the average production. Moreover, harvests for non-cereals such cowpeas, squash and melons are also said to have showed an improvement which is significantly higher than the last two seasons. Average planted area is estimated at 92% of their crop fields, reflecting an increase of about 5%, when compared with the corresponding period last year. Figure 11 below shows the summary of the harvest estimates in various constituencies in the region.

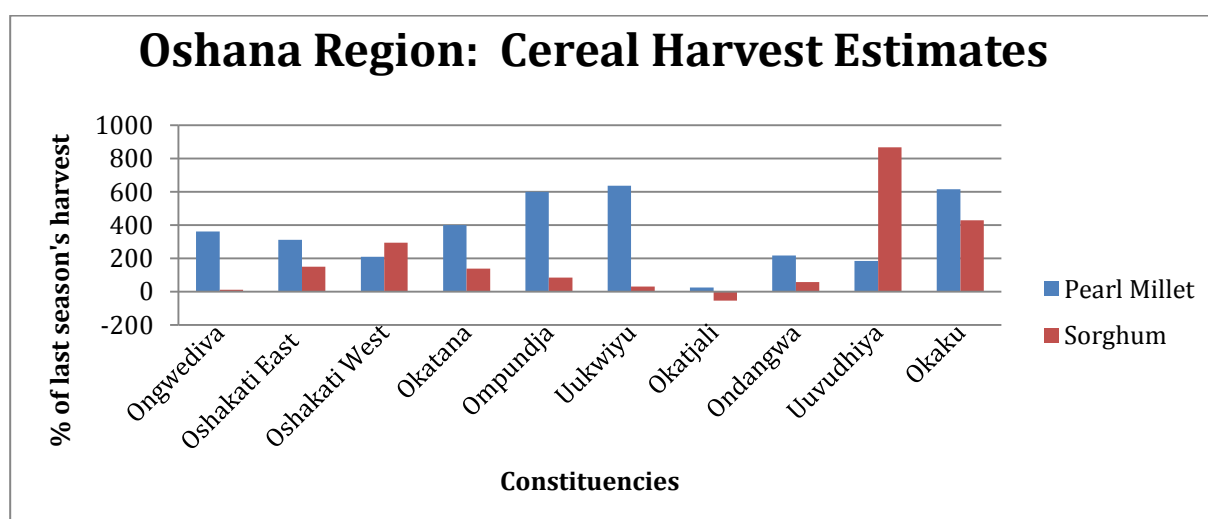


Figure 11: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 12: shows images of good pearl millet harvest which many farmers received in Okaku Constituency in the Oshana region

Grazing was reported to have improved significantly, following good rainfall received between February and April this season. However, the Agricultural Extension officials argued that the situation is expected to deteriorate much earlier especially in the inland due to overstocking in the region. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair to good in the inland and good to very good in the cattle post areas. Water availability especially for livestock was noted to be satisfactory, as many catchment areas at the time of this assessment were still almost full. Although, the region was flooded this year, it was noted that the flood water is drying up so fast. On the livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease were widely reported in the region. However, the assessment team understood that officials in the Directorate of Veterinary Services are hard at work in order to normalise the situation. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a bumper harvest received this year. Households indicated that, the current harvest was significant and is expected to sustain them till the next harvest in May/June next year.

Constituencies

Ongwediva

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in most parts of the region, farmers in this area received good crop harvest. Farmers reported that

the 2016/2017-rainfall season was relatively good compared to the past two seasons. On average, farmers were able to cover at least 95% of their crop fields with tractor services being the main source. Majority of farmers are very much happy

about the harvests that according to them have improved their ailing household food security. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to have increased by 360% and sorghum is up by over 11% of last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereals was also reported to be good and much better than last season. Cases of False Armyworms and crickets were widely reported in the area. However, the extent of the damage by pests is said to be insignificant.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor with livestock body condition noted to be good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to households, the current crop harvest is significant and is expected to sustain households to the next harvest in May next year.

Okatana

According to farmers, this area received better rainfall compared to last season. The assessment team noted that, most catchment area have water, following good rainfall received. However, farmers reported that prolonged dry spells were experienced during December until early February resulted in the wilting of crops and farmers replanted about three to four times. Nonetheless, rainfall improved as from mid February resulting in a very good crop harvest this year. Average planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropping area. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by at least 400% and sorghum is up by 138% of last season's production. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to have

improved, thereby contributing to food security for the farmers.

Livestock disease reported included Lumpy skin disease in cattle and many farmers are said to have been affected by this disease in the area. Grazing have improved following good rainfall received and was noted to be in fair state in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved significantly, following a recent harvest. According to households, the harvest is sufficient to them through to next season's harvest in May next year.

Oshakati West

Farmers reported that the 2016/2017-rainfall season was much better than previous season. However, prolonged dry spells were experienced as from January and most February, causing crops to wilt. Nevertheless, the rainfall is said to have improved as from mid February and as a result, farmers were able to obtain a good crop harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropping area. Crop estimates showed a significant improvement with pearl millet and sorghum production estimated to have increased by 208% and 293% of last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals is also said to be good and much better by far than the previous season. Isolated cases of false armyworms were reported during the dry spells period, but have disappeared as rainfall strengthens.

On livestock health, No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock are reported to be in good condition and the grazing was also reported to have improved, ranging between fair and good. Household food security is reported to have improved, following as

recent harvest. According to households, the harvest is significant and is expected to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Uuvudhiya

Farmers described this season's rainfall as much better than the previous season, though there was a severe dry spell from mid-December until early February. Nonetheless, farmers recorded a good crop harvest which is significantly higher than the previous season. Crop estimates for this area indicated a considerable improvement for both pearl millet and sorghum with their respective estimated increase of 183% and 866% of last season's production. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to be good and much better than the previous season. Cases of fall Armyworms were reported in Onaushe village with little crop damage. Farmers reported that the worms started during the dry spell period but have disappeared following good rainfall received as from February.

Cases of Lumpy Skin disease were reported in the area. Livestock body condition was reported to be good with good grazing conditions reported in the constituency. Water availability was noted to be satisfactory as many catchment areas were full at the time of the assessment. With regards to the household food security, the situation said to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to households, the harvest was significant and is expected to sustain them till next harvest next year.

Oshakati East

As it was noted in other constituencies, farmers reported that this season's rainfall was much better than the last season, though was poor at the

beginning. On average, majority of farmers were able to cover at least 83% of their crop fields. Crop harvest estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by 310% and sorghum is up by 150% of last season's harvest. Farmers further added that, harvests for non cereals are also good. Crop pests reported included false armyworms during the dry spells period and cutworms.

Livestock diseases reported included the Lumpy Skin Disease which is said to have affected many farmers. Grazing condition was noted to be in fair state, but good in the enclosure. Livestock body condition was reported to be good. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to have improved significantly, following as recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Ompundja

The constituency received better rainfall this season and farmers are happy with this year's harvest. On average, most farmers planted about 96% of their total crop fields. Although there was a dry spell from December to early February, it had a little effect on crop harvest. Production estimate for pearl millet and sorghum recorded an increase of 600% and 84% as compared to the previous season respectively. Although non cereal crops did not perform well as expected, it is reported to be better than last year. Isolated cases of fall army worms were reported in some villages but according to farmers, the damage was insignificant.

Both livestock and grazing were reported to be in good condition and water is also available as at the

time of the assessment most of the water catchment areas are full. Like in other constituencies in the regions, cases of Lumpy Skin disease were reported in most parts of the constituency and farmers are more concerned about the fast spreading of the disease. Few farmers indicated having vaccinated their livestock while some are looking upon the Government for assistance. Farmers indicated that the vaccine is very expensive and is only available in some pharmacies which are in most cases a distance away. Isolated cases of internal parasites in small stock were also reported. With regard to household food security, Households indicated that the current harvest will be able to sustain them until the next harvest.

Ondangwa Rural and Ondangwa Urban

Despite a slight delay in the onset of the rainfall as well as prolonged dry spells experienced in December and January, most farmers described this season's rainfall performance slightly better than last season. Moreover, most farmers managed to cover an area of about 98% of the crop fields. Given last season's poor harvest, farmers were unable to retain enough and quality seed, thus they used improved seed from open markets as well as from the local Agricultural Development Centre. The current crop harvest showed an improvement with pearl millet increased drastically by 217% while sorghum increased by 56% over last year's harvest. On non cereals, melons reported to have performed much better than other non cereals crops which generally are better than the previous season. There were no major crop pests reported.

Like other constituencies, cases of Lumpy skin disease in cattle were also reported in this constituency. Farmers were advised to vaccinate their cattle but not every farmer can afford to do so.

Furthermore, goats were reported showing clinical signs of internal parasites and farmers were advised accordingly and a number of goats were reported to have died as a result. Nevertheless, livestock body condition and grazing is said to be good and fair respectively. At the time of this assessment, water for livestock was available in most of rainfall catchment areas but farmers indicated that it might not last until the next rainfall season. With regards to household food security, households indicated having nothing from the previous harvest and some have already started consuming from the current harvest. Majority of households indicated that the current harvest will not sustain them until the next harvest, but will be depleted between November and January 2018.

Okaku

Although, the onset of the 2016/2017-rainfall season was delayed slightly, most farmers are said to be content with their crop harvest this year which they said is significantly higher than the last two seasons. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the expected harvest where pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by over 614% and sorghum is up by 4270% more than last season's harvest. Moreover harvest for non-cereals such as legumes and melons are also reported to be very good than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at 91%, of the cropping area.

On livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease were widely reported in the area. Livestock body condition is said to be good while pasture reported to be in fair state. It was also reported that water availability, particularly for livestock in the rain fed catchment areas was good, following good rainfall received this season. With regards to household

food security, the situation was noted to have improved significantly as majority of households are reported be dependent on their own productions for food access. According to households, this situation is expected to remain the same till the next harvest in May/June next year.

Okatyali

Rainfall performance was reported to be good in all parts of the constituency. However, a prolonged period of dry spell was experienced between January and February. Good rainfall was received at the end of February to March which resulted in a number of fields being submerged especially in areas along the riverbeds in Omatokele village. Most farmers managed to cultivate up to 87% of their crop fields. Furthermore, crop production estimate showed an increase of about 24% in pearl millet and -55% in Sorghum. In addition, non cereals also performed poorly this season as a result of heavy rainfall received in most parts of the constituency. The constituency has also experienced incidents of pests such as fall army worms that were mostly attacking pearl millet in villages such as Omatokele, Ekwatambwa and Okatjali but with minimal damage.

Animal diseases such as lumpy skin disease in cattle and internal parasites in smalls stock were reported throughout the constituency. However deaths were only reported in small stock as a result of internal parasites. Grazing has been reported to be good, while water for animal consumption is still enough especially in riverbeds and is expected to last up to August. Livestock body condition is also reported to be good at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, most households reported having depleted their last year's harvest and have been relying on the retail market as their

source of food. Drought relief food from Government had also played a vital role in supplementing the little households harvested last year. However, the situation is reported to have improved following the current harvest. According to most interviewed households, the current harvest is likely to be depleted by December.

Uukwiyu

Most farmers described this season's rainfall good compared to the previous season though it started a bit late with prolonged dry spells mostly in December and January. Productive rainfall was only received in February and farmers managed to cover at least 96% of their crop fields. Crop harvest showed a massive improvement with pearl millet increased by 636% while sorghum increased only by 30% more than last season's harvest. Farmers have also indicated that non cereal production this season is much better. Few cases of fall army worms were reported during the dry spell but it had no effect on crop production.

The area reported cases of lumpy skin disease in cattle and farmers are more worried if this disease spread further because not every farmer can afford vaccinating their cattle on their own. Moreover, the affordability of the vaccine is also a major constraint to most of the farmers. Nevertheless, livestock body condition was reported to be good at the time of this assessment so as the grazing. Water for livestock was also said to be available in most of the earth dams and other rainfall catchment areas. Household food security has improved following the current harvest. Given last season's poor harvest, most households indicated that they have started consuming from their current harvest which majority said it will last until the next harvest.

Ohangwena region

Despite the general poor rainfall performance which is said to have dominated the first half of the season, crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest suggesting a normal production level. According to farmers, the onset of the 2016/2017 rainfall season was delayed as productive rainfall was only realised as from end of November instead of the normal one in early November. In addition, the region experienced dry spells as from mid January to early February causing both crops and grazing to wilt. Nonetheless, rainfall improved as from mid February resulting in good crop harvest. Analysis on the crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with aggregate cereal expected to increase by 186% of last season's harvest, but is 12% below the average production. In this regard, pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by 190% above last season's harvest, but is 12% below the average production. Sorghum production is estimated to increase by at least 121% of last year's harvest, but is 61% below average. Average planted area is estimated at 96% of the cropping area, reflecting an increase of 12% when compared with the corresponding period last year. Figure 13 below shows a summary of the harvest estimates in various parts of the region.

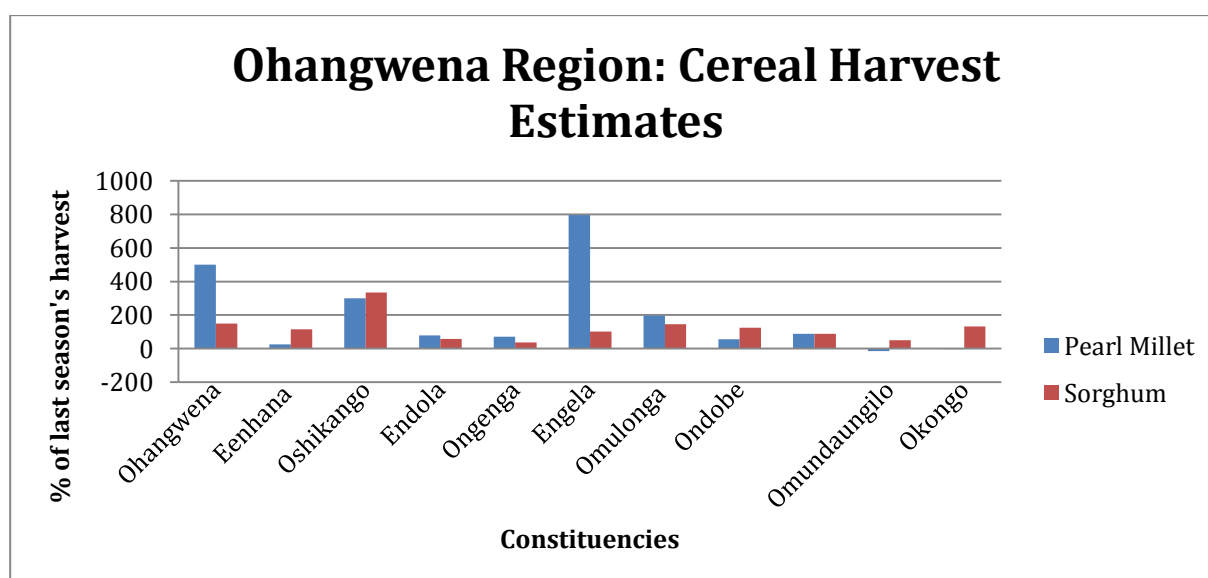


Figure 13: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 14: shows images of good pearl millet and sorghum harvest which many farmers received in Engela Constituency in the Ohangwena region

Grazing condition ranged between poor and fair in the western areas of the region, while the eastern part reported fair to good grazing conditions. The water supply situation, predominantly for livestock was noted to be satisfactory throughout the region as many earth dams and lishana as a main source are full of water in the western part of the region and boreholes and wells in the eastern areas also in a good working order. With regards to livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle were widely reported in the region and at the time of the assessment the Directorate of Veterinary Services in the region was still waiting for vaccine to be procured at the head office for them to respond. Meanwhile, the affected farmers are advised to buy the medication from the local pharmacies in order to treat their cattle. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved significantly, following a recent harvest. Households noted that the current harvest is significant and is expected to sustain them through to the next harvest in May next year.

Constituencies

Ohangwena

Farmers reported that the 2016/2017 rainfall season was good and much better than the previous season. Although dry spells were experienced from December to January, crops were able to recover as rainfall conditions improved mid February, resulting in a good harvest. Average planted area is

estimated at 94% of the cropping area, with majority of farmers reported to have covered 100% of their crop fields. Crop estimates for this constituency indicated tremendous improvement in the harvest where pearl millet production is estimated to increase by over 500% and sorghum is up by more than 150% of last season's harvest.

Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals were also reported to be good and much higher than the last season.

Sporadic cases of lumpy Skin Disease were reported in the constituency. Grazing was reported to be fairly available throughout the area, but expected to deteriorate fast during the dry season. Furthermore, water catchment areas have water for livestock following good showers received in the area. Regarding the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved following a recent harvest. Households indicated that the current harvest is significant and expected to last till next season in May next year.

Ongenga

Good rainfall performance was reported in the constituency much better than the previous season. Heavy showers were received in February and March and the northern part of the constituency was flooded which affected the crop production, according to farmers. On average, planted area in the constituency was reported at 98% of the total crop fields. Production estimate for pearl millet and sorghum recorded an increase of 71%, 36% respectively as compared to last years' harvest. The non cereal crops have performed much better this season especially cowpeas and pumpkins. No cases of crop diseases or pests were reported at the time of this assessment.

On livestock diseases, cases of Lumpy Skin diseases in cattle were widely reported in the constituency which claimed lives of some livestock. Farmers are however concerned about the limited stock of the vaccine in the market and also high prices for the vaccine which not every farmer can afford. However, livestock body condition and

grazing was reported to be good and fair respectively. Water for livestock was also reported to be available in most of the catchment areas and might last for the next few months. As most households indicated having depleted their last year's harvest, they have been relying mostly on the retail markets as their source of food. Moreover, the situation has improved following the current harvest which brought relief to most households and majority indicated that the current harvest can last up to the next season.

Eenhana

Despite the poor rainfall performance in the first half of the season, stretching to early February, majority of farmers were able to attain good crop harvest this season. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement with pearl millet estimated to increase by over 26% and sorghum is up by 115% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also noted to be good especially cowpeas. False army worms were reported in the northern part of the constituency in Andiba and Oshiyandja villages during the dry spell period in December and January with insignificant damage. The worms were reported to have disappeared after the rainfall strengthened.

Grazing and Livestock body condition were reported to range between fair and good in most parts of the constituency. Most of the catchment areas have water available for livestock which is likely to last till the next rainfall season. Household food security situation was reported to have improved considerably following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Ondobe

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in the first half of the season, many farmers were able to attain good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, good rainfall conditions were realised as from mid February to end of the season, resulting in a good agricultural production. Average planted area is estimated at 99%, of the cropping area, with majority of farmers reportedly covered 100% of their crop fields. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to increase by 55% and 125% of last season's production respectively. Moreover, harvest for non cereals was also said to be better this season. Isolated cases of false armyworms were reported in the area during the dry spell period but disappeared after some good showers were received as from February.

On the livestock health, lumpy skin disease in cattle as well as internal parasites in goats was reported in the area. The assessment team advised farmers to report such cases to the Veterinary Office for possible assistance. Grazing and livestock body condition was noted to be in fair to good condition with sufficient water for livestock available in most rainfall catchment areas. The household food security situation is said to have improved significantly, following as recent harvest. Household owners indicated that the current harvest was good and is expected to take them through to next harvest in May next year.

Omulonga

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, the 2016/2017 rainfall season was reported to be good and much better than the previous season. Most farmers commenced with cultivations

in December after productive rains were received. Average planted area is estimated at 97% of the cropping area. Crop estimates for this area indicated an increase in overall cereal production with pearl millet and sorghum expected to increase by 198% and 146% of last season's harvest respectively. Harvests for non-cereals were also reported to be good and much better than the last season.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good. Grazing was noted to be fair in the common grazing areas and good in the enclosure. Furthermore, water supply for both human and livestock were also reported to be satisfactory as most water catchments are full following good rainfall received this year. On household food security, the situation was reported to have improved greatly, following the recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest was good and is expected to sustain them through to the next harvest in May next year.

Endola

Farmers reported that rainfall started a bit late in November and the amount received was not adequate enough. Prolonged dry spells were also experienced during January which caused farmers to replant several times. Nevertheless, planted area is estimated at 96% of the cropped area and the crop harvest is also good this season. Pearl millet has increased with 79% while sorghum increased with 58% more than last the year's harvest. Non cereal crops are also reported to have performed better this season when compared to the previous season. Isolated cases of fall army worms were reported in the constituency during January and February with minimal effects on production.

With regard to livestock health, cases of lumpy skin disease are widely reported throughout the constituency and caused some animals to die. Although farmers are advised by the veterinary officials to vaccinate their animals, most farmers indicated that the vaccine is expensive and not every farmer can afford it. Furthermore, the availability of the vaccine in the local market is also becoming a concern. There were also few cases of Mange reported in goats in Okandolwena village and surroundings. Nevertheless, livestock body condition is said to be good while grazing is already deteriorating in most parts of the constituency. Water for livestock is still available in the earth dams and shallow wells. Given the poor harvest last season, households have indicated that they have been surviving from retail market as their source of food but the situation is reported to have improved this season. Most households' current harvest is reported to last until the next harvest following better harvest this season.

Oshikango

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, good rainfall conditions were experienced as from mid February up to end of the season. Consequently, many farmers recorded a good crop harvest which is said to have improved the household food security. Average planted area is estimated at 98% of the cropping area with majority of farmers reportedly covered 100% of their crop fields. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest. In this case, pearl millet harvest is estimated to have increased by 300% of last season's harvest and sorghum is up by 335% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops such as Bambara nuts and cowpeas were also reported to be much better than last season. False armyworms were reported at

the time of the dry spells in January and February, but the damages are said to be minimal.

On the livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease were reported in the area. Grazing was reported to be in a fair state in the common grazing area and good in the enclosure. Water availability especially for livestock consumption are said to be satisfactory since most water catchments were still full at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved remarkably, following a recent harvest. According to farmers the current harvest is good and expected to sustain them through to the next harvest in May next year.

Engela

This constituency received good rainfall which resulted in the floods in the flood prone areas. Given better rainfall this season, crop harvest had improved massively with pearl millet and sorghum increased by 796% and 101% respectively above last year's harvest. On the planted area, farmers managed to cover up to 99% of their crop fields. The non cereals are reported to have performed much better this year especially the cowpeas. Although there were few cases of fall army worms reported between February and March 2017, farmers reported that the damage was not significant and will have no effect on the production.

With regard to livestock health, Lumpy skin disease has been widely reported throughout the constituency since March 2017. Farmers are advised by the veterinary officials to vaccinate their livestock against this deadly disease but most farmers raised a concern of the sky rocketing prices for such vaccines. Few cases of diarrhoea were also reported in Omatunda and nearby villages.

Nevertheless, livestock body condition is reported to be good while grazing rated between good to fair. In addition, pasture germination was much affected by too much water. On water availability, most earth dams still have water which can sustain livestock until July/August, according to farmers. Household food security is reported to have improved as most households have started consuming from their current harvest. Majority of the interviewed households indicated that the current harvest is likely to last until the next harvest.

Okongo

According to farmers, rainfall performance this season was slightly better than last season. Most farmers were able to cover at least 97% of their crop fields. However, it was reported that dry spells episode from end of January to early February caused crops to wilt, reducing crop production in the area. Consequently, pearl millet production was affected by dry spells and a production loss of over 4% of last season's harvest is estimated. Nonetheless, sorghum production showed an increase of 132% of last season. Moreover, it was noted that, there is a drop in non cereal production this season compared to last season. This area recorded a comparative good crop harvest last year when the western part of the region was affected by drought. Crop pests reported included grasshoppers attacking mainly cowpeas as well as crickets on pearl millet during the grain formation stage. The damage was said to be severe with Enyana village being the worst affected. Moreover, cases of fall army worms on maize were also reported in the area.

Livestock body condition was said to be good, following good rainfall received in the area. Cases

of Lumpy Skin disease in cattle, internal parasites and iodine deficiency were widely reported in the constituency. At the time of this assessment, there were no Lumpy Skin disease vaccines in the local pharmacies and farmers are worried of losing their livestock. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are reported to be dependent on their crop production for food access. Farmers added that, they have a carryover stock from last season's harvest and the current harvest will enable them to reach the next harvest in May next year.

Omundaungilo

Most parts of this constituency received good rainfall this season which is said to be better than last season. According to farmers, good rainfall has been falling across this area since the start of the season last December. However, heavy rainfall received during February and April is reported to have caused water logging condition resulting in a reduction in pearl millet harvest. Consequently crop estimates indicated a significant reduction in harvest where pearl millet production is estimated to have dropped by 15% of last season's harvest. However, sorghum production has showed an improvement of about 50% higher than last season. Farmers added that non-cereals production have also showed an improved this year compared to last season. Average planted area is estimated at about 93% of the cropping area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture was reported to be good, following good rainfall received this season. On the household food security, situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are said to be dependent on their last season's harvest for food access. However, households noted that, the current

harvest was not significant and is expected to only last for few months before it got depleted.

Epembe and Oshikunde

As it was reported in the other constituencies in the region, majority of farmers recorded a good crop harvest this season. According to farmers, the 2016/2017 rain season was relatively better than the previous season. Although the onset of the season was delayed and that there were dry spells during mid January and February, most farmers are very happy for the harvest. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest. Pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by 89% and sorghum is up by 88% of last season's harvest.

Average planted area is estimated at 90% of the cropping area. Crop pests reported included termites, false armyworms and American bollworms at Oshidute village.

At the time of this assessment, no major livestock diseases were reported. However, some farmers reported coughing in their goats, which is suggesting the possibility of internal parasites. The livestock body condition and grazing were reported to be good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as majority of households are reported to be dependent on their own production for food access. Households indicated that their current harvest is expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Oshikoto region

The region noted above-average or bumper crop harvest, following good rainfall received this season. Despite the delay in the onset of the 2016/2017 rainfall season and the dry spell experienced in January and early February, very good crop prospects as it was earlier forecasted have been realised as good crop growing conditions improved in February. Post harvest crop estimates for this area indicated a massive improvement in the harvest from all parts of the region. Aggregate cereal showed an increase of over 184% above last season's harvest and 24% above average production. In this regards, pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by more than 186% of last season's harvest and 34% above the average production. Sorghum production is estimated to have increased by 143% of last season's harvest, but is 72% below average. Part of the below average sorghum production is shortages of sorghum seeds experienced this season. Figure 15 below shows a summary of the harvest estimates of various constituencies in the region.

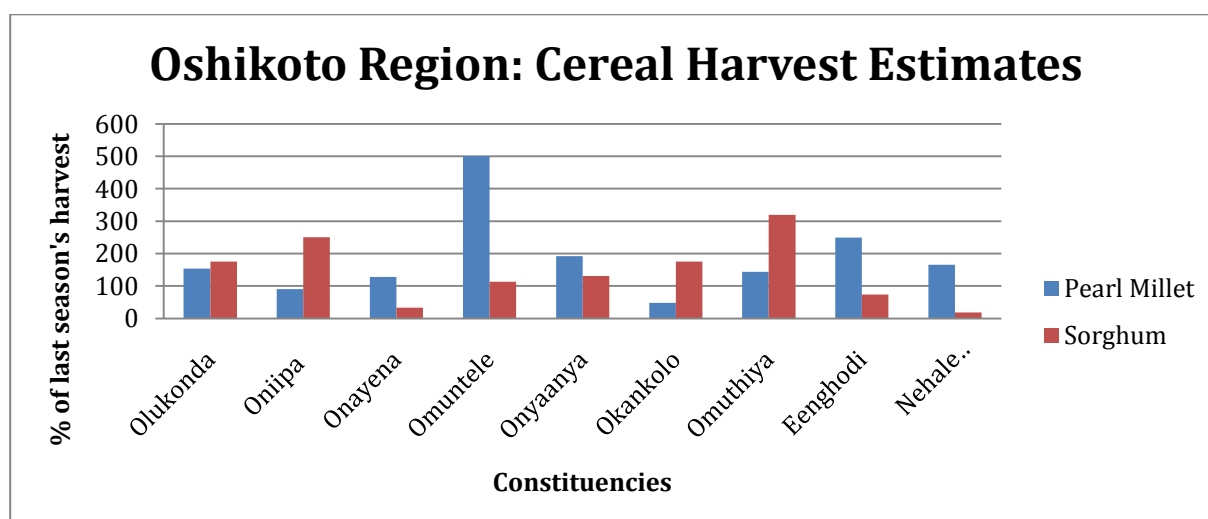


Figure 15 Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 16: shows images of good pearl millet harvest which many farmers received in Onyaanya and Omuntele Constituencies in the Oshikoto region

Good harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers is much better than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 91% of the cropping area, which is about 6% higher than the previous season. Pasture condition was reported to be 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 was reported to be in good condition with water availability, especially for livestock consumptions noted to be satisfactory, as most water catchments have sufficient water. Livestock diseases reported included Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle and internal parasites in small stock. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved significantly following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is significant and expected to last at least till next harvest in May next year.

Constituencies

Omuthiya

Farmers described this season's rainfall better than last year. Although there was a dry spell in January which caused the crops to wilt, most crops have recovered after good rainfall as from mid February resulting in a good harvest this year. Farmers are

very much happy with this season's harvest which they say will improve their ailing household food security. The total planted area is estimated at about 89% of the total crop fields. Cases of fall army worms were reported during the dry spell in January in Omutse gwonime and nearby villages however, the impact was minimal. The harvest for

pearl millet and sorghum is estimated to have increased by 144% and 319% of last season's harvest respectively. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to have improved and is said to be much better than the previous season. Grasshoppers, bush crickets and birds were widely reported in the area.

On the livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin disease in cattle and diarrhoea in goats were reported across the constituency. On water availability, farmers indicated that there was enough water in rain fed catchment areas. Grazing and livestock body condition has improved from poor and now ranging between fair and good. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are reported to be dependent on their own production for food access. According to households, the situation is expected to remain so till the next harvest in May next year.

Nehale LyaMpingana

Most farmers in this area recorded a good crop harvest which they say have improved their household food security. Average planted area is estimated at about 89% of the cropping area, which is approximately 9% higher than the same period last year. Crop estimates indicated a considerable increase in the harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by 165% and sorghum is up by 18% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest prospect for non-cereals is also said to be good and much better than last season. Cases of false armyworms during the dry spells period were reported in the area.

Livestock disease reported included Lumpy Skin disease in cattle and internal parasites in goats.

Grazing and livestock body conditions were reported to range between fair and good. Water for both livestock and human consumptions were reported to be satisfactory mainly from the boreholes and few earth dams or ponds. On the household food security, the situation is reported to be satisfactory as most households are reported to be still dependent on their own production for food access. According to households, the current harvest is expected to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Oniipa

Majority of farmers are reported to have attained good crop harvest this season, which is far better than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 98% of the cropping area. Farmers are very much happy about their crop harvest which they said has improved their ailing household food security. Most farmers use tractor services to plough their crop fields. In addition to a Government tractor operating in the area, there are also many private tractors operating in the area. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to have increased by more than 90% and sorghum is up by 250% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops were also reported to be better than last season.

Grazing was reported to have improved, following good rainfall received this season. Water availability was also noted to be satisfactory as most water catchments have enough water. Cases of internal parasites in goats were reported in the area. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to sustain them till the next

harvest in May next year especially if supplemented with market purchases because of lack of carryover stock from last year's harvest.

Olukonda

As it was reported in other constituencies, this area received better rainfall this season, when compared with last season. However, the area suffered the effects of dry spells as from mid January to mid February, causing crops to wilt, especially maize and sorghum. Both tractor service and draft animals are used in this area. However, due to a severe drought conditions experienced last season, many farmers are reported to have lost some of their draft animals to drought. Therefore, this season, most farmers used tractor services to plough their crop fields. Average planted area is estimated at 89% of the cropping area. Crop estimates indicated an improvement with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by over 154% and sorghum production is up by 175% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to have increased significantly.

Grazing was reported to range between fair and good. Water for livestock was reported to be satisfactory as most water catchment received good water inflow this season. Household food security was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest. Households added that, the current harvest is expected to last till next harvest, especially if supplemented with the market purchases because of lack of carryover stock from the previous season.

Okankolo

Although, the 2016/2017 rainfall season was delayed and performed poorly in the first half and partly in the second half of the season majority of

farmers recorded a good crop harvest this year. On average, planted area is estimated at about 78% of the cropping area. Crop estimates indicated an increase in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to increase by 48% and sorghum is up by 175% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals is also said to be good and much better than last season. Cases of false Armyworms were reported during the dry spell of January up to the first week of February which according to farmers disappeared when rainfall strengthened. Moreover, cases of crickets were also reported, but the extent of the damage was noted to be minimal.

Livestock body condition was noted to range between fair and good. Water availability was also noted to be satisfactory as many earth dams have sufficient water as well as through the wells, pipeline and boreholes. Regarding household food security, the situation is reported to have improved considerably, following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till the next harvest and beyond.

Eengodi

Farmers reported that rainfall performance this season was good and much better than last season. Most farmers were able to cover about 98% of their crop fields. As compared to the previous season, production for pearl millet had improved by 249% while sorghum improved by 74%. Non cereal crops such as cow peas, melons, Bambara nuts etc had also performed much better than the previous season. The area experienced locusts/grasshoppers in January–February and caused damage to some crop fields in Ehangano and Onanguwo village.

With regard to livestock diseases, cases of Lumpy Skin disease were reported in the area which is a

threat to farmers. However, it was reported that there is no vaccines for the Lumpy Skin disease in the local pharmacies. In addition, diarrhoea was reported in goats as well as internal parasites which are reported to have claimed the lives of some animals. The overall livestock body condition is good so as the grazing. Water was also reported to be available mainly in the boreholes. Given good harvest this season, household food security has improved as some households already started consuming from their current harvest. Furthermore, the current food stock is estimated to last until the next harvest.

Onayena

As it was noted in other constituencies in the region, this area is reported to have received good rainfall. However, dry spells were experienced during January and February causing some crops to wilt. Nevertheless, in general farmers are very much satisfied with the current harvest which they said will improve their ailing household food security. Average planted area is estimated at 91% of the cropping area. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to have increased by at least 128% and sorghum is up by 33% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals is also said to be good this season as opposed to a poor one last year. Crop pests reported included grasshoppers and false Armyworms during the dry spells in January and partly February.

Livestock disease reported including the Lumpy Skin disease in cattle and internal parasites in goats. Grazing was reported to be in a fair state in the common grazing areas and good in the enclosure. Water supply particularly for livestock consumption was noted to be satisfactory, as many

water catchments were full at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is significant and is expected to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Omuntele

Although the 2016/2017 rainfall season has started late, rainfall performance has been generally good and much better than last season. Farmers are very much happy with their crop harvest, which they said will improve their ailing household food security. Crop estimates indicated a significant improvement in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to have increased by over 500%, and sorghum is up by 113% of last season's harvest. Few cases of false armyworms were reported at the time of the dry spells which according to farmers disappeared when rainfall performance strengthened.

Livestock diseases reported included Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle as well as internal parasites in small stock. Grazing was reported to be good and water for livestock is also good. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have improved, following a recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is significant and expected to last at least till next harvest in May next year.

Onyaanya

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, many farmers in this area noted a good crop harvest this year. Although the season started on the bad note with delayed rainfall and dry spells, rainfall conditions were reported to have improved as from mid February, resulting in a good harvest.

Average planted area is estimated at 83% of crop fields. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant increase in the harvest with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to have increased by 192% and 131% of last season's harvest respectively. Cases of fall armyworms were experienced during dry spell but not severe. Furthermore grasshoppers, crickets and birds were also reported throughout the constituency, but the impact on the harvest is minimal.

Case of internal parasites in small stock where noted where clinical symptoms of diarrhoea in goats were widely reported in the constituency. The

assessment team advised the farmers to report any disease and conditions observed in their livestock to nearby Veterinary Office for possible assistance. Livestock body condition and grazing are both reported to have improved and was noted to be good. Furthermore, water was also noted to be available in most of the rain fed catchment areas. With regards to food security, the situation has improved, following a recent harvest. According to households, this improvement is significant and the situation is expected to remain so till next harvest in May next year.

NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION ANALYSIS FOR 2016/2017 CROP SEASON

The national aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, sorghum, pearl millet and wheat) is presented in the Table 2 below and is estimated at **140,000 metric tonnes**. This consists of 68,100 tonnes of white maize, 57,600 tonnes of pearl millet, 2,800 tonnes of sorghum and 11,500 tonnes of wheat².

Table 2: Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2016/2017 compared to an 18-year average (1998/1999 to 2015/2016) and 2015/2016 harvest.

Region/Sector	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	18-year average	2016/17 as % of average	2016/17 as % of 2015/16
Zambezi	5.7	5.6	3.5	7.5	2.5	2.1	4.5	8.1	-45	116
Kavango East & West	5.6	4.0	1.8	3.8	1.1	1.8	4.2	5.7	-26	129
Omusati	11.1	12.6	3.2	7.4	3.3	4.7	13.1	15.2	-14	174
Ohangwena	8.0	12.3	4.9	7.3	2.6	4.2	12.1	13.7	-12	186
Oshana	5.0	13.6	4.4	8.9	3.3	2.2	10.1	8.7	14	347
Oshikoto	16.7	20.2	11.5	18.6	5.8	7.0	20.1	16.2	24	185
Commercial	59.5	75.2	87.3	82.6	50.5	53.8	76.2	52.8	44	42
Namibia	111.7	143.4	116.6	136.1	68.9	76.1	140.0	120.4	16	84

As shown in Table 2 above, the aggregate coarse grain represents a significant improvement in output of **84 percent** higher than last season and **16 percent** above the average production. This improvement came as a result of a considerable increase from the producers both in the subsistence and commercial production system. The national planted area to coarse grain production in various parts of the major crop producing regions is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Namibia: Total planted area trend ('000 hectares) and 2015/2016 compared to 18-year average (2010/2011 to 2015/2016) and 2015/2016 crop season

Region/Sector	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	18-year average	2016/17 as % of average	2016/17 as % of 2015/16
Zambezi	20.9	20.1	20.6	19.4	20.4	15.4	20.1	22.0	-12	-6
Kavango East & West	23.1	20.6	20.6	21.6	18.4	17.4	21.8	19.7	9	5
Omusati	82.6	73.4	61.5	78.0	64.3	74.4	83.5	86.8	-10	27
Ohangwena	85.2	84.3	76.2	79.8	65.5	75.3	86.1	85.1	-6	5
Oshana	36.3	35.1	33.2	35.1	30.8	33.9	35.9	43.6	-20	6
Oshikoto	62.0	60.1	54.1	58.1	54.8	56.1	60.1	67.2	-14	7
Commercial	15.0	18.0	16.5	16.0	16.5	12.1	16.1	14.5	11	-3
Namibia	325.5	311.6	282.7	308.0	270.6	84.4	322.6	338.9	-9	9

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

Table 3 above, indicated that the area planted to cereal this season is estimated at 338,900 hectares. This represents a slight increase of about 9% of last seasons' area, but is 9% below the average planted area. The below average planted area came as a result of poor rainfall performance experienced in the north central regions as well as heavy rainfall experienced in the Zambezi region. The Kavango West, Kavango East regions as well as the commercial areas, most farmers covered a greater parts of their crop fields.

CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION UPDATE

Table 4: Cereal supply and demand situation report

Namibia: Cereal Supply/Demand Forecast for 2017/2018 Marketing Year (May/April)				
('000 metric tonnes)				
	Wheat	Maize	Millet/Sorghum	Total
Domestic Availability	21.3	98.7	61.2	181.2
Opening stocks (as at May 2017*)	9.9	30.6	0.8	41.3
Forecasted Production**	11.4	68.1	60.4	139.9
Total Utilization***	83.1	182.6	82.6	349.9
Food use	72.5	165.8	58.6	296.9
Losses and other uses	0.6	6.8	9.1	16.4
Closing stocks (as at April 2017*)	10.0	10.0	15.0	35.0
Shortfall to be covered by import	-61.7	-83.9	-21.4	-167.1
Commercial imports received	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Commercial imports expected	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
After trade Deficit/Surplus	-67.7	-83.9	-21.4	-167.1

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

** Exclude cereal production for animal feed

*** 2.4 million people (NSA, 2017 est.) each consuming 124kg of cereal per annum

Source: Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit

The supply and demand as indicated in table 4 shows that, the available cereal locally for the current marketing/ consumption period is estimated at 181,200 metric tons. This comprises of 21,300 tonnes of wheat, 98,700 tonnes of white maize and 61, 200 tons of pearl millet and sorghum. In contrast, the current cereal domestic availability is only about 52% of the domestic cereal requirements; hence 167,100 tons is required to cover the shortfall. This is consisting of 61, 700 tons of wheat, 83,900 tons of maize and 21 400 tons of pearl millet and sorghum. At the time of this report, information about the imports and export statistics on cereals was not yet available. This deficit under 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

Conclusion

The main findings of this assessment showed that most parts of the country received normal to above normal rainfall, resulting in a significant improvement in agricultural production. The assessment noted that the crop producing regions recorded a good crop harvest which according to producers is much better by far than the past two previous seasons. Aggregate cereal estimates indicated that, the country received a good cereal harvest which is estimated at 84% higher than last season's harvest and about 16% above the average production. The report further noted that, grazing conditions have improved significantly in most parts of the country, except in some few areas which were affected by poor rainfall mainly in the //Karas and Erongo regions. Water availability for livestock in areas dependent on surface/rain water was reported to have improved extensively, as most water catchments have sufficient water, following good rainfall received this season. The regions reported an outbreak of the Lumpy Skin disease in the North Central regions, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa and Erongo region. The report also noted that, household food security has improved significantly as most households were reported to be dependent on their own harvest for food access. According to most households interviewed, the current harvest is significant and is expected to sustain households through to the next harvest in May next year.

Recommendations

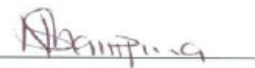
Based on findings of this report, the following recommendations are made for possible interventions and future assistance:

- For areas affected by poor agricultural production resulted from poor rainfall performance, the Regional Council in the affected areas are advised to monitor the situation and respond accordingly.
- Areas affected by poor grazing conditions, it is recommended that the Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services advice the affected farmers to take the necessary precautionary measures which included among others destocking and culling while livestock are in good condition. Where necessary, it is advisable that the said Directorate provide support in terms of marketing incentives to farmers who are willing to sell their livestock on the designated markets.
- On the outbreak of the Lumpy Skin disease, the Directorate of Veterinary Services is advised to expedite the procurement of the vaccines and ensure timely response.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Agro Business Information (National Early Warning on Food Security) Unit in the Directorate of Planning and Business Development use information from various institutions and organisations within Namibia in order to compile this report. This report was compiled with the aid of primary information and reports sourced from the following Directorates, Institutions and Organisations.

- Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension & Engineering Services (DAPEES)
- Directorate of Agricultural Research and development (DARD)
- Directorate of Veterinary Services⁵³(DVS)
- Agricultural Business Development (AGRIBUSDEV)
- Agricultural Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA)
- Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB)
- Northern Namibia Farmers Seed Growers' Cooperative
- Likwama Farmers Association
- Meteorological Services of Namibia
- Directorate Disaster Risk Management (DDRM)
- Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)
- Regional Councils

Signed by:	
	
Mr. Mathews Ndjodhi	12/07/2017
Senior Agro-Business Analyst	Date
MAWF, DPBD	
	
Ms. Johanna Shapiwa	12/07/2017
Agro Business-Analyst	Date
MAWF, DPBD	