



NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION REPORT

JULY 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season most parts of the country received good rainfall in the last two months of the rainfall season, resulting in a significant improvement in agricultural production. The greater part of the country received good rainfall during March and April resulting in a very good to bumper crop harvest this year. The good rainfall did not only improve crop production, but also water availability and to some extent grazing.

The revised crop estimates indicated a substantial improvement in the crop harvest which is significantly higher than last season's harvest and above average level. Aggregate cereal estimates showed that, the country is expecting an increase of at least 11% of last season's harvest and about 26% above the average production. All major crop-producing regions showed above average production, except the Zambezi region, which showed a slight reduction about 1% below the average productions.

Household food security remained satisfactory in most regions, following a good agricultural production received this year. At the time of this assessment in the major communal crop producing regions, majority of households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. However, few pockets of food insecurity were still being reported, especially in areas that suffered the effects of poor rainfall, excessive rainfall and damages due to Fall Army worms last season.

Grazing condition was reported to range between fair and good in most parts of the country, following a good rainfall received in the last three months of the rainfall season. However, distress grazing conditions are still being reported in the south and partly central to eastern part of the country owing to poor rainfall received in the just ended rainfall season.

This report was prepared by the Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) with information from official and unofficial sources.

Since conditions may change rapidly, please contact the undersigned for further information if required.

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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	GRAZING, LIVESTOCK AND WATER SUPPLY SITUATION	8
6.0	REGIONAL CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION	11
7.0	NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION FOR 2017/2018 CROPPING SEASON	50
8.0	CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION	52
9.0.	CONCLUSION 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 post-harvest Crop and Household Food Security Assessment mission in the seven major communal crop-producing regions¹ as from 07th May to 04th June 2018. The main purpose of this assessment was to assess and quantify the 2018 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, water supply 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:

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10/07/2018

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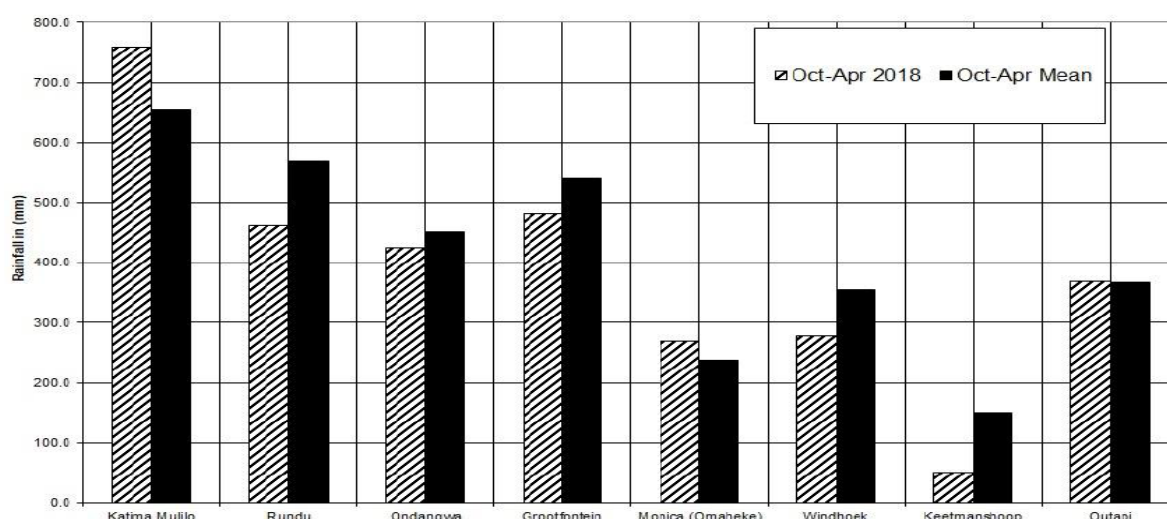
Since the situation may change, it should be noted herein that, this report present the results of the assessment that took place during the abovementioned dates supplemented by reports from the Agricultural Extension staff in the Kunene, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, //Karas, Erongo, Khomas and Hardap regions.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

AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

2017/2018 Rainfall Performance for Namibia

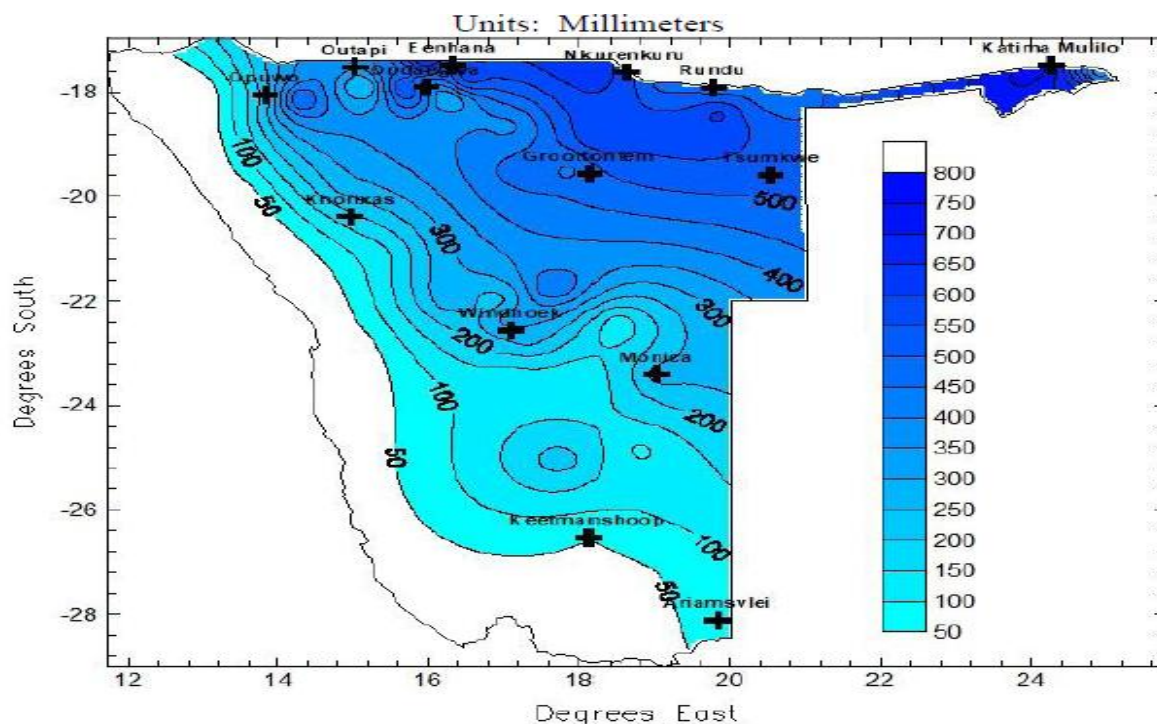
The country noted poor rainfall performance in the first half of the rainfall season (October – December) stretching into the first two months of the second half of the season (January and February). Although the 2017/2018-rainfall season started on time, it was reported that the season was characterised by sporadic light to moderate showers received toward end of October to early November in most part of the country. The situation was marred by lack of follow-up rains to strengthen the onset of the season in most of November to early December and this is said to have caused significant delay in agricultural activities. In the north eastern regions (Kavango West, Kavango East, Zambezi) improvements in the rainfall performance was realised as from February. Whereas in the north central regions (Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati) rainfall improved as from end of February. Elsewhere in the country rainfall performance improved as from March when significant rainfall activities were observed. Nevertheless, overall the bulk of the country recorded normal to below normal by end of the season and this is said to have affected the recovery of the grazing areas. These reports were corroborated by Namibia Meteorological Services report which depict a trend of normal to below normal rainfall, relative to normal (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 below).



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

Figure 1: Rainfall Relative Performance Chart - October 2017 to April 2018 relative to Normal in various towns in Namibia

As depicted by Figure 1 above, the country received below normal rainfall between October 2017 and April 2018 except in the Zambezi, Omaheke and Omusati regions. Figure 1 shows that most areas received near normal rainfall during the course of the rainfall season. Much of the rainfall received in various parts of the country was received in the last two months of the season and this is said to have impacted positively on agriculture, especially crop production.



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

Figure 2: Cumulative Seasonal Rainfall - October 2017 to April 2018

Results of the assessment in the northern major communal crop producing regions revealed that, most parts of these regions received good rainfall during March and April resulting in a very good to bumper crop harvest this year. The good rainfall did not only improve crop production, but also water availability and to some extent grazing. At the time of this assessment, most of the water catchments (e.g. earth dams, ponds, Iishana) are either full or have enough water to sustain livestock and human consumptions.

CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

With the exception of commercial area, all major crop-producing regions recorded improvements in the expected crop harvest with most regions recording above average level. Crop estimates indicated a substantial improvement in the expected harvest, which is significantly higher than last season.



Figure 3: Image of a bumper pearl millet harvest in Olukupa area in the Nehale Lyampingana constituency in the Oshikoto region, which many farmers recorded in the north central regions

All major crop-producing regions showed above average production on aggregate cereals, except the Zambezi region, which shows about 1% below the normal productions. However, when compared to last season, the commercial area showed a 19% reduction in maize production due to Fall Armyworms infestations and poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season.

Table 1: National cereal production statistics and 2017/2018 forecast compared to 2016/2017 harvest and 19– year average

National Cereal Production Statistics Trend (in '000 metric Ton) and 2017/2018 forecast compared with 19 - year average and 2016/2017 Production											
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	19-year average	2017/18 as % of average	2017/18 as % of 2016/17
Maize (Communal)	5.2	4.6	2.5	5.2	1.4	1.2	6.3	6.9	6.6	4	10
Maize (Commercial)	48.0	63.2	72.4	71.3	38.9	42.4	64.8	52.4	41.9	25	-19
Pearl Millet	41.1	55.9	24.7	44.1	15.3	19.4	57.6	83.5	56.3	48	45
Sorghum	5.8	7.7	2.2	4.1	1.7	1.5	2.8	4.0	7.2	-44	45
Wheat	11.5	11.9	14.8	11.3	11.6	9.8	6.1	6.1	9.4	-35	0
Aggregate	111.6	143.4	116.6	136.1	68.9	74.4	137.6	152.9	121.4	26	11

Table 1 above shows the cereal production statistics as from 2010/2011 to 2016/2017 crop seasons. Table 1 also indicate the crop estimates for the 2017/2018-crop season, 19-year average and the 2017/2018 estimated productions as percentage of the average and 2016/2017-cropping season. According to Table 1, maize production in the communal area (Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions) indicated an increase of 10% of last season's harvest, and about 4% above the average production. This increase is attributed to general improvement in the rainfall performance for the last three months of the season. Maize production in the Zambezi region has increased by 19% of last season's harvest and about 19% above the average production. In contrast maize production in the Kavango East and Kavango West region showed an improvement of 20% above last season's harvest, but is still 72% below the average production. Maize production in the commercial area on the other hand showed a significant reduction of about 19% of last season's harvest, but is still 41% above the average production. This reduction was caused by poor rainfall performance experienced this season in the dry-land maize production areas and problems of Fall Armyworms, which affected both Green scheme and dry-land commercial producing areas.

Pearl millet production shows a considerable improvement in the expected harvest of 45% of last season's harvest and 48% above the average production. All the major pearl millet producing regions recoded above average production, except the Zambezi region where pearl millet production was reported to have been affected by excessive water. Moreover, sorghum production has also showed a significant improvement of 45% above the last season production, but is 44% below the average production. According to farmers, this improvement could have been much more if the were no seed shortages and poor rainfall experienced in the season. Wheat is a winter crop and production thereof will start in winter (May/June). However, for the purpose of national aggregate and analysis, harvest estimates for the 2016/2017 were used to develop the 2017/2018 estimates. Therefore, as a country, the national coarse grain aggregate production (maize, millet, sorghum and wheat) showed a considerable increase in the expected harvest of 11% above the last season's harvest, and 26% above the average production.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

The household food security remained satisfactory in most regions of the country, following good agricultural production in the past two seasons. At the time of this assessment in the major communal crop producing regions; majority of households are reportedly dependent on own productions for food access. Household owners added that, their production is sufficient to sustain them through to the next harvest in May next year. Many farmers, who obtained good crop harvest this year, are expected to sell their surplus to the commercial millers and or to Agricultural Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) for Strategic Food Reserve re-stocking purposes. However, few pockets of food insecurity were also reported, especially in areas that suffered the effects of poor rainfall or flood.

In the Zambezi region, household food security was reported to be satisfactory as most households interviewed are reported to be dependent on their own production for food access. However, pocket areas of food insecurity were reported in areas affected by dry spells in the Linyanti and partly Katima Rural constituencies. Moreover, some farmers in the Kabbe North, Kabbe South and partly Katima Rural Constituencies are reported to have suffered crop damages by flood.

Similarly, household food security in the Kavango East and Kavango West regions was also noted to be good as most households interviewed indicated that they were dependent on their harvest for food access. Farmers added that, their production is sufficient and expected to sustain them to the next harvest. However, a greater part of the Kavango West region was reported to have suffered poor crop harvest as a result of poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season. The affected constituencies included Ncamangoro, Ncuncuni, Mankumpi and Kapako constituencies. Consequently, many farmers in this area received poor crop harvest which according to households is likely to last between August and December 2018 and thereafter, the affected households are expected to dependent on the market for food access.

Household food security in the north central regions (Omusati, Oshikoto, Oshana and Ohangwena) was reported to be good, following a good and above-average crop harvest received this year. Majority of households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. Households added that, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year and beyond.

Elsewhere in the country, food security was reported to have remained satisfactory in many places, following a good agricultural production received this season. However, pocket areas of food insecurity still being reported in areas that suffered poor rainfall in the south, partly central to eastern part of the country.

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

GRAZING, LIVESTOCK AND WATER SUPPLY SITUATION

Grazing Condition

Grazing condition was reported to range between fair and good in most parts of the country, following a good rainfall received in the last three month of the rainfall season. However, poor to very poor grazing conditions were also reported, mainly in the south and partly central to eastern part of the country owing to poor rainfall received in the just ended rainfall season.

Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions reported good grazing establishment which according to farmers is much better than last season enough to sustain livestock to the next growing season. In the north central regions (Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto), poor to good grazing conditions were reported in most parts of the regions with mostly good condition reported in the enclosure and cattle post areas. In the Khomas region, grazing was reported to range between fair in most places, but poor to very poor in the western part of the region. In the Kunene, Omaheke, //Karas and Erongo regions, grazing were reported to range between poor and fair conditions, following sporadic and insufficient rainfall received in those areas. Corridor 13 and Eiseb areas in the Omaheke region were reportedly the most affected, while Otjimbingwe, Spitzkoppe, Okombahe, Tubusis, Omatjete and Uis are the most affected areas in the Erongo region. It was further reported that, some farmers have started moving their livestock from one place to another, in search for better grazing conditions. The shrub veld in the //Karas region is reported to have responded well to the late rainfall and was rated to be in a fair condition at the time of the assessment in June 2018.

Hardap and Kunene regions reported poor grazing conditions which are attributed largely to poor rainfall received this year. According to reports from the Agricultural Extension office in the Hardap region, there was no significant grass re-growth in Maltahohe, Hoachanas & Gochas areas. Moreover, critical grazing conditions were reported in Aranos and eastern part of Rehoboth, as some areas are bare with no considerable grass re-growth noted. The regional Agricultural Extension office has therefore begun encouraging farmers to reduce the number of their livestock in order to avoid livestock losses as a result of the drought conditions in the region. The Regional Agricultural Extension office further reported that some farmers in the region have approached the offices requesting government support to start planting Lucerne in the region.

Livestock conditions

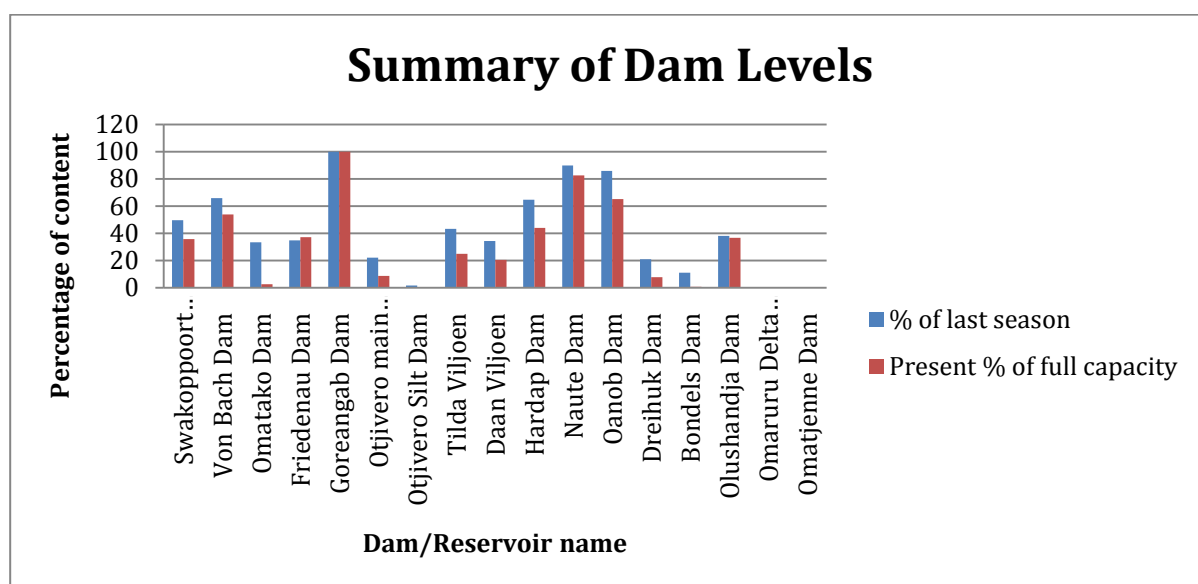
Fair to good livestock body conditions were reported in most parts of the country. The north and extreme southern part of the country reported good livestock body conditions. However, livestock conditions are feared to deteriorate much earlier than usual in the Kunene region because of deteriorating grazing conditions. In Omaheke, Hardap and Erongo regions, livestock body condition was reported to range between fair and poor especially cattle. The situation is said to be worse in corridor 13 areas where some cattle are reportedly being assisted to stand up because of the poor grazing conditions in the area.

No major livestock disease outbreaks were reported in the regions at the time of the assessment. However, cases of foot rot and internal parasites in small stock were widely reported especially in the north central regions. Moreover, Lambs and kids mortalities were reported in Erongo and //Karas region due to lack of milk from their mothers, a situation associated with poor grazing. Sheep scab was also reported in Berseba area in //Karas region. Furthermore, cases of tick infestations were reported in Zambezi as well as in the north central regions. Cases of Orf, Pasteurellosis and Pulpy kidney in small stock were also reported in the north central and Omaheke regions.

With regard to water availability for livestock, the water supply situation is reported to have improved significantly countrywide, following good rainfall received in the last two months of the rainfall season. However, cases of water shortages were reported in Hardap region and is said to have affected Kleinfontein 82, Binz no. 186, Halifax No. 113 and Fleyveld No. 33d farms. In addition, water shortages were also reported in //Karas region which was said to be due to the poor maintenance and slow repair of water infrastructures especially in the communal areas. As a matter of urgency, the situation need to be urgently addressed (repair of water infrastructures) as it is increasing the strain on animals. In Erongo region, farmers are reportedly experiencing salty water in Daures Constituency.

Dams levels

Figure 4 below shows a summary of the dams/ reservoirs levels in the country as at 02nd July 2018. Figure 4 indicated that, most dams/ reservoirs contain less amount of water when compared with the corresponding period last year. This deviation is attributed to insufficient rainfall received; resulting in less amount of water received this season. At the beginning of July 2018, Goreangab, Naute and Oanob Dams show the highest amount of water of 100.0%, 82.4% and 65.0% of their holding capacity respectively.



Sources: Namwater

Figure 4: Summary of the Dam levels in the country as at 02 July 2018

REGIONAL CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Zambezi region

The region noted a significant improvement in the crop harvest amidst mid season's poor rainfall and flood events. Despite the poor rainfall experienced in the middle of season, and flood in the eastern part of the region, most farmers were able to attain a very good to bumper crop harvest this season. The revised crop estimates indicate an increase with aggregate cereal estimated at 7% above the last season's harvest, but 1% lower than the average production. In particular, maize production which is a staple crop for the region showed a tremendous improvement of 9% higher than last season and 19% above average production. Last season, majority of farmers have also received a very good maize harvest. Pearl millet production showed an increase of about 19% of last season's harvest, but is 67% below the average production. Sorghum on the other hand showed a reduction of over 11% of last season's harvest and about 40% below the average production. Average planted area is estimated at 75% of the cropping area, reflecting a reduction of 5% when compared with the corresponding period last year. Farmers indicated that, the 2017/2018 rainfall season started on time toward the end of October last year, but became poor and was characterised by erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall patterns in November, December and January, affecting mainly the crop production. Farmers added that, favourable rainfall conditions improve as from February, resulting in good crop harvest in the greater part of the region. However, the eastern part of the region (Kabbe North, Kabbe South and partly Katima Rural constituencies) suffered flood episodes, and most of the affected crop farmers are said to have suffered crop damages to flood. It was also noted that, the Linyanti constituency suffered the effects of poor rainfall as some farmers were reportedly hesitant and discouraged to cultivate, hence poor production in that area. Figure 5 below shows a summary of the cereal harvest estimates.

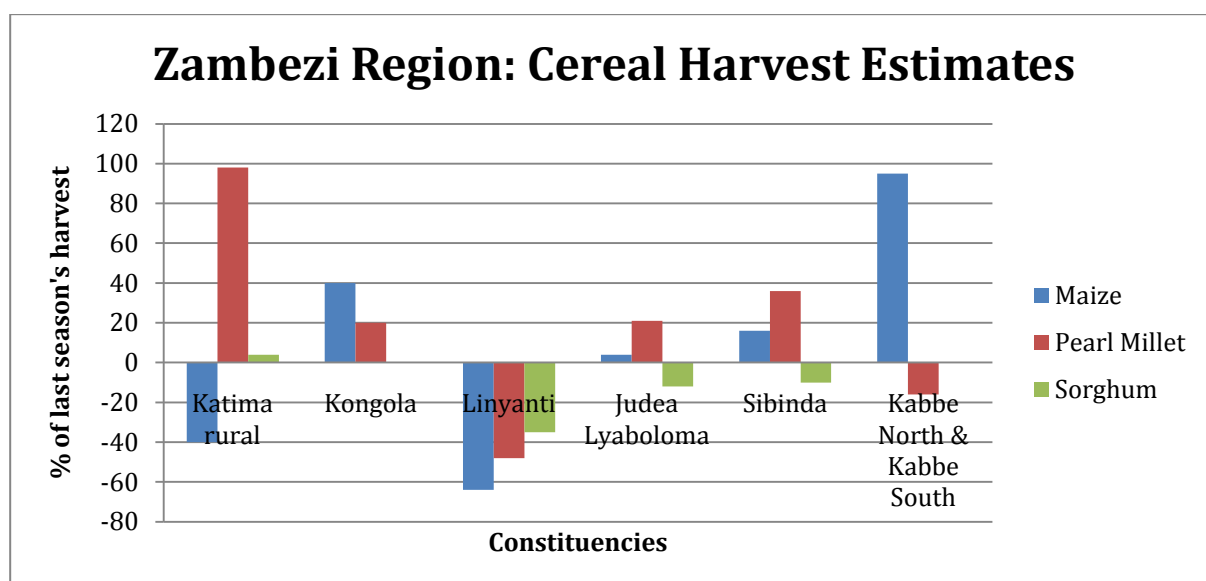


Figure 5: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 6: Images of maize harvest from some of the farmers who received good maize harvest in Linyanti and Sibinda constituencies in the Zambezi region

No major livestock disease outbreaks were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to be good in most parts of the region, except flooded areas in the eastern part of the region. Livestock were reported to be in good conditions. Water supply situation was reported to be more than enough, either from the rivers, streams, boreholes and swamps or ponds. The household food security was reported to be satisfactory, following a good harvest received this year. According to most interviewed households, the current harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year. For effective service delivery of the

agricultural extension services, the region is requesting adequate budget for both services and inputs subsidies as well as an improvement in the procurement process to speed up the acquisitions of supplies and services. Moreover, the region proposed that, there is a need for capacity building of the Technology Centre staff.

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

According to farmers, the 2017/2018-rainfall season was poor and characterised by erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent dry spells experience in the middle of the season. It was reported that, poor rainfall was experienced during November, December and January, affecting crop production activities. Under the circumstance, most farmers were only able to cultivate about 56% of their crop fields, using mainly draft animals. Case of the Fall Army worms were widely reported during the course of the season, but the extent of the damage is said to be moderate. Crop estimates indicated a significant reduction in the harvest with maize set to decline by 64%, pearl millet is up by 48% and sorghum is down by 35% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non cereals was also noted to be poor and much lower than last season. It was reported that, some of the farmers did not cultivate this season, since they were discouraged by poor rainfall patterns.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition as well as the grazing was reported to be good. On household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory, as many households are said to be dependent on own harvest for food access. According to most interviewed households, their harvest is expected to last till next harvest, especially when supplemented with market purchases.

Judea Lyaboloma

Most parts of this area is said to have received good rainfall this year, resulting in good agricultural production. According to farmers, the 2017/2018 rainfall season was generally good to both crop and livestock production. Crop estimates in this constituencies showed an increase in the crop harvest were maize production is estimated to increase by over 4% and pearl millet is up by 21% of last season's production. However, sorghum production is reported to be poor with an estimated 12% below last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals is said to be good and much better than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at about 75% of last season's harvest. With regards to access to basic agricultural inputs, farmers indicated that, they were able to purchase seed varieties of their choice, although the subsidy vouchers were not enough.

Grazing and livestock were reported to be in good condition with enough water available for both human and livestock consumptions. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. On household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are dependent on their last season's harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Kongola

As reported in many constituencies in the region, majority of farmers were able to obtain good crop harvest amidst poor rainfall experienced in the season. Crop estimates for this area indicated significant improvement in the crop harvest with maize production estimated to increase by over 40% and pearl millet up by 20% of last season. This increase came as result of improvement in rainfall performance as from February to April. Harvest for the non-cereal is also said to be good and much better than last season. However, farmers reported that no change in sorghum production when compared with the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at about 91% of their crop fields. Few cases of Fall Army worms on maize were reported in Sachona community during December, but disappeared as rainfall strengthens. Hippos, Warthog, squirrel and monkeys were also reported in Namushasha, Singalamwe and Kazauli areas.

Grazing and livestock are said to be in good condition. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. On household food security, the situation is reported to be good as households are reportedly dependent on their harvest for food access. Households indicated

that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till next harvest in May next year.

Katima Rural

Most part of this constituency is reported to have suffered the effect of poor rainfall, which according to farmers resulted in poor maize harvest. Farmers noted that, poor rainfall was seen in the forms of sporadic and erratic rainfall patterns with prolonged dry spells, which is said to have gotten worse in January. Farmers argued that they have replanted twice on average due to poor germination at the beginning of the season. Nevertheless, average cultivated area is estimated at about 73% of the total cropping area, reflecting an increase of about 13% when compared with the corresponding period last season. Harvest estimates for maize showed a reduction of about 40% lower than last season's harvest. However, pearl millet production showed a significant increase of over 98% and sorghum is 4% higher than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non cereals was reported to be better compared to the previous season. With regard to crop pests and diseases, more cases of Aphids on cowpeas were reported throughout the constituency, although not too severe.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock body condition and grazing is reported to be good in most areas, except areas affected by flood where grazing is said to be affected by excessive water. Water supply is good either through flood water, ponds, boreholes, wells and river as main sources. Household food security is reported to be good following this season's harvest and according to households, the harvest is expected to sustain households till next harvest, especially if supplemented with market purchases.

Kabbe north and Kabbe south

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season and flood events during April and May, many farmers are reported to have attained good maize harvest. Crop estimates indicated that, most farmers on average received about 95% increase of their last seasons' harvest, which according to farmers is a second year of blessings following a good harvest received last season. However, pearl millet production was affected by excessive water as a result of flood and losses of over 16% lower than last season are estimated. The assessment team could not get credible information about the status of sorghum productions as all the interviewed farmers indicated that they had not plant sorghum this season. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals such as legumes, melons and squashes were reported to be poor because of too much water.

Grazing is reported to be affected by flood and at the time of this assessment livestock in these constituencies are reported to be trapped in some areas affected by flood. Many of the affected farmers are reported to have moved their livestock to high ground for safety reasons. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, high cases of ticks especially in large stock were widely reported in the whole area. Household food security was reported to be satisfactory as households are reported to still dependent on their harvest for food access.

According to households, their harvest will sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Sibbinda

Despite poor rainfall performance reported earlier in the season, majority of farmers were able to obtain good crop harvest this season. According to farmers, rainfall conditions improved as from February till end of the season, resulting in good crop harvest. Crop harvest estimates indicated significant improvements with maize estimated to have increase by more than 16% and pearl millet is up by about 36% over last season's harvest. However, sorghum production showed a reduction of about 10% below last season's harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 85% of the cropping area. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals were reported to be good as it was the case last season. Cases of damages by birds and rats during crop emergence were reported at Kaliangile, Makang and Masida areas.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing as well as the livestock body condition was noted to be good. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory as most households are said to be dependent on their harvests for food access. According to household owners, the current harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Kavango East and Kavango West regions

Majority of farmers recorded good crop harvest amidst poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season. Despite reports of poor rainfall experienced in the first half of the season and January, majority of farmers are reportedly expecting good crop harvest, following significant improvement in the rainfall performance from February till end of the rainfall season. Aggregate cereals indicated a significant improvement of 73% above last season's harvest, and over 30% above the average production. In particular, pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by 79% of last season's harvest and about 55% over the average production. Maize production is estimated to increase by 20% of last season's harvest, but is 72% below the average production. Sorghum production showed an increase of 26% of last season's production but is about 47% below the average production. Much of this improvement comes from the Kavango East region where many farmers are reported to have obtained bumper harvest this season. However, the greater part of the Kavango West region showed a reduced harvest with Kapako, Mankumpi and Ncamangoro constituencies topping the list. Furthermore, harvest outlook for non-cereal crops was also reported to be good, which according to farmers is much better than last season. Average planted area is estimated at about 79% of the crop fields, which is almost the same when compared to the corresponding period last year. Crop pests reported included few cases of Fall Army worms on maize in the Rundu rural and Mukwe constituencies in the Kavango East region. The pests are said to have disappeared when rainfall intensity strengthens. Other pests reported included aphids on cowpeas, grasshopper and elephants. However, the impact of these pests on crop is said to be minimal. Figure 7(a) and Figure 7(b) shows a summary of the crop harvest estimates for the Kavango West and Kavango East regions respectively.

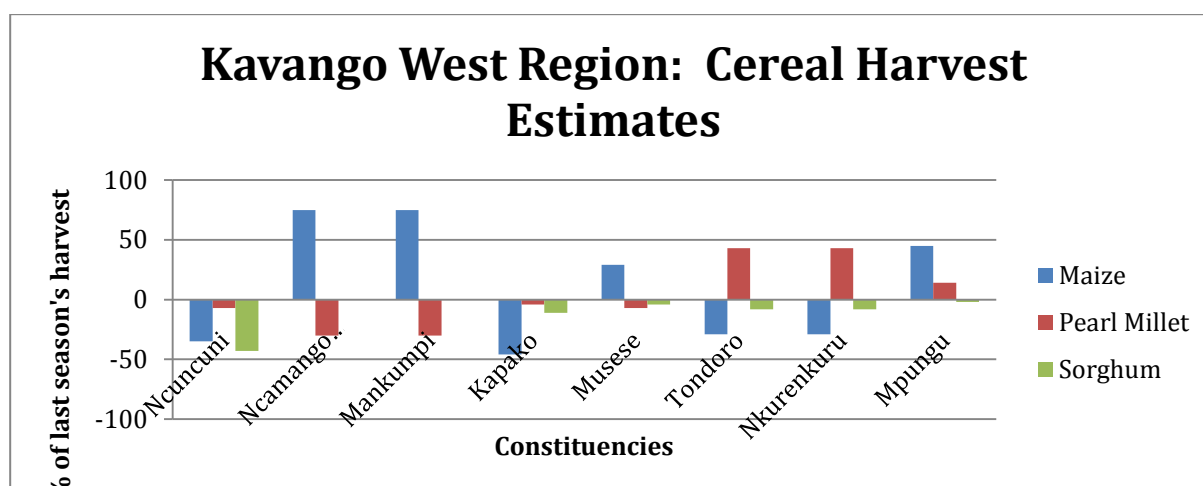


Figure 7(a): Summary of the cereal harvest estimates in the Kavango West region

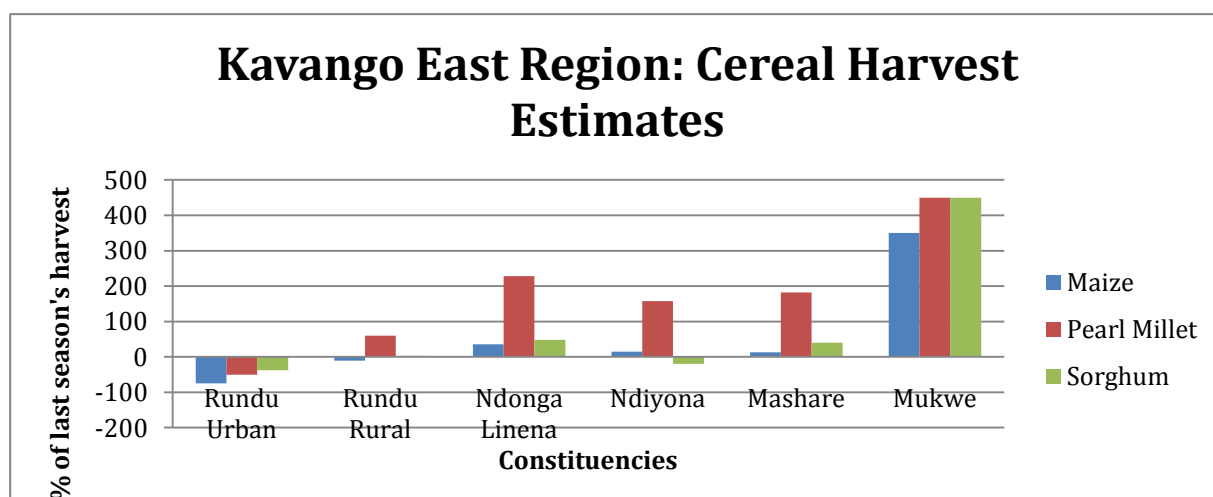


Figure 7 (b): Summary of the cereal harvest estimates in the Kavango East region



Figure 8: Heaps of pearl millet harvest which many farmers reported to have attained in Omega area and Ndonga Linena constituencies in the Kavango East Region

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, few cases of Lumpy Skin disease, Botulism, Foot rot in cattle as well as internal and external parasites in both small and large stock were reported in the regions. Moreover, cases of abortion in goats were also reported. Both grazing and livestock are reported to be in good conditions. The water supply situation was noted to be satisfactory, as enough water available for both human and livestock consumptions, either from the river, streams, boreholes or ponds as the main sources. With regards to the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory, following good harvest received as most of the households are reported to be dependent on their own production for food access. According to most interviewed households, their harvest is sufficient to take them through to the next harvest in May next year. However, the eastern half of the Kavango West region where reduced crop harvest as a result of the poor rainfall was reported, households are likely to face food insecurity by end of October this year. The regional Agricultural Extension office is requesting the government to increase the number of government tractors as well as quantity of seeds in the regions for effective and efficient service delivery.

Kavango West

Constituencies

Ncuncuni

Majority of farmers in this area are expecting poor crop harvest this year, following the poor rainfall performance experienced this year. According to farmers, rainfall was late, poor at the beginning with only improvement toward the end of the rainfall season. Crop estimates showed a significant reduction in the expected harvest where pearl millet production is expected to decrease by at least 7%, maize by 35% and sorghum is down by over 43% of last season's harvest. However, harvest for non-cereals was reported to be good and much better than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at about 90% of the cropping area. Crop pests reported included rats and termites during

germination, but the damages is said to be insignificant

Grazing as well as the livestock body condition was reported to be good. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of tick infestations were widely reported in the area. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory, following a recent crop harvest. However, according to households, the current harvest is only enough to sustain them till end of October this year.

Musese

Good rainfall was received during the second half of the 2017/2018 rainfall season and according to farmers, dry spells were experienced during December 2017 to January 2018 but were not severe. Government tractor service was made use of in the area however, inland farmers only benefited from subsidised inputs and weeding services. This was reported to be due to the fact that majority of the inland fields are full of stumps which makes it difficult for the tractor to operate. False army worms, mice and wild animals were reported to have destroyed crops at different growing stages. Nevertheless, maize production has indicated an increase of 14% while millet and sorghum reduced by 7% and 4% respectively. Despite dry spells experienced in the first half of the season, farmers managed to cultivate about 96% of their crop fields which is 3% lower than last season's area planted. Furthermore, legumes such as Cowpeas production is said to be better than last season's production.

Diarrhoea in goats was reported in the area. Grazing and livestock body condition were both reported to be in a good state at the time of the assessment. Water availability was reported to be satisfactory with the river being a main source of water along the river plain while in the inland boreholes are the main source. Household food security has improved following the current harvest. However, despite the increase in maize production, farmers believe this current produce can only sustain them until December 2018, and will then rely on peace work and market for food access.

Ncamangoro and Mankumpi

As it was reported in the Ncuncuni constituency, this area has also noted poor rainfall performance

this season, resulting in a reduced crop harvest. According to farmers, the rainfall was very poor in the middle of the season and has only improved toward the end of the season. Consequently, majority of farmers are reported to have conceded crop losses to poor rainfall with pearl millet production estimated to decline by 30% of last season's production. However, maize production is reported to have improved by about 75% of last season's harvest. The assessment team was unable to estimate the sorghum production this year, since all the respondents spoken to could not grow sorghum this season. Average planted area is estimated at 58% of their crop fields. According to farmers, the remaining part of their crop fields could not be covered because of the poor rainfall experienced during the ploughing time. Crop pests reported included few cases of birds on flowering pearl millet. Farmers are requesting for early delivery of inputs and services, especially in the inland areas.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both grazing and livestock are said to be in good conditions. Water availability for livestock is also said to be satisfactory, either through the river, borehole and some ponds. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be satisfactory, following the recent harvest. However, households indicated that their harvest is expected to last up to end of September 2018.

Kapako

This area was reported to have suffered the effects of poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season. According to farmers, the 2017/2018 rainfall season started late and was characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall patterns. It was reported that, prolonged dry spells were experienced during December and January, causing crops to wilt. Crop

estimates for this area indicated a reduction in the harvest with pearl millet production set to decrease by 4%, maize by 46% and sorghum is down by over 11% of last season's harvest. Additionally, harvest for non cereal crops were also reported to be more or less same poor as it was last season. Average planted area is estimated at 93% of the cropping area. Farmers indicated that they used seeds retained from the previous season with some bought subsidized seeds at their local agricultural office. No major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the visit. Livestock body condition was reported to be good. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be satisfactory following the recent harvest. However, households added that the current harvest is expected to last till end of October this year.

Mpungu

The 2017/2018 rainfall season was reported to be poor in the first half and good in the second half, which according to farmers has improved the crop production. Farmers added that, the season's production was marred by false army worm infestations and wildlife attacks. Despite all these, the average production for maize and pearl millet production in relation to last season's production is estimated to have increased with 26% and 30% respectively while sorghum production is estimated to have reduced with only 2%. Farmers managed to cultivate 88% of their crop field which is the result of poor rainfall in the 1st half of the season. Non-cereal production is reported to be better than last season's production which together with the recent cereal harvest improved the household food security. Many household heads have indicated that

the recent harvest is sufficient to sustain their households until the next harvest in May 2019.

Grazing and Livestock body conditions are reported to be in a good state. There were no major livestock reported during the time of the assessment. It was reported that farmers in the area mainly depend on boreholes and wells for water access. The water supply situations in Mpungu area was reported to be satisfactory from the boreholes while the situations in Muparara area was reported to be fair since there are some boreholes not functioning which made water access so difficult for the farmers.

Tondoro and Nkurenkuru

Despite the poor rainfall received in the first half of the 2017/2018 rainfall season, farmers still describes this season's rainfall better comparing to last season. On average, farmers managed to cover about 98% of their crop fields this season which is the same as last season's area planted. Due to the late onset and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season, crop estimates for this season indicated a decrease in maize, sorghum and pearl millet with 13%, 20% and 17% respectively. According to farmers, this reduction was also attributed to elephants which were reported to have destroyed crop fields in the area. Furthermore, other crop pests reported were stalk borers and aphids on cowpeas but the damage was reported to be minimal.

During the time of the assessment, both grazing and livestock body conditions were reported to be in a good state. Water supply situation was reported to be satisfactory with the river being the main source of water for livestock. Although the cereal production have decreased as compared to the

previous year, the current harvest was said to have slightly improved the household food security situation although many farmers stated that the

current harvest can only sustain their households until December 2018.

Kavango East

Constituencies

Rundu Urban

This constituency consists of urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Farmers in the rural areas of this constituency reported that, the 2017/2018 rainfall season was poor when compared with the previous season. According to farmers, the rainfall started late and was characterised by frequent dry spells which is said to have toll on the overall agricultural production this year. Crop estimates for this area indicated a considerable reduction in harvest with pearl millet estimated to have declined by 50%, maize by 75% and sorghum is down by 38% of last season's harvest. Planted area is estimated at 68% of the cropping area. Additionally, harvest for non-cereals was also reported to be poor than last season's harvest. In addition to poor rainfall reported earlier in the season, cases of stalk borers and American boll worms on maize were reported but the damage was not severe as only few crops were affected.

Grazing was reported to be good with livestock said to be in good conditions. Moreover, the assessment team took note of enough water through river, streams, ponds and boreholes for both livestock and human consumptions. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to be good following a recent harvest. However, households

indicated that their harvest is only enough to sustain them till end of August this year.

Rundu Rural

Although farmers described the 2017/2018 rainfall season poor, majority of farmers noted good crop harvest this year. According to the crop estimates for this area, pearl millet production noted an increase of 60% and sorghum is up by about 3% of last season's harvest. However, maize production is said to be poor and reductions of at least 11% of last season's harvest is expected. Good harvest was also recorded in non cereals, which according to farmers is much better than the previous harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 83% of the cropping area. Cases of Fall Army Worms on maize were reported in the Kaisosi village and the damage is said to be severe.

Grazing and livestock body conditions were reported to be good. Water for both human and livestock consumption were noted to be good with river, streams and boreholes being the main sources. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory, following the recent harvest. Households added that the harvest is sufficient to

sustain them through to the next harvest in May next year.

Mashare

As it was reported in many constituencies in the region, majority of farmers expecting good crop harvest, amidst poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season. According to farmers, the last three months of the rainfall season improved the agricultural production. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by over 182%, maize up by 13% and sorghum by at least 40% over last season's harvest. Furthermore, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals, which according to farmers is much better than last season. Average planted area is estimated at about 65% of the cropping area and farmers indicated that, the remaining part could not be covered because of dry spells experienced during December and January. Crop pests reported included Fall Army worms on maize during February and March as well as quelea birds on pearl millet during flowering in March with slight to moderate damage.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing is said to have improved tremendously with livestock reported to be in good to excellent conditions. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. Household owners added that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them to the next harvest in May next year.

Mukwe

Although, this area noted poor rainfall earlier in the season, majority of the farmers obtained good crop harvest, which according to farmers is much better than the previous season. According the crop estimates for this constituency, pearl millet, which is a staple crop in the region, showed a significant improvement of over 350% of last season's harvest whereas maize and sorghum increased by about 450% of last season's harvest respectively. However, harvest for non-cereals were reported to be poor and much lower than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at 49% of the cropping area. Isolated cases of Aphids on cowpeas were reported in Shadikongoro area, but the damage was noted to be minimal

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing and livestock body condition were reported to be good throughout the constituency. The household food security was noted to be good as most households are reportedly dependent on the harvest for food access. According to households, the current harvest is enough to sustain them till next harvest.

Ndiyona

Although poor rainfall was reported in the first part of the rainfall season, majority of farmers are expecting good crop harvest this season. According to farmers, the last three months of the season improved the agricultural production resulted in good crop harvest and very good grazing establishment. Crop estimates for this constituency indicated a significant improvement in the expected harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by 158% and maize is up by 15% of last season's production. However, sorghum on the

other hand showed a reduction of about 20% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was reported to be good and higher than last season's harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 84% of the cropping area. Cases of Fall Army worms on maize were reported at Shikoro and Mbambi villages, but the damage is said to be minimal.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock and grazing conditions were reported to be in good conditions with enough water available. The household food security was noted to be fine as majority of households are reported to be dependent on own production for food access. According to households, the current harvest is sufficient to sustain them till next harvest.

Ndonga Linena

Although, poor rainfall was reported earlier in the season, majority of farmers reported good crop harvest this season, following good rainfall conditions received in the last three months of the 2017/2018-rainfall season. Crop estimates for this area indicated a massive improvements in the

expected harvest with pearl millet production estimated to increase by over 228%, maize up by 36% and sorghum by 48% above last seasons' production. Additionally, good harvest was also reported in the non-cereal crops such as cowpeas, Bambara nuts, squashes and melons. Average planted area is estimated at 80% of the cropping area. Cases of Fall Army Worms on maize as well as Aphids on cowpeas were reported in the constituency with slight to moderate damage.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock and grazing conditions were said to be good with enough water available for livestock. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as households interviewed indicated that they are currently dependent on their harvest for food access. Households indicated that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them to the next harvest in May next year. The Agricultural Extension Official responsible for this area is requesting the government to increase the number of government tractor to at least two, provide trainings in agricultural production and also increase the quantity of inputs to the farmers.

Omusati region

Good crop harvest expected amidst poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season. Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in the first half of the season that stretched to January and most February, majority of farmers noted a good to bumper harvest this year. Aggregate cereal estimates indicated a significant improvements in the expected harvest estimated to be about 67% above last season's harvest, and 44% above the average production. In particular, pearl millet production is estimated to have increased by 67% of last season's harvest, and over 47% above the average production. Sorghum production is estimated to have increase by 75% above last season's harvest, but 67% below the average production. However, the extreme southern and western part of the region (Okahao, Tsandi, and Ruacana constituencies) is reported to have suffered the effects of poor rainfall and as a result, poor crop harvest is expected in that area. Average planted area is estimated at 86% of the cropping area, reflecting a reduction of 5% in the corresponding period last year. Figure 9 below shows a summary of harvest estimates for various constituencies in the region.

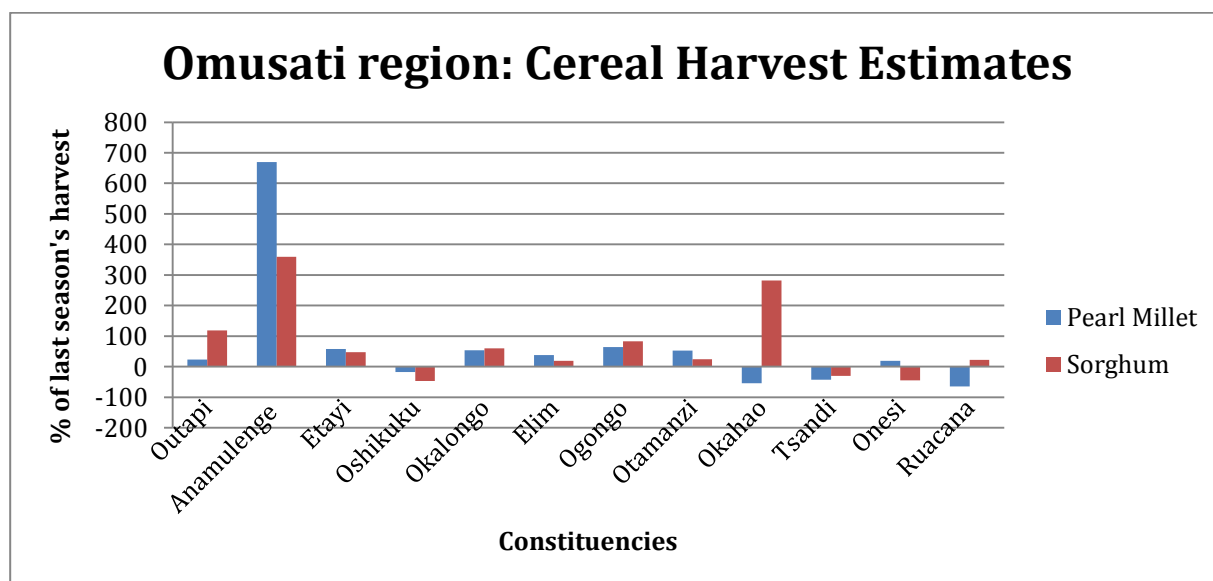


Figure 9: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 10: Images of heaps of good pearl millet harvest in Okalongo and Ogongo constituencies which many farmers received in the Omusati region

Good harvest was also reported in non-cereals such as cowpeas, Bambara nuts, melons and squashes in many places, but poor in areas affected by poor rainfall. Crop pests reported including sporadic cases of false Armyworms, affecting crops at emergence stage as well as sting bugs on melons. However, the damage is said to be minimal. Moreover, cases of Fall Army worms were reported in Etunda Irrigation Project, causing the project to suspend maize production in order to break the life cycle of the worms. No major livestock disease outbreaks were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of Ephemeral fever in cattle and Sarcoptic Mange and biting flies in small stock were reported. Moreover, few cases of Lumpy Skin disease were reported in Ruacana and Outapi constituencies during February/March. Grazing condition was reported to ranges between poor and fair in most places, but poor in areas that received poor rainfall. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households were reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. Household owners added that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them to next harvest in May next year. The regional agricultural extension office is requesting the government to increase the quantity of inputs as well as the number of government tractors in the region for efficient service delivery.

Constituencies

Onesi

During the second half of the 2017/2018 rainfall season, good rainfall performance was reported in

most parts of the constituency with dry spell experienced mostly in the first half of the season. January dry spells were described as severe which

caused several replanting. Even though rainfall performance was not promising in the first half of the season, farmers who did not lose hope managed to cover on average about 99% of their crop fields which is 17% more than last season's area planted. However, on average there are about 3% households who did not cultivate their crop fields this season. Most farmers believe the rainfall received as from March is the result of the improvement of pearl millet production which is about 19% of last season bumper harvest while, the reduction of about 45% in sorghum production could be attributed to the dry spells in the first half of the season. No major livestock diseases were reported during the time of the assessment. Bush crickets and birds on crops especially pearl millet were noted during the assessment period.

Given the bumper harvest, majority of households were still feeding from last season's produce and together with the current harvest, household owners are content that their produce will reach the next harvest. Following the rainfall received during April, it left evident water throughout the area which according to farmers is likely to dry up by July. Despite the fair grazing condition in the area, livestock body condition was reported to be good. However, farmers are worried about the grazing during the dry season which might negatively affect the livestock body and health conditions.

Ruacana

This constituency is the hardest hit area by the poor rainfall as productive rainfall were only realised toward the end of the rainfall season. According to farmers, the rainfall started late and characterised by sporadic rainfall with frequent dry spells dominated the season. Farmers added that, efforts were made to replant several times with little to no

success. Nonetheless, it was reported that, subsidised inputs and tractor service was made available to farmers on time. Majority of farmers were able to cover about 78% of their crop fields which is 2% more than the same time last year. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant reduction in the expected harvest with pearl millet set to decline by 15% of last seasons' harvest. Nevertheless, sorghum production shows an improvement of about 22% of last season's production. In addition, farmers reported that, excessive rainfall received toward the end of the season, has resulted in poor harvest in non-cereals especially melons and squashes. On crops pests, aphids on cowpeas and birds on cereal crops were reported in the area, while strong wind/storm was reported to have hit the Watjikololo village during mid-April which destroyed some crops.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of tick infestations were widely reported in the area. It was reported that earth dams especially in Omakange area are full to their capacity which hasn't happened in years. Good grazing and livestock body condition is said to be dominating the area. On household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory. Household owners indicated that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till next harvest in May next year.

Tsandi

This area was one of the constituencies that suffered poor rainfall performance during the 2017/2018 rainfall season. According to farmers, rainfall started late with frequent dry spells experienced during January and February, causing farmers to replant with limited or no success. Although, rainfall conditions improved toward the

end of the season, majority of farmers could not obtain good crop harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 82% of the cropping area, which is about 10% lower than the same period last year. Crop estimates indicated a significant reduction in the expected harvest with pearl millet set to decrease by 43% and sorghum is down by 30% of last season's harvest. Crop pests reported, included bush crickets.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, case of ticks infestations and foot rots in goats were widely reported in the area. Grazing was reported to be in fair condition with livestock body conditions noted to be good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be good as many household were reported to be dependent on own production for food access. Even though the current harvest has shown a decrease in production, household owners believed that the harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Outapi

Despite the poor rainfall reported earlier in the season, majority of farmers are reportedly expecting better crop harvest this year. According to the crop estimates for this area, pearl millet production is set to increase by about 23% and sorghum is 119% above the last season's production. Moreover, good non-cereal harvest is also expected to be much better than last season. However, the extreme south western part of the constituency, particularly Oipandahangano, Omunyele and the surrounding villages reported poor rainfall and as a result, poor crop harvest is expected in that area. Average planted area is estimated at 96% of the cropping area. Cases of birds were widely reported in the area during crop flowering and seed formation

stages. Furthermore, rodents were also reported attacking crops at the emerging stage. Fall armyworms were reported along Etaka and Olushandja area but mainly on horticultural crops for the small scale farmers in those areas.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock and grazing condition were both reported to range between poor and fair in most places and poor in areas affected by poor rainfall. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them through till the next harvest in May next year.

Etayi

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, good rainfall received in the last two months of the season has resulted in good crop harvest. Crop estimates for this area indicated significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet production set to increase by 58% and sorghum is up by 47% of last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereals such as cowpeas was reported to be better this season while melons and squashes are expected to be the same as the previous season. Average planted area was estimated at 94% of the cropping area. Cases of false armyworms were reported in Oshikwiyu and surrounding villages during the dry spell period but they have disappeared after receiving good rainfall in February.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to

range between fair and good. Livestock were noted to be in good conditions. Water supply situation was reported to be satisfactory as most water catchments were full at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory as households are dependent on their harvest for food access. Household owners added that their harvest will be sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May 2019.

Okalongo

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in the season, majority of farmers are expecting good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, poor rainfall was experienced in the first half of the season, stretching to January. However, rainfall conditions are reported to have improved as from end of February till end of the season, resulting in a good crop harvest. Crop estimates for this area indicate significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet estimated to increase by 54% and sorghum is up by 60% of last season's harvest. Moreover, good harvest was also reported for non-cereal crops which according to farmers are much higher than last season's harvest. No major crop pests reported, except few cases of crickets which according to farmers came late and no significant damage on pearl millet.

Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. Livestock were reported to be in good condition and no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Water supply was noted to be good as many of the water catchments have enough water. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory as most households are reportedly

dependent on their harvest for food access. According to household owners, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Anamulenge

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season, majority of farmers noted good crop harvest this season. According to the crop estimates for this area, pearl millet harvest noted a massive increase of over 670% and sorghum is up by about 360% of last season's harvest. According to farmers, the last two months of the 2017/2018-rainfall season improved the crop production as well as water supply in the constituency. Average planted area is estimated at 84% of the cropping area. Isolated cases of false armyworms were reported during the dry spell period and according to farmers, the damage was minimal.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to be range between poor and fair in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. Livestock were reported to be in good condition with enough water available in the area. Household food security was reported to be good as most households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. According to household owners their harvest is sufficient to sustain them to next harvest in May next year.

Ogongo

Majority of farmers recorded good crop harvest amidst poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season. According to farmers, the last two months of the season was good and as result, good crop harvest is expected in the area. Crop estimates for

this area showed a significant improvement in the expected harvest with pearl millet estimated to have increased by at least 64% and sorghum is up by about 83% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, good harvest was also reported for the non-cereal crops which according to farmers are much better than the previous season. Average area planted is estimated at 71% of the cropping area. Crop pests reported included cases of rodents/mouse during crop germination, with light to moderate damages.

No major livestock conditions were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to be in fair to poor condition in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. Enough water for livestock as many of the major water catchment has sufficient water. On household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory as most households are reported to still dependent on own production for food access. According to households, the harvest is sufficient to sustain them till next harvest in May next year.

Okahao

Although much of this constituency is reported to have received good rainfall, overall pearl millet harvest showed a reduced production. According to crop estimates for this area, pearl millet production is down by 54% of last season's harvest. Much of this reduction was reported in the extreme southern part of the constituency; where below average rainfall was widely reported. Moreover, poor harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers were because of poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season as well as excessive water in the last two months of the rainfall season. Nonetheless, sorghum production was reported to have made tremendous improvement and an increase of at least 282% of

last season's harvest can be expected. Average planted area was estimated at 95% of the cropping area. No major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing condition was noted to be fair in most places, but good in the extremely southern part of the constituency. Water availability was reported to be satisfactory in most parts of the constituency, as most water catchments were full at the time of the visit. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are still dependent on their last season's harvest for food access. According to households, the harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Otamanzi

Despite the poor rainfall received earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, rainfall conditions improved in the last two months of the season, resulting in a good harvest. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant increase in the expected harvest with pearl millet production estimated to increase by 53% and sorghum is up by 24% of last season's harvest. Average planted area was estimated at 93% of the cropping area. It was reported that, basic inputs such as seeds and fertilizer came late and were not enough. In addition to the government tractor assigned in this area, four private owned tractors were registered to participate in the government ploughing subsidy services. Most farmers use both family members and hired labour to weed in this area. Crop pests reported were false armyworm, bush crickets and mice damage during crop emergency.

No livestock disease outbreaks were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing establishment is said to be fair in the common grazing area and good in the enclosure. Livestock body condition was reported to be good. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be good as households were still dependent on their produce for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest.

Elim

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest this year. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the expected harvest with pearl millet estimated to increase by over 38% and sorghum is up by about 19% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers are much better than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 76% of the cropping area. Cases of False Armyworms were widely reported in the constituency, but the extent of the damage on crops is said to be minimal.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing condition was reported to be fair in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. Livestock body condition was reported to be good and water supply particularly for livestock consumption being satisfactory. Household food

security was reported to be fine as most households are dependent on their harvest for food access. According to household owners their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest.

Oshikuku

According to farmers, the 2017/2018-rainfall season has been poor in terms of rainfall distributions and the amount. It was reported that, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of sporadic and insufficient rainfall coupled with repeated severe dry spells. As a result, majority of farmers are expecting reduced harvest this year. Crop estimates for this area showed significant reduction in the expected harvest with pearl millet set to decline by 17% and sorghum is down by at least 47% of last season's production. Average planted area is estimated at 85% of the cropping area. Cases of False Army worms were reported to have been damaging crops especially during the germination stage.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases reported in the area at the time of the assessment. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be satisfactory as most households are still dependent on their last season's harvest for food access. The situation according to farmers is expected to remain so till the next harvest. Farmers are requesting government to excavate earth dams in the central part of the constituency to supply water for their livestock, subsidies for animal supplements and medications.

Oshana region

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season, majority of the farmers are expecting a bumper harvest this year. The revised crop estimates for the region indicate a substantial improvement in the expected harvest with aggregate cereals estimated to increase by 61% of last season's harvest and about 83% above the average production. In particular, pearl millet production is set to increase by 60% and sorghum is up by 94% of last season's harvest. According to farmers, this vast increase came as results of improvements in the rainfall conditions in the last two months of the season, before the rainfall season secede. Moreover, good harvests were also reported in the non-cereals, especially legumes which according to farmers are much better than last year. Average planted area is estimated at 96% of the cropping area which is about 4% higher than the same period last year. Figure 11 below shows the summary of the harvest estimates in various constituencies of the region.

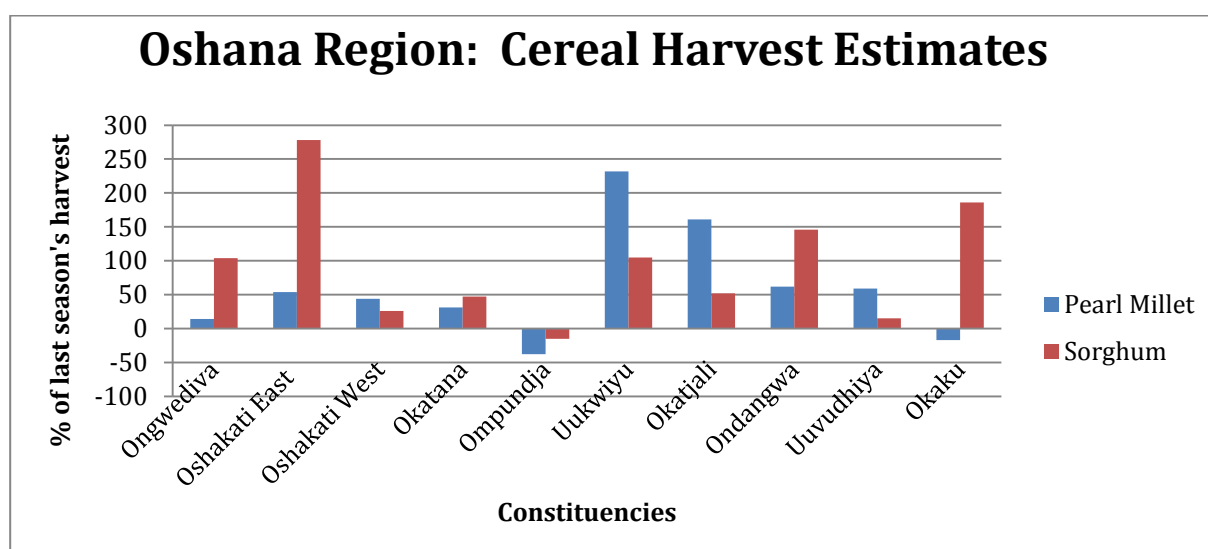


Figure 11: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 12: *Images of heaps of good pearl millet harvest in Okatana and Ongwediva constituencies which many farmers received in the Oshana region*

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, Foul pox was reported in the region. Moreover, cases of internal parasites, Orf and Goitres in small stock were also reported in the region. The region has also reported cases of tick infestation as well as plant poisoning, affecting both cattle and goats. Grazing condition was reported to range between fair and good in the north and central and good to very good in the southern part of the region. Livestock body condition was noted to be good in most areas. Water availability especially for livestock was noted to be satisfactory, as many catchment areas were full of water. According to farmers, the water is expected to sustain livestock throughout the dry season. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to be good as households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. Household owners added that the situation is expected to remain so till next harvest in May next year and beyond. For effective and efficient service delivery, the regional Agricultural Extension office is requesting the government to improve the bureaucracy on the repair and servicing of government tractors and implements. The Veterinary office is requesting for the government to avail sufficient resources to the region in order to conduct community trainings on livestock health issues. The region further added that, government should ensure sufficient and timely delivery of inputs and administrative materials for the region.

Constituencies

Ongwediva

Although farmers expressed mixed experiences about this year's harvest, overall crop production showed an improvement in the expected harvest. According to the crop estimates for this area, pearl millet production showed an increase of about 14% and sorghum is up by 104% above last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereals was also noted to be good. However, some areas around the central part of the constituency are said to have suffered the effects of poor rainfall which according to the affected farmers resulted in poor quality grains and reduced harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 90% of the cropping area. No major crop pests were reported, except crickets which farmers said came late and have no significant impacts on the harvest.

Cases of internal parasites and Orf in goats were widely reported in the area. Grazing was reported to range between poor and fair in the common grazing area and good in the enclosures. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households interviewed are reportedly dependent on the harvest for food access. Household owners added that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them through till next harvest in May next year.

Okatana

Majority of farmers reported good rainfall performance this season as compared to the previous season. There was however dry spells since December to February which affected crops. Planted area is estimated at 99% of the cropping area, 4% more than area planted last season.

Farmers indicated that good rainfall showers received in March and April has resulted in good crop harvest for both pearl millet and sorghum. Pearl millet has increased by 31% while sorghum increased by 47% above last year's harvest. Furthermore, the harvest for non-cereals is reported to have gone down due to much rainfall received in the last quarter of the season with the exception of cowpeas which are reported to have performed much better this season. Birds and bush crickets were reported throughout the constituency with moderate effect on crop production.

Suspect cases of Anaplasmosis/gull sickness in cattle was reported in Andambombali and Onenongo village as well as coughing and diarrhoea in goats in most parts of the constituency, which could be the result of internal parasites. The grazing and livestock body condition was reported to range from fair to good and water is available in most of the catchment areas which according to farmers will get dry in the next few months. On household food security, the majority of households reported that, they are still depending on last harvest's produce. Moreover, the current harvest is also said to be enough to last until the next season's harvest.

Oshakati West

Although, poor rainfall was reported earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting good crop harvest. It was reported that, good rainfall was received in the last two months of the season, resulting in good crop harvest. Crop estimates for this area indicate significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet set to increase by 44% and sorghum is up by 26% of last season's

harvest. Moreover, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers are much higher than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at 91% of the cropping area. Crop pests reported included mouse during germination stage at Oshitowa, Uuthilindindi and the surrounding villages.

With regards to livestock health, few cases of foot-rot and internal parasites were reported in goats. Both grazing and livestock body condition was reported to be good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be good as households are said to be dependent on own production for food access. Households indicated that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest.

Uuvudhiya

According to farmers, the 2017/2018 rainfall started very late and characterized by prolonged dry spells in December, January and most February. The eastern part of the constituency received much rainfall in March and April and it has affected crop harvest as many crop fields were water logged. Nevertheless, farmers managed to plant about 95% of their crop fields and overall crop harvest has improved when compared to the previous season. Pearl millet is estimated to have increased by 59% while sorghum increased by 15% above last year's harvest. On non-cereal crops, cowpeas have performed very well this season unlike melons and groundnuts which performed poorly compared to last season. Birds were widely reported in the area and have affected many crop fields, with possible reduction in pearl millet production. In addition, bush crickets were also highly reported and farmers have used traditional methods to control them by hand picking, burn and bury the ash.

With regard to livestock health, external parasites both on small and large stock were highly reported throughout the constituency as well as diarrhoea in goats. Livestock body condition is good and grazing is very good in the eastern part of the constituency while fair to good elsewhere. Water for livestock is available as most water catchments were full at the time of the assessment.

Households reported that they still have food stock from the previous harvest and the current harvest is enough to take them through to the next harvest.

Oshakati East

As it was reported in other constituencies, rainfall started well on time and most farmers started ploughing in December. This season's rainfall was reported to be much better as compared to the previous season. Planted area is estimated at 100% of the total crop fields as majority of farmers have managed to plant their entire crop fields. Given the good rainfall received this season, crop production has shown an improvement more than last season's harvest. Pearl millet increased by 54% while sorghum has increase by 278% due to good rainfall experienced this season. Cow peas, among other non-cereal crops were reported to have performed better compared to the previous season. Sporadic cases of false army worms were reported at Omega and Oshipumbu villages with insignificant damage on crops.

Cases of Orf in small stock were also reported at Oshatumba and Oshipumbu villages. Both pasture and animal body conditions are reported to be in good condition. Moreover, water for the livestock was also reported to be available in most of rain fed catchment areas. With regard to household food security, the situation was noted to be good as most

households were still consuming from the previous year's harvest for food access. Farmers indicated that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May 2019.

Ompundja

Most parts of this constituency were reported to have suffered the effects of poor rainfall, resulting in a reduced crop harvest. According to farmers, the season was characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent dry spells. It was reported that, good rainfall was received in the last two months of the rainfall season. However, farmers argued that the rainfall was too much since it resulted in water logging condition, thereby causing poor crop production. Crop estimates for this area indicate a substantial reduction in the expected harvest with pearl millet estimated to have declined by 38% and sorghum is down by 15% of last season's harvest. Average planted area was estimated at 89% of the cropping area. Cases of False Armyworms and mouse (during crop emergence) were widely reported in the area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to range between fair and good with enough water supplies available. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be good as households are dependent on their harvest for food access. Households added that, their harvest is sufficient to take them through to the next harvest.

Ondangwa Urban and Rural

This area noted good rainfall performance especially in the second half of the season. According to farmers, this year the rainfall is said to be good when compared to that of the previous

season. Average planted area was estimated at 100% of the cropping area which is about 2% more than area planted same time last season. Harvest estimates for this constituency indicated a tremendous increase with pearl millet and sorghum increased by 62% and 146% respectively. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals, especially cowpeas and Bambara nuts are reported to surpass that of last season. No cases of crop pests were reported in the constituency during the assessment period.

On livestock health, cases of internal parasites were reported in small stock but animals are reported to be in good body condition. In addition, pasture was also said to be good and according to farmers, it can last up to September this year. Water for livestock was also reported to be available in most of the catchment areas. During the time of this assessment most households indicated that there were still relying on their previous harvest's stock for food consumption. Moreover the current harvest will be able to sustain households until the next harvest.

Okaku

The rainfall in constituency was reported to have started well on time in November. However, a prolonged dry spell was experienced between January and February causing most of the farmers to replant. Good but late rainfall was only received in March to April which was also distractive to maturing crops and most crops were destroyed in the process. On average most farmers managed to plough their entire crop fields with majority planted 100% of their crop fields. The expected production is said to be low this season due to late destructive rainfall experienced in the area. Sorghum production is expected to increase by 186% due to favourable conditions while Pearl millet is expected

to drop by 17%. On non-cereal crops, cow peas were reported to have performed better this season. No crop pest infestation was reported at the time of the assessment.

Cases of gall sicknesses in cattle were reported in Elololo village. Grazing condition and livestock body condition were both reported to be in a good condition. Furthermore, Water for the livestock was reported to be enough in the area as most of water catchment areas still have enough water. At the time of this assessment most households were reported to have relied on the previous year's stock. Although the pearl millet production is lower than that of last season, households reported that the current production is still expected to sustain households up to the next harvest.

Okatyali

As it was noted in Uukwiyu constituency, majority of farmers in this area receive good to bumper harvest this year. According to farmers, the good harvest came as a result of good rainfall performance observed in the last two months of the season. Crop estimates for this area indicate considerable increase in both pearl millet and sorghum production of 25% and 20% of last season's harvest respectively. Furthermore, good harvest was also reported on non-cereals especially legumes. Average planted area is estimated at about 100% of the cropping area. Crop pests reported included birds which according to farmers came late with no significant impacts on harvest and also mouse during crop emergence.

On livestock diseases, cases of Black quarter were reported at Omatokele village. Grazing was noted to be good as it is also the case in Uukwiyu

constituency with enough water available in the area. With regards to household food security, the situations were reported to be good as households are reportedly dependent on their harvest for food access. Households added that their harvest is sufficient to sustain them through to the next harvest in May next year and beyond.

Uukwiyu

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting a bumper harvest this year. According to the crop estimates for this constituency, pearl millet production has increase by over 232% and sorghum is up by about 105% of last season's harvest. Good harvest was also reported for the non-cereals which according to farmers is much better than the previous season. Farmers are very much satisfied with the overall crop production which they say is a bumper harvest. It was noted that, rainfall conditions improved as from end of February till end of the rainfall season. No major crop pests were reported, except few cases of crickets and quelleda birds, which according to farmers came late, and no significant damage to the harvest.

Case of Lumpy skin disease in cattle and abortion in donkeys were reported in Okahongo village. Grazing was reported to be good throughout the constituency with enough water available in the area. Livestock body condition was noted to be good. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be good as households are dependent on their harvest for food access. Households added that their harvest is good and expected to last till next harvest and beyond.

Ohangwena region

Good crop harvest expected amidst the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season.

Despite the poor rainfall experienced in the first half and beginning of the second half of the rainfall season, majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest which is significantly higher than last season's harvest and above the average level. Crop estimates for the region indicated a significant improvement in the expected harvest with aggregate cereal set to increase by 38% of last season's harvest and about 22% above the average production. Specifically, pearl millet production showed an increase of 35% higher than last season's harvest and 19% above the average production, whereas sorghum production is 100% higher than last season's harvest, but 19% below the average production. Additionally, good harvests were also reported for non-cereals such legumes, melons and squash which according to farmers is far better than the previous season. Farmers indicated that, good rainfall conditions were observed as from end of February, hence significant improvements in agricultural production. No major pest outbreaks were reported, except few cases of False Armyworms on maize with minimal damages. Average planted area is estimated at about 90% of the crop fields, reflecting a reduction of about 6% when compared with the corresponding period last year. Figure 13 below shows a summary of the harvest estimates in various parts of the region.

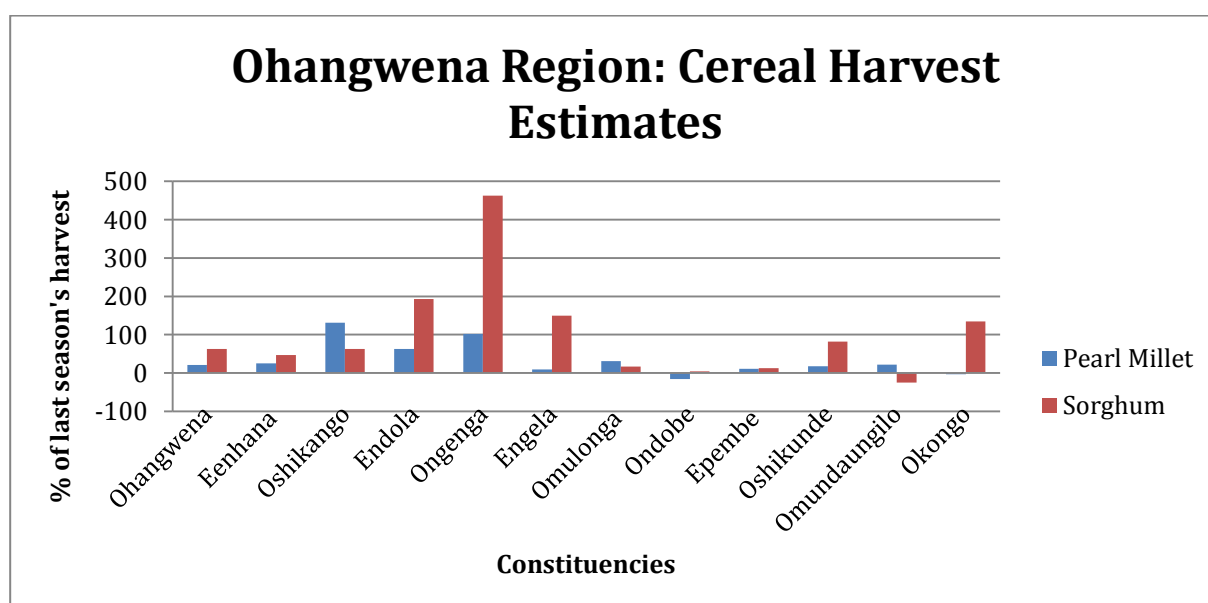


Figure 13: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 14: Images of heaps of good pearl millet harvest in Endola and Eenhana constituencies which many farmers received in many constituencies in the Ohangwena region

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, few cases of Foot rot, Pasteurellosis, Orf internal in goats as well as internal and external parasites in both small and large stock were reported in the region. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor in the west and fair in the east. The water supply situation was reported to be satisfactory as most water catchments have sufficient water in the west and boreholes and wells being the main sources in the eastern part of the region. Livestock body condition was reported to be good. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be good as most households are said to be dependent on their harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to take them through to the next harvest. The regional Agricultural Extension Office is requesting the government to increase the quantity of seed and fertilizes as per the requirements of the region. The region is also requesting for the government to fast track the repair and servicing of government tractors for effective and efficient services delivery.

Constituencies

Ohangwena

Although poor rainfall was experienced earlier in the season, farmers said that the season is slightly

better than the previous season. According to farmers, this area suffered dry spells during January and February causing crops to wilt. However,

rainfall is said to have improved in the last two months of the season, resulting in a good crop harvest. Average planted area is estimated at about 98% of the cropping area, which is about 4% more than the previous season. Crop estimates indicated an improvement in the expected harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by 21% and sorghum is up by 63% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals such as melons and squashes were reported to be poor, but good in legumes especially cowpeas, which farmers said are better than last season.

No crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. On livestock health, cases of internal parasites in goats were reported in Oshandumbala village. Moreover Fowl Pox in chickens was also widely reported in the constituency. Most of earth dams and wells were reported to have water for livestock consumption, which according to farmers is likely to last until the next rainfall season. Livestock body condition is good while grazing rated fair. Following a good crop harvest received this year, majority of farmers are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is expected to last till the next harvest in May next year.

Ongenga

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, majority of farmers are expecting a very good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, the 2017/2018 rainfall season was relatively better than the previous season, hence good agricultural production this year. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant improvement in the expected harvest with pearl millet production set to increase by 102% and sorghum is up by over 463% of last

season's harvest. Additionally, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers are much higher than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 96% of the cropping area. No major crop pests reported, except few cases of birds during crop flowering in February/March.

Grazing was reported to range between fair and good in the common grazing area and good in the enclosures. Cases of internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the constituency. Enough water for livestock and livestock body condition was noted to be good. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households are reported to be dependent on own production for food access. Household owners added that their harvest is sufficient to take them through to the next harvest in May next year.

Eenhana

Despite the delay in the onset of the rainfall season and dry spells experienced in January and February, rainfall is reported to have improved as from March to April, which according to farmers has improved the crop harvest. Production estimate for pearl millet and sorghum recorded an increase of 25% and 47% above the last season's harvest respectively. Average planted area was estimated at 98% of the total crop fields. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals was also noted to be good especially cowpeas but generally poor for other non-cereal crops.

Isolated cases of unknown worms crushing Pearl Millet grains at grain maturity stage were reported in Ohandiba and Ohaihana village with minimal effects on production.

No major livestock diseases were reported in the constituency. However, one farmer in Oshikonda village reported fever in calves and reported the case to their local Veterinary office and was advised accordingly. On grazing and livestock body condition, it was reported that both livestock and grazing are in a fair state. On the other hand, water, especially for livestock was also reported to be available in earth dams. Following the good harvest last season, households are still depending on the previous season's harvest and majority have indicated that the current harvest will be able to sustain them until the next season's harvest.

Ondobe

Like other constituencies in the region, this area also suffered poor rainfall earlier in the season as productive rainfall was only received in the last quarter of the season. According to farmers the rainfall received in the last two months of the season has resulted in water-logging conditions in many crop fields, affecting the crop production. Average planted area is estimated at 99% of the cropping area with majority of farmers reported to have covered 100% of their crop fields. Crop estimates for this area indicated a reduction in the expected harvest with pearl millet production set to decrease by 16% of last season's harvest while sorghum indicated an increase of 4% above last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereals was also reported to be poor this season except cowpeas, which are said to be more than last year's harvest. No major crop pests were reported in the area.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. With regard to grazing and livestock body condition, livestock are in a better condition and so is the grazing. According to farmers, grazing is however not good as compared

to the same time last season. Most of the earth dams still have water especially for livestock consumption. Household food security situation was noted to be satisfactory as most households indicated to be dependent on their last season's harvest for food access. According to households, the current harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest.

Omulonga

Many farmers described this season's rainfall as better than the previous season. Although the rainfall was poor earlier in the season, good rainfall was reported in the last two months of the season, resulting in a good crop harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropping area, which is about 2% less than last season. Crops estimates for this area indicated significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet production set to increase by 31% and sorghum is up by 17% of last season's harvest. However, poor harvest was reported in non-cereals, which according to farmers was due to dry spells experienced earlier in the season as well as excessive water in the last two months of the season. Cases of false armyworms were reported in Onakalunga village but according to farmers the damage was not significant.

On livestock health, a case of lumpy skin disease was reported in Onakalunga village. After vaccination by the affected farmer, the situation has since normalized. Both grazing and livestock were reported to be in good conditions. Water supplies were noted to be okay as most of the water catchment in the area has some water. According to farmers, this water is however little to last until the next season. Household food security was reported to be satisfactory as most households are reported

to be consuming from their previous harvest stock. Households indicated that their current harvest is sufficient to sustain them until the next harvest.

Oshikango

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting a good harvest this year. According to farmers, rainfall has been good in the last two months of the season and as a result, good crop harvest is expected. Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant increase in the expected harvest with pearl millet set to increase by 131% and sorghum is up by about 63% of the last season's harvest. It was further reported that, good crop harvest is expected from non-cereals which according to farmers is much better than the previous season. Average planted area is estimated at 72% of the cropping area. No major crop pests were reported.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, cases of internal parasites in goats and lumps in cattle were reported in the area. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor, but expected to deteriorate much earlier before the next rainy season. Livestock were noted to be in good condition with enough water available in the area. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory as households are reportedly dependent on their harvest for food access. This situation is expected to remain so till the next harvest next year.

Engela

Majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest which according to them is a bumper harvest. Although the 2017/2018 rainfall was poor at the beginning, rainfall conditions have been favourable in the last three months of the season.

Crop estimates for this area indicated a significant increase in the expected harvest with pearl millet estimated to increase by 35% and sorghum is up by over 150% of last season's harvest. Farmers added that, good harvest is also expected from the non-cereals which are said to be much better than last season. No major crop pests were reported, apart from few cases of false armyworms during the dry spells.

Cases of internal parasites and foot rot in goats as well as limping in cattle were reported in the area. Grazing was noted to range between fair and poor in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. Water for livestock was also noted to be satisfactory as most catchment areas receive significant inflow this season. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be okay as most households are reportedly still dependent on their harvests for food access. Households added that, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest and beyond.

Okongo

Farmers reported that, the 2017/2018 rainfall started late and was also associated with prolonged dry spells in the first half of the season, stretching to January and February. According to farmers, productive rainfall was only received towards the end of the cropping season. Average planted area was estimated at 85% of the total cropping area. Crop estimates for this area showed a decrease in pearl millet production, estimated at about 3% lower than last season. Nevertheless, sorghum production showed a remarkable increase of over 135% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals were reported to be good, especially cowpeas, as compared to the previous season. Crop pests reported included false army worms which

were reported in Oshalande, Oshushu, Kuminenge and surrounding villages during Mach this year. However, the damage to crop was said to be minimal. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Moreover, livestock body condition and the pasture were reported to be ranging between fair to poor. On household food security, majority of farmers indicated that by the time of this assessment, food security at household level had improved and the current harvest is likely to sustain them up to the next season's harvest.

Omundaungilo

Like in other constituencies in the region, farmers described 2017/2018-rainfall season better as compared to the previous season. Although farmers suffered dry spells in the first and most part of the second half of the season, majority of farmers have managed to plant about 73% of the cropping area. The production estimates for pearl millet were estimated to have increased by 22%, while sorghum went down by 25%, as compared to the previous season. Furthermore, prospects for non-cereal crops were reported to be generally fair, as compared to the previous season.

No major livestock diseases were reported in the area at the time of the assessment. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor with good livestock body condition. On household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. Household owners indicated that they would need to supplement their harvest with market purchases in order to reach to the next season's harvest.

Epembe

The 2017/18-rainfall season was reported to be fairly good as compared to the previous season. However, farmers indicated that the rainfall started late as productive rainfall was only received towards the end of the season. Thus, many farmers could not finish cultivating their entire fields due to prolonged dry spells experienced from December to late February. The planted area was estimated at 73% of the cropping area, which is about 17% less than last season. Crop estimates indicated an improvement in the expected harvest with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to increase by 11% and 13% of last season's harvest respectively. Furthermore, good harvest is expected in the non-cereals especially for cowpeas which farmers said are much better than last year. No crop pests were reported.

Grazing was reported to be poor, but livestock body condition was noted to be good. No livestock disease outbreaks were reported at the time of the visit. On household food security, the situation was reported to be okay as households are reported to be dependent on their harvest for food access. However, households indicated that they would supplement their harvest with market purchases in order to reach to the next season.

Oshikunde

According to farmers, the 2017/2018 rainfall season was better when compared with the previous season. The average planted area was estimated at 93% of the cropping area, reflecting a 3% increase of last season's area. It was reported that, majority of farmers used more own seeds from the previous season, which were supplemented with subsidized seeds. Majority of farmers are expecting a good

crop harvest this year with pearl millet set to increase by 18% and sorghum is up by over 82% of last season's production. Furthermore, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals especially cowpeas, which according to farmers is much higher than last year's harvest.

No crop pest or livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to be poor in the common grazing area, but fair to good in the enclosure. Livestock body condition

was reported to be good. Water supplies were also noted to be satisfactory with wells, borehole, pipeline and earth dams/ponds being the main sources. Household food security was reported to be good as households are reportedly dependent on own production for food access. According to households, their harvest is expected to sustain them till the next harvest next year.

Oshikoto region

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting a very good to bumper harvest this year. According to farmers, rainfall conditions have improved in the last two months of the season, resulting in above average crop harvest. The revised crop estimates indicated a substantial improvement in the expected harvest with aggregate cereal set to increase by 24% above last season's harvest and over 52% above the average production. In particular, pearl millet production is estimated to increase by more than 23% of last season's harvest and 62% above the average production. Moreover, sorghum production is set to increase by at least 48% of last season's harvest, but is 57% below the average production. In addition, good to bumper harvest was also reported in the non-cereals, particularly cowpeas and Bambara nuts. Average planted area is estimated at 87% of the cropping area, which is about 4% lower than the corresponding period last year. Figure 15 below shows a summary of the harvest estimates in the communal crop producing constituencies in the region.

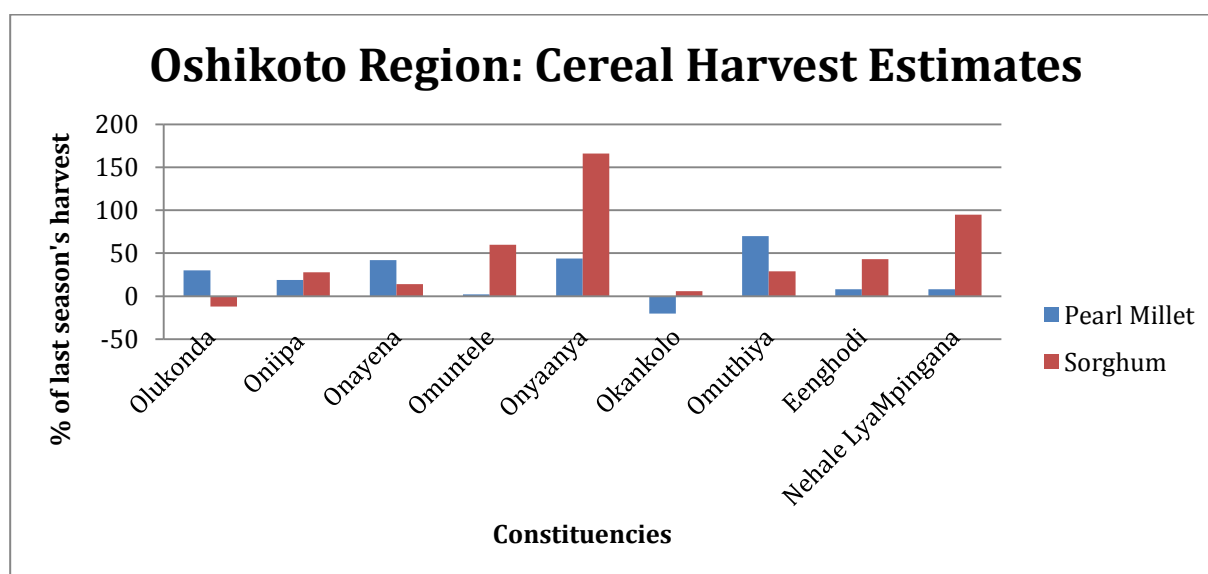


Figure 16: Summary of the cereal harvest estimates



Figure 17: *Images of good pearl millet harvest in the Nehale Lyampingana constituency which many farmers also received in various parts of the Oshikoto region*

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of Goitre in goats, especially the kids were reported in the region. According to the State Veterinarians responsible for this region, the situation is aggravated by unavailability of medications for this disease in the local pharmacies. Furthermore, bone fractures in cattle and goats, dystocia, uterine prolapsed and retained placenta in cattle were also reported. Grazing condition was reported to be fair in most places of the communal grazing area, and good in the enclosures. Water availability was noted to be good as most of the water catchments in the western and central parts of the region have enough water and wells, boreholes and or pipelines were noted to be in good working order. The household food security was noted to be good as households were reportedly dependent on own production for food access. Household owners added that, following good harvests in the past two cropping seasons, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year and beyond. For effective and efficient service delivery, the regional Agricultural Extension Office is requesting the government to strengthen capacity building especially on contemporary innovations on agricultural production. The region further requested the government to procure local cowpeas varieties as part of the input subsidy to the farmers.

Constituencies

Omuthiya

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest this year. According to farmers, rainfall conditions improved in the last two months of the season, resulting in a good to bumper crop harvest this year. The revised crop estimates for this area, showed a significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet set to increase by 70% and sorghum is up by 29% of last season's harvest. Moreover, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers are much better than last year. Quella birds and false armyworms were widely reported in the area. Average planted area is estimated at about 80% of the cropping area.

Grazing was reported to range between fair and good in the common grazing areas and good to very good in the enclosures. Water supply was noted to be good with earth dams, ponds, pipeline, wells and boreholes being the main sources. With regards to household food security, the situation was noted to be fine as most households are reportedly dependent on their harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest next year.

Nehale LyaMpingana

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season, most farmers are expecting a good crop harvest this year. Farmers reported that, rainfall conditions improved in the last two months of the rainfall season and as result, good crop harvest is expected. The revised crop estimates for this region

indicate an increase in the expected harvest with pearl millet production set to increase by 8% and sorghum is up by 95% of last season's harvest. Moreover, good harvest was also reported for the non-cereals especially legumes. Average plated area is estimated at 83% of the cropping area. Regarding the basic inputs, farmers reported that, basic inputs and services were made available to them timely and enough to supplement traditional seed varieties kept from the previous season. Crop pests reported included few cases of birds, false armyworm and mouse during germination stage on pearl millet.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to be poor especially areas around Olukupa. Farmers added that, grazing was affected by poor rainfall which was experienced in the first half of the rainfall season and dry spells in January. The water supply situation is reported to be satisfactory with wells and boreholes being the main sources. On household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as households are reportedly dependent on the harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest and beyond.

Oniipa

Although, poor rainfall was experienced in the first half of the season, stretching to January and February, overall crop production remained good. According to the revised crop estimates for this area, majority of farmers are expecting a very good crop harvest with pearl millet production set to increase by 19% and sorghum is up by 28% of last season's harvest. However, harvest for non-cereal

crops such as melons, squashes and bambara nuts is reported to be poor this season but cow peas harvest is said to be much higher than the previous season. No major crop pest reported in the area.

On the livestock health, cases of foot rot and internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the area. Moreover, sporadic cases of poisonous plants were also reported in the area. Infectious Coryza in chickens was also reported in Onalulago village. Livestock and grazing were reported to be in a good condition. At the time of the assessment water availability was noted to be satisfactory as most of the earth dams have water, but farmers said it will not sustain the animals until the next rainfall season. Majority of the households indicated that they are still consuming from their last year's food stock and the current harvest is also sufficient to last until the next harvest.

Olukonda

Farmers reported that, the 2017/2018 rainfall season was a bit delayed and was characterised by dry spells in January and February which caused crops to wilt. However, good showers were received as from March to April and most crops had recovered. Most farmers are expecting good harvest for cereals while non-cereal production is lower compared to the previous season. The planted area is estimated at 99% of the cropping area with majority of farmers reported to have covered 100% of their crop fields. Harvest for pearl millet indicated a considerable increase of 30% while sorghum went down with 12% of last season's harvest. Good harvest was reported in legumes, but poor on melons and squashes, which according to farmers is due to dry spells in December to February. Cases of false armyworms were widely

reported in the area with insignificant damage on crops.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of foot rot in goats were widely reported in the constituency. Grazing and livestock body conditions were reported to be good, following good rainfall received in the last two months of the season. Most of water catchments have water at the time of the assessment, but farmers said it can only sustain livestock for the next few months. On the household food security, the situation was noted to be satisfactory as households are reportedly dependent on their harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest next year.

Okankolo

Unlike other constituencies in the region where bumper harvest was reported, majority of farmers in this constituency are expecting a reduced harvest when compared to last season. Farmers reported that, the poor rainfall experienced in the first half of the season as well as in January and February, have caused poor crop germinations and replanting. It was further noted that, many farmers planted their local pearl millet variety when the rainfall improved in February, but could not yield quality grains because of the wrong timing. The revised crop estimates for this area indicated a reduction in the expected harvest with pearl millet estimated to decline by on average 20% of last season's harvest. However, sorghum production on the other hand showed a slight improvement of about 6% above last season's harvest. Moreover, good harvest was reported in non-cereals, especially cow peas with some farmers recorded a bumper harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 69% of the cropping

area. Cases of false Armyworms were reported during the dry spells, but the damage on crop is said to be minimal.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of foot rot in goats were still being reported since that time of the rain. Livestock body condition was noted to be good. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosures. Water for both human and livestock were reported to be okay with wells, boreholes and pipeline water being the main sources. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory as households are reportedly dependent on their harvest for food access. According to household owners, their harvest is sufficient to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

Eengodi

Although this constituency experienced poor rainfall in the first half of the season, stretching to early February, majority of farmers recorded a good harvest this year. According to farmers, rainfall conditions improved as from mid February till the end of the season, resulting in a good crop harvest. Analysis of the crop estimates for this area indicate, good harvest with pearl millet production set to increase by 8% and sorghum is up by 43% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers are much better than last year. Average cultivated area is estimated at 75% of the cropping area. False Armyworm and sting bugs were reported at Ontana, Onamishu and the surrounding villages.

No major livestock disease outbreaks were reported at the time of the assessment. However, cases of abortion in goats were reported at Taamba Ompunya village and environs. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosures. Livestock were reported to be in good condition and water supply was noted to be satisfactory with wells and boreholes being the main sources. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be good as households are said to be dependent on the harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient to take them through to the next harvest and beyond.

Onayena

Despite the poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season, majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest this year. It was reported that, good rainfall was received in the last two months of the season, resulting in a good crop harvest. Crop estimates for this area indicated significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet production estimated to have increased by over 42% and sorghum is up by 14% of last season's good harvest. Furthermore, non-cereal crops also showed an improvement especially cowpeas. Average planted area is estimated at 97% of the cropping area. Few cases of bush crickets were reported in Ompugulu village with minimal damage on crops.

With regard to livestock diseases, cases of foot rot in goats were widely reported in the constituency. Grazing was reported to be fair in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. Livestock were reported to be in good condition. Water supply was noted to be stingily available as only few of the earth dams with water and according to

farmers it will not be for too long before the earth dams run dry. With regards to household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory following the previous two seasons of good harvest. According to households, their harvest is enough to last until the next season's harvest.

Omuntele

As it was reported in other constituencies, majority of farmers are expecting a good crop harvest, following a favourable rainfall conditions in the last two months of the rainfall season. According to farmers, good rainfall was received in March and April and most crops recovered from heat stress. The revised crop estimates for this area indicated significant improvements in the expected harvest with pearl millet set to increase by 2% and sorghum is up by 60% of last season's harvest. Farmers indicated that, this season was a very good one; just as it was also the case last year, when majority of crop producers recorded a bumper harvest. Good harvest was also reported on non-cereals. Average planted area is estimated at 83% of the cropping area. On the crop pests, cases of bush crickets were reported in Oshilunga village, but farmers said the damage to crop was very minimal.

With regard to livestock health, cases of foot rot in goats were widely reported in the area. Grazing was reported to be in fair condition in the common grazing area, but good in the enclosure. Livestock body condition was reported to be good, but water availability was said to be a concern in the area as most livestock drinks from household taps. The household food security was noted to be satisfactory as households are reportedly dependent

on their harvest for food access. Households added that their harvest is adequate to sustain households them until the next harvest.

Onyaanya

According to farmers, the just ended rainfall season was poor and was characterised by severe dry spells during December to February. Nonetheless, rainfall conditions are said to have improved in the last two months of the season, resulting in a good crop harvest. Crop estimates for this area, showed a significant increase in the expected harvest with pearl millet production set to increase by 44% and sorghum recorded about 166% increase above last season's harvest. Moreover, good harvest was also reported in non-cereals which according to farmers are much better than last season. Average planted area is estimates at 88%, which is about 5% higher than last year. It was reported that subsidy seeds and fertilizers were received on time during November, but the demand for both inputs and services were high. No major crop pests were reported in the area.

On the livestock health, cases of diarrhoea in goats were reported in the area. Grazing was reported to be good and water for livestock was also reported to be available from the earth dams and few swamps since there was significant water inflow this season. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be good as households are reportedly relying on their harvest for food access. According to households, their harvest is sufficient and expected to sustain them till the next harvest in May next year.

NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION ANALYSIS FOR 2017/2018-CROPPING 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 **152,900 metric tonnes**. This consists of 59,300 tonnes of white maize, 83,500 tonnes of pearl millet, 4,000 tonnes of sorghum and 6,000 tonnes of wheat².

Table 2: Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2017/2018 compared to the 19-year average (1998/1999 to 2016/2017) and 2017/2018 forecast harvest.

Region/Sector	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	19-year average	2017/18 as % of average	2017/18 as % of 2016/17
Zambezi	5.7	5.6	3.5	7.5	2.5	2.1	7.4	7.9	8.0	-1	7
Kavango East & West	5.6	4.0	1.8	3.8	1.1	1.8	4.2	7.3	5.6	30	73
Omusati	11.1	12.6	3.2	7.4	3.3	4.7	13.1	21.7	15.0	44	67
Ohangwena	8.0	12.3	4.9	7.3	2.6	4.2	12.1	16.6	13.7	22	38
Oshana	5.0	13.6	4.4	8.9	3.3	2.2	9.9	16.0	8.8	83	61
Oshikoto	16.7	20.2	11.5	18.6	5.8	7.0	20.1	24.8	16.4	52	24
Commercial	59.5	75.2	87.3	82.6	50.5	52.2	70.9	58.5	53.7	9	-17
Namibia	111.7	143.4	116.6	136.1	68.9	74.4	137.5	152.9	121.2	26	11

Table 2 above shows that the national aggregate coarse grain recorded substantial improvement in the expected harvest. According to the table, this improvement is **11%** higher than last season and **26%** above the average production. The increase in cereal production came as a result of a very good to a bumper harvest recorded in the major crop producing regions; following a relative favourable crop growing conditions prevailed over the just ended rainfall season. All the major crop producing regions recorded above average/bumper harvest, except the Zambezi region which showed a slight reduction of 1% below the average production. According to farmers, the below average production came from pearl millet and sorghum production which were affected by poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season and flood in the last part of the season. Moreover, the commercial areas showed a reduction in the expected harvest which was reportedly caused by poor rainfall experienced earlier in the season as well as the Fall Armyworms, forcing some producers either to scale down or suspend maize production in order to break the life cycle of the pests.

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

Table 3: Namibia: Total planted area trend ('000 hectares) and 2017/2018 estimates compared with the 19-year average (1998/1999 to 2016/2017) and 2016/2017 crop season.

Region/Sector	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	19-year average	2017/18 as % of average	2017/18 as % of 2016/17
Zambezi	20.9	20.1	20.6	19.4	20.4	15.4	20.1	18.9	22.0	-14	-6
Kavango East & West	23.1	20.6	20.6	21.6	18.4	17.4	21.8	19.6	19.8	-1	-10
Omusati	82.6	73.4	61.5	78.0	64.3	74.4	83.5	78.9	86.6	-9	-5
Ohangwena	85.2	84.3	76.2	79.8	65.5	75.3	86.1	80.7	85.2	-5	-6
Oshana	36.3	35.1	33.2	35.1	30.8	33.9	35.9	37.4	43.2	-13	4
Oshikoto	62.0	60.1	54.1	58.1	54.8	56.1	60.1	57.4	66.8	-14	-4
Commercial	15.0	18.0	16.5	16.0	16.5	12.1	15.1	11.3	14.5	-22	-26
Namibia	325.5	311.6	282.7	308.0	270.6	284.4	322.7	304.3	338.1	-10	-6

Table 3 above shows the analysis of the planted area estimates. As indicated in Table 3 above, the national total planted area for cereal coarse grain for the 2017/2018 cropping season is estimated at 304, 300 hectares, reflecting a reduction of 6% of last season and 10% below the average planted area. Much of the reduction is attributed largely to the general poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season as well as the Fall Armyworms in the commercial area. It was reported that some of the green scheme farmers planted legumes (groundnuts) instead of maize this season in order to break the life cycle of the Fall Armyworms.

CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION

Table 4: Cereal supply and demand situation update

Namibia: Cereal Supply/Demand Forecast for 2018/2019 Marketing Year (May/April) ('000 metric tonnes)				
	Wheat	Maize	Millet/Sorghum	Total
Domestic Availability	15.4	96.8	88.3	200.5
Opening stocks (as at May 2018*)	9.3	37.6	0.7	47.6
Forecasted Production**	6.1	59.2	87.6	152.9
Total Utilization***	82.8	181.8	86.7	351.2
Food use	72.5	165.8	58.6	296.9
Losses and other uses	0.3	5.9	13.3	19.4
Closing stocks (as at April 2018*)	10.0	10.0	15.0	35.0
Shortfall to be covered by import	-67.4	-85.0	1.6	-150.8
Commercial imports received	21.0	17.7	0.4	39.1
Commercial imports expected	-	-	-	-
After trade Deficit/Surplus	-46.4	-67.3	2.0	-111.7

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

** Exclude cereal production for animal feed

*** 2.3 million people (NSA, 2018 est.) each consuming 124kg of cereal per annum

Source: National Early Warning on Food Security, Statistics and Business Information, MAWF

Table 4 above presents the Cereal Supply and demand situation for the 2018/2019 marketing/consumption period as from 1st May 2018 to 30th April 2019. According to table 4, the available cereal locally for the current consumption period is estimated at 200,500 metric tons. This comprises of 15,400 tonnes of wheat, 96,800 tonnes of white maize and 88,300 tons of pearl millet and sorghum. In contrast, the current cereal domestic availability is only about 57% of the domestic cereal requirements, hence 150,800 tons of cereals is required to cover the shortfall. This is consisting of 67,400 tons of wheat and 85,000 tons of maize. Table 4 also showed a surplus of 1600 tons in pearl millet and sorghum production. It is important to note that, pearl millet producers are subsistence farmers and majority do not sell their produce. As a result, much of the pearl millet surplus is expected to be kept at household as on-farm stock. However, part of the surplus is expected to be sold to either the local commercial millers and or to the Agricultural Marketing and Trade Agency for Strategic Food Reserve re-stocking purposes. The estimated deficit for wheat and maize under normal circumstance is expected to be covered through commercial imports.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Results of the assessment showed that, despite the poor rainfall performance experienced earlier in the season most parts of the country received good rainfall in the last two months of the rainfall season, resulting in a significant improvement in agricultural production. The assessment noted that the crop producing regions recorded a significant improvement in the expected harvest which is significantly higher than the last season's production and above the average levels. Aggregate cereal estimates indicated that, the country received very good cereal harvest which is estimated at 11% higher than last season's good harvest and about 26% above the average production. The report further noted that, grazing conditions have improved significantly in most parts of the country, except in the south, partly central to eastern part of the country where poor rainfall performance were reported. The reports has also noted that, water supply situation is fairly satisfactory in most parts of the country with earth dams, ponds, swamps, boreholes, pipelines, rivers, streams and wells being the main sources. The report further noted that, household food security has improved significantly, following a recent good to bumper harvest. According to households, the harvest is sufficient to sustain them 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:

- Areas affected by poor agricultural production as a result of poor rainfall performance, the Regional Councils 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 (DAPEES) advice the affected farmers to take the necessary precautionary measures which include among others destocking and culling while livestock are in good condition. Where necessary, it is also advisable for the Directorate to provide support in terms of marketing incentives to farmers who are willing to sell their livestock on the designated markets.
- For the Effective services delivery next season, DAPEES is advised to ensure timely and sufficient allocations of production inputs and expedite the repair of government tractors and implements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension & Engineering Services (DAPEES)
- Directorate of Agricultural Research and development (DARD)
- Directorate of Veterinary Services (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

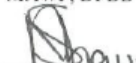
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