NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION REPORT

JUNE 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

Crop harvest estimates for the 2012/2013 crop season indicates extremely below average harvests in the communal crop producing regions, following the very poor rainfall performance, coupled with swarms of Army worms. Maize harvest in the communal areas (Caprivi and Kavango regions) is estimated to have dropped by about 67% below average and 46% lower than last season. Harvest of maize in the commercial area is also down by 7% of average and 55% lower than last seasons. Production estimates for pearl millet indicated a massive reductions in harvest of about 60% below average and 56% lower than last season.

The country's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, pearl millet, wheat and sorghum) is finally estimated at 81,000 metric tons. This represents a decrease in output of 37 % below average and 51% lower than last season.

Poor grazing conditions as well as serious water shortages in various regions are threatening the livestock sector in the country and some farmers are reported to have lost many of their livestock due to drought. Following poor rainfall performance experienced in most parts of the country, poor grazing conditions were widely reported with the situation deteriorating and most livestock are facing starvations. Water for livestock is tight-fistedly available especially in the North Central and North West regions as most water reservoirs filled from last season's rainfall did not get a refill this year and most of them have since dried up

Household food security situation is fragile and weakening in the regions, since the recent crop harvest this year did not yield sufficient much needed relief to households' food security. Most households interviewed have indicated that, the recent harvest was very poor and is expected to only last between July and August this year. Most of these household are supplementing their little harvest with the market purchases, just to prolong the availability of the harvest. Some households have not even harvested anything from their crop fields, because according to them, the drought conditions were very severe this season.

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

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Table of Contents

1.0 OVERVIEW 1

2.0 AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION 2

3.0 MARKETING INFORMATION 3

4.0 CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES 4

5.0 FOOD SECURITY SITUATION 5

6.0 PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS 6

7.0 REGIONAL CROP SITUATION 7

8.0 NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION FOR 2012/2013 CROP SEASON 29

9.0 CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION 31

10.0 CONCLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 32

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 33

OVERVIEW

The Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) undertook a post-harvest Crop Assessment in the six northern communal crop producing regions[1] as from 06th to 31st May 2013. The main purpose of this mission was to assess and estimate the 2012/2013 crop production in the communal 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 also looks at the household food security in terms of availability and access. The mission was conducted in collaboration with the Meteorological Service of Namibia of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications and Extension staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Since the situation may change, it should be noted herein that, this paper attempt to present the results of the assessment that took place during the abovementioned dates.

Much of the information in this report was obtained through interviews during the crop assessment mission conducted in the Caprivi, Kavango, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions by the crop assessment team.

Based on the findings of the assessment on the abovementioned regions as well as information from the commercial sector, through the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), the country's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, pearl millet, sorghum and wheat) for this season is estimated at 81,000 tons. This consists of 39,700 tons of white maize, 24,700 tons of pearl millet, 2,100 tons of sorghum and 14,500 tons of wheat. This represents reflect a decrease in output of 51 percent of last season's harvest and 37 percent below average. This decrease came as a result of poor rainfall performance experienced in the country.

Pearl millet production this season showed a massive reduction of 60% below average and about 56% lower than last year, while sorghum productions was the hardest hit and is down by 75% of average and 72% less than last season. Moreover, Maize harvest in the communal areas (Caprivi and Kavango regions) is estimated to have dropped by about 67% below average and 46% lower than last season. Harvest of maize in the commercial area is also down by 7% of average and 55% lower than last seasons

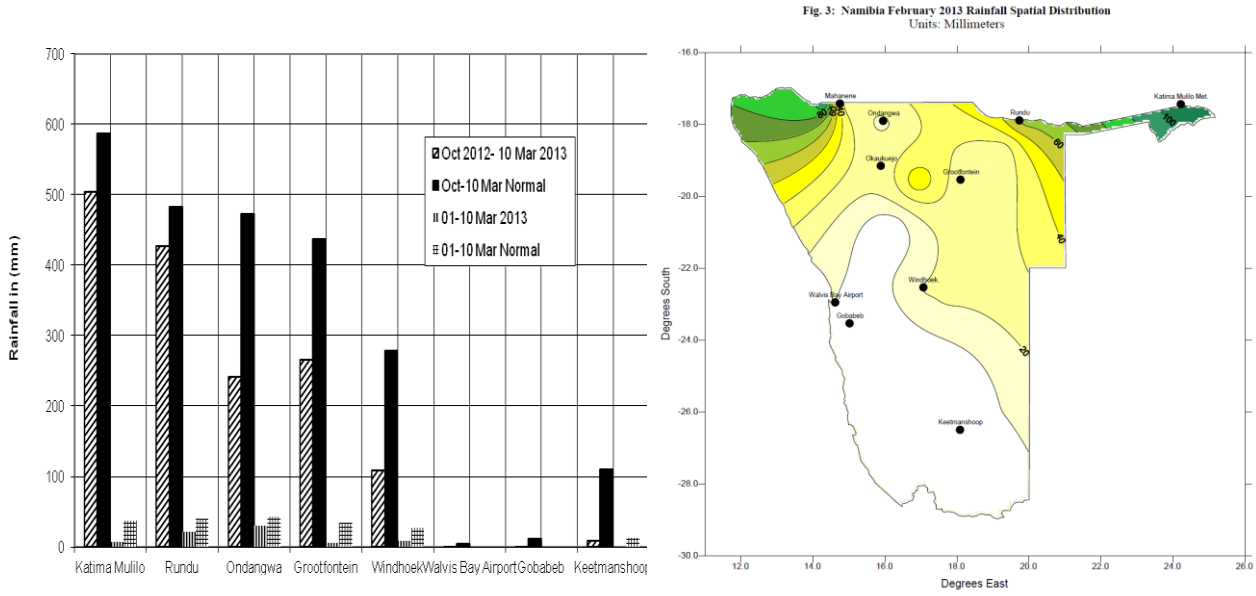
The household food security situation is weakening in the regions; since the recent harvest did not yield sufficient much needed relief to households' food security. Most households interviewed have indicated that, the recent harvest was very poor and is expected to only last between July and August this year. Grazing conditions are reported to be very poor and deteriorating in most parts of the country due to serious drought conditions experienced this season.

[1] Communal Crop producing regions included Caprivi, Kavango, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto region

2002/2013 Rainfall Performance for Namibia

Poor rainfall performance has been dominating the season, since the start in October last year up to March 2013. Most parts of the country received little amount of rainfall which is way too far from normal, except the extreme northeast where the rainfall amount received is near to normal levels. According to Meteorological Services of Namibia, since the start of the 2012/2013 rainfall season, till March this year, both months recorded extremely low amount than normal. Figure 1 below, summarised the rainfall performance since October 2012 up to February 2013. Namibia received below normal rains and according to rain-fed crop producers, poor rainfall performance has been seen in the forms of prolonged dry spells, erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfalls. Moreover, rainfall is said to have ended prematurely in March, instead of the normal end in April. Drought conditions have been greatly intensifying especially in the second half of the season and these conditions are more severe in the southern part of the country where the rainy season has hardly started in earnest.

Figure 2: Rainfall Performance in Selected Cities of Namibia

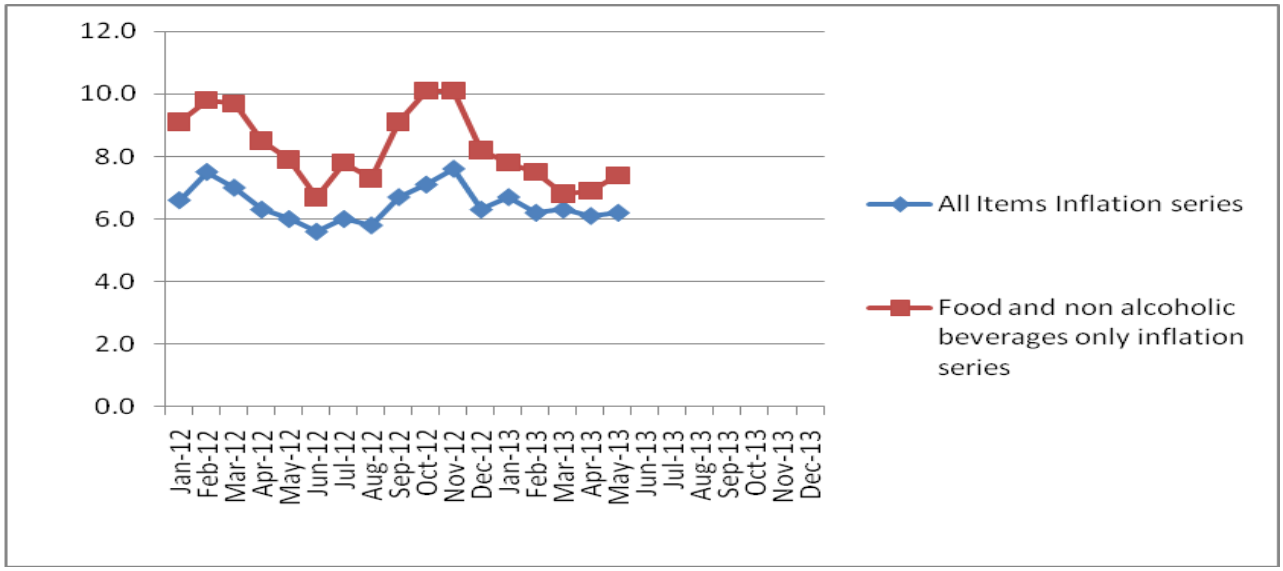


Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

MARKETING INFORMATION

Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI)

The monthly percentage change for the Namibia Consumer Price Index as from January 2012 to May 2013 is presented in the graph below.



Sources: Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)

According to the graph above, there has been a gradual decrease in both All Items and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverage since December last year (2012) up to February 2013. The graph further indicated that, there is a slight stability in both general Inflation and Food and Non-Alcoholic beverage since the January to May 2013. Moreover, the graph noted a positive correlation between all items inflations and food inflations. This means that when the general inflation rate is on a downward trend, food prices also tend to responding proportionately in tandem with inflations rate and vice versa. The decrease in the NCPI is in line with maintained stability in interest rate by the Reserve Bank (Bank of Namibia).

CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

Crop production estimates for the 2012/2013 crop season indicated that, communal crop producing regions received extremely below average harvest, following the poor rainfall performance coupled with swarms of Army worms. Rainfall performance has been very poor and dominated by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall as well as early end of the rainfall, resulting in the reduction in planted areas and subsequently, reduced crop harvests. According to farmers, rainfall performance was good in the first half of the season leading to good crop germinations, but become extremely poor in the second half of the season, resulting in crop drying up and eventually died.

National Cereal production statistics trend ('000 tons) and 2012/13 compared to 2011/12 and average

	Crop Season															14-year average	2011/12 as % of average	2011/12 as % of 2010/11
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13			
Maize (Communal)	3.2	15.9	9.5	4.4	3.5	9.9	9.0	10.7	7.0	7.6	7.8	6.3	5.2	4.6	2.5	7.5	-67	-46
Maize (Commercial)	10.9	11.5	35.0	22.8	23.3	28.3	49.8	39.2	48.6	46.0	48.8	48.0	64.0	83.1	37.2	39.9	-7	-55
Millet	81.7	59.8	79.8	45.6	49.6	83.4	72.4	105.8	44.5	35.5	37.3	73.3	41.1	55.9	24.7	61.8	-60	-56
Sorghum	22.7	11.6	16.1	4.3	8.5	7.6	6.1	10.3	4.0	4.4	4.7	7.9	5.8	7.7	2.2	8.7	-75	-72
Wheat	2.9	3.4	6.1	6.8	10.3	8.3	11.3	13.0	12.3	14.6	12.4	16.3	14.5	14.5	14.5	10.5	38	0
Aggregate	121.4	102.2	146.5	84.0	95.2	137.5	148.6	179.0	116.4	108.1	111.0	151.6	130.7	165.8	81.1	128.4	-37	-51

Table 1: National cereal production statistics and 2012/13 estimates compared to 2011/12 harvest and 14-year average

Table 1 above indicates cereal production statistics for various crops from 1998/99 to 2012/13 crop season. The table also indicate the production estimates for the 2012/13 crop season, a 14- year average, and the 2012/13 harvest as percentage of average and as percentage of 2011/12 crop season. Maize harvest in the communal areas (Caprivi and Kavango regions) is estimated to have dropped by about 67% below average and 46% lower than last season. Harvest of maize in the commercial area is also down by 7% of average and 55% lower than last seasons. Production estimates for pearl millet indicated a massive reductions in harvest of about 60% below average and 56% lower than last season. Furthermore sorghum production was even the hardest hit with the estimated loss of 75% below average and 72% lower than last season. Wheat is a winter crop and production thereof is ongoing, hence for the purpose of national aggregate and analysis, last season harvest figure was used. As a country, national coarse aggregate production (maize, millet, sorghum and wheat) indicated a substantial reduction in harvest of 37% below average and 51% lower than last season.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

The household food security situation is fragile and weakening in the regions, since the recent harvest this year did not yield sufficient much needed relief to households' food security. Most households interviewed have indicated that, the recent harvest was very poor and is expected to only last between July and August this year. Most of these household are supplementing their little harvest with the market purchases, just prolong the availability of the harvest. Some households have not even harvested anything from their crop fields, because according to them the drought conditions were very severe this year. Last season, crop production showed a recovery from floods that over the years reduced harvest, but however, the harvest was not sufficient enough to take households through to the current harvest. Household owners have further added that, under normal circumstance, food security situation improve as from the Month of March, when most seasonal crops such as squash, melons, legumes, etc become available and ready for consumption, till the main harvest in May. However, due to severe drought conditions experienced this year, availability of these produce were very limited. According to the Regional Council Offices, the number of households and people facing food insecurity in the regions is on the increase. At the time of the assessment, drought relief food distribution was taking place in the regions, targeting mainly the most vulnerable members of the society.

In the Caprivi region, food security situation did not gain any significant improvement from the recent harvest, since the harvest according to farmers was very little this year. Farmers indicate that, the current harvest is expected to only last till end of July, thereafter, majority of households are likely to face food insecurity. At the time of the assessment drought relief food distributions to various communities was ongoing. In the Kavango region, the situation is almost similar to Caprivi region that the recent harvest did not made any momentous improvement to household food security situation. According to household interviewed, the current harvest is only enough until end of July this year. For the past years, this region has been experiencing chronic household food insecurity caused by poor harvest because of unfavorable crop growing conditions. Drought food relief distribution was ongoing at the time of this assessment, targeting mainly the most vulnerable people in the region.

In the north central regions, the household food security situation is flimsy and fading as most households are reported to have received a very poor harvest this season with Omusati region being the hardest hit, followed by Ohangwena. According to farmers, the little harvest received this year could only last for two to three month from the time of the harvest. Some farmers especially from most parts of Omusati region are said to have no harvest this year due to serious drought experienced this year. Food security situation in Oshana region is reported to have improved slightly, especially the southern parts of the region, but weakening elsewhere in the region and the harvest, according to farmers is only enough up to end of August this year. In the Oshikoto region, food security situation was reported to have improved slightly with the current harvest, but this harvest is expected to only last between August and September this year. Most households are reported to be supplementing their limited harvests with market purchases for the stock to last longer. At the time of the assessment, drought relief food distribution especially to the vulnerable people was ongoing in all the communal crop producing regions, which is also the case in other regions in the country.

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

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

Pasture Conditions

Grazing conditions are reported to be very poor and deteriorating in most parts of the country due to serious drought conditions experienced this season. Pasture establishment tend to follow the rainfall patterns and as such only the northeast where good grazing condition were reported. In the Caprivi and Kavango regions good pasture establishment were reported which according to farmers are much better than last season and may be enough up to the next season. In the north central regions, poor grazing conditions were reported in most parts and fair to good in cattle post areas. Water for livestock is tight-fistedly available as most water reservoirs filled from last season's rainfall did not get a refill this year and most of them have dried up. In the Kunene region, particularly in Opuwo and the surrounding areas, grazing condition was very poor throughout the area and the situation is deteriorating. Grazing Condition in Outjo area is deteriorating particularly in communal areas (Kamanjab, Khorixas and Erwee) but browsing materials for goats are still available.

Poor pasture conditions were reported in Otjozondjupa region especially in Grootfontein area. In Omaheke region, Grazing condition was reported to be very poor because of low rains. Some animals died of drought in Aminus and Eiseb. An emergency situation is reported to prevailing in this area. Otjinene area one of the affected farmers is reportedly lost 40 cattle and the situation is getting worse. Poor grazing conditions were also reported in Khomas region and the situation is said to be serious in the south were very little amount of rainfall was received.

Livestock Conditions

No major livestock disease outbreaks were reported in the north central regions at the time of the assessment. However, a localised outbreak of Anthrax was reported early January in Oniipa constituency in Oshikoto region. According to the Directorate of Veterinary Services in the region, the situation was brought under control, following measures to restrict livestock movements and vaccinations to various livestock species. Furthermore, the regions reported isolated cases of diseases that are associated with inadequate nutrition due to poor grazing conditions. This includes; Black quarter, Dystocia, retained placenta and vaginal prolapsed. Moreover, cases of internal parasites were also reported in various parts of the regions, but according to the Directorate of Veterinary Service, in these areas, the magnitude of the parasites is lower than last season. Livestock conditions range between fair to poor in areas on the periphery of township and good in the cattle post areas.

Ticks infestations among cattle are still a problem in the eastern part of Caprivi region. According to the State Veterinarian responsible for this area, tick borne diseases have also increased gradually. Other diseases reported included; Lumpy skin in the eastern part of the region, Dermatophilosis and Black quarter were also reported in Katima rural constituency. Furthermore, cases of Pasturella, Pneumonias and internal parasites in small stock were also widely reported in the region. Livestock were reported to be in good condition.

In the Kavango region, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment and livestock are said to be in good condition.
Other parts of the country, no major livestock diseases were reported except those that are related to poor grazing conditions.

REGIONAL CROP SITUATION

Caprivi region

The region had noted a good rainfall performance in the first half of the season (November – December) which resulted in good crop germination and good crop harvest prospect. However, such prospect was marred by poor rainfall performance in the second part of the season which was seen in the forms of prolonged dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rainfall. Moreover, the rainfall is said to have ended prematurely in February, leaving crops, especially the late planted ones to stagnate. Planted area is estimated at 82% of the total cropping area, which is slightly higher than last season by 2%. Farmers reported that, the general poor rainfall performance experienced in the second half of the season had resulted in poor crop harvest this year with maize production being the most hit when compared to last season. Therefore, maize harvest is said to have suffered a great loss of about 63% below average and 40% lower than last season's harvest. Pearl millet is said to have decreased by 73% below average and 33% lower than last season. Moreover, sorghum harvests was also reported to have decreased significantly by 45 below average and about 33% below last season's harvest. Pasture establishment was generally good at the time of the assessment. However, according to State Veterinarians responsible for this region, the grazing establishment this season is not in an optimal condition due to poor rainfall performance experience in the area. Livestock are also said to be in good conditions. With regards to food security the situation is said to have improved slightly following the main harvest in May this year. However, according to farmers, such improvement is only short live since the harvest was poor and is estimated to be depleted by end of July. At the time of the assessment, the region drought relief food distribution to various communities is ongoing.
(No accurate rainfall information was available at the time of this report)

Constituencies

Katima Urban

Most part of this constituency is a town and residential area. With the exception of few home gardening and irrigation projects 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.

Katima Rural

Most parts of this area noted poor rainfall performance this season. According to farmers, poor rainfall was observed in the forms of sporadic and insufficient rainfall as well as prolonged dry spells which is said to have dominated the season. Nonetheless, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 88% of their crop fields. However, crop production was described to be poor because of lack of rainfall and subsequently crop harvest is very poor. Maize harvest is estimated to have drop by about 31%, while pearl millet is reported to have decreased by 35% of last season's harvest. Moreover, sorghum production is said to have decreased by 40% of last season. In addition, farmers especially in Ngoma indicated that, part of the cause of poor harvest is due to the damage caused by wild animals especially elephants and hippos. Farmers especially in areas along the river indicated that, their crop fields were submerged due to flood during February and as a result, they did not harvest anything. Areas affected included; Kalimbeza, Sifuha, Nachisangani, Kalundu and the surrounding areas.

On livestock health, ticks infestations especially on cattle were still widely reported in most parts of this area, but the extent of the infestation is said to be less this year as compared to previous years. The grazing condition was reported to be fair in areas along the river and good elsewhere. Livestock are in good condition. With regard to food security, the situation is worrisome as most households indicated that the current harvest is no significant and may only last up to end of July.

Kongola

This constituency reported good rainfall in the first half of the season. However, poor rainfall performance was reported in the second half of the season especially ends of January to early February where some dry spells for three successive weeks were reported. This is said to have affected crop production negatively especially the late planted ones. Planted area is estimated at 90% of the total crop fields. Crop harvest is said to be very poor this season with maize harvest is estimated to have decreased by 55% and sorghum by 46% below last season's poor harvest. Production information on sorghum was not clearly available as most farmers are said to have planted very little sorghum this season. Harvest for non-cereal crops was reported to be better for melons and squash when compared to last season. Access to improved seeds remained a concern to many farmers in this area, as there were no improved seeds at the local ADC due to the fact that, no receiver of revenue. Only few farmers has benefited from the government ploughing services so far, as most crop fields are still having stumps making it difficult for the use of the tractor.

Livestock and pasture are reported to be in good conditions. No livestock diseases were reported in the area at the time of the assessment. However, cases of tick infestation are still being reported in the area. Household food security is reported to be poor this season since majority of farmers did not get satisfactory harvest this year. At the time of the assessment, most households are dependent on the market and or drought relief food for food access.

Linyanti

According to farmers, the 2012/2013 rainfall season started well in the first half of the season, but became poor in the second half before terminating the season prematurely. Farmers indicated that, the second half of the season was dominated by serious dry spells which leads to poor germinations and crop wilting. Planted area this season is estimated at about 74% of the total cropped area, which is about 8% lower than last season. Subsequently, harvest this year is excessively poor this year with an estimated decrease of 75% for pearl millet and 73% for maize when compared to last season. Harvest for sorghum is also estimated to have dropped by over 61% of last season's harvest. Farmers have further reported that, inputs such as improved seeds as well as fertilizers were not easily accessible to many since, farmers had to travel long distances to Katima Mulilo in order to buy inputs. Farmers are therefore requesting the government, as of next season to avail these inputs at their local Agricultural Development Office for easy access.

No livestock diseases were reported in the area, and both livestock and pasture are said to be in good conditions. On household food security, the situation was satisfactory at the time of the assessment, following the recent harvest in May. However, according to farmers, the harvest is only enough until end of July this year where majority of household will be expected to have depleted their stock from own production. At the time of the assessment, drought relief food distribution was taking place and household owners are thankful of the government for this assistance.

Sibinda

This area had experienced poor rainfall performance especially in the second half of the season, resulting in poor crop harvest. According to farmers, the start of the rainfall season was better at the onset of the season, but become poor in the second half, characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall as well as prolonged dry spells. In addition, the rainfall is said to have ended prematurely in February. Most farmers in this area were able to cover about 87% of their crop fields. Crop harvest is estimated to have decreased by 34% for maize, 10% for pearl millet and some 56% for sorghum as compared to last season. Production of non-cereal crops is reported to have showed an increase as compared to last season, because no excessive rainfall received in the area.

No major livestock diseases reported at the time of the assessment. However, cases of tick infestation are still being reported in the area. Both pasture and livestock are reported to be in good conditions. With regards to household food security, the situation has improved slightly, following the recent harvest in May this year. However, the harvest is said to be low and is expected to only last till end of July. Nevertheless, drought relief food distribution to various communities is ongoing in the region.

Kabbe

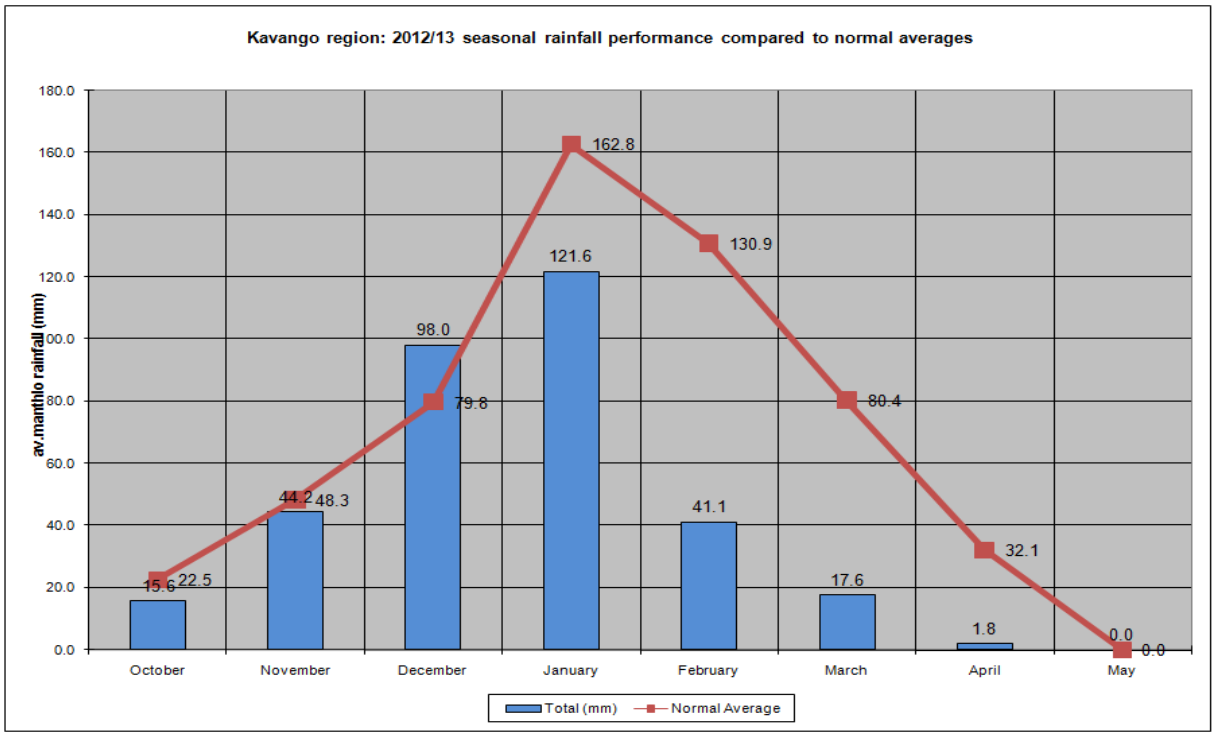
Despite the fact that this constituency is one of the flood prone areas, in the region, crop production harvest is comparatively better than other areas in the region. According to farmers, pearl millet and sorghum harvest are much better than last season with their estimated harvest of 3% and 25% higher than last season's respectively. However, maize production showed a reduction of about 8% lower than last season. Planted area is estimated at about 72% of the total crop fields. Non-cereal crops are also reported to have received a good harvest this year which according to farmers is better than last season. On the other hand, it was also reported that crop fields in areas along the river are reported to

have been flooded due to river overflow and as a result, most farmers in this areas received poor harvest. Crop pest reported this season was Aphid which started in February this year, affecting mainly cow peas and maize crops. Furthermore, cases of crop damages by Elephants and Buffalos were also reported in the area.

Pasture was observed to e in good condition in most parts except those in flooded areas. On livestock health, minor cases of Lumpy skin disease and ticks infestation were reported in the area. On the food household food security the situation was satisfactory at the time of the assessment, following the recent harvest. However, most farmers indicated that the current harvest is only enough until end of September this year.

Kavango region

Although good showers were received in the first half of the rain season, the rainfall performance is reported to become poor in the second half which according to farmers was observed in the form of dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rainfall. Furthermore, the rainfall is reported to have ended prematurely resulting in crop wilting before reaching maturity and subsequently poor harvest. Maize harvest is estimated to have decreased by 73% of average and 45% below last season's harvest. Pearl millet is reported to have decline by 78% below average and about 67% lower than last season. Moreover, sorghum is also estimated to have drop by 76% below average and 73% lower than last season's harvest. Planted area is estimated at 83% of the total cropped area, which is of the same coverage as last season. Pasture conditions were reported to range between fair to good in areas along the river and very good in the inland areas. Food security situation is reported to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, the improvement is said to be only short live since the harvest was very poor. According to households interviewed, the recent harvest is expected to only last for about one to two month and by end of July, most household are likely to face some forms of food insecurity. At the time of the assessment, drought relief food distribution is taking place in various areas in the region targeting mainly the vulnerable people.



Constituencies

Rundu Rural West

Poor rainfall performance was reported to have dominated the 2002/13 crop season and as a result, poor crop germinations were reported. Farmers indicated that, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of sporadic and erratic rainfall as well as prolonged dry spells. Average planted area is estimated at about 79% of the total cropped area. Crop harvest are reported to be very poor with maize harvest estimated to have dropped by over 70% and pearl millet by 10% lower than last season. Furthermore, farmers indicated that, harvest for non cereal crops is also poor this season when compared to last season. No pest outbreaks were reported this season, however farmers reported that cases of quellea birds especially on pearl millet crops were a concern.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment and both pasture and livestock are in good conditions on household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest in May. However, this improvement according to farmers is only temporally as the current harvest is expected to be finished by end of June.

Rundu Rural East

The season started well in the area with good showers received during December till the first two weeks of January. However, prolonged dry spells was experienced from the third week of January towards the first week of February. The rainfall is reported to have ended prematurely in March instead of the normal one in April. Planted area is estimated at about 71% of the total cropping area. Inputs such as seeds were easily accessible as majority of farmers managed to buy them from their local Agricultural Development Centre office as well as at the open market in Rundu. Furthermore, the demand for fertilizers was reported to be poor since many farmers are not aware of the benefit thereof. On ploughing services, the majority of farmer's uses draft animal power for ploughing since only few farmers who make use of both GRN and private tractor services due to stumps in their crop fields. Furthermore, on weeding subsidy services, there are about nine weeding groups who have registered this cropping season and they actively took part for weeding subsidy services

Crop harvest this year is reported to be poor in this area. Therefore, harvests for maize when compared to last season is estimated to have drop by 45%, while millet and sorghum are estimated to have dropped by 30% each. Additionally, harvest for non-cereal crop is also reported to be lower than last year. On livestock, the situation is comparatively good for both livestock and grazing condition. On household food security, the situation has improved slightly, following the recent harvest. However, according to farmers the improvement is only for a short period of time in this case end of June.

Ndiyona

Farmers in this constituency indicated that, the 2012/2013 rainfall season was very poor, characterised by erratic and insufficient rainfall as well as prolonged dry spells. According to farmers, the rainfall started on time in October and was somewhat fine in the first half, but become poor in the second half of the season. Average planted area is estimated at about 88% of the total crop fields. The remaining parts of their crop fields could not be covered due to drought condition. Crop production is very poor this year and many farmers indicated that, sorghum and maize production were the hardest hit by drought with their estimated harvest of 85% and 71% lower than last season respectively. Pearl millet production is estimated to have drop by about 60% of last season's harvest.

With regards to household food security, the situation was poor at the time of the assessment as majority of interviewed households indicated that they are mainly dependent on the market for food access. According to farmers, the current harvest was too little and expected to only last for less than one month. On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment and both pasture and livestock were reported to be in good conditions.

Mpungu

The constituency experienced a prolonged dry spell from mid January till end of February with final showers received in March. Most farmers were unable to finish ploughing their crop field due to poor rainfall performance covering only 80% of their total crop fields. The production estimate for both maize, pearl millet and sorghum is reported to have reduced by 92%, 64% and 70% to that of last years' respectively. Most farmers continue to

appreciate the value of improve agricultural inputs in the area; the high demand of improved seed at the ADC it is an indication of the much needed services in the constituency. Farmers also purchased fertilizer from the ADC. The Agricultural development centre continues to provide subsidized ploughing services whereby more than 60 ha of land have been ploughed this year. Apart from the poor rainfall performance, reports of Quellea birds attacking crops mainly pearl millet were also reported.

Cases of internal parasite, foot rot, lung sickness, black quarter, botulism and diarrheal were among the livestock disease noted in the constituency. Production for non-cereal crop has as well dropped this year. Generally, livestock and pasture condition is reported to be good. On household food security, most households are currently depending on their own production which is supplemented with maize meal from the market. The current food stock is expected to last till July to August this year.

Kapako

Although the first part of the rain season was generally good, farmers indicated that the second half of the rain season was very poor. Farmers indicated that, the season is characterised by dry spells, sporadic and inadequate rains as well as sudden end of the rain. Under the circumstance, most farmers were only able to cultivate about 75% of their crop fields, compared to over 80% in the same corresponding time last season. Crop harvest is very poor this year and farmers indicated that crop losses of nearly 50% of last season for maize and about 53% for millet and sorghum respectively are estimated. In addition, harvest for non-cereal harvests is also poor because of poor germinations resulted from poor rainfall performance.

With exception of few cases of birds, no major crop pests reported at the time of this assessment and both grazing and livestock are reported to be in good conditions. On household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly because of the recent harvest. However, the harvest according to farmers is small and is only likely to last for about one month (i.e. end of June). Nevertheless, drought relief food distribution especially to the needy one was taking place at the time of this assessment.

Kahenge

On average most farmers managed to cover about 83% of their total crop fields in this constituency. This follows a very poor and sporadic rainfall performance during the second half of the season. Production prospect for the constituency recorded a downfall of 25% for maize, sorghum and pearl millet reduced by 55% and 58% as compared to the previous season respectively. The constituency experienced a high demand of pearl millet seed in relation to the available stock. Moreover, farmers are also requesting the Agricultural office to provide them with improved maize seed under the input subsidy program. On ploughing services, most farmers prefer the mouldboard plough instead of the disc harrow that was made available for the subsidized ploughing services. Elephant were reported at Kamupupu village and quellea bird in most part of the constituency. Cases of poisonous plant, internal parasite, and mange in goats, LSD and limping in large livestock were also reported. Non-cereal crops like melons were destroyed by elephant, while the cowpeas and bambaranut the production is reported to be very poor. Livestock and pasture conditions range from fair to good. At the time of this assessment, most households were still consuming from their own production which is expected to last till July with few to reach September.

Mashare

This constituency reported that, the 2012/2013 rain season has been poor and was characterised by erratic and insufficient rainfall as well as prolonged dry spells. Farmers indicated that good showers were received in the first half of the season, but however, became poor in the second half before the season terminated prematurely. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cover at least 95% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Although germination was good at the beginning of the season, most crops dried up and died due to serious prolonged dry spells that dominated the second half of the season. Under the circumstance, crop harvest obtained this season was very poor compared to last season. Both maize and sorghum were mostly affected crops with their harvest estimated to decrease by 90% and 83% below last season. Furthermore, millet production is reported also to have drop by 33% of last season's harvest. Non-cereal crops are also reported to be lower this year than last season because of poor rainfall performance.

With regards to livestock health, no major livestock disease outbreaks reported at the time of the assessment. Both pasture and livestock were reported to be in good condition. On the household food security, the situation is worrisome as most households did not get significant harvest this season. According to most interviewed households,

the current harvest is expected to last till end of August.

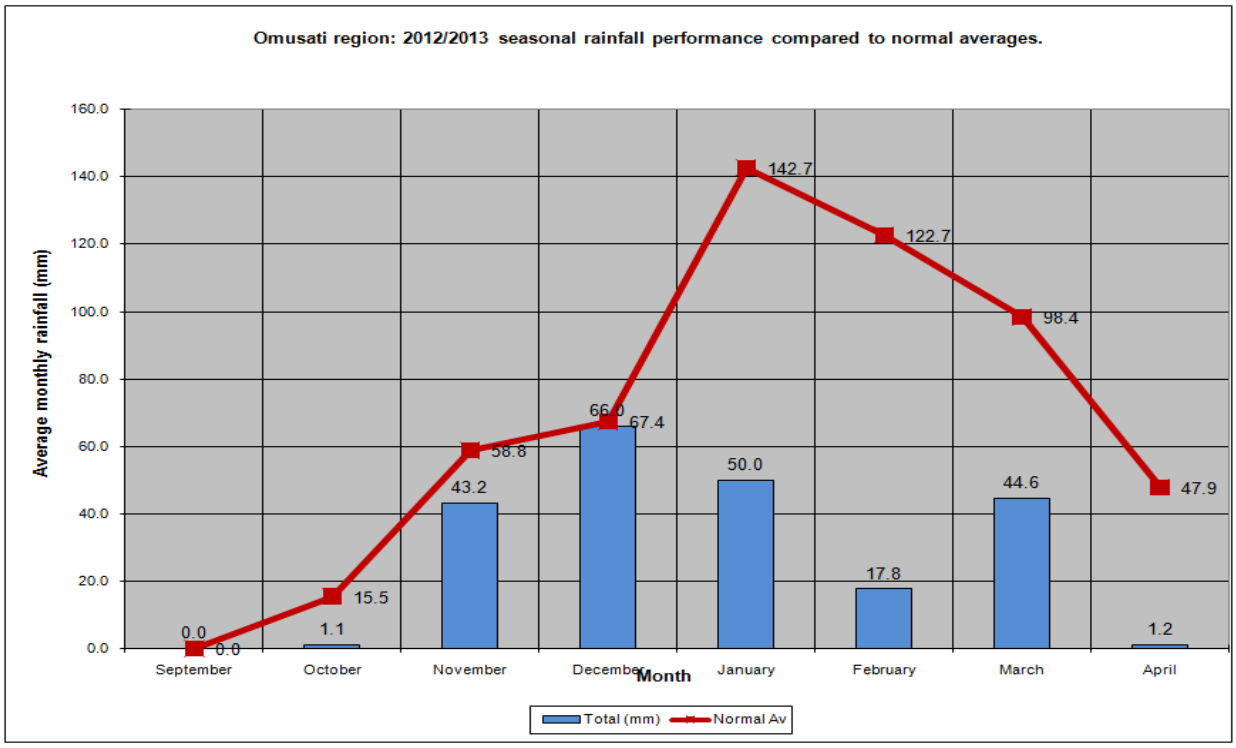
Mukwe

Poor rainfall performance was received this season and according to farmers, the season was characterised by sporadic, insufficient and poorly distributed rainfall. According to the Agricultural Extension official responsible for this area, a total of 365mm of rainfall was received this year, compared to 685mm last season. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cover at least 95% of their crop fields, amidst poor rainfall performance. Farmers have further indicated that crop production is very poor this season when compared to last season. Maize and sorghum production was the most hit with their harvest estimated to have drop by 91% and 90% of last season respectively. Pearl millet harvest has also showed a decline in production with its estimate of about 55% below last season's harvest.

On the household food security, the situation is reported to be worsening as most households did not have a significant harvest this year due to drought. According to households interviewed, the harvest obtained this season was very little and only lasted for less than one month. Furthermore, households indicated that they are currently dependent on the market for food access. At the time of the assessment, food distribution targeting mainly the needy and vulnerable people had just started. Pasture and livestock were reported to be in good condition and enough water (mainly from the river) is readily available for livestock consumption, but however, water shortages for livestock were reported in the inland area.

Omusati region

The region was hit by severe drought this year which has resulted in a very poor crop harvest, meagre pasture conditions as well as serious water shortages for livestock. Sporadic and erratic rainfall as well as serious prolonged dry spells was felt intensely in the early second half of the season, before the season terminate prematurely in February. The region has also suffered the two incidents of Army worms outbreaks during the dry spells period in December and January and these are reported to have caused extensive damages to both crops and pasture. According to farmers, most crops wilted and died and some farmers did not even harvest anything from their crop fields this year. As a result, crop harvest is estimated to have declined enormously with pearl millet estimated to decline by 82% below average and 73% lower than last year. Moreover, sorghum harvest is said to have decreased by 92% below average and nearly 90% lower than last season's harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 67% of the total cropped area, reflecting a decrease of about 13% of last season. Pasture is poor in most parts of the region and water for livestock is stingily available as most water reservoirs filled from last season's rainfall dries up. Household food security is unsatisfactory as most households had a very poor harvest which according to farmers is expected to only last till end of July this year.



Constituencies

Outapi

The prolonged dry spell that resulted in permanent crop wilting started in January till end of February this year. Most farmers indicated that they have to replant several times with the anticipation of good showers, but their seed could not germinate following very poor rainfall. As a result, most farmers were unable to finish ploughing their crop field covering only 65%. The constituency experienced the outbreak of armyworm that have destroyed both crops and grass during January this has also contributed to the poor production. Production prospect for both pearl millet and sorghum recorded the respective reduction of 96% and about 100% as compared to the previous season. Non-cereal crops like cowpeas and bambaranut were equally affected by the unfavourable rainfall conditions.

Both livestock and pasture conditions are reported to be in very poor condition in the area. Cases of internal parasite especially in small stock and LSD in cattle have been reported. Most farmers didn't harvest anything this season, however, indications are that some are still consuming from their previous years' production which is expected to last till August to September this year. All household indicated that they are constantly purchasing maize meal from the market and prices are described to be rising speedily.

Anamulenge

Farmers described the 2012/2013 rainfall performance as very poor, characterised by prolonged dry spells, sporadic and unevenly distributed rainfall. Some farmers have no crop at all in their crop fields after planted at the beginning of January since the soil moisture was not sufficient for the seeds to germinate and the rainfall ended prematurely. To make the matter worse, farmers have also suffered the outbreak of Army worms which is said to have contributed negatively to poor crop harvest as well as poor pasture establishment. Most farmers were unable to cover large area of their crop fields and as a result, it is estimated that only about 50% of the cropped area was covered. Furthermore, production estimate for the main cereal crops are estimated to have drop by about 70% for pearl millet and sorghum by 92% lower than previous season. Moreover, non-cereal harvest is also estimated to have been reduced significantly and very poor this year.

On the livestock issues, livestock body condition is said to be fair, while the pasture establishment is very poor in most places. No livestock disease has been reported. However, cases of internal parasites

were widely reported in the constituency and some farmers are said to have lost some of their goats to this problem. Like other parts in region, the situation on household food security is weakening since most households are said to have little or no harvest this year. At the time of the assessment, most households are depended on the market for food access. Drought relief food distribution had started in various areas targeting mainly the vulnerable members of the community.

Etayi

Poor rainfall performance was experienced this season and according to farmers, this has leads to poor harvest this season. Majority of farmers were only able to cover about 40% of their crop field and the remaining part could not be covered due to poor rainfall. Crop harvest this season is estimated to have dropped by 53% for pearl millet and sorghum down by 66% of last year's harvest. Furthermore, about eight private tractors participated in the ploughing subsidy reflecting 100% increase of last season. Few villages reported an outbreak of Army worms and this include Omutaku, Onelovu and Onheleiwa villages. However, impact on crops and pasture was not severe.

Regarding livestock health, cases of Rabies in donkey and cattle were reported at Onuumba and the surrounding villages and is said to have claimed the lives of these animals. In addition, livestock body condition range from fair to poor and farmers are worried about the grazing condition which is poor. Furthermore, it was also reported that water for livestock is also becoming a concern since the catchment areas did not get enough rainfall this year and most them are drying up. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest in May. However, this harvest is little and many farmers indicated that it is expected to last up to end of July. Moreover, some household are reported to have no crop harvest this year due to poor rainfall performance.

Oshikuku

Most parts of the constituency are reported to have experienced poor rainfall performance which was seen in the forms of serious prolonged dry spells, insufficient and sporadic rainfall. As a result, most farmers were only able to cultivate up to 88% of their crop fields. Moreover, cases of Army worms were also reported during the dry spells in December and January periods and according to farmers the worms' infestations were severe in December. The worms did not only caused extensive damages to crop, but also caused destructions to poorly established pasture which is was severely affected by erratic and poor rainfall performance. According to interviewed farmer, crop production has decreased extensively with pearl millet and sorghum harvest when compared to last season showed a reduction of 80% and 88% respectively.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases reported in the area at the time of the assessment. However, pasture was observed to be in poor condition and livestock were still in good condition at the time of the assessment. However, farmers indicated that, the situation is expected to worsen especially from end of July this year. With regards to household food security, the situation is getting critical as most households did not get significant crop harvest this year. According to the interviewed farmers, the little harvest this year will only last less than a month and majority are mostly dependent on the market for food access. In the normal season, household food security improve as from the month of March as most green crops such as squash, melons, cowpeas and the like become ready for consumption. However, farmers indicated that these produce are hardly available this season since they too are affected by drought.

Okalongo

Poor rainfall performance was experienced in this area since the start of the rain season last year. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of erratic and sporadic rainfall as well as serious dry spells which are said to have dominated the season. Moreover, the rainfall is reported to have stopped earlier in early March instead of the normal stop in April. Crop harvest this season are said to have dropped drastically with pearl millet estimated to have declined by 29%, while sorghum is down by 97% in comparison to last season's harvest. On average, most farmers cultivated about 80% of their crop fields. Although the necessary inputs were received on time, improved seed was very limited and the demand of the drought resistance variety (okashana 1) was very high this season. About four private tractors participated in the ploughing subsidy compared to two in the previous season. This constituency has also suffered two outbreaks of Army worm, in the last week of December and in the third week of January. The worms have affected most villages in the constituency destroying both crops and pasture in the area. According to the interviewed farmers it was reported that many farmers were forced to replant

and transplant due to the prolonged dry spells, efforts which did not yield good results.

No major livestock diseases were reported in the area at the time of this assessment. However, poor grazing conditions continued to strengthen and most livestock are in for hunger this season. Pasture establishment is very poor following poor due to poor rainfall received in the constituency. On the household food security, the situation improved slightly, following a recent harvest in May. However, the harvest is said to be small and is estimated to last only until end of July.

Elim

Most farmers in this area described the 2012/2013 rainfall season as very poor and characterised by dry conditions. It was reported that, rainfall performance was generally better in the first half of the season but became very poor in the second half before it end the season prematurely. Planted area is estimated at about 77% of the total crop fields and the remaining part could not be covered due to drought. Subsequently, crop harvest is reported to have drop by at least 86% of last season for pearl millet and about 98% for sorghum. Moreover, the constituency was also affected negatively by Army worm outbreak during January affecting both cereals and grazing area. The constituency has also reported few cases of false Army worms and grass hopers during January.

With regards to livestock health, cases of Dystocia in cattle as well as internal parasites in donkeys were widely reported in the constituency. Pasture is very poor and deteriorating as dry season set in. Many livestock farmers are reported to have taken some of their livestock to the southern part of the constituency (cattle post areas) for better grazing condition. Moreover, the constituency is currently experiencing water shortages for livestock since many swamps and other catchment areas could not fills up this year due to poor rainfall received. On the household food security, majority of households indicated that the current food stock is expected to only last until end of August.

Ogongo

Poor rainfall performance was reported in various parts of this constituency. According to farmers, rainfall started late in December and some areas only received their first rain for this season in the second week of January. Majority of farmers were only able to cultivate up to about 50% of their crop fields. Crop production estimates shows a massive reduction in harvest of about 80% for pearl millet and 95% for sorghum as compared to the previous season. Harvest estimates for non- cereal crops are also reported to be very poorly this season as compared to last year. Farmers expressed their dissatisfaction with the allocated government tractor in their constituency, claiming that a single tractor is not enough to cater for the majority. Farmers are however requesting for government to increase the number of tractor in the constituency. Private tractors are also available in this area, but according to farmers are few and expensive.

This constituency has also suffered an outbreak of Army worms at the early stage of crop development. Affected areas included OKafitu Kafimbi and Okahwa Kangambya causing considerable destruction and even causing farmers to re-plant with little or no success. No cases of livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. The only problem is poor grazing and shortage of water for livestock. On the household food security, most households are reported to have very little or no harvest this year due to drought condition. As a result, majority of households are mainly dependent on the market for food access. Pasture was reported to be poor and livestock are said to be in fair to poor condition.

Otamanzi

This constituency was not spared of the effect of poor rainfall performance as it is the case with area areas in the region. Farmers indicated that indicated that poor rainfall performance dominated the season and was seen in the form of prolonged dry spells, erratic and insufficient rainfall. Most farmers were only able to cover about 81% of their crop fields. Farmers indicated that, crop production this year is extremely low and when compared to last season, a drop in harvest of over 90% for pearl millet and 97% for sorghum is estimated. Farmers have further indicated that, non-cereal crops are also affected by drought and as such, the harvest thereof is low. To make the matter worse, this area was also affected by Army worms and false Army worms during December and January dry spells. As results many crop fields as well as grazing areas were destroyed by worms.

Regarding the livestock health, no major disease outbreaks were reported at the time of this assessment. However, pasture is in a very poor condition and some farmers reported that some of their cattle are in a very poor condition and are unable to wake up on their own. Moreover, cases of internal parasites were also reported in moist parts of this area affecting mainly donkeys. Pasture condition range between good in the cattle posts

areas and poor to very poor elsewhere in the constituency. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be getting critical as most households are reported to only obtain little or no harvest this season. Most of them indicated that the current harvest is only enough until end of July.

Okahao

This constituency is one of the areas that suffered greatly the effects of poor rainfall performance in the region. Planted area is estimated at 67% of the total crop field size. As a result, crop harvests this season is reported to have dropped significantly with an average estimated drop in harvests of 80% and 88% lower than last season for millet and sorghum respectively. Harvest for non-cereal crops is also reported to be poor this season as compared to last season. In addition, the constituency has also suffered two outbreaks of Army worms during December and January period and this has caused extensive damages not only to cereal crops, but also to grazing areas. Livestock were reported to be in fair to poor conditions and the situation is expected to deteriorate especially as from July this year. Many farmers are reported to have moved some of their livestock especially cattle to the southern part of the constituency for better grazing conditions. On livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be worsening as most households are reported to receive very little or no harvest this season due to drought. However, most of the farmers are currently dependent on the market for food access.

Tsandi

A handful of grain is what most farmers harvested in this constituency. Some areas like Omugulugombashe, Okatseyidhi and Amayupa only received few showers in January and it stopped there. Generally the rainfall performance was very poor in the area instigating poor average planted area of 78% of the total crop field. Consequently, production for all crop types has been negatively affected. Pearl millet has dropped by 86% and sorghum reduced by 75% as compared to the previous season. Non-cereal crops like cowpea and melons no harvest at all. No major cases of pest have been reported in the constituency.

On livestock, the situation is getting worse every day. Some households have already lost their cattle due to hunger as the soil is bare. However, most people have moved their livestock to other grazing areas in other constituency like Okahao. Water for livestock is a problem as most dams have run dry. Apart from hunger, no major livestock disease has been reported. Regarding food security situation, majority of the households are currently depending on the market for food access as their previous years' harvest has diminished and no harvest for this year.

Onesi

On average most farmers only managed to plough about 59% of their total crop field. This follows a very poor rainfall performance that was experienced in the constituency. Good showers were received in December and farmers started ploughing with a good germination for the planted area. However, a very prolonged and harsh dry spell was experienced during January and February wilting and stunting crops permanently. Consequently, the production for both pearl millet and sorghum recorded a reduction of 90% and 99% as compared to the previous season respectively. Cowpeas and bambaranut the harvest is equally affected, while most farmers reported to have a lot of melons in their crop fields. The use of the government ploughing services continues to be praised by those benefited from the services although they could not harvest from their crop field following poor rainfall performance.

Livestock body condition range from fair to good at the moment. However some animals are reported dying of hunger as the pasture condition is deteriorating. Most animals have been shifted to the grazing area, while water availability is remains a challenge. No major livestock has been disease reported in the area. Regarding food security, the situation is described as firm as most household indicated that they are still consuming their own produce from the previous season as some did not harvest anything this year. The situation is expected to remain so til August this year. Most household are constantly supplementing their stock with maize meal from the market.

Ruacana

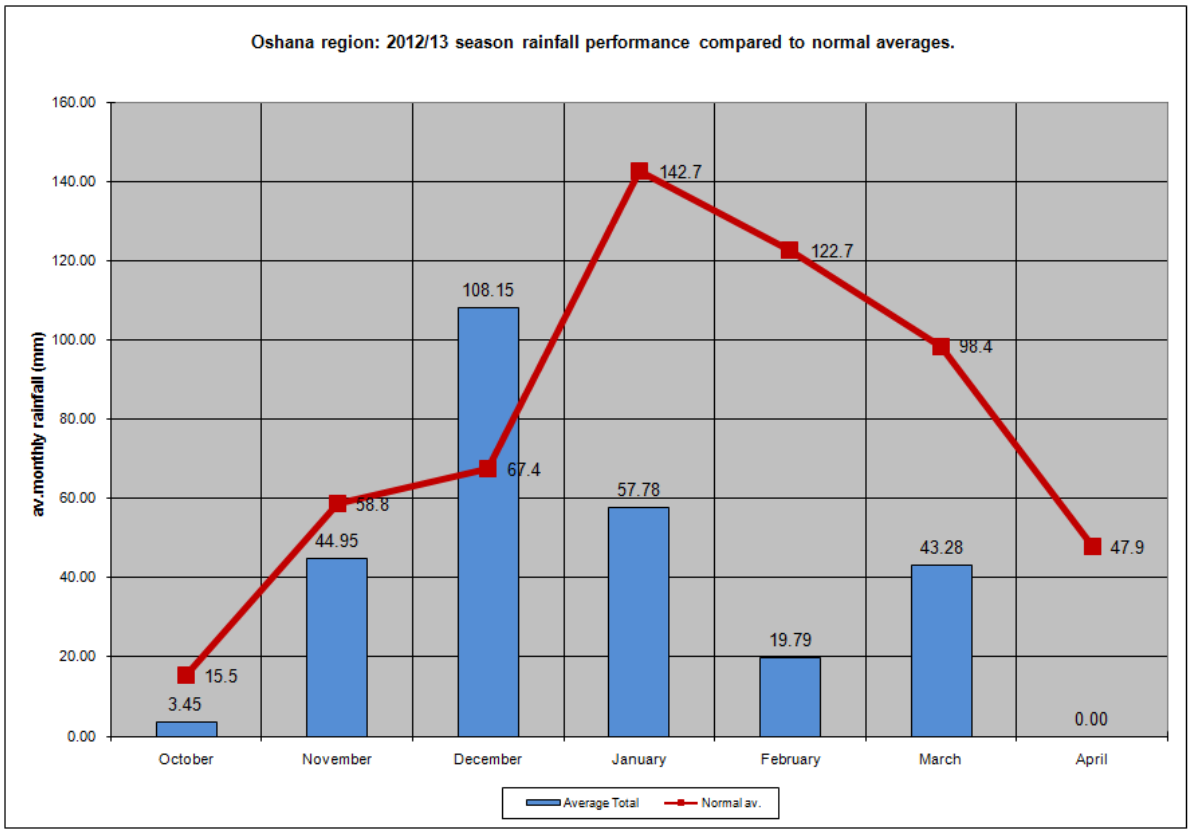
For the two consecutive seasons the constituency experienced a very poor rainfall contributing to poor production and pasture conditions in the area. The rainfall is described to be sporadic and very poor leading to a persistent drought situation. Although inputs like seeds and fertilizer were available on time the poor rainfall performance forced farmers to replant without any success. The government ploughing services has to hold the ploughing activities following the prolonged dry spell in January till end of February. On average

most farmers were only able to plough about 84% of their total crop fields. Production estimate for both pearl millet and sorghum has dropped by 58% and 73% as compared to the previous season respectively.

Livestock body condition is very poor and some farmers have already lost their livestock following very poor pasture condition in the area. Livestock are now surviving on browsing and most farmers moved their livestock to Omakange were scant grass are to be found. Moreover water scarcity in the grazing area remains a challenge. Household food security is tightening; some farmers did not harvest at all few who harvested indicated that their current stock will only sustain them till July this year. At the time of this assessment food for drought relief is being distributed to the mostly need people in the constituency.

Oshana region

Although, the region received good showers in the first half of the season, the rainfall performance is reported to become poor , dominated by sporadic and erratic rainfall and serious dry spells before ending the season precipitately. The region has also suffered the effect of outbreak of Army worms which were reported in various parts, affecting both cereal crops and pasture establishment. According to farmers, crop harvest is very poor this season with pearl millet harvest estimated to have drop by 53% below average and 64% lower than last season. Sorghum harvest was the hardest hit this year with their estimated reduction in production of 76% below average and over 87% lower than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 85% of the total cropping area, indicating a decrease of about 5% of last season. Grazing is poor in the inland and deteriorating, but good to very good in the extreme part of the region (areas along the cattle posts). Most farmers are reported to have moved some of their livestock in the southern part of the region for better grazing conditions. Although the southern part of the regions reported better grazing conditions, water availability for livestock is a great concern. Water availability for livestock in the inland has also become scarce, since most of the water catchments are drying up. Livestock conditions were reported to be fair in the inland and good in cattle post areas. Food security situation was reported to be satisfactory following the recent main harvest during May and June. However, the harvest is said to be only enough till end of July to August this year, thereafter, most households are expected to face food insecurity. At the time of the assessment, drought food relief distribution is ongoing, targeting mainly the vulnerable member of the society. The region, has also reported that, the number of people facing food insecurity is on the rise and there is an urgent need for additional food assistance.



Constituencies

Ongwediva

Majority of the farmers have already moved their livestock to other constituencies like Okatjali, Uuvudhiya and other grazing areas in the region. This follows poor pasture conditions being observed in the area. The constituency experienced harsh and prolonged dry spell during January/February with last sporadic showers received in March. As a result, production prospects for both pearl millet and sorghum are reported to have reduced by 57% and 76% as compared to the previous season respectively. The outbreak of Army worm at the beginning of January has also contributed to poor production as the pest has caused severe damages to crop within the constituency. On planted area, majority of the farmers covered more than 80% of their total crop fields.

About three private tractors have complemented the government tractors in providing subsidized ploughing service to the community. According to the AET in the constituency, indications are that seed and fertilizer stock received were sufficient for the season. On household food security, some households were unable to harvest and they are currently depending on the market, while those with little harvest their current stock is expected to last till August this year.

Oshakati East

Production estimate for pearl millet has reduced by 60% and sorghum dropped by more than 70% as compared to the previous season. This follows the sporadic and poor rainfall performance in the constituency. Moreover, majority of the farmers were unable to finish ploughing their crop fields covering only 77% of their total crop field. Like in many other constituencies in the region, the outbreak of army worm has also contributed to poor production this season. Under the agricultural input subsidy scheme, the office received enough stock of fertilizers and sorghum, while pearl millet seed were not sufficient to cover the demand.

On livestock part, most farmers have moved their livestock to Oponono grazing area following the poor pasture condition in the inland. However, the situation of water availability is thrilling at the grazing area with a high concentration of herds of cattle. On household food security, indications are that the current harvest is likely to last till August this year. Most households are constantly buying

maize meal from the market to supplement their limited food stock.

Oshakati West

Poor rainfall performance was reported in various part of this constituency. According to Agricultural Extension official responsible for this area, a total of 173mm was received this season compared to about 457mm last season. Farmers indicated that, the whole of the 2012/2013 rain season was generally poor and characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall and prolonged dry spells. Nevertheless, majority of farmers were able to cover at least 90% of their crop fields. Moreover, the area was also affected by Army worms during January and February which did not only affected crop production but also grazing area. Therefore, crop production harvest is very poor this year with pearl millet is estimated to have been reduced by about 63% and sorghum by 84% below last season's harvest. However, there are few farmers who indicated that they are expecting a better harvest than last season.

With regards to livestock, livestock are reported to be in good condition at the time of the assessment, while pasture range between fair to poor. However, pasture condition is expected to worsen by end of June. Moreover, most parts of this constituency are experiencing water shortages for livestock since the water catchments did not get a refill this year due to poor rainfall received. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation was satisfactory as the time of the assessment as most farmers are dependent on the current harvest for food supply which according to the will last till ends of September.

Okatana

Poor rainfall performance was also reported in this area and according to farmers, the season was characterised by dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rainfall as well as sudden ending of the rain. Most farmers in this area were able to cover 95% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Although the planted area covered is relatively big farmers indicated that crop germination was very poor due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the area. Moreover, the area was also affected by an outbreak of Army worms which affected both cereal and grazing area. The affected areas included; Ombuga Yamunyoko, Emono, Ompolo, Onenongo, Iiviyongo and Uukwaledhidhi villages. Villagers are also complaining about quellea birds in the area which according to them have started since crop flowering stage up to harvesting time. Therefore, crop production is poor this year with pearl millet estimated to decrease by 68% below last season and sorghum by over 95% of last season's harvest.

On the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved abit, following a recent harvest. However, the current harvest according to farmers was very little and is expected to only last till end of July. It was further reported that some farmers have not harvested anything due to drought. With regards to livestock health, no diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, pasture is said to be in poor condition.

Ompundja

Most farmers started ploughing during December following good showers at the beginning of the season. The weather pattern changed drastically with persistent dry spell in January till end of February causing crop wilting and retardant growth. On average most farmers in the constituency managed to plough about 77% of their crop field. A production downfall of 90% for pearl millet and sorghum by 84% to that of last season has been recorded. Similarly crops like cowpeas, bambaranut, melons have also experienced a very poor harvest.

Pasture and livestock condition range from good to fair. Cases of black quarter and botulism have been reported mainly among the large stock. On household food security, most of the interviewed households indicated that their current harvest will only sustain them till October and few to reach the next harvest should they continue supplementing their harvested stock.

Uukwiyu

Although most farmers made an effort to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields, the end result in terms of the crop harvest was unsuccessful and very poor due to severe drought conditions that were prevalent throughout the season. Moreover, this area had also suffered the outbreak of Army worms during January which did not only cause damage to crops, but also to poorly established pastures. The Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services made an effort to spray the affected crop fields, but the infestation was way too much. According to farmers, the worms disappear on their own. Under the circumstance, crop harvest is reported to have declined considerably with pearl millet showed a decrease of about 77% and sorghum by over 94%

lower than last season. Harvest for non-cereals such as legumes, squash and melons are also reported to be poor this season as compared to last year.

On livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, grazing conditions is very poor and getting serious, except on the southern part of the constituency which is the cattle post areas. Moreover, water shortage for livestock is also becoming a serious concern since most of the catchment areas have dried up. Pasture is fair to poor in the central and northern part of the constituency, but good in the south. On the household food security, the situation is reported to be tightening as majority of farmers are reported to have obtained little harvest, which according to them is expected to only last till end of August this year.

Okatyali

This area noted poor rainfall performance especially in the second half of the season which according to farmers was seen in the forms of sporadic and erratic rainfall as well as prolonged dry spells. Farmers were able to cultivate about 78% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Crop harvest this year is extremely low with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to decrease by 50% and 80% of last season respectively. The constituency has also reported an outbreak of Army worms during January, affecting Okapopo, Ekwatambwa and villages on the borderlines with Uukwiyu constituency.

On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following the recent harvest in May. However, the harvest was little and is estimated to only last up to end of September this year. Moreover, it was further reported that some households did not even harvest anything due to drought. On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, cases of internal parasite in donkeys were widely reported in the area. Pasture condition range between fair to poor in the inland and good in the cattle post area. The constituency is currently experiencing water shortages for livestock since most catchment areas dries up.

Ondangwa

Most parts of this area have been experiencing poor rainfall performance and as a result, crop harvest is poor this season. Farmers indicated that, the 2012/2013 rain season was a drought one which was characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfalls as well as prolonged dry spells. Moreover, rainfall is reported to have ended prematurely in March instead of the normal ending of the season in April. Planted area is estimated at 75% of the total crop fields and farmers have further indicated that the remaining part of the field could not be cultivated because the soil was too dry. Therefore, crop harvest is poor this year with pearl millet estimated decrease by 65% and sorghum by 95% of last season's harvest.

While appreciating government efforts that are aimed at enabling farmers to afford basic necessary agricultural inputs, some farmers felt that much still need to be done to ensure timely and sufficient availability of the inputs. These sentiments were from farmers, referring to insufficient amount of improved seed supply received this season especially during replanting because of poor rainfall performance. With regards to crop pests, the constituency reported cases of Army worms in December and January and false Army worms in February. Army worm outbreak in January is reported to have caused serious damages not only to cereals but also to grazing areas and the whole constituency was affected. On the livestock health, cases of Rabies and internal parasites in small stock were reported. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest in May. However, this improvement according to farmers is only short lived due to insufficient harvest which is expected to only last until end of August.

Uuvudhiya

Most farmers were able to cover about 93% of their crop fields amidst general poor rainfall performance experienced this season. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of prolonged dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rainfall as well as premature ending of the season in March as opposed to the normal ending in April. During the time of prolonged dry spells, the area was hit by an outbreak of army worms in January affecting areas such as: Olusati, Omapopo, Oshaandja shamutenya and surrounding villages. Moreover, cases of Quellea birds were reported in the area since the flowering up to harvesting time. Farmers have therefore indicated that, crop production is poor this year and pearl millet harvest is estimated to have drop by over 41%, while sorghum was the most affected is estimated to have decreased by 88% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non cereal crops has also showed a decrease when compared to the previous season.

On livestock health, cases of Gall Sickness were reported in Eengombe village and the surrounding areas since January up to the time of the assessment. Moreover, suspected case of Anthrax was also reported in this area which is said to have claimed the life of two cattle. Pasture condition range between fair to poor in the inland and good in areas along the cattle posts. However, most parts of this constituency are experiencing severe shortages of water for livestock. According to farmers, water catchment areas did not get a refill this year due to poor rainfall performance and most of them are dry. On household food security, the situation was satisfactory at the time of the assessment as majority of farmers interviewed indicated that they have some carry over stock from last season which when combined with current harvest is expected to sustain them up to next harvest. However, it was also reported that there are some households with little food stock which is currently supplemented with market purchases. Moreover, farmers raised concerns for the MAWF in particular DEES to improve on their services at least for the GRN tractors to start serving farmers on time at the onset of the cropping season.

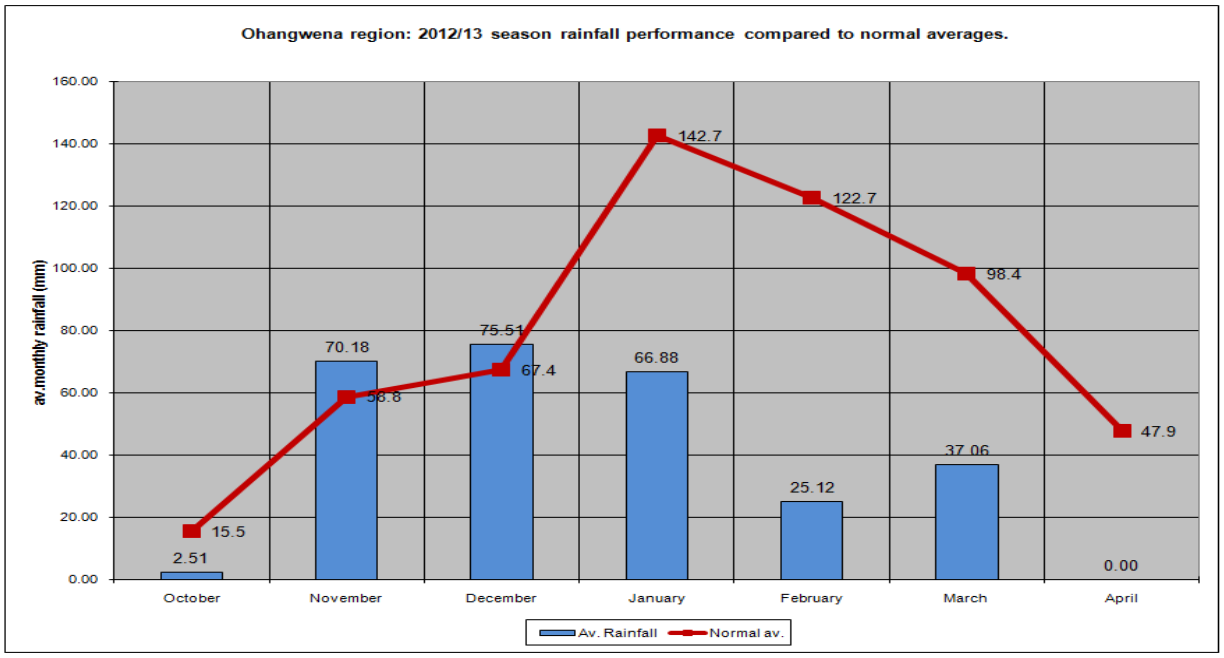
Okaku

Like other constituency in the region, this area has also suffered poor rainfall performance this season, which according to farmers was seen in the forms serious prolonged dry spells, erratic and sporadic rainfall. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cultivate about 94% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. However, this effort could not yield good results as majority of farmers received poor harvest due to drought conditions which have dominated the season In this case; pearl millet harvest is estimated to have dropped by over 69%, while sorghum can expect a decrease of over 95% below last season's harvest. Farmers have also reported that, there were mild cases of Army worms in January, but the magnitude was not severe as it was the case with other constituencies. Additionally, few cases of false Army worms were also reported during the time of dry spells in January. Farmers further indicated that much of the poor harvest is due to poor rainfall performance experienced this season.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, cases of internal parasites were widely reported in the constituency. Pasture was reported to be in fair condition to poor conditions and expected to deteriorate within the space of one month from the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved momentarily, following a recent harvest in May. However, this improvement is expected to only last till end of July this year, thereafter, majority of households are likely to face food insecurity.

Ohangwena region

Good rainfalls were received in the first half of the season, but the amount started to decrease in the second half of the season, affecting mainly the late planted crops, pasture establishment as well as water availability for livestock. These patterns are felt more on the western parts of the region where majority of people live. Crop harvests are very poor this year, particularly the western part being the hardest hit. Moreover, few minor cases of Army worms were reported on the western parts of the region affecting both crops and pasture. Pearl millet harvest is estimated to have drop by 70% below average and about 58% lower than last season's harvest. Sorghum production is estimated to have decrease by nearly 80% of average and about 75% lower than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 81% of the total crop fields, which is about 13% lower than last year. Pasture condition is poor in the west and fair to good in the eastern part of the region. Livestock condition is fair to good in the west and good in the eastern parts of the region. Water availability for livestock is good on the east (from boreholes) and better in the western parts but some water reservoirs have started to dry up. Majority of the households in the western parts of the region are reported to have a very poor harvest this year which according to farmers is only going to last till end of July this year. On the eastern part of the region, the harvest is slightly better than the west and is estimated to last till end of August this year.



Constituencies

Ohangwena

Production prospect for both cereal and non-cereal crops reported a sharp decrease this season. Production for pearl millet has reduced by 75% and sorghum down by 95% to that of last season. This came as of prolonged dry spell and poor rainfall performance that was experienced during January and February. Although it started well in November and December, the second half of the season was terrible with last drops received early March. Ploughing activities were also disrupted leading to poor average planted area of 74% of the total crop field. This has also interrupted the government ploughing services as the tractor has to stop for some time due to dry spell. No pests were reported in the area.

At the time of this assessment livestock body condition was observed to be fair while the pasture is very poor. Some farmers have moved their animal inside Angola and to the eastern part of Okongo although there is a shortage of water for livestock. Apart from manges in goats, no other livestock diseases were reported. On household food security, majority of the interviewed households indicated that there is no harvest for this season, while their previous years' harvest depleted already. This left them with no alternative, but to depend on the market for food access and according to them prices for maize meal are rising every month given the high demand.

Eenhana

In this constituency most farmers indicated that they started with ploughing activities end of November to early December. Mainly using draught anima power, most farmers managed to cover about 87% of their total crop field. The germination was good until mid January to end of February when the constituency experienced a prolonged dry spell that has caused permanent wilting to some crops. Ultimately this has resulted in poor production for both pearl millet and sorghum recording a downfall of 59% and 3% in comparison to the previous season respectively. Non-cereal crops like cowpeas and bambaranut could not be seen, while the Kalahari melons were available in quantities. The high demand of government ploughing services continues in the constituency, while majority of the farmers indicated that they are finding it difficult to access this affordable ploughing service. In addition, farmers are urging the ministry to increase the number of tractors per constituency. Few cases of false armyworm were reported mainly feeding on the sorghum; however the situation was not severe.

Pasture is very poor, while livestock body condition range from fair to good at the time of this assessment. Following poor production in the area, most households are constantly purchasing maize meal from the market to supplement their limited harvest which is expected to last till August to September this year.

Oshikango

Most parts of this constituency noted a relative good rainfall in the first half of the season which resulted in good crop germinations. However, the situation comes to pass badly with poor and sporadic showers in the second half resulting in a very poor harvest this year. Pearl millet production indicated a decrease of about 53% of last season's harvest while sorghum indicated a massive reduction of over 94% lower than last season's harvest. Farmers have further reported that, production for non-cereals such as legumes has also yielded poorly this year when compared to last season. Average planted area is estimated at about 95% of the cropped area.

On livestock, no diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, farmers indicated that there is a shortage of grazing materials as well as water for their livestock. The grazing area did not establish sufficiently and the catchment areas could not be refilled this year due to drought situation. The household food security situation was satisfactory, following the recent harvest, but however, households indicated that the current harvest is expected to only last until end of July.

Endola

According to farmers, the 2012/2013 rainfall season has been poor and characterised by prolonged dry spell, sporadic and insufficient rainfall. The rainfall season is also reported to have ended prematurely in March instead of the normal end in April. Moreover, this area has also suffered the impacts of Army worms which destroyed both cereals and pasture. Quellea birds were also reported in the area especially from the flowering stage up to harvest. Therefore, crop production is reported to have decreased significantly with pearl millet production indicated a drop of over 74% and sorghum by 84% lower than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 88% of the crop fields.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture is poor and livestock condition range between fair and poor, and expected to worsen especially by end of June. Most farmers are however reported to have start moving their livestock to other areas for better grazing conditions. Furthermore, the area is also experiencing water shortage for livestock as most of the water catchment dried up. On the household food security, majority of the households are reported to have very little or no harvest this year and most of them are dependent on the market for food access. At the time of the assessment, drought relief foods distribution was taking place especially to the vulnerable members of the society.

Ongenga

Poor rainfall performance has been experienced in most parts of this constituency and the situation is reported to have worsened in the second half of the rain season. According to farmers, poor rainfall were seen in the forms of erratic and sporadic rainfall, serious prolonged dry spells as well as premature ending of the rain. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cultivate over 90% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. However, crop production was severely affected by poor rainfall performance and as result; farmers received extremely poor harvest this year. Pearl millet harvest is said to have decreased by 84% and sorghum is down by 92% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvests for non-cereal crops are said to be very poor for legumes such as cow peas and Bambara nuts, but much better for melons and squash.

On livestock health, cases of Black quarter were reported especially with farmers on the borderline with Angola. Pasture condition is very poor and deteriorating. Most farmers are reported to have moved some of their livestock to Angola and other areas such as the eastern side of the region and cattle post areas in the Oshana region for better grazing conditions. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest in May. However, the harvest according to farmers is only enough for two months from the time of the harvest and is expected to last till end of July. Beside, some farmers did not even dad any harvest and such they are currently dependent on the market for food supply.

Engela

This constituency has also reported poor rainfall performance this season which according to farmers was insufficient and poorly distributed. Rainfall record form the Agricultural Development Centre in this area indicated that, a total of 250mm of rain was received this season, compared to an amount of 639mm last season. It was reported that, rainfall performance was a bit better in the first half of the season, but became very poor in the second half.

Average planted area is estimated at 75% of the total crop fields. Farmers further indicated that they could not cover the remaining part of their crop field due to poor rainfall. Crop production in this area can is poor with pearl millet production indicated a drop of 68% and sorghum 90% below last season's harvest.

Two private tractors were registered to participate in the government ploughing subsidy service this year. No weeding groups registered this season. Fewer cases of false Army worms were reported in some places during February this year.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture and livestock are said to be in poor conditions and the situation is expected to deteriorate by end of June. With regards to household food security, the situation is weakening as most households are reported did not obtain significant harvest this season. According to farmers, the current harvest is only enough till end of June, especially when supplemented with market purchases.

Omulonga

Good showers were received during the onset of the season (November and December) prompting most farmers to starting ploughing covering about 86% of their crop field. The government ploughing services has improved on their delivery covering more than 180 ha much far from the previous season. Nevertheless, the rainfall pattern during the second half of the season becomes enormously poor and characterized by prolonged dry spell. This has lead to poor production for both pearl millet reduced by 21% and sorghum recording a drop of 67% to that of previous season. However, unlike many other constituencies in the western part of the region, few farmers managed to harvest few grains as it is being observed at their threshing floor although not favourable as the previous season.

On livestock situation, body condition range from fair to good, while pasture condition is very poor in the area. Water for livestock has dried up, and farmers are digging well to provide water for their livestock. No livestock disease has been reported. Regarding food availability at household level, most interviewed households indicated that their current harvest will sustain them till October this year as they supplement it with maize meal from the market.

Ondobe

Like in many other constituencies in the region, Ondombe was not spared from poor rainfall performance during this season. Although the rainfall started well during November/December, prompting a good germination, in January till February the performance become poor with prolonged dry spell that have caused wilting among others. On average, most farmers managed to cover 85% of their total crop field. Production prospects have also recorded a reduction of 57% for pearl millet and 80% for sorghum in comparison to the previous season. The production for non-cereal crop like cowpeas and bambaranut is also reported to be very poor, while melons were harvested in quantities. Few farmers who managed to access the government ploughing services express their appreciation, while majority still request the ministry to increase the number of tractors in the constituency. Due to the high demand of improved seed by the farmers, the ADC tremendously runs out of stock, while fertilizers stock has been sufficient. No private tractor or weeding group have participated in the subsidy scheme this season. Few case of false army worms were reported in the constituency.

On livestock, pasture condition is very poor while the body condition range from fair to good. No major livestock disease has been reported. Household food security remains volatile with majority of the household expecting to deplete their harvested stock by August this year.

Epembe

As a tradition, majority of farmers uses draft animals to cultivate their crop fields. Since last season, did not have private tractors operating in the area. However, this season, the constituency is blessed to have the government tractor operating in the area. Nevertheless, majority of farmers in this area use draft animal power to cultivate their crop fields. This area has also suffered the effects of poor rainfall performance especially in the second half of the season. Nevertheless, majority of farmers were able to cultivate about 81% of the crop fields. At the time of the assessment, no crop pests reported in the area. Crop harvest this year is estimated to have decrease drastically with pearl millet estimated to have dropped by 58% while sorghum is 83% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops is said to be very poor this year as compared to last year.

Pasture condition was observed to be fair to poor at the time of the assessment and is expected to deteriorate soon by end of June. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest last May. However, according to farmers, this improvement is only

temporally since the harvest was very small and will only last till end of July this year.

Omundaungilo

The 2012/2013 rainfall season was described as poor and unfavourable. According to farmers the season was dominated by by sporadic, erratic and rainfall as well as serious prolonged dry spells. Moreover, the rainfall is reported to have ended prematurely in February instead of the normal ending in April. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cover about 80% of their crop fields. However, the end result was not satisfactory due to drought conditions experienced in the area. It is estimated that, pearl millet harvest has dropped by over 45%, while sorghum by 80% below last season's harvest. Moreover, harvests for non-cereal crops are also equally affected by poor rainfall performance which according to farmers have wilted and died because of insufficient moisture in the soil. Furthermore, minor cases of false Army worms were also reported in Oshipala, Onakalunga, Oidimba and Oshikunde villages.

Pasture condition was reported to range between fair to poor and is the situation is expected to deteriorate within a month time from the time of the assessment. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment and livestock condition is reported to range between fair to good. With regards to the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved following recent harvest in May. However, the improvement according to farmers is only expected to last till end of August this year.

Okongo

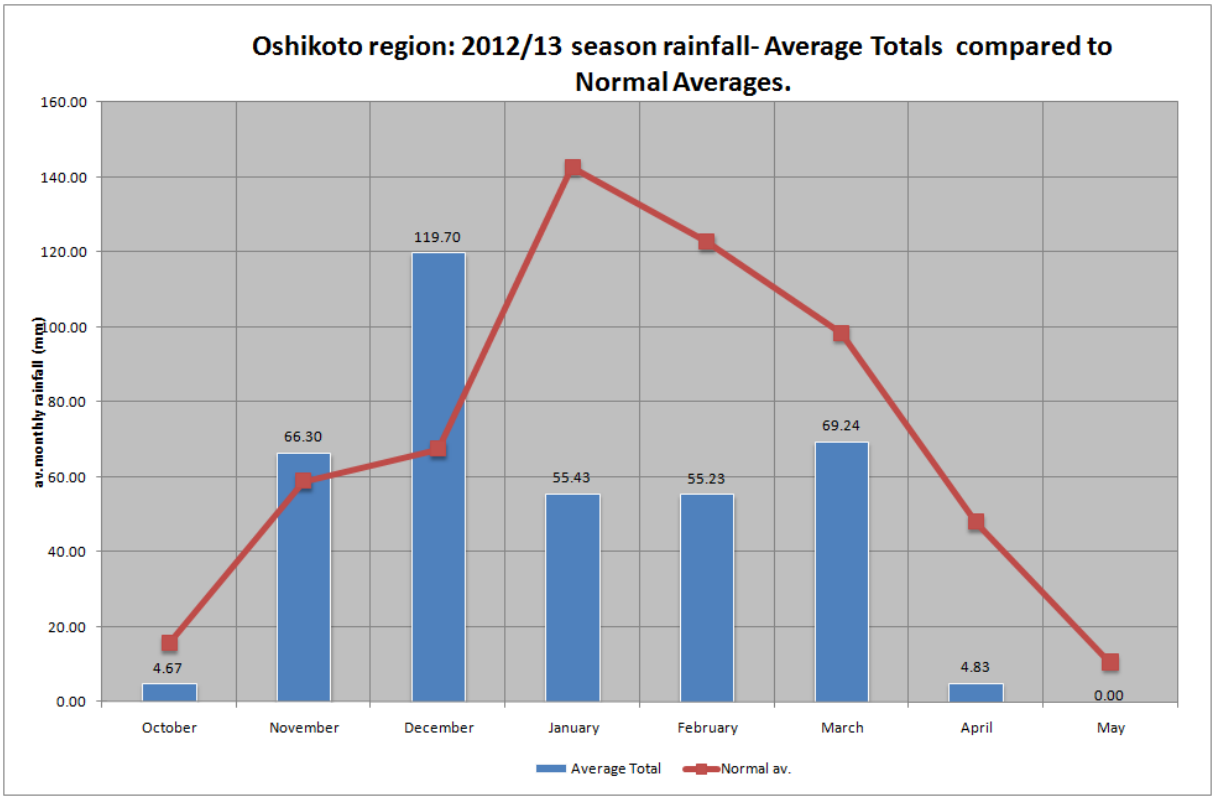
Despite the general poor rainfall performance experienced in the region, majority of farmers in this constituency were able to cover about 88% of their crop fields. Rainfall performance has been better in the eastern part of the region, while the western part of the region received poor rainfall performance. However, crop production showed a decrease in harvest due to inconsistency and inadequate rainfall received. Farmers indicated that crop harvest has drop by 46% for pearl millet and nearly 60% for sorghum as compared to last season's production. Quellea birds were reported affecting mainly pearl millet since the flowering up to harvest time.

Pasture conditions range between fair to good in the Far East and fair to poor elsewhere in the constituency. With regards to livestock health, cases of Botulism in cattle were reported in Onehanga, Ondjele and Eemwoonde villages during December to January period. Moreover, the constituency has also reported cases of Orf in goats as well as vaginal prolapsed and Rabies in cattle in areas around Omauni village. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be satisfactory, as most households are said to still dependent on own harvest for food access and the situation is expected to remain so till next harvest for areas in the far east. However, the western part of the constituency, the harvest is expected to last till end of September this year.

Oshikoto region

The region noted a good rainfall performance in the first half of the season, but begun to diminish in the second half and was characterised by serious dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rainfall as well as premature ending of the rain in March instead of the normal ending in April. Poor crop harvests has been the order of the day in most parts of the region with pearl millet harvest estimated to have drop by nearly 30% below average and 42% lower than last season's harvest. Sorghum production is down by nearly 80% of average and about 61% lower than last season. Average planted area is estimated at 82% of the total crop fields, which is nearly 10% below last season. Moreover, harvests for non-cereal crops are also reported to be poor this year when compared to last season. Pasture conditions range between fair in the extreme southern part and poor and deteriorating elsewhere in the region. Some farmers are reported to have moved some of their livestock to the southern part of the region for better grazing conditions. Additionally, water shortages for livestock is being felt in most parts of the region, since most water catchments did not get a refill this year because of insufficient rainfall and has since dried up. Livestock were reported to be in good to fair conditions at the time of the assessment, but the situation is expected to worsen as the dry season progresses. The food security situation is reported to have improved slightly following

a recent harvest in May. However, the harvest according to farmers is expected to last between August and October this year. At the time of the assessment, distribution of the drought relief foods to the vulnerable group was ongoing and according to the Oshikoto Regional Council Office, the number of people facing food insecurity is on the increase.



Constituencies

Olukonda

Generally, the rainfall started well on time and those planted early had a good germination. While aspiring for a good season, the constituency experienced a prolonged dry spell in January to February causing wilting to crops. An average planted area of 75% has been recorded in the area. Additionally, the constituency was hardly hit by the outbreak of armyworm that has destroyed crops and pasture especially in the surrounding area of Olukonda, Amunime and Onamungundo and others. Production estimate for both pearl millet and sorghum has reduced by 53% and 90% as compared to the previous harvest respectively. Cowpeas and bambaranut were equally affected, while most farmers harvested melons. The prolonged dry spell has also interfered with the government ploughing services as the tractor has to park as the soil get too dry for ploughing.

Herds of hundreds of cattle were being observed flocking to the grazing areas of Oshipala, Onakiidhi and the surrounding villages were pasture is in good condition. However, water for livestock is becoming a challenge as the earth dam has dried up and animals have to travel long distances in search of water. No major livestock disease has been reported and body condition remains good to fair. On household food availability, most interviewed houses are buying maize meal to supplement their food stock and their current harvest is expected to last till August this year.

Oniipa

Most farmers described the rainfall performance as sporadic and very poor. Although the onset of the season was good in November/December the pattern changed completely. On average majority of the farmers managed to cover about 100% of their total crop field following good showers at the beginning of the season and a good number of private tractors in the constituency. The prolonged dry spell experienced during January and February has contributed to a poor production were pearl millet has dropped by 9% and sorghum showing an increase of 27% as compared to the previous season. Most farmers who planted their crop end of November and as early December they indicated

that their harvest is better although below average. Non-cereal crops like cowpeas and bambaranut were very poor, while melons were harvested in quantities.

On livestock, pasture condition is reported to be very poor and animals body condition range from fair to good. Cases of internal parasite have been reported mainly in small stock. Most household indicated that they are purchasing maize meal from the market and some has already depleted their current harvest, while some will reach August this year.

Onayena

Most farmers expressed that good showers were received at the beginning of the season during November/December persuading for a better harvest. However the constituency experienced a prolonged dry spell that started in January till end of February causing severe damage to crops. This has contributed to poor production of which pearl millet recorded a reduction of 48% and sorghum reduced by 59% to that of last season. On average, most farmers were able to plough about 80% of their total crop field this season. About six private tractors and ten weeding groups participated in the subsidy scheme compared to nine and twelve that participated during the previous season respectively. In addition, farmers express their gratitude towards the government for the affordable ploughing services. The constituency recorded some few cases of armyworm that has destroyed crop and grass contributing to poor production and pasture condition. Furthermore, pasture condition is reported to be very poor and most farmers have moved their livestock to other constituencies like Olukonda and Omuntele in search for better pasture.

Water scarcity for livestock is a very serious concern among the farmers especially at the grazing area. On household food security, the situation remains stable in the constituency, as most households indicated that their current harvested stock will sustain them till October this year, while drought relief food has been channelled to the community at the time of this assessment.

Omuntele

Most parts of this area received their first rain in November which according to farmers was on time and good at the beginning of the season. However, rainfall performance become poor in the second half of the season with more prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfall before ending the season prematurely. Nevertheless, majority of farmers were able to cultivate over 86% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Farmers further reported that, good showers received in the first half of the season resulted in good crop germination, but most crops wilted and died eventually when dry spells and erratic rainfall started in the last half of the season. Moreover, this constituency is reported to have suffered an outbreak of Army worms during January, affecting Onanke, Onamutenya, Ompito and the surrounding villages. However the impact of the worms is said to be minimal. Crop harvests are said to be poor this year with pearl millet estimated to have decreased by 30% and sorghum down by 75% of last season's harvest. Additionally, harvest for non-cereal crop is also said to be poor this year as compared to last year.

On livestock health, cases of sudden death in cattle were reported in Onanke, Onamawe and Ompito villages which are said to have started since March this year. Furthermore, the pasture establishment is generally poor; however livestock body condition is fair. Household food security is reported to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest in May. However, this improvement according to farmers is only short lived since the harvest was poor and is expected to only last till end of October this year.

Onyaanya

The constituency noted a good start of the rain season in which good showers were received in the first half, however, rainfall intensity decreases before the rainfall ended prematurely. Moreover, the area noted mild cases of Army worms during January which affected Okatundu, Omangundu no.2, Okayala and Onandhi villages. Crop production planted area is estimates at 83% of the total crop fields and the remaining part could not be covered due to drought condition. Farmers have further indicated that crop production is poor this year and pearl millet harvest is estimated to have decreased by 58% while sorghum harvest drop by 88% of last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereals is also reported to be lower than last season and according to farmers, these crops were equally affected by drought.

On livestock heath, cases of limping in cattle were widely reported in the area and according to farmers; this problem has started since January this year up to the time of this assessment. Furthermore, cases of internal parasites were also reported in most parts of this constituency. Other condition reported was Dystocia in donkey. With regards to household food security, the situation was satisfactory at the time of this assessment, following the recent harvest. However, it was reported that, the current harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Okankolo

This area has also noted poor rainfall this season, which according to farmers was characterised by sporadic and erratic rainfall coupled with prolonged dry spells as well as premature ending of the rainfall. Most farmers were able to cultivate about 83% of their crop fields but, according to farmers germination was poor. Farmers have further indicated that, crop harvest is poor this year with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to have decreased by 25% and 66% of last season's respectively. Moreover, harvest for non cereal crop is also reported to have drop when compared to last season. No private tractor participated in the government ploughing subsidy scheme this season. Moreover, weeding groups this year are also reported to show no interest in the government weeding subsidy scheme. Crop pests reported included quellea birds which are reported to have started destroying crop since from the flowering stage up to harvest.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Livestock are reported to be in good body condition but pasture is said to be deteriorating. Water for livestock is reported to be a concern in the area as most of the water catchments and earth dam have did not get a significant refill this season. On the household food security, the situation was satisfactory at the time of the assessment as majority of household are reported to be dependent on the current harvest. However, the current harvest, according to farmers is only enough till end of November this year.

Omuthiya

Most parts of this constituency are reported to have experienced poor rainfall performance especially in the second half of the season. According to farmers, the start of this season's rainfall was normal with some good showers received in the second half but, become poor in the second half where, serious prolonged dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rains were experienced. Farmers further reported that, most crops showed stunted growth, wilted and eventually died as drought conditions strengthen. Moreover, the constituency is also reported to have experienced an outbreak of Army worms during the period of Dry spells. As a result, majority of farmers obtained very poor harvest this year when compared to last season. Therefore pearl millet is estimated to have dropped by 60% and sorghum down by 80% of previous season's harvest. Planted area is estimated at about 80% of the cropped area.

With regards to livestock health, suspected cases of Anthrax and Lump Skin diseases in cattle were reported at Othema yemanya and Onashivu villages. Livestock body condition is said to range from good to fair and the pasture is poor and deteriorating. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest in the month of May. However, such improvement according to farmers is only short lived since the harvest was poor and is expected to only last till end of September this year. At the time of the assessment, drought relief food distribution was taking place, targeting mainly the most vulnerable people.

Eenghodi

This constituency noted a comparative better rainfall performance, compared to other areas in the region. According to the Agricultural Extension official responsible for this area, a total of 593.2mm of rain was received this year, compared to about 448.7mm last season. However, apart from the amount, the rainfall was poorly distributed this year. Nonetheless, majority of farmers were able to cover about 70% of their crop fields. Most farmers in this area use their own seeds from previous seasons and draft animals to cultivate their crop fields. However, this area also suffered the impacts of poor rainfall performance which affected mainly the late planted crops. Therefore crop production this year, was reported to be poor with pearl millet production is estimated to have drop by 48% and sorghum by 67% below last season's harvest. On the crop pests, no major pests were reported, apart from few cases of quellea birds which were reported in the area.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture is fair in most parts and expected to by end of June. On the household food security, majority of the households are said to be dependent on the current harvest for food supply, which according to farmers is expected to last till end of October this year.

Guinas

This constituency noted considerable good showers during the first half of the season. However, the rainfall performance becomes poor and sporadic during January until the last week of February before terminated the season prematurely. At the time of this assessment, most farmers expressed concern for their livestock given poor pasture condition in the area. Crop harvest is very poor this season for both cereals and non-cereal crops. Pearl millet is estimated to have dropped by over 43% and sorghum is down by 51% as compared to the previous season. Crop pests reported this year is

only quellea birds which according to farmers was not severe. Planted area is estimated at about 77% of the total cropped area.

On Livestock issues, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition range from good to fair. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved following the recent harvest in May. According to households interviewed, the current harvest is expected to last till end of December this year.

NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION FOR 2012/2013 CROP SEASON

The 2012/13 national aggregate cereal production is finally forecasted at 81,100 tons, reflecting a decrease of 51% lower last season and 37% below a 14 year average. This immense reduction in production was caused by serious drought conditions that affected both communal and commercial dry land sub-sector. According to the table below, it is clearly seen that all the communal crop producing regions received extremely below average harvest except the commercial sector irrigation projects. Production estimates for Caprivi region indicated that Caprivi region received an aggregate cereal harvest of about 3500 metric tons, reflecting a decrease of 62% below average and about 37% lower than last season. In the Kavango region, aggregate cereal estimates showed a reduction in harvest of 73% below average and 54% less than last season's harvest. Omusati region showed a reduction in cereal harvest of about 82% below average and 75% lower than last year. In Ohangwena region, cereal production is estimated at about 70% below average and over 60% lower than last season. Production estimates for Oshana region is estimated to have declined by 55% of average and about 68% lower than the previous year. Estimates for Oshikoto region indicated a reduction in harvest of 35% below average and 43% less than last year. Production estimates for commercial areas on the other hand showed a slight increase of 3% above average, but yet is 47% lower than last year. This increase from the commercial area is from the irrigation subsector.

Namibia: Total Cereal Production ('000 tons)- 2012/2013 compared to 1998/99 to 2011/2012 average

Region/Sector	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	14-year average	2012/13 as % of average	2012/13 as % of 2011/12
Caprivi	9.0	16.1	11.3	8.4	8.7	9.7	9.0	12.6	8.2	9.0	8.9	7.0	5.7	5.6	3.5	9,239	-62	-37
Kavango	6.9	11.7	6.4	3.2	8.9	9.5	9.2	9.8	4.1	4.8	4.7	5.4	5.6	4.0	1.8	6,727	-73	-54
Omusati	21.7	12.4	35.1	16.8	14.0	22.6	21.7	28.0	13.8	9.0	10.6	24.8	11.1	12.6	3.2	18,157	-82	-75
Ohangwena	22.3	14.8	17.6	10.5	11.3	26.5	18.7	38.2	13.6	10.4	9.1	15.1	8.0	12.3	4.9	16,321	-70	-60
Oshana	11.6	13.9	17.9	6.5	7.7	9.6	8.3	12.9	5.7	5.5	5.9	13.7	5.0	13.6	4.4	9,838	-55	-68
Oshikoto	36.1	18.4	17.0	8.8	11.1	23.1	20.5	25.2	10.1	8.7	10.5	21.5	16.7	20.2	11.5	17,702	-35	-43
Commercial	13.8	14.9	41.1	29.7	33.6	36.5	61.1	52.4	60.9	60.6	61.3	64.2	78.6	97.6	51.7	50,451	3	-47
Namibia	121.5	102.2	146.5	84.0	95.2	137.5	148.6	179.0	116.4	108.1	111.0	151.6	130.7	165.8	81.1	128,434	-37	-51

Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2012/2013 compared to the 14-year average (1998/1999 to 2011/2012)

The table below indicate the trend in area planted for various regions since 1998/99 to 2012/13 crop season and average thereof. According to the table, the 2012/13 crop season showed a reduction in planted area for most30of the regions with Omusati region being the highest of about 33% below average and 16% lower than last year. This reduction in planted area is attributed to serious drought conditions which were prevalent during the course of the season. Planted area at national level indicated a reduction of 20% below average and nearly 10% lower than last season.

Namibia: Total Area ('000 hectares)- 2012/13 compared to 1998/99 to 2011/12 average

Region/Sector	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	14-year average	2012/13 as % of average	2012/13 as % of 2011/12
Caprivi	33.0	27.2	36.8	35.7	22.0	15.2	13.8	19.6	21.5	18.4	18.9	16.1	20.9	20.1	20.6	22.8	-9	2
Kavango	23.7	22.3	42.0	13.6	17.3	19.7	13.0	15.9	12.2	14.6	18.4	20.9	23.1	20.8	20.6	19.8	4	0
Omusati	160.7	169.1	160.4	74.2	73.0	78.1	75.8	68.9	61.2	50.0	76.0	80.8	82.6	73.4	61.5	91.7	-33	-16
Ohangwena	132.9	137.6	129.0	74.7	62.3	85.1	83.4	87.3	59.7	49.9	80.9	82.5	85.2	84.3	76.2	88.3	-14	-10
Oshana	92.0	91.7	97.5	40.5	43.8	26.4	25.1	31.8	23.8	33.9	37.1	37.4	36.3	35.1	33.2	46.6	-29	-6
Oshikoto	97.2	124.4	134.1	53.9	58.2	63.7	60.6	56.5	47.9	45.1	61.3	62.0	62.0	60.1	54.1	70.5	-23	-10
Commercial	14.0	15.8	10.2	8.9	12.8	15.0	14.2	15.4	13.0	14.7	14.4	13.4	15.1	18.0	15.9	14.0	13	-12
Namibia	554.4	588.1	610.9	301.4	289.4	303.2	285.9	295.4	239.3	226.6	306.9	313.3	325.2	311.8	282.1	353.7	-20	-9

CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION UPDATE

Namibia: Revised Cereal Supply/Demand Forecast for 2013/14 Marketing Year (May/April) ('000 metric tonnes)				
	Wheat	**Maize**	**Millet/Sorghum**	**Total**
Domestic Availability	**24.4**	**41.8**	**27.5**	**93.7**
Opening stocks (as at June 2013*)	9.9	2.1	0.6	12.6
Forecasted Production**	14.5	39.7	26.9	81.1
Total Utilization	**74.1**	**159.1**	**70.2**	**303.4**
Food use	63.4	145.1	51.2	259.7
Losses and other uses	0.7	4.0	4.0	8.7
Closing stocks	10.0	10.0	15.0	35.0
Shortfall to be covered by import	**-49.7**	**-117.3**	**-42.8**	**-209.7**
Commercial imports received	**5.9**	**10.9**	**0.0**	**16.8**
Commercial Imports expected	**91.9**	**120.8**	**3.2**	**215.9**
Export already shipped	**0.0**	**1.5**	**0.0**	**1.5**
After trade Deficit/Surplus	**48.1**	**12.9**	**-39.6**	**21.5**

Notes: * Includes commercial, food aid and on-farm stocks
** Exclude cereal production for animal feed
Source: Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit

The food balance sheet above indicated that, a total of 93,700 metric tons of cereal mainly from domestic production is available for the 2013/2014 consumption period. This stock is consists of 24,400 tons of wheat, 41,800 tons of maize and about 27,500 tons of pearl millet/sorghum. The national demand for cereals for the 2013/2014 consumption period is estimated at 303,400 metric tons, which consists of 74,100 tons of wheat, 159,100 tons of maize and 70,200 tons of pearl millet/sorghum. This indicates that, the local production is only about 31% of the total national cereal demand. Therefore, a deficit of about 209,700 metric is estimated, which is nearly 70% of the national cereal requirement. The deficit under normal circumstance is expected to be covered through commercial imports in the forms of either grains or flours.

It is also indicated that, after a considerations of commercial imports expected, there is still about 39,600 metric tons of uncovered deficit for pearl millet. This deficit may be lowered through additional commercial imports. In the normal circumstance, when millet is in a short supply, maize is a perfect substitute commodity to pearl millet and it is therefore expected that, millet consumers will shift their consumption to maize. Maize and wheat after trade consideration showed a surplus of 12,900 metric tons and 48,100 metric tons respectively. These surpluses are normally exported to neighbouring countries.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

The main findings of the assessment are that: The country is hard hit by serious drought coupled with the swarms of Army worms which has subsequently resulted in extremely poor crop harvests in the communal crop producing regions. The household food security situation is fragile and weakening in the regions, since this year harvest did not provide the much needed relief to households' food security. Moreover, very poor pasture establishment as well as serious water shortages for livestock due to drought conditions are being experienced in most parts of the country. Based on these findings, It is within the school of our thoughts as Economists and Analysts that the following strategies (but not limited to) are suggested for possible interventions and future assistance to improve agricultural production:

- For the weakening food security situation, is thus, suggested that food aids especially to the most vulnerable groups affected by food deficits this year should be considered until such a time that, the affected people are able to regain their normal livelihoods.

- Reinforcement of food/cash-for-work programme in the regions to target households without access to land for cultivation and livestock in order to provide them with a temporary safety net. These activities in addition could be broadened to include less labour intensive activities such as gardening, fruit tree planting, and animal husbandry and can be extended to include the rest of the country. The production activities would improve access to micronutrient rich fruits which could greatly benefit the rural poor and HIV-infected people.

- The Directorate of Research and Training as well as Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services are advised to consider the possibility of producing improved seeds under irrigation for the next cropping season because of poor harvest prospects in the regions.

- With regards to the prevailing problem of internal parasites in goats and other problems related to animal health, it is recommended that the Directorate of Veterinary Services should work hand in hand with the Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services to ensure that, appropriate veterinary medicines for the current ailments are within the reach of farmers by making them available at all the local Agricultural Development Centres in all the affected regions.

- Provision of timely support in the form of subsidies is recommended with agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizers, draft animals, tractors, ploughing and weeding services, credit facilities to help revive crop production for the upcoming season.

- On the poor grazing conditions, it is advisable that farmers should be advice to sell some of their livestock as a matter of urgency while they are in good condition to avoid a complete loss. It is also advisable to provide support to farmers who are willing to sell their livestock on the designated markets in the forms of subsidy.

- On the water shortages in the affected regions especially, the north central and the north western regions, emergency water supply intervention to the affected communities is advised.

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