NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION REPORT

15 MARCH 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

Rainfall performance for the 2013/2014 rain season showed mixed performance with above normal rainfall confined in the north east, central and some parts in the south. Elsewhere, the cumulative performance of the season depicts near normal to below normal rainfall. In contrast, the north central regions reported poor rainfall performance, which according to farmers have been sporadic, erratic and insufficient in the first half of the season with serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February, affecting both crop production and livestock production. However, heavier falls relative to normal were experienced as from end of February and most of March 2014.

Provisional crop estimates indicated a slight improvement in the expected harvest; better than last season, but still below average. The outlook indicated that, all communal crop producing regions are expecting below average harvest, following poor rainfall performance coupled with damages by American Bollworms. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season as well as serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February. Poor rainfall performance was felt more in the northern central regions, resulting in poor crop germinations and wilting of crops and subsequently poor expected crop harvest.

National cereal production is provisionally forecasted at 122,390 tons, reflecting an increase of 50% higher than last season's harvest but yet 2% below average. Much of this improvement comes from the commercial areas where most of the production is under irrigation.

Food security situation has weakened and fragile in the regions as hunger season reaches its peak. Most households interviewed have indicated that, their last season's poor harvest only lasted until July and August last year and they are currently dependent on the market and drought relief food assistance for food access.

Livestock condition in most regions is said to have improved from poor to good, except in Kunene region and some areas in !Karas region where the situation is reported to range between poor and fair. At the time of this assessment, no major livestock disease outbreaks were reported

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

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

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OVERVIEW

The Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) undertook its first Crop Assessment mission in the six communal crop producing regions[1] as from 3rd- 28th February 2014. The main purpose of this mission was to assess crop condition in the major 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. The mission was conducted in collaboration with the Meteorological Service of Namibia under Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, Regional Councils and Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services. Since the situation may change, it should be noted herein that, this report presents the results of the assessment that took place during the abovementioned dates.

Various crop stages were observed ranging from vegetative, flowering and grain formation. In spite of these stages, it is too early to give a definite quantitative forecast of the season's outcome. However, it is possible to provide some preliminary indications, based on latest rainfall data, field observations and qualitative farmer interviews, briefing information from the Office of the Regional Councilors and crop situation reports from agricultural extension officials. Much of the information in this report was obtained during the crop assessment mission conducted in the **Zambezi, Kavango East and West, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions** by the crop assessment team. Moreover, secondary information from various sources such as grazing conditions from livestock producing regions and production estimates from the commercial areas through the Namibia Agronomic Board (NAB) were also used.

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

AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

2013/2014 Rainfall Performance for Namibia

According to Meteorological Services of Namibia, the rainfall performance from October 2013 to February 2014 (Fig 1 and Fig 2) showed mixed performance with above normal rainfall only confined in the north east, central and some parts in the south. Elsewhere, the cumulative performance of the season depicts near normal to below normal rainfall. In contrast, the north central regions, reported poor rainfall performance, which according to farmers in this area has been sporadic, erratic and insufficient in the first half of the season with serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February, affecting both crop and livestock production. However, heavier falls relative to above-normal were experienced as from end of February and most of March 2014, resulting in localised floods in the north of Omusati and flood plain areas in the Zambezi region.

Figure 1: Total Rainfall performance relative to Normal in various towns in Namibia

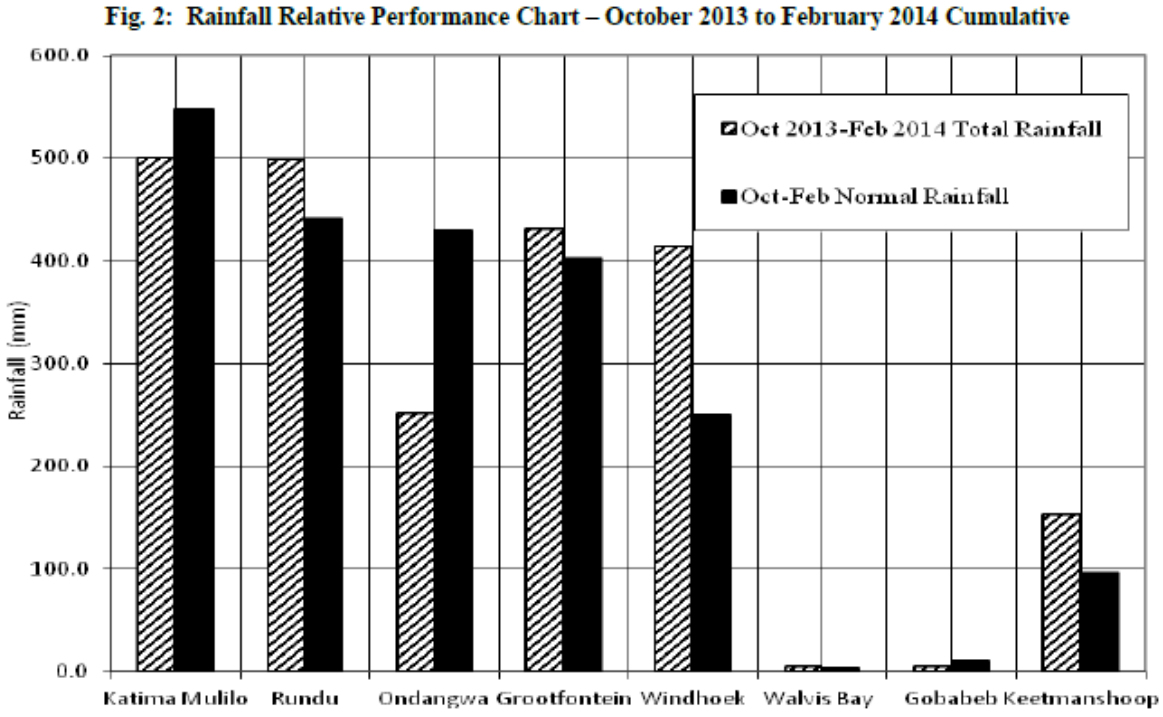
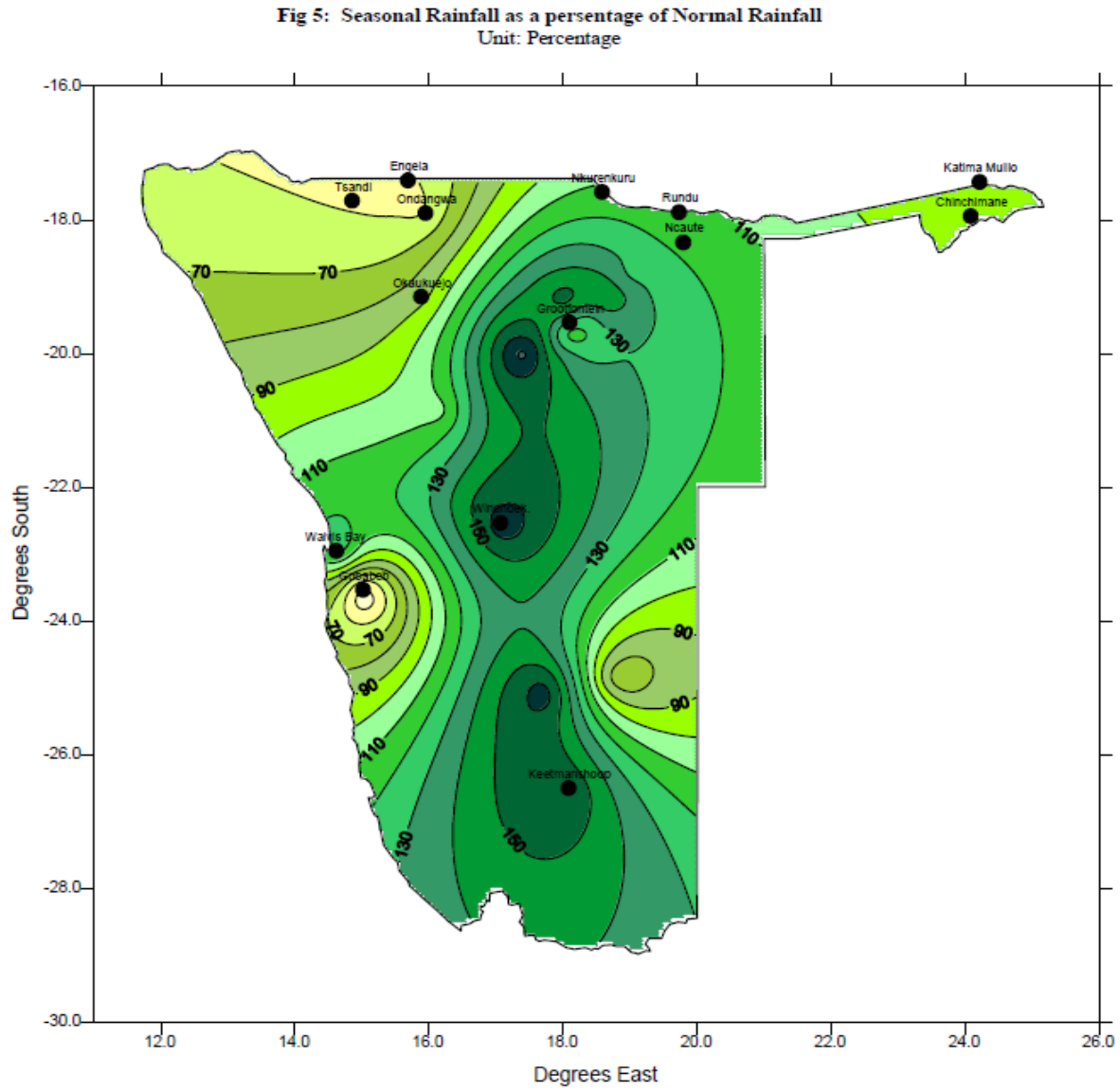


Fig 2: Seasonal Rainfall as a percentage of Normal Rainfall

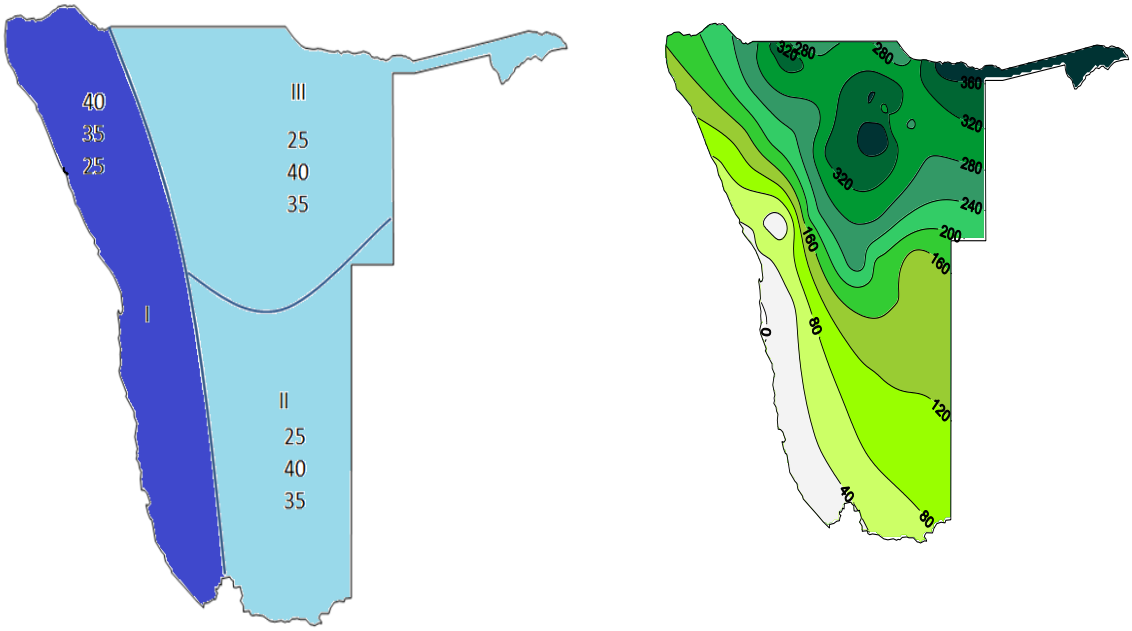


Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

Rainfall forecast for January-February-March 2013 (JFM) period

According to the forecast provided by Meteorological Service of Namibia, the remainder of the season (January – March) is expected to be above normal to normal rainfall conditions for region I and normal to below normal rainfall for region II and III (Fig.3 below).

Figure 3: Rainfall Forecast for January- February- March 2014



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

Provisional crop estimates indicated that, all the communal crop producing regions are expecting below average harvest, following poor rainfall performance coupled with American Bollworms. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the form of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season as well as serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February. Poor rainfall performance was felt more in the northern central regions, resulting in poor crop germination and wilting of crops and subsequently below average crop harvest. Rainfall performance started to improve as from end of February especially in the northern central regions where very good showers reported. However, crop production in these regions is reported to be affected by American Bollworms which are said to have worsened after heavy rainfall in March this year. Although farmers are expecting below average harvest, this harvest according to them is much better than the last season's poor harvest. However, both irrigation and dry-land farmers in the commercial areas are expecting above average harvest.

National Cereal production statistics trend ('000 tons) and 2013/14 forecast compared to 2012/13 and average

	Crop Season																16-year average	2012/13 as % of average	2013/14 as % of 2011/12
	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	2013/14			
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	5.5	7.1	-23	123
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	63.1	37.2	62.0	39.8	56	67
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	37.2	59.4	-37	51
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	2.8	8.3	-67	26
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	14.9	14.9	10.5	42	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	127.0	81.1	122.4	125.0	-2	50

Table 1: National cereal production statistics and 2013/14 forecast compared to 2012/13 harvest and average

Table 1 above indicates aggregate cereal production from 1998/99 to 2012/13 crop seasons. The table also indicate the production forecast for the 2013/14 crop season, a 15- year average, and the 2013/14 harvest forecast as percentage of average and as percentage of 2012/13 crop season. From the table, it is indicated that maize forecast in the communal areas (Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions) is expected to drop by about 23% below average but yet 123% higher than last season's poor harvest. Maize harvest prospect in the commercial areas indicate an increase of over 56% above average and 67% higher than last season's harvest. Production prospect for pearl millet indicated a decrease of 37% below average, but 51% higher than last season's poor harvest. Additionally sorghum production has also showed a negative prospect with its harvest expected to decrease by 67% below average, but 26% higher than last season.

Wheat is a winter crop and production thereof will start from May when winter sets in. For the purpose of national aggregate and analysis, last season's harvest figures were used in the 2013/2014 production forecast. Therefore, as a country, the national coarse aggregate production (maize, millet, sorghum and wheat) indicated that a decrease in harvest of about 2% below average, but yet 50% higher than last season's poor harvest can be expected.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Following a very poor agricultural production caused by severe drought conditions last season, the food security situation is reported to have weakened and flimsy in the regions as hunger season reaches its peak. Most households interviewed have indicated that their last season's poor harvest only lasted until July and August 2013 and they have since been dependent on the market and drought relief food assistance for food access. Last season, crop production showed a substantial reduction in the harvest as well as poor grazing conditions which subsequently led to huge livestock losses, thereby dwindling food security conditions. Under normal circumstances, food security situation in the communal crop producing regions improves as from March, when most seasonal produce such as squashes, melons, legumes, etc become available and ready for consumption. These can sustain households till the main harvest in May. However, farmers indicated that, these produce will be stingily available this season due to the effects of poor rainfall performance experienced in the first half of the season as well as severe dry spells in January and most February.

At the time of the assessment, drought relief food distribution was ongoing especially to the people who were identified to be food insecure. According to the Regional Council Offices in the regions, the number of households and people facing food insecurity is on the increase as compared to the supply of drought relief food assistance received in the region.

Meanwhile, the following interventions aimed at circumventing food insecurity were implemented in various regions in the country.

- **Food distribution**

Government has embarked upon food distribution program to the needy people who were affected by drought conditions. This program has started from the beginning of August 2013 and is expected to end by March 2014.

- **Supplementary feeding**

This is a targeted feeding response program currently implemented by the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) and Namibia Red-cross Society (NRCS). This program, also called Soup Kitchen, provides hot meals to the most vulnerable people in all the regions countrywide. The targeted vulnerable groups included malnourished children, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), the elderly, chronically ill and people living with HIV/AIDS who are on ARV treatment. Government is allocating food items to both CCN and NRCS for Soup Kitchen Program.

- **Cash transfers**

This program is targeting the highly food insecure people living in locations with access to resilient market and who were not otherwise benefiting from regular food distributions. It is being implemented by ACT Alliance-LWF and is currently being implemented in Hardap, Kunene, Omusati and Kavango East regions.

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

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

Pasture Conditions

Good to very good grazing conditions were reported in Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West, Otjozondjupa, Khomas and Omaheke regions, following good rainfall performance in these areas. Water availability, especially for livestock consumption is also said to be satisfactory. In the northern central regions (Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati and Ohangwena), fair to poor grazing conditions were reported in most parts, except cattle post areas where fair to good conditions were reported. Poor grazing conditions came as a result of general poor rainfall performance; particularly serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February this year. However, the situation is expected to improve, following recent good showers received toward end of February and March this year.

In the Kunene region, grazing condition in the north and south of the region range from extremely poor to poor. Kunene central the annual grasses have grown, but perennial grasses still need to improve. Although there are some annual grasses visible, they will not reach to the next rainy season. In Kunene East the grazing condition has improved from poor to very good, especially from Outjo up to Otjikondo area. From Otjikondo to Kamanjab the grazing has not yet improved because of very little rainfall received. Poor grazing conditions were also reported in !Karas and Hardap regions, due to poor rainfall performance reported in most parts of these regions.

In Erongo region, grazing conditions are reported to be fair in Uis, Omatjette, Otjimbingwe, Omaruru and Karibib areas, while poor at Okombahe and Spitzkoppe areas because of low rainfall received. If rainfall conditions do not improve especially in communal, resettlement and affirmative action farms, the situation will worsen. The rainfall performance has been very erratic with uneven rainfall distribution.

Livestock Conditions

Livestock condition in most regions is said to have improved from poor to good, except in Kunene region where the situation is reported to range between poor and fair. At the time of this assessment, no major livestock disease outbreaks were reported. However, a localised outbreak of Anthrax was reported end of January in Outapi constituency (Omusati region). According to the Directorate of Veterinary Services in the region, the situation was brought under control, following some measures and vaccinations to various livestock species. Moreover, cases of Black quarter, Botulism and Anaplasmosis were widely reported in Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, and Kavango East and Kavango West regions. Cases of internal parasites in goats were also reported in Ruacana Constituency in Omusati region.

Ticks infestations among cattle are still a problem in the eastern part of Zambezi region, but the magnitude of infestation is said to be lower than previous seasons. Furthermore, cases of Lumpy Skin disease were reported in Kabbe north, Kabbe South and Katima Rural constituencies in the Zambezi region.
Other parts of the country, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this report.

REGIONAL CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Zambezi region

Despite the late start and general poor rainfall performance in the 2013/2014 rainfall season, good crop harvest better than last season is highly likely. The region is reported to have only received productive rainfall in December instead of the normal start in November. Moreover, the region is also reported to have suffered a slight dry spells in early January. At the time of the assessment, planted area is estimated at 79% of the total cropping area, which is similar when compared to the same period last year. Most farmers are optimistic about the expected harvest which according to them is expected to be better than last season and will bring the much needed relief in their livelihoods after a terrible drought last season. Analysis on the crop forecast indicated that if good rainfall conditions continue to prevail for the remainder of the season, maize, pearl millet and sorghum can increase with 132%, 41% and 21% respectively above last seasons' poor harvest. However, these improvements are still below average with their respective estimated decrease of 10%, 60% and 32% below 15-year average. Grazing is reported to have improved significantly following good rains received. As a result, pasture conditions were reported to range between good in the flood plain areas to very good elsewhere in the region. Livestock are also said to be in good conditions. Cases of Lumpy Skin disease are still being reported in Katima Rural, Kabbe north and Kabbe South constituencies. Food security situation is said to have weakened and fragile since most households have reported depleted harvest in July last year, and have since been dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to improve as from March since most of the green produce such as squashes, pumpkins, and green maize are expected to become available and ready for consumption till the main harvest in May.

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.

Linyanti and Lyaboloma

Most part of this constituency reported good rainfall performance since the start of the season. According to farmers, the 2013/2014 rainfall season is better that last season prompted farmers to cover on average 80% of their crop fields, which is about 7% lower than same corresponding time last season. Majority of farmers are optimistic about the expected harvest which according to them is far better than last season. Subsequently, crop outlook indicated a good harvest with maize expecting an increase of at least 128% higher than last season and pearl millet and sorghum can each expect an increase of over 28% higher than last season respectively. Moreover, farmers have further indicated that, good harvest is also expected from non-cereal crops which according to them is expected to be higher than last year.

No livestock diseases were reported in the area at the time of this assessment, and both livestock and pasture are said to be in good conditions. On household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as majority of farmers are reported to have depleted their harvest in July last year and are currently relying on the market and drought relief foods for food access. However, the situation is expected to improve as from March this year, when produce such as green maize, cowpeas, pumpkins, squash, etc become available for consumption, till main harvest in May.

Kongola

The general rainfall performance and distribution was reported to be better as compared to the previous season. However, the majority of farmers

reported that the rainfall started late this season and prolonged dry spells were experienced during January. The total planted area is estimated at 78% as the majority of farmers managed to cultivate bigger portions of their crop fields as compared to the previous season. On inputs, seeds came late especially the government free seeds, however farmers managed to buy subsidized seeds as well as by supplementing with seeds retained from the previous season. Furthermore, the demand for fertilizers was not high as only few farmers make use of fertilizers. On GRN ploughing services, only few farmers who make use of GRN tractors for ploughing due to stumps in their crop fields, however the majority of farmers make use of draught animal power. Furthermore, on weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers make use of family members for weeding activities since there is only one weeding group registered this season which is not easily accessible. No pests as well as livestock diseases were reported.

The majority of farmers reported that the general production forecast for maize and pearl millet will be higher than last season by 40% and 28% respectively. Sorghum production is also expected to increase by at least 10% above last season's harvest. Furthermore, prospects for non-cereal crops following the good germination will be good as compared to the previous season. Livestock body condition as well as the pasture is reported to be very good. On household food security, the majority of farmers reported that food security at household level is still poor as majority of households are still depending on the market for food access as well as drought relief foods.

Katima Rural

Most farmers in this area indicated that, the 2013/2014 rainfall season has been much better than last year. Although, there was a slight delay in the onset of the rainfall season as well as slight dry spells in December and January, farmers believed that this year is much better than last season. At the time of the assessment, most farmers were able to cover at least 79% of their crop fields, which is about 5% higher than the same corresponding period last year. Moreover, maize production prospects have indicated that, if good rainfall conditions continue for the remainder of the season, chances are that a good harvest of about 166% higher than last season is highly likely. Pearl millet and sorghum production have also shown a positive outlook with their respective expected increase of 58% and 25% higher than last season's poor harvest. Additionally farmers especially in Ngoma area are worried about the presence of elephants in the area that according to farmers are likely to cause some damages to their crops.

On livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle were widely reported in most parts of this area. The general livestock condition is good and grazing condition has also improved significantly and was rated to be very good. On food security, the situation is said to have weakened as most households are reported to have exhausted their little harvest from last season and are currently dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access. Nonetheless, the situation is expected to improve as from March this year, when some produce such as green maize, pumpkins, melons, etc become available for consumption till main harvest in May.

Kabbe North and Kabbe South

This area has also noted a slight delay in the onset of the 2013/2014 rainfall season as well as slight dry spell in December and January. Nonetheless, majority of farmers are satisfied about the rainfall performance which according to them is better than last season. Although this constituency is one of the flood prone areas, most areas with exception of those along the river may expect a better harvest of at least 250% higher than last year for maize. Moreover, pearl millet and sorghum can as well expect an increase of 50% and 20% higher than last season respectively. In addition, non-cereal crops are also said to have showed a positive outlook, which according to farmers will bring some needed relief to household food security. Planted area is estimated at about 70% of the crop fields, which about 12% lower than the same corresponding period last year. No major crop pests reported in the area at the time of the assessment. On the other hand, it was also reported that crop fields in areas along the river have been flooded due to river overflow and as a result, most farmers in this areas are expecting poor harvest.

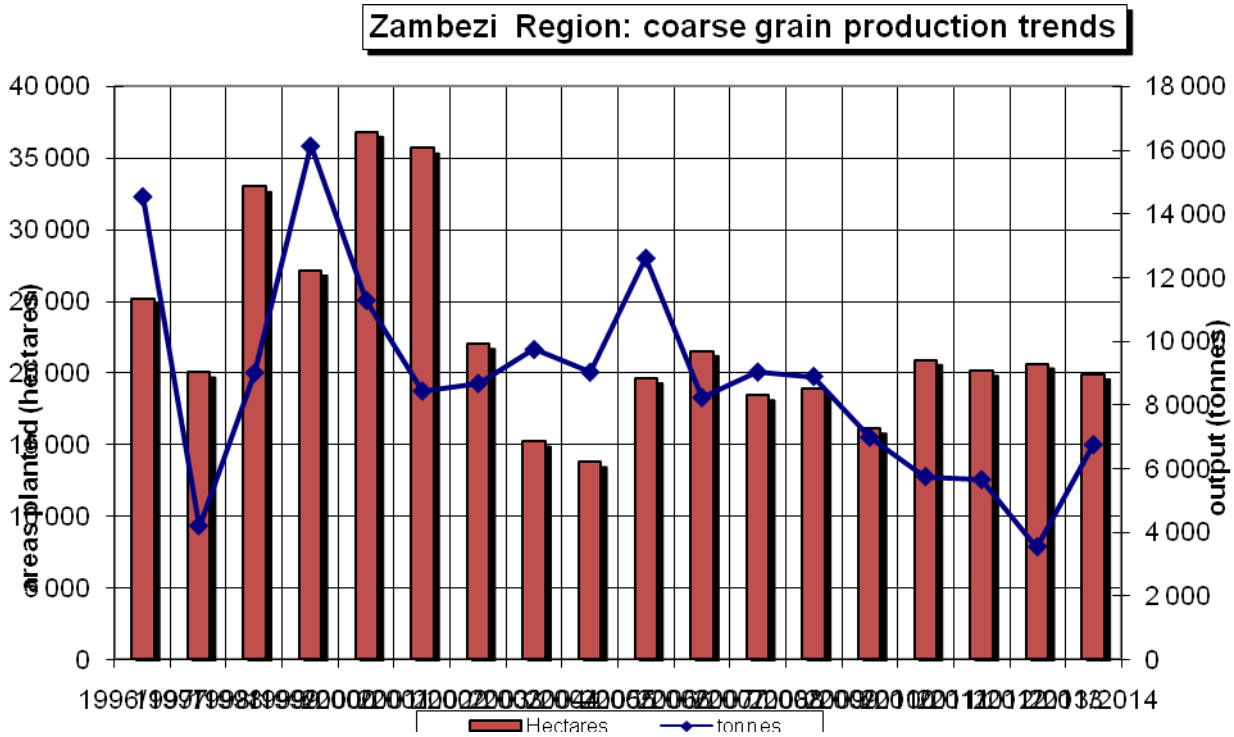
Pasture was observed to be in good condition in most parts except those in flooded areas. On livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease and ticks infestation are still being reported in the area. On household food security situation, majority of households are reported to have depleted their last seasons' harvest and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Sibbinda

Majority of farmers described the current season's rainfall as better in comparison to the last season. Farmers are optimistic about expected crop harvest which according to them is likely to be better than last year. Total planted area is estimated at nearly 90% of the cropped area which is almost the same

when compared with the same corresponding period last year. It was reported that the demand for seeds this season was generally high as farmers were unable to produce sufficient and good quality seeds from last season. On fertilizers, the majority of farmers reported that they don't use fertilizers as they believe that their soils are fertile, however some farmers managed to buy subsidized fertilizers as the demand was generally high. Furthermore, on ploughing services, the assessment team found out that some farmers made use of both GRN ploughing services as well as draught animal power due to the GRN limitation of 3ha as some farmers have bigger crop fields. Moreover, the majority of farmers used draught animal power for ploughing due to the high demand of GRN tractor services. On weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers only make use of hired labour as well as family members for weeding activities as weeding groups are very few and not easily accessible.

Harvest for maize is expected to increase by about 77% as compared to the previous season, pearl millet by 43%, and sorghum by 22% higher than the previous season. On the non-cereal crops, farmers reported that general prospects will be poor as a result of the poor germination as well as the lack of seeds. The pasture establishment as well as the livestock body condition is good. On household food security, the majority of farmers reported that food security at household level will gradually improve as the season progresses, at the time of this assessment, farmers were still relying on the market as well as the drought relief foods for food access. Lastly, farmers raised concerns that the number of GRN tractors should be increased per constituency due the high demand and the limitation of 3ha per farmer for subsidized GRN services should be increased to accommodate farmers who have bigger crop fields.



Planted area to coarse grain is on the interim forecasted at 19,888 hectares where 12,814 hectares was sown to white maize, about 3,531 hectares to pearl millet, and 3,543 hectares to sorghum. The total production of coarse grain in the region is forecasted to be 6,740 tonnes, which is about 91% percent higher than last season, but still 24% below average. The production figure is comprised of 4,925 tonnes of white maize, about 766 tonnes of pearl millet and some 1,049 tonnes of sorghum. The food security situation is expected to improve as harvest for some seasonal produce such as pumpkins, water melon, green maize, etc, will become available and ready for consumption as from mid March till main harvest in May.

Kavango East and Kavango West regions

Although the region noted a slight delay in the onset of the 2013/2014 rainfall season, as well as minor dry spells in December and January, crop production showed a positive outlook which according to farmers is far better than last season, but yet still below average. Crop production outlook indicated that, maize production can expect an increase of 65% above last season's poor harvest, but yet 62% below average. Pearl millet is estimated to increase by 48% above last season's harvest and yet 58% below average harvest. Similarly, sorghum production showed an increase of 52% above last season's poor harvest but still 62% below 15-year average. Planted area is estimated at 80% of the total crop field, which is quite similar when compared to the same corresponding period last season. Livestock diseases reported included Black quarter, Botulism and Foot rot in cattle as well as well as internal parasites in small stock. Pasture conditions were reported to have made a tremendous improvement and range between very good in the inland and good in areas along the river. On the household food security, the situation remained fragile, since many households are reported to have depleted their last season's poor harvest in July last year and are currently dependent on the market purchases and drought relief foods for food access. At the time of the assessment, food relief distribution was still ongoing and according to the Regional Councillors' Office, the number of people who are food insecure is high as compared to amount of food received in the region. The Regional Councillor's Office is therefore requesting the Central government to increase the supply of food assistance to the regions in order to cover all people affected by food insecurity. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to improve as from March since produce such as green maize, cowpeas, Bambara nuts, pumpkins, squashes and melons will become available for consumption (with limited availability) till main harvest in May this year.

Constituencies

Rundu Rural West

The 2013/2014 rainfall season is said to have started on time in October and generally the amount and distribution was described as good in comparison with the previous season. However, dry spells were experienced during January which caused crops to wilt. Planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropped area and many farmers were still ploughing their crop fields. On inputs, subsidized seeds were available as from December as well as the free GRN seeds, which were easily accessible by farmers and the demand was high. Furthermore, fertilizers came during January which was late and as a result the demand was low. On ploughing services, majority of farmers made use of draught animal power for ploughing. However, there were also some farmers who made use of GRN tractor services. On weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers make use of family members for weeding activities and there are 5 weeding groups who are actively participating in the weeding subsidy services. No pests and livestock diseases were reported by farmers. On the production forecast, the production for pearl millet is expected to increase by 50% as compared to the previous season, while maize is expected to increase by 15% as compared to the previous season. On the other hand, sorghum production is said to be the same as last season. Furthermore, prospect of non-cereal crops is expected to be high than last season's harvest, especially cowpeas. Grazing as well as the livestock body condition was reported to be good. On household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their harvest last year and are now relying on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Kapako

According to farmers, the 2013/2014 rainfall started in October which was on time and generally is fairly distributed. Farmers indicated that, the rainfall performance is much better compared to the previous season. However, is characterised by dry spells during January which affected germination especially the late planted crops. Planted area is estimated at 90% of the cropped area. Farmers are very much optimistic about the expected harvest,

which according to them will be much better than last year. Production forecast for pearl millet indicate an increase of 40% higher than previous season and maize can expect an increase of 20% compared to the previous season. However sorghum production showed a negative outlook and can expect a reduction of about 10% of last season. Prospects for non-cereal crops on the other hand are generally good.

No major pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture establishment as well as the livestock body condition were reported to be good. On household food security, the situation is reported to have weakened since many households have already depleted their lasts season's harvest last year. These households are now said to be dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access. Lastly, farmers raised concerns regarding the Government limitation of 3ha for subsidy services which needs to be reconsidering in order to accommodate farmers with bigger crop fields. Furthermore, farmers are also need of dry land crop production program/services at the onset of the cropping season.

Mashare

Farmers reported that the current season's rainfall started on time and generally the amount and distribution is good as compared to the previous season. However, dry spells were experienced during January which resulted in poor crop germination and some crops wilted. Planted area is estimated at about 80% of the total cropping area and many farmers are still busy cultivating their crop fields. Crop harvest outlook indicated that pearl millet is expected to increase by 20% above last season and maize by 15% higher than the previous season. Sorghum production is said to have not shown any improvement as compared to last year. The general prospect for non-cereal crops is good. The livestock body condition as well as the pasture is good. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. On household food security, the majority of households reported to have depleted their harvest of last season and are said to be relying on the market as well as on drought relief food for food access.

Rundu Rural East

Most farmers interviewed reported that, the rainfall started on time during November, and is much better than last season. However, some dry spells were experienced during January, which affected crop germination causing farmers to replant. Planted area is estimated at 80% of the cropped area. Majority of farmers used draught animal power to cultivate their crop fields. Farmers indicated that if rainfall performance improves for the remainder of the season, a slight improvement in the pearl millet harvest of 10% higher than last season can be expected. Moreover, prospect for maize indicates a slight improvement of about 5% higher than last season. The general prospects for non-cereal crops are also better compared to the previous season.

On weeding subsidy services, most farmers use family members for weeding activities and weeding groups are not easily accessible due to affordability. No pests and livestock diseases were reported. On household food security, the majority of farmers indicated that food security at household level is poor and they currently rely on the market for food access as well as on drought relief foods. Lastly, farmers raised concerns that the quantity of subsidized seeds need to be increased due to the high demand and GRN tractors should be availed at the onset of the cropping season.

Mpungu

Due to some technicalities beyond our control, the assessment team was unable to conduct an assessment in this constituency.

Kahenge

Like as the case with Mpungu constituency, the assessment team was unable to conduct an assessment in this area.

Mukwe

Like other areas in the region, this constituency also noted the late start of the 2013/2014 rainfall season in December, rather than the normal start in October. Nevertheless, farmers indicated that, this rainfall season has been better as compared to previous season. However, it was reported that there has been slight dry spells in late December which caused poor crop germination. Nevertheless, farmers were able to cover about 72% of their crop field which is about 21% lower than the same corresponding time last season. Farmers further indicated that crop production outlook look promising, and if all goes well till end of the season, good crop harvest better than last season can be expected. Crop harvest outlook indicated that, maize and sorghum harvest can each expect an increase of about 75%, while pearl millet can expect an increase of about 92% higher than last season's poor harvest. No crop pests or livestock diseases reported at the time of the assessment.

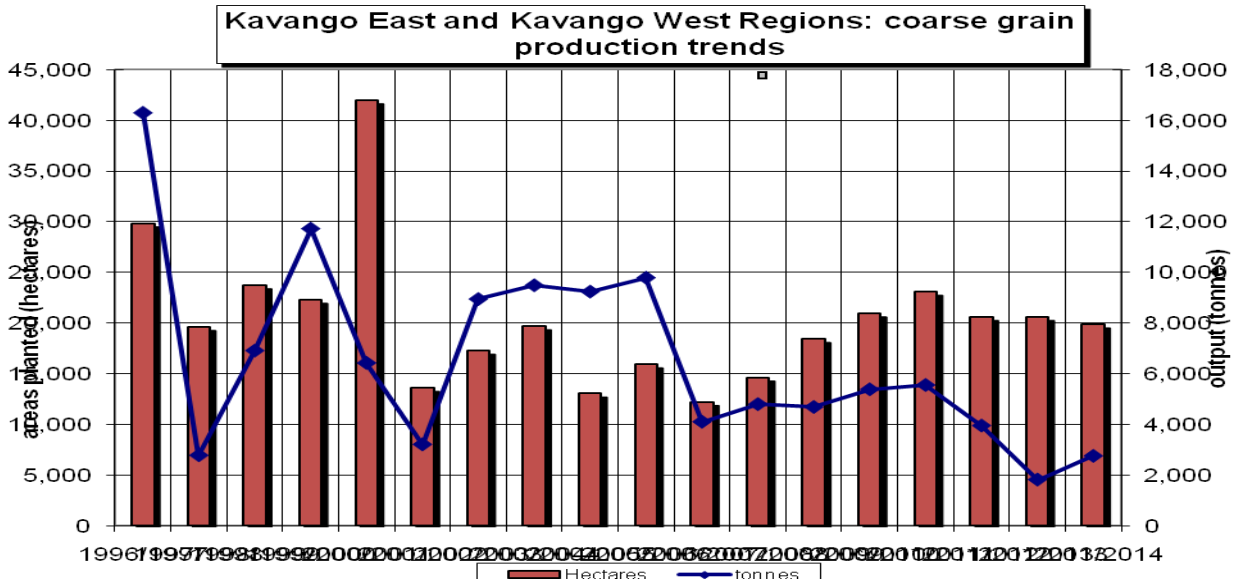
Crop stages were observed to vary between vegetative, flowering and grain formation.

Both livestock and pasture are in very good conditions. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have weakened since most households are said to have depleted their food stock last year and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access. However, the situation is expected to improve as from March this year when some crops such as green maize, squash, melons, cow peas, etc become available for consumption till main harvest in May.

Ndiyona

Although this constituency noted the late start of the rainfall season as well as slight dry spells in late December, farmers are satisfied about the rainfall performance which according to them is better than last season. At the time of the assessment, most farmers were able to cover about 75% of their crop fields, which is 3% lower than the same corresponding period last year. Ploughing activities were still ongoing, and farmers are yet to cover the remaining part, using both tractors and draught animal powers. Farmers are very much optimistic about the expected harvest which according to them will bring some relief to their household food security, after experiencing poor crop harvest last season. Therefore, crop production indicated a positive outlook with maize production expected an increase of about 214% of last season's poor harvest. Moreover, pearl millet and sorghum are also expected to increase by 68% and 28% of last season's harvest respectively.

With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their harvest in July last year and are now dependent on the market and government drought relief foods for food access. 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 very good conditions.



A cereal production for these regions is expected to be higher than last season, but still way below average. Provisionally estimate indicated that white maize can expect a harvest of about 553 tones, showing an improvement of 65% of last season and but yet 62% below average. Pearl millet production is forecasted at 2,010 tons, which is 48% higher than last season, but yet 58% below average production. Moreover, sorghum output is estimated at 192 tonnes, reflecting an increase of 52% above last season, but yet 62% below average. However, should the rainfall conditions improve for the reminder of the season; the situation is likely to improve for better.

Omusati region

Since the start of the 2013/2014 rainfall season, this region noted poor rainfall performance in various constituencies which according to farmers was dominated by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season. This was later on followed by serious and prolonged dry spells in the second half, particularly January and most February. The prolonged dry spells is reportedly made extensive damage to crops as well as pasture establishment, causing both crops and grazing to wilt due to insufficient moisture in the soil. However, farmers indicated that, if rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, better harvest compared to last season can be expected, but yet still below average. Crop production in this area indicated a positive outlook where both pearl millet and sorghum expecting an increase of 202% and 246% of last season respectively. However, this improvement is still nothing, but below average with pearl millet recording 43% and sorghum 69% below average harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 80% of the cropped area, reflecting an increase of about 10% when compared to the same corresponding period last season. On livestock health, cases of Anthrax outbreak were reported near Outapi town, about 3km on the way to Ruacana during end of January where 2 cattle are reported to have died. However, the situation is said to have been brought under control after the Directorate of Veterinary Services intervened. Pasture establishment was seriously affected by dry spells and was observed to be in fair condition. Livestock condition improved greatly from poor to very poor during the drought season to good at the time of the assessment. Water for livestock was tight-fistedly available as most water reservoirs did not fill up because of insufficient rainfall. However, it is now understood that, after the assessment mission, the region received very good showers and most natural reservoirs are currently full. On the household food security, most households are reported to have depleted their last season's poor harvest and are now dependent on the market and government drought relief foods for food access.

Constituencies

Onesi

Most parts of this constituency is reported to have received better rainfall performance than last season, but yet still below normal. According to farmers, the 2013/2014 rainfall was dominated by insufficient and prolonged dry spells during most January and February period, but yet better than last season, which saw the sudden end of the rainfall in January. Average planted area is estimated at about 74% of the total crop fields. Majority of farmers are optimistic about the expected crop harvest which according to them will be better than the previous season. Crop prospect indicated that, if rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, pearl millet harvest can expect an increase of over 133% of last season's harvest, and sorghum can expect about 225% higher than last season. A harvest prospect for non –cereal crop has also showed a positive outlook which according to farmers is better than last season. Crop pests reported were mainly American Ball Worms on pearl millet during grain formation. Cases of elephants especially areas along the cattle post vicinity were reported, apparently, while in search for water also destroy some crops. Furthermore, the constituency has also reported certain unknown worms on cow peas.

On the livestock health, cases of Botulism and Black quarter in cattle were reported in Onandjanja village. Furthermore, farmers have also reported cases of Anaplasmosis in cattle in Oshika village during February this year. However, pasture was reported to be in poor condition and expected to deteriorate if rainfall conditions have not improved. Livestock are said to be in good condition. On the household food security, it was reported that, majority of households are mainly dependent on the market and drought relief foods relief foods for food access.

Ruacana

Despite the poor rainfall performance received in the first half of the season as well as prolonged dry spells in January and most February, most farmers indicated that this season's rainfall is much better than last season, but yet below normal. Farmers

indicated that the season is characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall as well as prolonged and serious dry spells. Nevertheless, most farmers planted at least 97% of their crop fields. Farmers are optimistic about the expected harvest which according to them is much better than the poor ones in the last two successive seasons. Crop prospect indicated that, should the rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, there is a high possibility of good harvest with pearl millet expecting an increase of about 675% above last season's harvest and sorghum can expect an increase of over 107% above last season's poor harvest. However, at the time of this assessment, farmers indicated that, this area has suffered some damages due to False Army worms which occurred at the time of the dry spells.

With regards to livestock, internal parasite in both goats and donkeys were widely reported in the area. Livestock condition is said to have improved drastically and most livestock were observed to be in good conditions. However, pasture establishment is worrisome since it was negatively affected by dry spells. Farmers indicated that, if no sufficient rainfall is received before the end of the season, majority of livestock will face hunger. On household food security, most interviewed households have indicated that they have depleted their harvest last year since most of them had a very poor harvest due to drought. As a result, most households are currently dependent on the markets and drought relief foods for food supply.

Tsandi

Despite the poor rainfall performance which was seen in the forms of erratic and scanty rainfall, most farmers are optimistic about the crop harvest. According to farmers, this season's rainfall performance is much better than last season, but yet below normal. Farmers were able to cover at least 75% of their crop fields, which is about 5% higher in the same corresponding period last season. However, it was reported that, the government tractor allocated to this constituency came late this season, affecting the timely service delivery to farmers. Moreover, most private tractor owners in this area were reluctant to participate in the government ploughing subsidy services, claiming that government take time to pay them and that a hector is too big. Nonetheless, production outlook for cereal indicated an increase in the expected harvest this year. Harvests for pearl millet and sorghum are expected to increase with their respective estimates of more than 932% and 1753% than last season's poor harvest. However, this increase according to farmers does not equate to the normal harvest. It was also reported that seed shortages, particularly pearl millet was experienced this season. Majority of farmers are reported to have made regular visits at the Agricultural Development Centres in search for seeds, but to no avail. Cases of False Armyworms were reported in the constituency during the time of the dry spells in January and February, but the magnitude of infestations is said to be minimal.

With regards to livestock health, cases of Anaplasmosis in cattle were reported in the cattle post areas. Grazing is said to have improved, following some showers received, but could not establish properly due to impacts of prolonged dry spells. Livestock are said to be in good conditions. Moreover, the constituency has also reported shortage of water for livestock as most water catchment did not refill up due to insufficient rainfall. On the household food security, most households are reported to have depleted their harvest and are now dependent on the market and government drought relief foods for food access.

Outapi

Like other constituencies in the region, this area suffered serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February this year. The dry spells follow the general poor rainfall performance which was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall. Nevertheless, farmers are very much optimistic about the harvest, saying that if rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, better harvest compared to last season can be expected. Crop production indicated a positive outlook with pearl millet expected to increase by over 300% higher than last season, while sorghum is set to increase by more than 250% above last season's poor harvest. Planted area is estimated at about 85% of the crop fields, which is about 40% lower when compared to the same corresponding period last season. However, due to severe prolonged dry spells this area suffered, harvest outlook for non-cereals look bad especially for legumes which according to farmers is likely to be the same as last season.

On livestock health, cases of Anthrax outbreak were reported near Outapi town, about 3km on a way to Ruacana end of January where 2 cattle are reported to have died. However, the situation is said to have been brought under control after the Directorate of Veterinary Services intervened. Pasture condition range between fair to poor and at the time of the assessment, water for livestock is also reported to be stingily available, since most water catchments did not get enough refill. Nevertheless, it is understood that, most water catchment are now full, following good showers received after the assessment completed. On the household food security, the situation is said to

have weakened since most households depleted their harvest last season and are currently dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Etayi

Farmers reported that the 2013/2014 rainfall season has been poor and characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall which were followed by serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February. According to farmers, crop germination was good at the beginning, but some crops dried up because of the serious prolonged dry spells experienced in January and most February. Planted area is estimated at 65% of the cropped area which is 15% lower than the same corresponding period last season. On ploughing services, the majority of farmers used draught animals for ploughing their crop fields and some farmers benefitted from GRN tractor services. On weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers are using family members for weeding activities, however there are weeding groups who have registered for weeding subsidy services and are actively partaking in weeding activities. On crop pests, cases of false Army worms were experienced during the prolonged dry spells period at Oshikushashipya, Etayi, Omumbu and surrounding villages since January up to the time of the assessment. Crop production outlook indicates a slight improvement in the expected harvest with pearl millet expecting an increase of about 20% higher than the previous. However, sorghum on the other hand indicates a negative outlook with the expected harvest estimated to drop by 10% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, the general prospects for non-cereal crops is said to be better than last season, especially for legume.

With regards to livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. The general pasture establishment is poor; however livestock body condition was reported to be fair. On household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as most farmers are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest last year and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Okalongo

The currents seasons rainfall started during November and was generally described by the majority of farmers as better in terms of the performance as compared to the previous season's rainfall. However, prolonged dry spells were experienced during January and February, which caused poor germination and some crops wilted. The total planted area is estimated at 90% as the majority of farmers could not complete cultivating their crop fields due to prolonged dry spells as well as lack of labour. The total planted area for pearl millet is estimated at 65%, sorghum at 20% and 5% for non-cereal crops. On inputs, the majority of farmers managed to buy subsidized seeds as well as the free GRN seeds, which they supplemented with the few seeds retained from the previous season. Furthermore, the majority of farmers used kraal manure. On ploughing services, the majority of farmers used draught animal power for ploughing their crop fields as well as private tractors. On weeding activities, the majority of farmers make use of family members for weeding activities. On pests, the majority of farmers reported false army worms which affected crops especially during the dry spells period which occurred in January and by the time of this assessment the situation was minimal. Furthermore, no major livestock diseases were reported. The production forecast for pearl millet and sorghum is expected to be above by 30% and 5% respectively, as compared to the previous season. The prospect for non-cereal crops will be good depending on favourable rainfall conditions since the germination was very good. The pasture establishment was reported to be generally fair and livestock body condition is good. On household food security, the majority of farmers reported that food security at household level is fair and they are supplementing their food stock with food bought from the market and the drought relief food.

Anamulenge

The majority of farmers reported that the current season's rainfall in terms of amount and distribution is good as compared to the previous season. However, prolonged dry spells were experienced during January and February, which caused crops to wield and as a result some farmers had to replant. The total planted area is estimated at 60%, which is smaller as compared to the previous season, since the majority of farmers could not complete cultivating their crop fields due to prolonged dry spells and lack of draught animal power. Furthermore, the total planted area allocated for pearl millet is 50% and for sorghum is estimated at 10%. On inputs, the majority of farmers used the free GRN seeds as well as subsidized seeds. On fertilizers, the demand for fertilizers was low due to affordability; however, the majority of farmers prefer to use kraal manure in their crop fields. Furthermore, on ploughing services, both GRN and private tractor services were on high demand as livestock for draught animal power were still recovering from the effects of the drought. However some farmers made use of draught animal power for ploughing. On weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers use family members for weeding activities. No pests and livestock disease

were reported. The production forecast for pearl millet and sorghum will be above by 30% respectively, as compared to the previous season. Moreover, the majority of farmers reported that, prospects for non-cereal crops will be poor this season due to poor germination as well as the scarcity of seeds. The majority of farmers reported that, livestock body condition as well as the pasture is generally good. On household food security, the majority of farmers are relying on the market for food access and on drought relief food. Lastly, the majority of farmers suggested that they need the GRN to subsidize agricultural implements and pesticides in order to enhance their agricultural production.

Ogongo

The rainfall started in November and the majority of farmers reported that the current season's rainfall is good in terms of amount and distribution as compared to the previous season's rainfall. However, farmers reported that prolonged dry spells were experienced during January until February which caused crops to wilt and as a result some farmers had to replant. The total planted is estimated at 80% and farmers indicated that they could not finish cultivating their whole crop fields due to prolonged dry spells as well as lack of draught animal power. On inputs, the majority of farmers used seeds retained from the previous season as well as the free GRN. Furthermore, the demand for fertilizers was low; however the majority of farmers used kraal manure in their crop fields. On ploughing services, the majority of farmers used private tractor services and draught animal power for ploughing.

On weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers use family members for weeding activities. No pests and livestock diseases were reported by farmers. The production forecast for pearl millet and sorghum is expected to be above by 70% and 20% respectively. Moreover, the prospects for non-cereal crops look good due to the good germination. The majority of farmers reported that the pasture is gradually improving and livestock body condition is good. On household food security, the majority of farmers reported that by the time of this assessment farmers were relying on the market for food access as well as on drought relief food. Lastly, farmers raised a concern that the quantity of subsidized seeds needs to be increased due to the high demand.

Okahao

Although, poor rainfall performance experienced in the area, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 85% of their crop fields, which is 5% lower than the same period last season. However, their efforts were counteracted by sporadic and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season, which was followed by serious and prolonged dry spells in January and most February. Nonetheless, farmers indicated that, if rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, a slight improvement of about 2% of last season's harvest can be expected. Sorghum production on the other hand showed an estimated increase of 100% above last seasons' poor harvest. In the same vein, poor harvest is expected on non-cereal crops this season as compared to normal production, but better than last season.

Livestock were reported to be in fair to good conditions and the situation is expected to deteriorate, if no improvements on rainfall conditions is realised. 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 have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvests and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Otamanzi

This constituency was not spared of the effect of poor rainfall performance and farmers reported that the season was characterized by erratic and insufficient rainfall as well as serious and prolonged dry spells. At the time of the assessment, most farmers were able to cover about 90% of their crop fields, which is about 13% higher than the corresponding period last year. Provisional estimates for cereals, in particular pearl millet and sorghum indicated a positive outlook with their estimated increase of 7% and 100% respectively higher than last season's poor harvest. Farmers have further indicated that, non-cereal crops are also affected by poor rainfall and as such, the expected harvest thereof is low when compared to average production.

Regarding the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture condition range between good in the cattle posts areas and fair to poor elsewhere in the constituency. Livestock condition is good, and is expected to deteriorate if rainfall conditions do not improve. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their harvest last year and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Elim

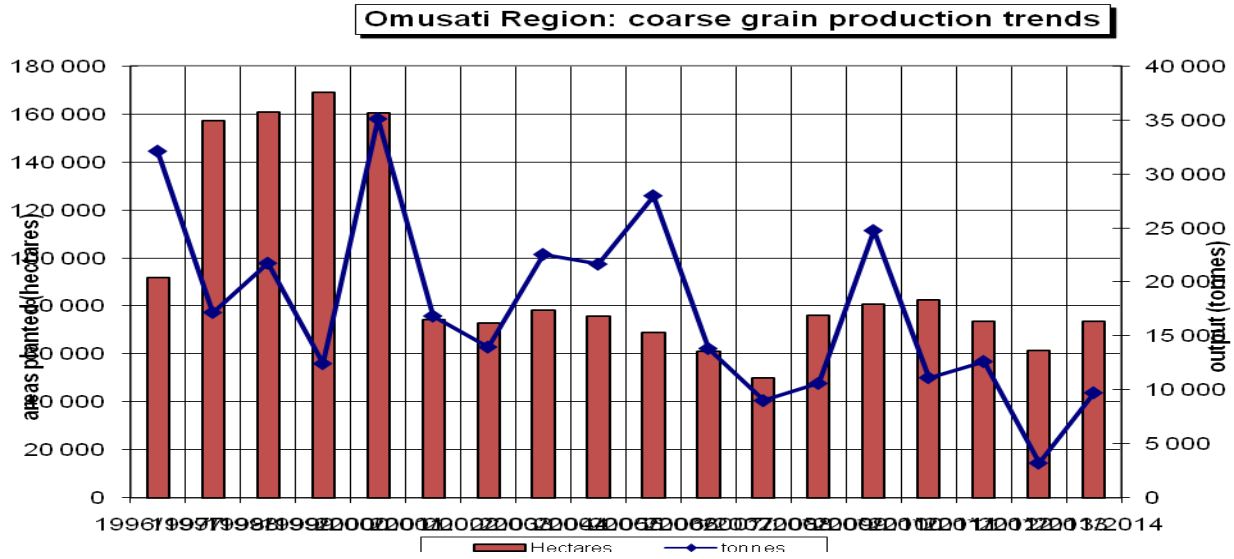
This constituency received poor rainfall performance which was seen in the forms of erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall, which were followed by prolonged and serious and prolonged dry spells. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance caused poor germination and wilting of crop and subsequently, below average harvest is highly likely. Much of this amount was received in the first half of the season while the second half noted a general drought. Planted area is estimated at about 80% of the cropped area which is similar to the corresponding period last year. Nevertheless, harvest outlook indicated that, although the expected harvest is below average, it is much better than last season. Accordingly, pearl millet is expected to increase by at least 84%, while sorghum can expect an increase of over 151% above last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for both cereals and non-cereal crops is also expected to be higher than last season, but yet below normal. Moreover, the constituency has also reported cases of False Army worms which occurred during the dry spells period.

With regards to livestock health, no major livestock disease outbreaks were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture condition is fair and deteriorating due to poor rainfall performance and many livestock are expected to face starvation if no improvements on the rainfall performance. On the household food security, majority of households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food supply.

Oshikuku

Most farmers were able to cultivate about 80% of their crop fields, which is nearly 20% higher than the same period last year. According to farmers, the 2012/2013 crop season was dominated by sporadic, insufficient rainfall which was later on followed by serious prolonged dry spells. Cases of False Army worms were also reported during the dry spells in January and February period. Dry spells did not only cause destructions to crops, but also to poorly established pasture which is struggling to establish because of erratic rainfall. Crop production indicated a positive prospect with pearl millet and sorghum harvest expected to increase by over 131% and 243% of last season's harvest respectively.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases reported in the area at the time of the assessment. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access. In the normal season, household food security improves during March as most of the green crops such as squashes, melons, cowpeas and the like become ready for consumption. However, farmers are very doubtful about the availability of these produce since they too were also affected by dry spells.



The total area cultivated to coarse grain for 2013/2014 cropping season is estimated at 73,440 hectares, which is 19 percent higher than last season but yet 18 percent below average. Out of this total, some 69,760 hectares were sown to pearl millet while 3,680 hectares were sown to sorghum. The coarse grain output is provisionally forecasted at 9,716 tons; representing an increase of 204 percent above last year's poor harvest but yet 43 percent below average. Out of this total, pearl millet constituted 9,214 tons and sorghum 502 tons. This positive outlook is due to better rainfall performance compared to last season. Farmers have further indicated that if rainfall conditions improve, the situation may as well improve greatly.

Oshana region

Although, the start of the 2013/2014 rainfall season was normal in the first half of the season, the situation was marred by serious prolonged dry spells in the second half of the season notably the whole January and most February. At the time of the assessment, the region was still dry, most natural reservoirs such as earth dams, Iishanas and pans did not fill up due to poor rainfall and both crops and grazing have wilted as a result of limited moisture in the soil. According to farmers, even if rainfall conditions improve for the reminder of the season, the damage caused by dry spells is too huge and below average crop harvest is eminent. Therefore, harvest outlook for pearl millet indicated a slight increase of 28% higher than last season but 38% below average. On the other hand, sorghum production was hardest hit by dry spells and its outlook showed a decrease of 10% below last season's poor harvest and 77% below average. Furthermore, farmers indicated that even non-cereal crops such as legumes, squashes and melons were also affected negatively by dry spells and therefore showed a negative outlook. The region has also reported sporadic cases of false Armyworms which is said to have occurred during the dry spells period. Grazing condition is reported to range between poor and fair in the inland and good to very good in the extreme part of the region (areas along the cattle posts). At the time of the assessment, no major livestock diseases were reported. However, cases of Black quarter and Anaplasmosis in cattle were reported in areas along the cattle posts. Although water availability for livestock was scarce at the time of the assessment, it is understood that most of the water catchment areas have filled up, following good showers received as from end of February. Livestock conditions were reported to have improved from poor to good. On the household food security, the situation was reported to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest last year and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Constituencies

Ongwediva

Most parts of this constituency are reported to have suffered the effect of poor rainfall performance this season. At the time of the assessment, the constituency was still dry and farmers indicated that since the beginning of 2013/2014 crop season, rainfall performance has been characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall which were followed by serious prolonged dry spells since January and most February. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cultivate over 85% of their crop fields, which is about 35% higher than the corresponding time last season. Farmers further indicated that, if the rainfall performance improves for the remainder of the season, a slight increase in harvest of 25% for pearl millet and 10% for sorghum can be expected. Furthermore, production for non cereal crops showed a negative outlook and according to farmers, the non-cereals were seriously

affected by drought, hence the harvest thereof will be limited.
Few cases of False Armyworms were reported and they are said to have occurred since the start of the dry spells. No major livestock diseases reported at the time of the assessment. The grazing area was also affected by dry spells, and farmers indicated that the grass has germinated, but is now dying due to lack of rainfall. On the household food security it was reported that the majority of households have depleted their harvest, following poor harvest last season and are currently relying on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Okatana

The majority of farmers reported that the current season's rainfall started during November and it was on time, however in terms of the amount the rainfall is poor and distribution of the rainfall is sporadic. Furthermore, the current season's rainfall is slightly better as compared to the previous season's rainfall. Moreover, prolonged dry spells were experienced during December, January and February, which caused crops to wilt as a result some farmers, had to replant. The total planted area is 85% since the majority of farmers could not finish cultivating their crop fields due to the poor condition of draught animal power and prolonged dry spells. Furthermore, the total planted area for pearl millet is estimated at 70% which is above as compared to the previous season, while sorghum is below by 10% as compared to the previous season. The demand for seeds was very high this season and farmers supplemented their own seeds retained from the previous season with seeds bought at the open markets and subsidized seeds. Furthermore, the demand for fertilizers was low since majority of farmers used kraal manure in their crop fields. On ploughing services, the demand for GRN tractors as well as private tractor services was high due to the poor condition of draught animal power and the majority of farmers used private tractors for ploughing.

On weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers used family members for weeding activities. No pests and livestock diseases were reported. The production for pearl millet is expected to be above by 50% as compared to the previous season, while for sorghum is expected to be below by 30% compared to the previous season. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops is expected to be good as a result of the good germination this season. The pasture was reported by the majority of farmers as poor during the assessment period and livestock body condition was rated as fair. On household food security, the majority of farmers reported that they are relying on the market for food access as well as on drought relief food. Lastly, the majority of farmers indicated that the number of GRN tractors should be increased due to the high demand for ploughing services.

Oshakati West

The rainfall started during November and the majority of farmers reported that the current season's rainfall in terms of the amount and distribution is slightly the same as compared to the previous season rainfall. Furthermore, farmers reported that prolonged dry spells were experienced during January and February, which caused crops to wilt as well as poor germination as a result farmers, had to replant. The total planted area is estimated at 80% since the majority of farmers could not finish cultivating their crop fields due to prolonged dry spells. On inputs, the demand for seeds was generally high, since the majority of farmers used seeds bought from the ADC and they also benefitted from the free GRN seeds. Furthermore, the demand for fertilizers was not high since the majority of farmers used kraal manure in their crop fields. On ploughing services, the majority of farmers used private tractors as well as GRN tractors for ploughing their crop fields, since draught animal power were not in good condition. On weeding subsidy services, the majority of farmers used family members for weeding activities since weeding groups are not easily accessible due to the high demand.

No pests or livestock diseases were reported. The production forecast for pearl millet is expected to be above by 70% as compared to the previous season, while for sorghum will be expected to be below by 40%. Furthermore, prospect for non-cereal crops are generally good, especially for Bambara nuts and cowpeas. The majority of farmers reported that the pasture is generally poor; however livestock body condition is fair. On household food security, the majority of farmers reported that food security at household level is generally poor and they rely mostly on the market for food access as well as on drought relief food.

Uuvudhiya
The majority of farmers reported that the current season's rainfall started during December and the rainfall is generally poor in terms of amount and distribution as compared to the previous season's rainfall. Moreover, prolonged dry spells were experienced during January and February which caused crops to wield as a result farmers had to replant. The total planted area is estimated at 80%, of the cropping area. On inputs, the majority of farmers used seeds retained from the previous season, which were supplemented with either subsidized seeds or the free GRN seeds.

Furthermore, the majority of farmers used kraal manure and some farmers managed to buy fertilizers. On ploughing services, the majority of farmers used either, GRN tractor or private tractor for ploughing and the demand was very high, due to poor condition of draught animal power. However, some farmers managed to use draught animal power for ploughing. On weeding activities, the majority of farmers used family members for weeding activities. No livestock diseases were reported, however cases of false army worms were widely reported which were experienced during January due to prolonged dry spells. The production for both pearl millet and sorghum is expected to be below as compared to the previous season by 20% and 10% respectively. Furthermore, the prospects for non-cereal crops are expected to be good following the good germination during this cropping season. The pasture is generally poor as a result of overgrazing and sporadic rainfall; however livestock body condition is generally fair. On household food security, the majority of farmers reported that they are relying on the market for food access as well on drought relief food.

Oshakati East

This area noted poor rainfall performance which according to farmers was characterised by sporadic, insufficient rainfall which was later on followed by serious and prolonged dry spells. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 95% of their crop fields, which is 5% higher than the same corresponding period last year. Furthermore, production outlook for pearl millet indicates an increase of over 50% while sorghum production showed a drop of about 5% of last seasons' poor harvest. It was further reported that, non cereal crops were affected by poor rainfall performance; hence their production is expected to be similar to last season's poor harvest. On crop pests, few cases of Grasshopper, and False Armyworms were reported in the area.

On livestock health, cases of Anaplasmosis in cattle was reported in January this year in areas along cattle posts, but the situation is said to have normalised, since the affected farmers upon received advice from the Veterinary Services Directorate bought medicine and treated their livestock. Grazing is in fair condition and was affected by dry spells, hence could not establish properly. On household food security, majority of households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest long time ago last year and are currently dependent on the market purchases and or drought relief foods for food access.

Ompundja

Farmers indicated that, the 2013/2014 rainfall season has been poor with sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall. What is more, the area suffered the effect of serious prolonged dry spells which affected both crop and grazing establishment. Planted area is estimated at about 86% of the cropped area and this is almost similar to the same corresponding period last season. Furthermore, poor crop harvest is eminent this year as the outlook thereof showed insignificant increase of last season's harvest with millet expects a rise of about 10% and sorghum expect an increase of about 3% higher than last season's poor production. At the time of the assessment, both crops and pasture were wilting due to insufficient moisture available in the soil. Farmers believe that, even if miracle happen that, good rainfall received for the remainder of the season, it will be too late for the crop to rejuvenate. Moreover, the area has also reported few cases of False Armyworms which according to farmers are concomitants of dry spells.

On livestock health, few cases of Gall sickness/Anaplasmosis in cattle were reported especially in areas along the cattle posts. Furthermore, livestock body condition is reported have improved from poor to good this season. However, pasture condition range between poor and fair. Water availability for livestock was a concern to the farmers since most of the catchment was still dry at the time of this assessment. Farmers are therefore requesting the government to provide water for both livestock and human consumption especially the remote areas. On household food security, majority of households are relying on the market and or government drought relief foods for food access, following the depletion of their harvest from the previous season. Farmers are also requesting the government to avail veterinary medicine at the local Agricultural office as well as subsidise the sale of these medicines.

Ondangwa

It is reported that rainfall in Ondangwa constituency has started in November. Farmers have indicated that the rainfall distribution and amount were variable. Nonetheless, farmers managed to cultivate and plant their fields. However, dry spells experienced between December and January as well as beginning till mid-February has caused damage to some farms where replanting was done and some crops have wilted. At the time of this assessment, most farmers were able to cultivate about 80% of their crop fields. Ploughing activities were still ongoing and remaining uncultivated area is expected to be ploughed if more rains received. With regards to inputs, majority of farmers used seeds retained from the previous season, seeds bought from open

market as well as free seeds from the government. On fertilizers, the majority of farmers do not use fertilizers apparently because they cannot afford it and many indicated that they have used kraal manure. Farmers indicated that, crop production was seriously affected by the prolonged dry spell which occurred in January and most February this year. As a result, crop production outlook indicated an insignificant improvement on the expected harvest which is still below average. In this case pearl millet is expected to improve by about 9% of last season's poor harvest, but sorghum was mostly affected by dry spells and farmers said its harvest is expected to be the same as last year.

Livestock were reported to be in better condition and pasture is fair in which if no rainfall improvement is realised the situation may deteriorate. On household food security, majority of farmers have reported that they are dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Okaku

Farmers indicated that the 2013/2014 rainfall has been okay in the first half of the season, but became poor in the second half when serious and prolonged dry spells started in January and most February, causing damages to both crop and pasture establishment. The area planted is estimated at 87%, of the cropped area. As for soil preparation, many farmers have indicated that they have used private tractors without subsidy that are priced higher than GRN tractors or private tractors available on subsidy. They therefore requested the GRN to avail more government tractors in the area to provide affordable ploughing services to as many farmers. Farmers reported that False Armyworms and Grasshoppers destroyed crops especially during dry spells. Crop production forecast indicated that there will be a slight improvement on pearl millet production of about 33% above last season's poor harvest. However, sorghum production was seriously affected by dry spells and according to farmers; its harvest is expected to be the same as last season's poor harvest.

Pasture is reported to be poor after being hit by long dry spells. If more rain is not received, then it can only sustain livestock up to April. Nonetheless, livestock body condition has improved from worse to fair given the last season's drought situation. On food security, many households are surviving on drought relief handouts and purchases from the market.

Okatyali

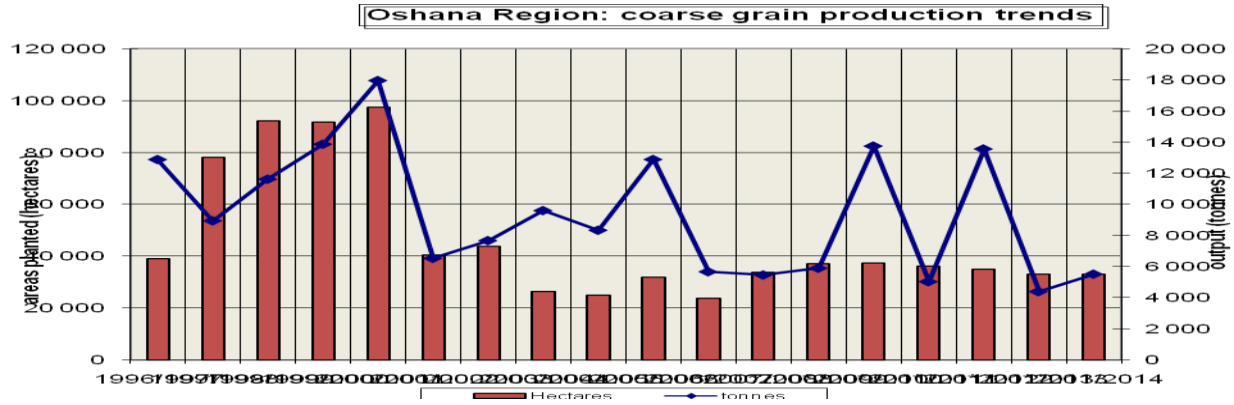
Most farmers in this area were able to cultivate about 82% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Farmers indicated that, rainfall performance has worsened in the second half of the season with serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February. Provisional crop estimates indicated that, if rainfall performance is realised, pearl millet harvest is expected to slightly improve with about 28% above last season's harvest. However, sorghum was hardest hit by dry spell and can expect a reduction of about 10% lower than last season. The constituency has also reported cases of false Army worms during the dry spells period.

On the household food security, most households are said to be dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food supply. With regards to livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture condition is said to be fair and was also affected by dry spell. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to improve with good showers reported recently.

Uukwiyu

Farmers reported that, the 2013/2014 rainfall has been below average, but yet is better than last season. According to farmers the rainfall was slightly delayed and productive rainfall was only received in December as compared to the normal one in November. Furthermore, the area suffered the effects of serious prolonged dry spells in January and most December. Planted area is estimated at about 96% of the cropped area. Nevertheless, farmers indicated that if rainfall conditions improve for the reminder of the season, better crop harvest than last season can be expected. Pearl millet harvest is expected to increase by about 150% of last season. However, sorghum was affected by dry spells and farmers indicated that its harvest will be poor as it was the case last season. Moreover, harvest prospects for non-cereals legumes, squashes) is expected to be better than last season, but still below average.

On livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture is fair in the central and northern part of the constituency, but good in the south (cattle post area). On the household food security, the situation is reported to have weakened as majority of farmers are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest last year and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.



Total planted area for the 2013/14 crop season is provisionally estimated at 33,151 hectares, where 31,493 hectares sown to pearl millet, and 1,658 hectares sown to sorghum. The overall production of coarse grain on the interim is forecasted at 5,512 tonnes, reflecting an increase of 26% above last season's harvest but yet 42% below average. This total is comprised of 5,263 tons of pearl millet and 249 tons of sorghum.

Ohangwena region

The region noted a poor rainfall performance which can be described as sporadic and insufficient rainfall, followed by a serious and prolonged dry spells in January and most of February. The poor rainfall performance did not only affect crop production, but also affected pasture establishment. However, following improvements in rainfall performance end of February, a slight increase of about 26% in pearl millet production as compared to last season can be expected. Conversely, sorghum, squashes and legumes were also affected by dry spells; hence their production showed a negative outlook with sorghum harvest expected to drop by 13% of last season's poor harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 85% of the total cropped area, reflecting an increase of about 4% in the corresponding period last season. Grazing was affected by dry spells and was observed to be in fair to poor conditions. On the other hand, livestock condition across the region is said to have improved and is rated to be good. At the time of the assessment, water availability for livestock is satisfactory on the Eastern part of the region (from boreholes) and better in the Western. However, the situation is reported to have improved following good rainfall received end of February and March this season. With regards to household food security, majority of the households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food supply. Under normal circumstance, the situation is suppose to improve as from March till at the main harvest in May this year when green harvest such as green maize, melons, squashes and legumes become available for consumption. However, farmers indicated that, these crops were severely affected by dry spells; hence their availability this season will be very limited.

Constituencies

Ohangwena

Like many other constituencies in the region, most parts of this area are reported to have received poor rainfall performance for the current 2013/2014 crop season. It was reported that, rainfall performance this season has been characterised by prolonged dry spells, sporadic and insufficient rainfall. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cover at least 87% of their crop fields as compared to about 64% in the corresponding period last season. On the crop pests, this area reported Grasshopper as well as few cases of Army worms during the dry spells which affected cereal production negatively. Although farmers use to store seeds from previous season, majority were unable to store seeds due to poor harvest received last season. However, farmers express their appreciation of the government efforts to provide free seeds, though were not enough. Harvest outlook indicate that most farmers are expecting a better harvest this season with pearl millet production estimated to increase by about 327% and sorghum by 40% of last season's poor harvest. However, production outlook for non-cereals showed a decrease due to poor rainfall performance and farmers further indicated that, they did not have enough seeds for non-cereal crops due to drought condition last year.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported in this area at the time of the assessment. Pasture is reported to be poor due to poor rainfall performance; in particular the prolonged dry spells. Farmers indicated that, the situation is expected to deteriorate if rainfall performance does not improve. With regards to household food security, the situation is that most households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Ongenga

Like other constituency in the region, this area has also noted poor rainfall performance which according to farmers was seen in the forms erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season and severe prolonged dry spells in January and most February. Majority of farmers were only able to cover up to 72% of their crop fields. Farmers have further indicated that, poor harvest is expected this season with pearl millet production outlook indicated a drop of about 61% below last season's harvest. Sorghum on the other hand was the hardest hit and according to farmers the expected harvest is very minimal or zero harvest in some cases. Farmers added that, most sorghum crops have wilted to the extent that, they cannot be revived even if rainfall performance improve. Harvest prospects for non-cereal crops have also indicated poor harvest expected this season.

On livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Both pasture and livestock are reported to be in poor conditions. With regards to household food security, most households interviewed are reported to have depleted their food stocks from previous harvests. It was however, reported that most households are currently dependent mainly on the market for food access.

Eenhana

This constituency is reported to have suffered poor rainfall performance since the start of the rain season in November last year. According to farmers, this season is characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall. At the time of the assessment, no sign of rain and the area was dry and affected by serious prolonged dry spells which according to farmers started in January, stretching to most February. Planted area is estimated at about 72% of the cropped area, which is about 4% higher than the corresponding period last season. Furthermore, production outlook for the main cereals like Pearl millet and sorghum showed a decrease with pearl millet expected to go down by 63% and sorghum by 125% lower than poor harvest last season. Similarly, the production forecast for non-cereal crops like melons, cowpeas and so on has also been affected by poor rainfall performance. Farmers are saying this season's harvest is worse than last season, unless rainfall performance improve significantly. Additionally, farmers also expressed their disappointment of insufficient and late arrival of seeds in the region. With regards to crop pest, Grasshopper and False Armyworms were reported in the area.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment and livestock is said to be in good condition. However, pasture was seriously affected by dry spells and was observed to be in fair to poor condition. Household food security remains stable since November last year where most households are reported to have depleted their harvest and are now dependent on the market and government drought relief foods for food access.

Ondobe

Farmers indicated that, this season's rainfall has been poor, resembling that of last season's poor performance. It was noted that, the rainfall received is insufficient, sporadic and poorly distributed. At

the time of the assessment, this area was still dry and a serious dry spells was observed which according to farmers have started in January stretching to most February. Average planted area is estimated at 62% of the crop fields as compared to 80% of the corresponding period last season. Farmers indicated that the remaining part of 38% could not be covered due to dry spells. Farmers reported that, if rainfall performance improve for the remainder of the season, a better harvest of about 200% higher than last season for pearl millet is highly likely. However, sorghum, squash and legume production showed a negative outlook with sorghum expected to drop by about 2% of last season's poor harvest. No crop pest reported at the time of the assessment.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition range between fair to good. However, pasture condition was reported to range between fair and poor but is feared to deteriorate if no significant rainfall performance is realised. Regarding the household food security, the situation is that most households are said to have depleted their harvests and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Omulonga

At the time of this assessment, this area was dry with serious dry spells which according to farmers started since January this year. According to interviewed farmers, the season was dominated by sporadic and insufficient rainfall before the start of the prolonged dry spells in January. Planted area is estimated at 85% of the cropped area, which is about 5% higher than the same corresponding period last season. Farmers indicated that, ploughing has stopped because the soil was too dry. Crop stand look good and farmers indicated that, if rainfall conditions improve for the remaining part of the season, pearl millet production may expect a slight increase of 10% above last season's harvest. However, production for sorghum, squashes and legumes was seriously affected by dry spells, hence indicated a negative outlook and farmers said the situation is likely to be the same as last season. Crop pests reported included Grasshopper and False Armyworm, of which Armyworms occurred since the start of the dry spells.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock are said to be in good condition, but the grazing area was reported to have been affected negatively by dry spells and is said to range between fair and poor. On the household food security, majority of the households are reported to have depleted their harvested stock and are currently dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access. Households also indicated that, the situation may not improve significantly since; green crops such as squashes, maize, melons will be stingily available this season.

Endola

This area also indicated that, the 2013/2014 rainfall season has been poor and characterised by prolonged dry spell, sporadic and insufficient rainfall. Farmers indicated that, their crops are dying due to insufficient moisture in the soil. Average planted area is estimated at 85% of the crop fields, which is about 6% less when compared to the same corresponding period last season. Nevertheless, farmers indicated that, if rainfall performance improves for the remainder of the season, better crop harvest than last season can be expected. In this case, pearl millet can expect an increase of about 100% above last season's harvest. However, sorghum production was seriously affected by dry spells and farmers indicated that the crop wilted up; hence the expected harvest will be the same as last year.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture condition range between fair and poor, and expected to worsen if no sufficient rainfall is received. On the household food security, majority of the households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Oshikango

According to farmers, the rainfall performance has been poor since the beginning of the season, characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season. The second half of the season noted a serious prolonged and serious dry spell in January and most February. Planted area is estimated at about 90% of the cropped area, which is about 2% less than the corresponding period last season. Crop production prospect showed a serious poor harvest than last season, where pearl millet is expected to drop by 27% and sorghum down by 1% as compared to the previous season's poor harvest.

Non-cereal crops like cowpeas, watermelons are also expected to yield poor following poor rainfall performance. Regarding inputs, the demand of Okashana1 is reported to be high compared to the limited supply received in the constituency.

On livestock, body condition range from good to fair, while the pasture condition is poor. Water for

livestock is also reducing with most catchment going dry. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Household food security situation remains fragile, since most households depleted their harvest last year and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Engela

Most farmers in this constituency were able to cover at least 90% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance in the area. Provisional production prospect have indicated that, this area can expect below average harvest this year with pearl millet production expected a slight increase of about 2% above last season's harvest. However, sorghum production was seriously affected by dry spells as the crops are reported to have dried up due to dry spell, hence farmers indicated that its harvest is expected to be the same as last season's poor harvest.

On the livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture is said to be in poor to fair conditions and the situation may deteriorate if no good rainfall is received before season end. With regards to household food security, the situation has weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their harvests and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Okongo

According to farmers, this area experienced poor rainfall performance since the start of the 2013/2014 rainfall season. The first half of the season is said to have been dominated by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall which were later on followed by serious and prolonged dry spells in the second half of the season. Planted area is estimated at about 80% of the cropped area and most farmers' uses draught animal power to cultivate their crop field. Farmers reported that, their crop have died due to severe dry spells and as a result, the expected harvest is going to be very poor than last season.

Overall crop production forecast indicated that pearl millet harvest is expected to drop by at least 5% and sorghum is down by 18% below last season's harvest. The situation is more serious in the western part of the constituency, while the eastern part the situation is said to be slightly better than last season. Furthermore, a prospect for non-cereal crops is also reported to be poor due to insufficient rainfall received as well as the scarcity of seeds. Pasture condition is generally fair to good and livestock body condition is good. On household food security the majority of farmers reported that they are currently relying on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Omundaungilo

This area is reported that, the onset of the rain was delayed and has only received productive rainfall as from December instead of October. It was reported that, rainfall performance was poor in the first half of the season and characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall. This was followed by a serious prolonged dry spell in the second half of the season which occurred in January and most February period. Planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropped area and farmers could not finish cultivating their crop fields due to poor state of draught animal power as well as dry spells. Farmers indicated that, they are expecting a poor harvest this year, where pearl millet is set to decrease by 25%, while sorghum is down by 50% of last season's harvest. However, farmers indicated that, if rainfall performance improves for the remainder of the season, better harvest on non-cereal crops will be expected this year.

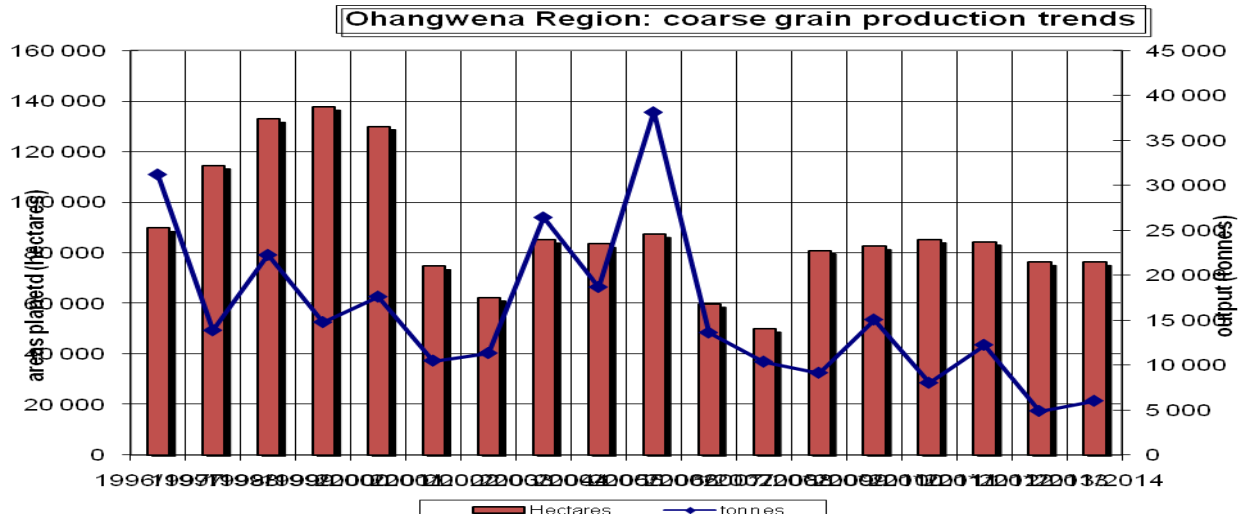
On inputs, the majority of farmers used own seeds retained from the previous season with the free GRN seeds. Furthermore, the majority of farmers did not use fertilizers due to affordability; however some farmers used kraal manure. On ploughing services, the majority of farmers used draught animal power for ploughing and some farmers used GRN tractors. On weeding activities, the majority of farmers used family members for weeding. No pests and livestock diseases were reported. Furthermore, the prospects for non-cereal crops are generally good this season. On household food security, the majority of households rely on drought relief food as well as the market for food access.

Epembe

Like, as it was reported in other constituencies, this area has also noted a poor rainfall performance which affected both crop production and grazing area. According to farmers, the first half of the season was characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall, which was later on followed by a serious and prolonged dry spells in the second half, in January and most February. Planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropped area and most farmers use draught animal power to plough their crop fields. Furthermore, fertilizers are hardly used in this area, but livestock manure is commonly used instead. On weeding activities, farmers use family members for weeding activities. No crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Crop prospects, indicated that pearl

millet harvest is expected to drop by about 25% of last season, and for sorghum production can expected an increase of about 25% above the previous season.

Furthermore, harvest prospect for non-cereal crops is generally good this season given the good germination. The pasture condition is generally fair to poor; however livestock body condition is gradually improving and is ranging from between fair to good. On household food security, it was reported that, most households have depleted their last season's harvest and are currently dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.



Total planted areas to coarse grains this season is provisionally estimated at 76,242 hectares, representing about 13% below average and yet still the same as last season. Out of this total, about 68,617 hectares was sown to pearl millet and some 7,625 hectares to sorghum. The overall production of coarse grain is after all forecasted at 6,021 tonnes representing an increase of 23% above last year's output, but yet 61% below average. The total output is comprises of 5,693 tons of pearl millet and 328 tons of sorghum.

Oshikoto region

Poor rainfall performance has been reported in various constituencies of the region, resulting in crop wilting as well as poor pasture establishment. According to farmers, since the start of the 2013/2014 rainfall season, poor rainfall performance is said to have dominated the first half of the season and was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall which were later on followed by a serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February. Analysis on the crop harvest outlook suggested that, although the expected harvest is slightly better than last season, the harvest is still below average. Pearl millet showed a slight increase of 28% higher than last season and 8% below average. Sorghum was the most affected crop by dry spells and indicated an increase of 10% above last season's harvest, but yet is 76% below average. Moreover, non-cereal harvest is also reported have showed a negative outlook and according to farmers, legumes and pumpkins will be scarcely available this year. Pasture conditions is good in the extreme eastern (Tsumeb and to some extend Guinas constituencies) part and fair elsewhere in the region. Livestock were reported to be in good condition at the time of the assessment. On livestock health, cases of

Anaplasmosis and Black quarter in cattle as well as Pulpit kidney in goats were reported in the area. With regards to food security, the situation is reported to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their little harvest from last season's poor harvest and are currently dependent on the market and government drought relief foods for food access. Additionally, office of the Regional Council is requesting the government to continue the drought relief food distribution program until the situation return to normal.

Constituencies

Omuthiya

Although the season started normal in the first half of the season, a serious and prolonged dry spells in the second half of the season since January and most of February resulted in wilting of crops and grazing materials. Nonetheless, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 97% of their crop fields, reflecting an increase of about 7% higher than the same corresponding time last season. However, farmers indicated that, the effects of dry spells were enormous and some of their crops died due to insufficient moisture in the soil. As a result, crop prospects looks bleach with pearl millet expect an estimated decrease in harvest of about 20% last season. With regards to crop pests, Grasshoppers were widely reported in this constituency and according to farmers, the pests started in January feeding on the leave of both cereals and cowpeas, thereby reducing the expected harvest.

With regards to livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. The body condition of livestock is described to have improved from fair to good. Household food security situation is reported to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest and are now dependent on the market and government drought relief foods for food access.

Eengodhi ADC

Most farmers interviewed indicated that the 2013/2014 rainfall performance has been sporadic, erratic and insufficient in the first half of the season. This was followed by serious dry spells in January and most February. However, in general, farmers said the rainfall performance this season is much better than last year. Planted area is estimated at about 95% of the cropped area. Furthermore, farmers indicated that, if rainfall conditions improved for the rest of the season, better crop harvest than last season can be expected. Pearl millet harvest is estimated at about 50%, and sorghum is high by 10% above last season's harvest. Furthermore, prospects for non-cereal crops are also promising. Although this improvement in crop harvest is better than last season, but yet still below average. Most farmers used draught animal power to cultivate their crop fields.

Pests such as false army worms were experienced during the dry spells period and no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture condition has generally improved, but may deteriorate if no further rainfall received. Livestock condition has also improved and was observed to be in good condition. On household food security, the situation is said to have weakened, when most households depleted their harvest last year and are currently dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Oniipa

Like other constituencies in the region, this area has reported that, the 2013/2014 rainfall season has been poor, characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall, which were followed by serious and prolonged dry spells. Farmers have further indicated that, there will be poor crop harvest this year, which will be lower than last season. Therefore, pearl millet is expected to decrease by 40% of last season's harvest, while sorghum on the other side indicated similar poor harvest as of last year. Furthermore, non-cereal harvest has also showed a negative prospect which according to farmers is worse than last season. Planted area is estimated at 75% of the cropped area and farmers indicated that ploughing was interrupted by prolonged dry spells in January and February. The area has also reported shortages of improved seed experienced at the beginning of the season, which is also said to have contributed negatively to the expected harvest.

No livestock diseases were reported besides the drought related conditions. Livestock are reported to be in a good condition but this can easily change if no improvements on the rainfall conditions is realised soon. As for the food security, the situation

is said to have weakened as many farmers are reported to have depleted their own production and are now dependent on the market purchases and drought relief foods for food access.

Olukonda

Rainfall is reported to have started in November but distribution poor. Dry spells are some weather anomalies observed in the constituency with significant effect on both crops and grazing establishment. On average, farmers were able to cover at least 90% of their crop fields. Farmers indicated that, they managed to obtain cereal seeds, from own production, local Agricultural office and free seeds from the government. However, it was difficult for the farmers to obtain non-cereal seeds, since these seeds are not available either at the agricultural office or open market. Farmers are very much pessimistic about the expected harvest which according to them will be poor and worse than last year. It is estimated that, pearl millet production is expected to drop by 65% and sorghum will be down by 93% of last season's harvest.

Livestock are reported to be in good condition but the pasture is poor. On household food security, majority of interviewed farmers reported that they are dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Okankolo ADC

Farmers reported that, the 2013/2014 rainfall was delayed and only started in December, rather than the normal one in October. In the first half of the season, rainfall performance has been scanty and unevenly distributed. The area has also suffered serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February which affected both crop growth and grazing establishment. Most farmers were able to cover at least 80% of their crop fields. Farmers further indicated that the expected harvest will be better than last season, where pearl millet is estimated to increase by about 45% and sorghum by 5% higher than last season's poor harvest. Moreover, harvest prospect for non-cereals is also good compared to last season, but according to farmers, the expected harvest for both cereal and non-cereal crops is way far below average production. On pests, false army worms were widely reported in the area during the dry spells period (January and February) and no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment.

Pasture condition is generally fair and livestock body condition is gradually improving with better to good grazing conditions. On household food security, farmers reported that they have depleted their last season's harvest last year and are currently dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Onyaanya ADC

Farmers indicated that, the 2013/2014 rainfall performance is very poor. The first half of the season experienced erratic and insufficient rainfall which was followed by serious prolonged dry spell in January and most February. Planted area is estimated at about 75% of the cropped area and farmers indicated that, the ploughing activities were interrupted due to dry spells. At the time of the assessment, farmers were very much worried about the harvest prospects which according to them are likely to be worse than last season. Crop harvest prospect therefore indicated a drop in the expected harvest where pearl millet is estimated to drop by 5% and sorghum is 10% lower than last season. Crop pests reported included grasshoppers which affected crop growth negatively.

Pasture is said to have improved and livestock body condition is good. Household food security was reported to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest and are now dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access. Lastly, farmers raised concerns about insufficient government tractors in the area, which they suggested that it should be increased in order to meet the high demand of ploughing services.

Onayena

This constituency reported that, productive rainfall was only received as from December, instead the normal one in October. Although the current season's rainfall is reported to better than last season, farmers indicated that, it was characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall in the first half of the season, which was followed by serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February. Farmers were able to cover at least 90% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Harvest outlook indicate a possibility of poor pearl millet harvest of up to 12% of last season, if no improvement to rainfall performance is received. Cases of Grasshoppers feeding on crops were widely reported in this constituency

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing is reported to be in fair condition due to a prolonged dry spells which affected grass establishment. On household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their harvest last year and are currently dependent on the market and drought relief foods for food access.

Omuntele

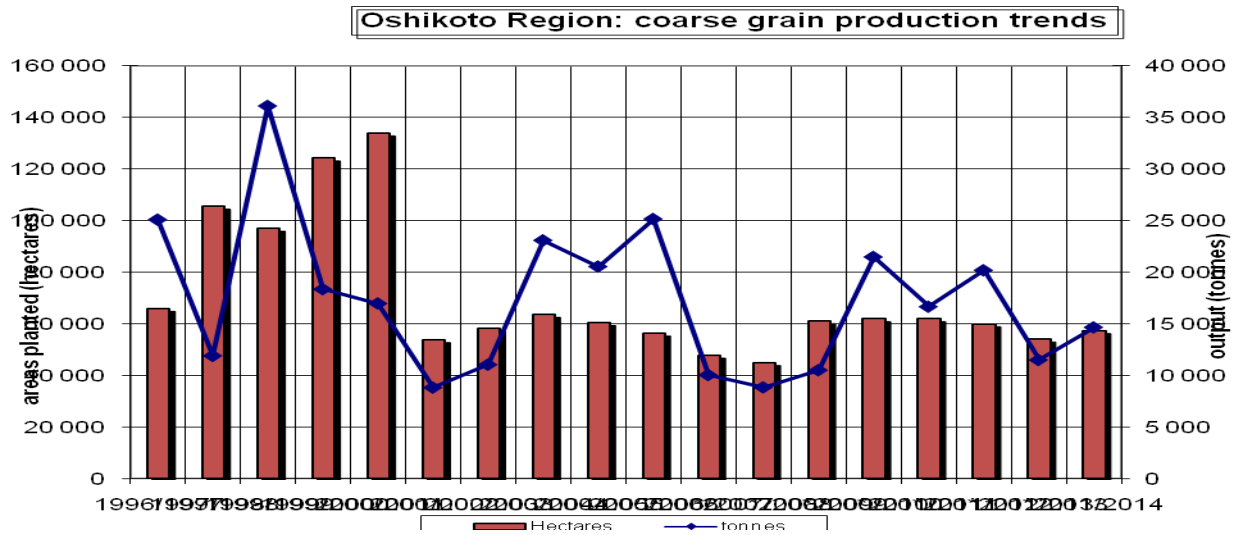
Like other constituencies in the region, farmers described the 2013/2014 rainfall as poor one resembling the previous one. It was reported that, there use to be good cloud development but no rain and these cloud in most cases used to be blown away by the wind. At the time of the assessment the area was still being affected by serious prolonged dry spells which affected negatively both crop and grazing establishment. However, farmers indicated that, if rainfall condition improves for the remainder of the season, pearl millet harvest can expect an improvement of at least 100% above last season. However, harvest for sorghum indicates a negative outlook of about 10% below last season's poor harvest and according to farmers interviewed sorghum was one of the hardest hit by dry spells which occurred from January and most February. Planted area is estimated at about 90% of the cropped area. Crop pests reported in this area was mainly Grasshopper which is reported to have started since the beginning of January, feeding on the leaves of both cereal and non-cereal crops.

On livestock health cases of Black quarter in cattle were reported in Onanke and the surrounding villages, since January this year and some farmers are reported to have lost some of their cattle to this disease. Moreover, cases of calves' death due to wild animals such as Hyena were also reported in the same village. Furthermore, pasture establishment was affected by dry spells and was reported to range between fair and poor. However livestock body condition is reported to have improved from poor to good. Household food security is reported to be fragile as majority of households reported to have depleted their harvest of last season and they are currently relying on the market and or drought relief foods for food access.

Guinas

Although the 2013/2014 rainfall performance has been characterised by erratic and insufficient rainfall, many farmers believed that this season's rainfall is much better than last season. According to farmers, this season the rainfall is able to continue as opposed to last season where the rainfall ended prematurely in January. At the time of the assessment, this area received some good showers toward end of February after a long dry spells stretched from January and most of February. Planted area is estimated at about 78% of the cropped area, which is the same when compared to the corresponding time last season. Farmers indicated that, their draught animals were weak to plough this season and there are no tractors operating in their area. Farmers are therefore requesting government to avail tractors in this area. Furthermore, farmers are optimistic about the harvest which according to them is likely to be better than last season should good rainfall continues to prevail for the rest of the season. Pearl millet is estimated to increase by about 200% while sorghum can expect an increase of 30% of the previous season's harvest. Crop pests reported in this area included small Millipedes, Crickets as well as Grasshoppers feeding of the leaves of both cereals and non-cereal crops.

On the livestock health, case of Anaplasmosis was widely reported in the area and some farmers are reported to have lost some of their cattle to this disease. Furthermore, farmers have also reported eye infections in chickens especially in Antoni villages and environs. Livestock body condition is said to have improved from poor to good, but pasture establishment is fair and expected to improve, following some showers received toward end of February. With regards to household food security, majority of households are reported to have depleted their last season's harvest sometimes ago last year and are currently dependent on the market and government drought relief foods for food access.



Total planted area to coarse grain crops for this season is provisionally estimated at 57,420 hectares which is comprised of 54,549 hectares sown to pearl millet and 2,871 hectares to sorghum. The overall production of coarse grain is provisionally forecasted at 14,664 tons. This represents an increase of 27% above last year and yet 15% below average production. The total output comprises of 14,225 tons of pearl millet and 439 tons of sorghum.

NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION FOR 2013/2014 CROP SEASON

Assuming that, rainfall performance improves, and that good crop growing conditions prevail for the remainder of the season, the 2013/14 cereal production is provisionally forecasted at 122,390 tons, reflecting an increase of 50% higher than last season but yet 2% below a 15 year average (see Table 2 below). Much of the improvement forecasted is from the commercial areas where most of the production is under irrigation. However, crop production from the communal crop producing regions has also showed some improvements, but yet is still below average.

Namibia: Total Cereal Production ('000 tons) - 2013/2014 compared to2012/2013 and 1998/99 to 2012/2013 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	2013/14	15-year average	2013/14 as % of average	2013/14 as % of 2012/13
Zambezi	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	6.7	8.8	-24	91
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	2.8	6.4	-57	51
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	9.7	17.2	-43	204
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	6.0	15.6	-61	23
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	5.5	9.5	-42	26
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	14.7	17.3	-15	27
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	52.2	77.1	50.3	53	48
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	122.4	125.0	-2	50

Table 2: Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2013/2014 compared to a 15-year average (1999/2000 to 2012/2013) and 2012/2013 harvest.

CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION

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	**75.1**	**140.2**	**5.0**	**220.3**
Export already shipped	**0.0**	**1.5**	**0.0**	**1.5**
After trade Deficit/Surplus	**25.4**	**21.4**	**-37.8**	**9.1**

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

The revised food balance sheet above indicated that, after commercial imports of various cereals to cover the projected deficit, since May 2013 up to February 2014, a total of 2090, 300 tonnes of coarse grain were imported. This indicated that, the imports have covered the deficit for wheat and maize, resulting in the surplus of 25,400 tons and 21,400 tons respectively. These surpluses under normal conditions are exported to neighbouring countries in the forms of flours. It is also indicated that, about 1500 tons of maize were also exported during the same consumption period. However, there is still an uncovered deficit of 37,800 metric tons of pearl millet. Since pearl millet and sorghum are perfect substitute for maize, consumers are expected to shift their consumption to maize. Otherwise, the deficit can be covered or lessened through additional commercial imports.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

The main findings of the assessment indicated that: The 2013/2014 rainfall season showed mixed performance in the first half of the season with above normal rainfall only confined to the north east, central and some areas in the south. Severe prolonged dry spells were experienced in the north central regions affecting both crop production and pasture establishment. The country expects a slight improvement in crop harvest which is better than last season, but still below average. Much of this improvement comes from the commercial areas where most production is under irrigation. Grazing is said to have improved significantly in the north east, central and some parts in the south. However, poor grazing conditions were reported in Kunene, where below average rainfall conditions have been experienced. Household food security situation in the communal crop producing regions is reported to have weakened since last year when most households depleted their last season's harvest between July and August last year. Based on these findings, the following recommendations for interventions and future assistance to improve agricultural production are made:

- For the weakening food security situation, it is understood that, in some areas, especially in the north central regions, green produce which usually improve food security situation from mid March up to main harvest in May, will be stingily available due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the early part of the season. It is therefore, suggested that food aids especially to the most vulnerable groups affected by food deficits should be considered, while awaiting for the outcomes of the post-harvest Crop Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment missions.
- 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. In addition, these activities 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.

- Areas affected by poor grazing conditions, farmers should be advised to take the necessary precautionary measure such as destocking while livestock are in good condition to avoid a complete loss.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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