ZIMBABWE

MINISTER
OF
AGRICULTURE, MECHANISATION AND IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT

SECOND ROUND CROP AND LIVESTOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT

14 APRIL 2011

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Executive Summary- Crops.

- Area, yield and production of different crops is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Area, yield and production of different crops 2010/2011 in comparison to 2009/2010 Season.

Crop	**Area (ha)**			**Production (t)**			**Yield (t/ha)**		
	2010/2011	2009/2010	% change	**2010/2011**	2009/2010	% change	**2010/2011**	2009/2010	**%** change
Maize	**2 096 035**	1 803 542	16	**1 451 629**	1 327 572	**9**	**0.69**	0.7	-1
Sorghum	**304 693**	386 584	-21	**94 789**	131 644	**-28**	**0.31**	0.34	-9
Pearl Millet	**164 895**	189 643	-13	**44 666**	49 840	**10**	**0.27**	0.26	4
Finger. Millet	**63 287**	54 371	16	**16 627**	12 403	**34**	**0.26**	0.23	13
Groundnuts	**426 806**	424 532	0.5	**230 475**	186 214	**24**	**0.54**	0.44	23
Tobacco	**148 160**	100 287	48	**177 792**	123 400	**44**	**1.2**	1.23	-2
Cotton	**379 689**	338 270	12	**220 219**	260 000	**-15**	**0.58**	0.77	-25
Soya bean	**60 124**	48 010	25	**84 173**	70 256	**20**	**1.4**	1.46	-4
Sugar beans	**26 778**	30 715	-13	**13 121**	17 200	**-24**	**0.49**	0.46	7

1. Crop production

1.1 Season Quality

- The 2010/2011 season was not very ideal for cropping. Although the season started on a promising note with good rains in December and January, a dry spell set in at the end of January critically affecting crop production in some parts of the country

1.1.1 Start of the Season

- Although some areas received the first rains in October, effective rains were received from mid-November to early December in most areas.
- The start of the season was normal in most parts of the country and rainfall distribution was good in space in November and December.

1.1.2 Rainfall distribution pattern

- In most parts of the country there was sufficient moisture to support crops from the onset of the season up to the end of January.
- In January some areas received persistent rains that disrupted farming operations and resulted in water logging especially in low lying areas and areas with sandy soils.
- Some parts of the country experienced a dry spell of between 1 and 6 weeks, starting from third dekad of January and the effects were more pronounced in the southern districts where some crops were a write-off.
- The combined effects of water logging, nutrient leaching, poor weed control in January and the prolonged dry spell from the last dekad of January and in February impacted negatively on the crop yield.
- Although most parts of the country received near normal to above normal rainfall, the distribution in time was poor and affected crop yields(Fig 1a and 1b).

Fig 1a: Accumulation of Rainfall until 30-03- 2011

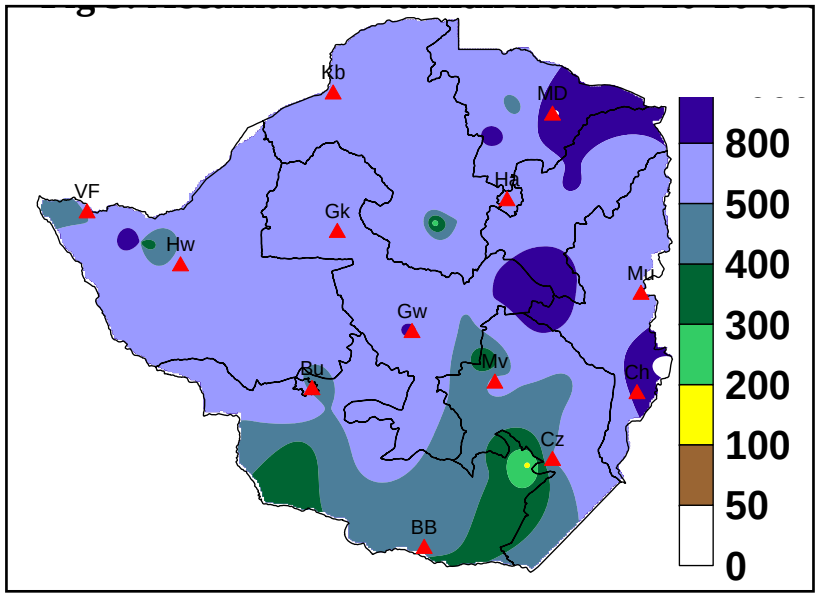
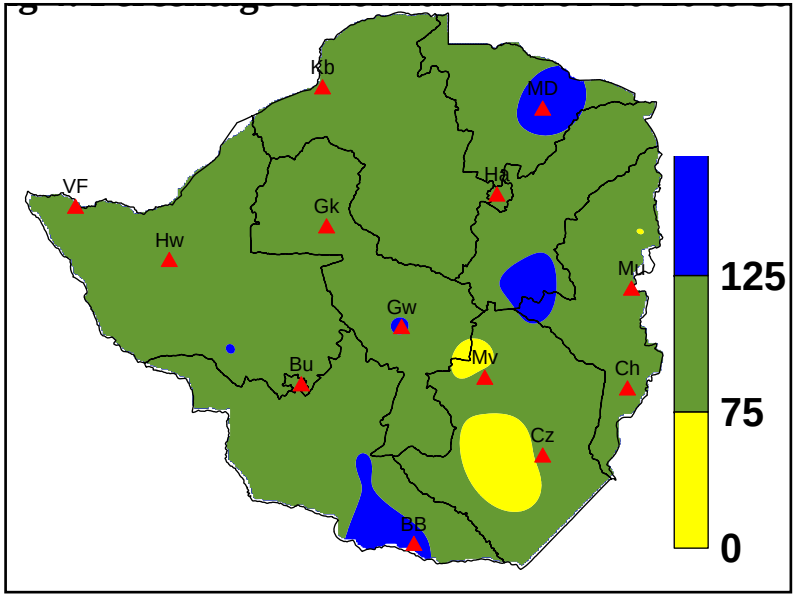


Fig1b: Percentage of normal Rainfall 01-10-2010 to 30-03-2011



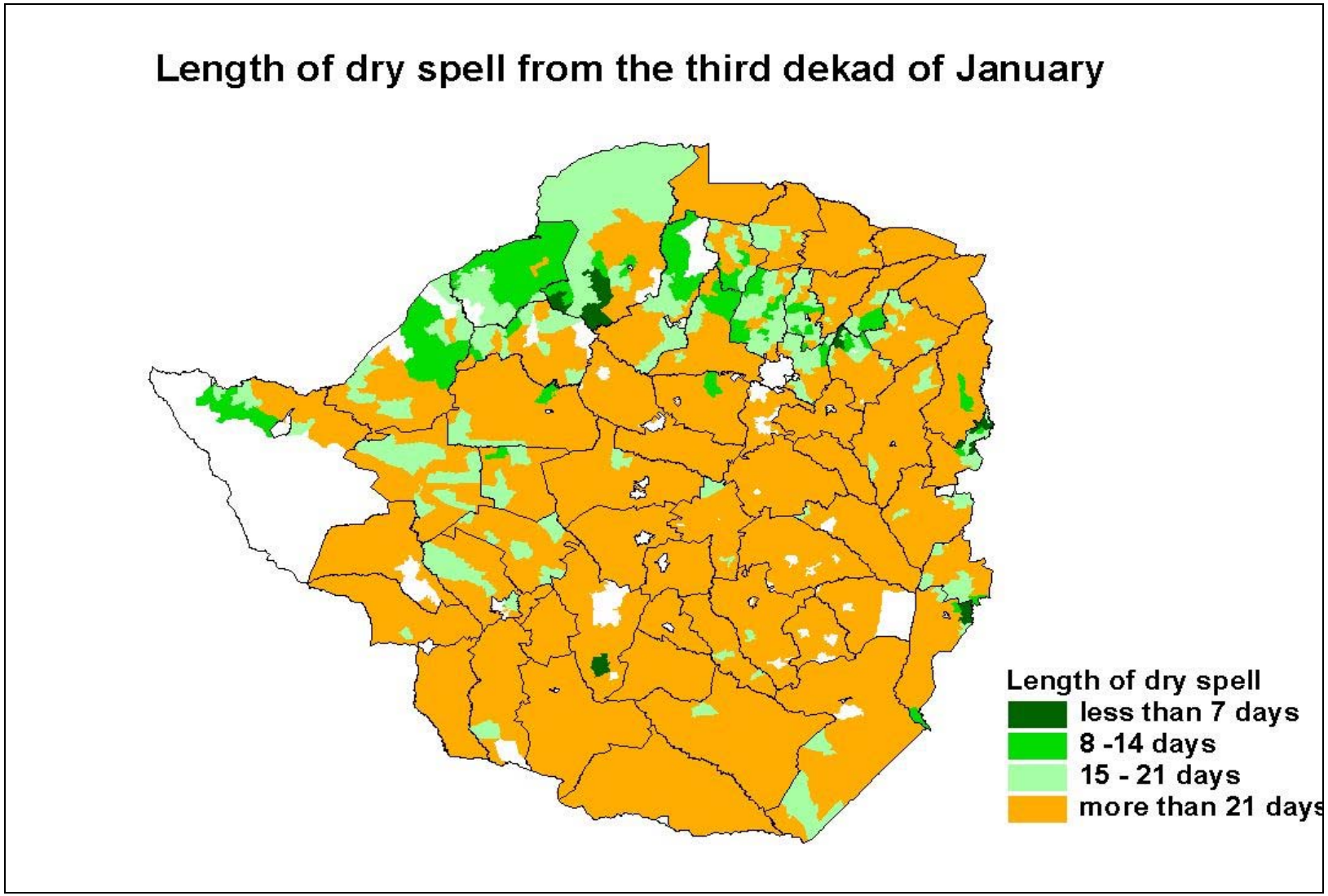
Source: Department of Meteorological Services

NB *The percent normal is not a good indicator of season quality as some areas inherently receive low rainfall whilst in some areas the rainfall may be received in one or two downpours.*

1.1.3 The Dry spell

- The February dry spell affected most parts of the country except some of the major maize producing districts of the country. This dry spell continued into March in some areas.
- The length of the dry spell ranged from one to six weeks in some parts of the country and was more severe in the southern areas. Figure 2 below shows the length of the dry spell from the last week of January to the time of crop assessment.
- The dry spell persisted after the 3rd week of March 2011 when data was collected.

Figure 2: Length of 2011 Dry Spell from the last week of January to the second week of March



Source: Crop and Livestock Assessment Tools

1.1.4 Water Requirements Satisfaction Index

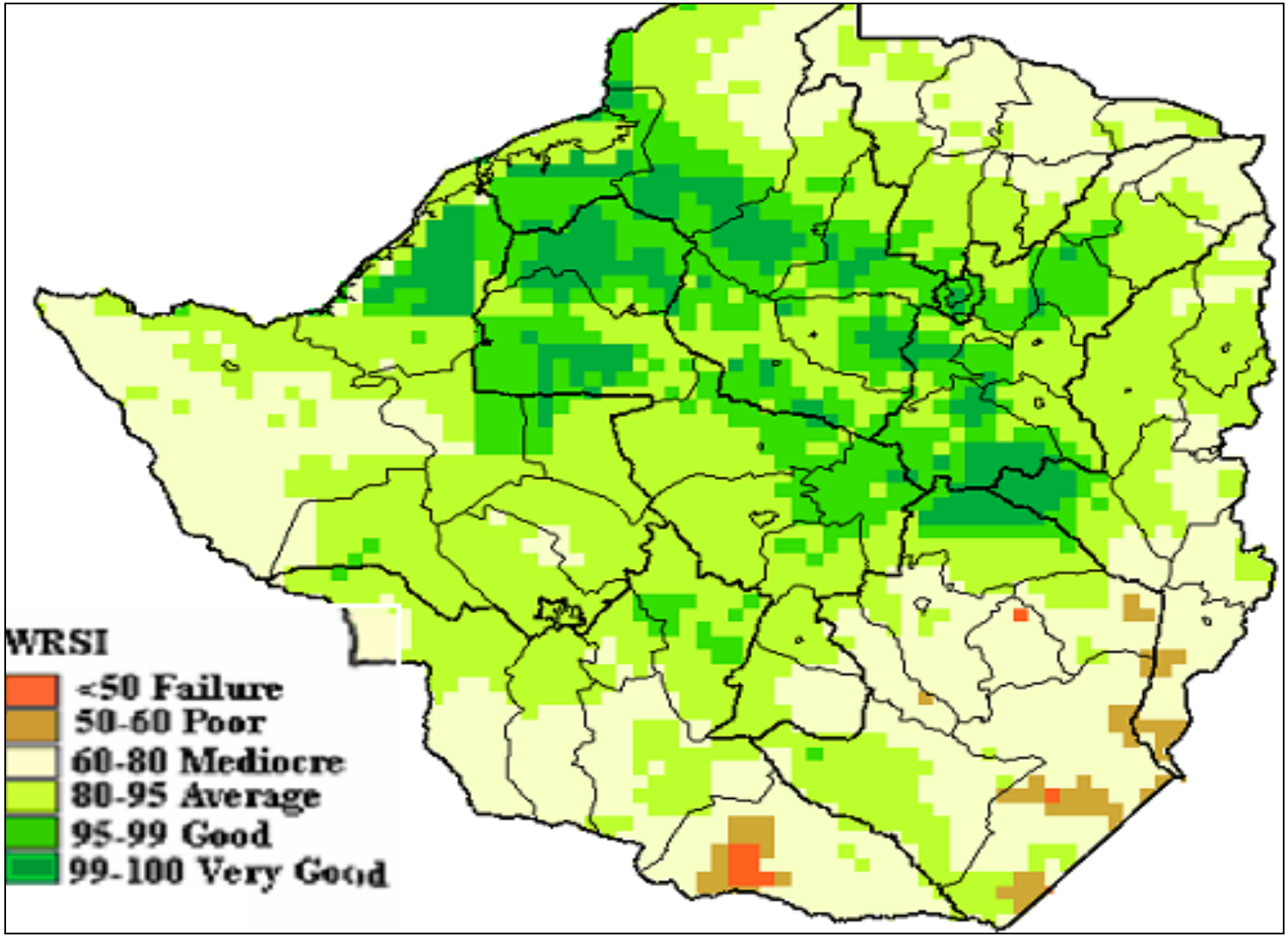
- Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) is a satellite derived map that shows the extent to which crops' water requirement was satisfied during the season.

- This has a bearing on the yield levels that can be realized for crops. The map below shows the WRSI maize crop forecast (figure 3) .

- The areas with the dark green colour(WRSI above 95%) represent those areas where rainfall season quality was generally good and not a constraint to crop perfomance. Any poor crop performance in these areas should be explained by mainly farmer agronomic management practices.

- The areas in yellow, brown and red(WRSI below 80%) indicate those areas where the season quality was poor to the extent of compromising crop performance with red being the most severely affected.

Figure 3: WRSI at the end of March 2011



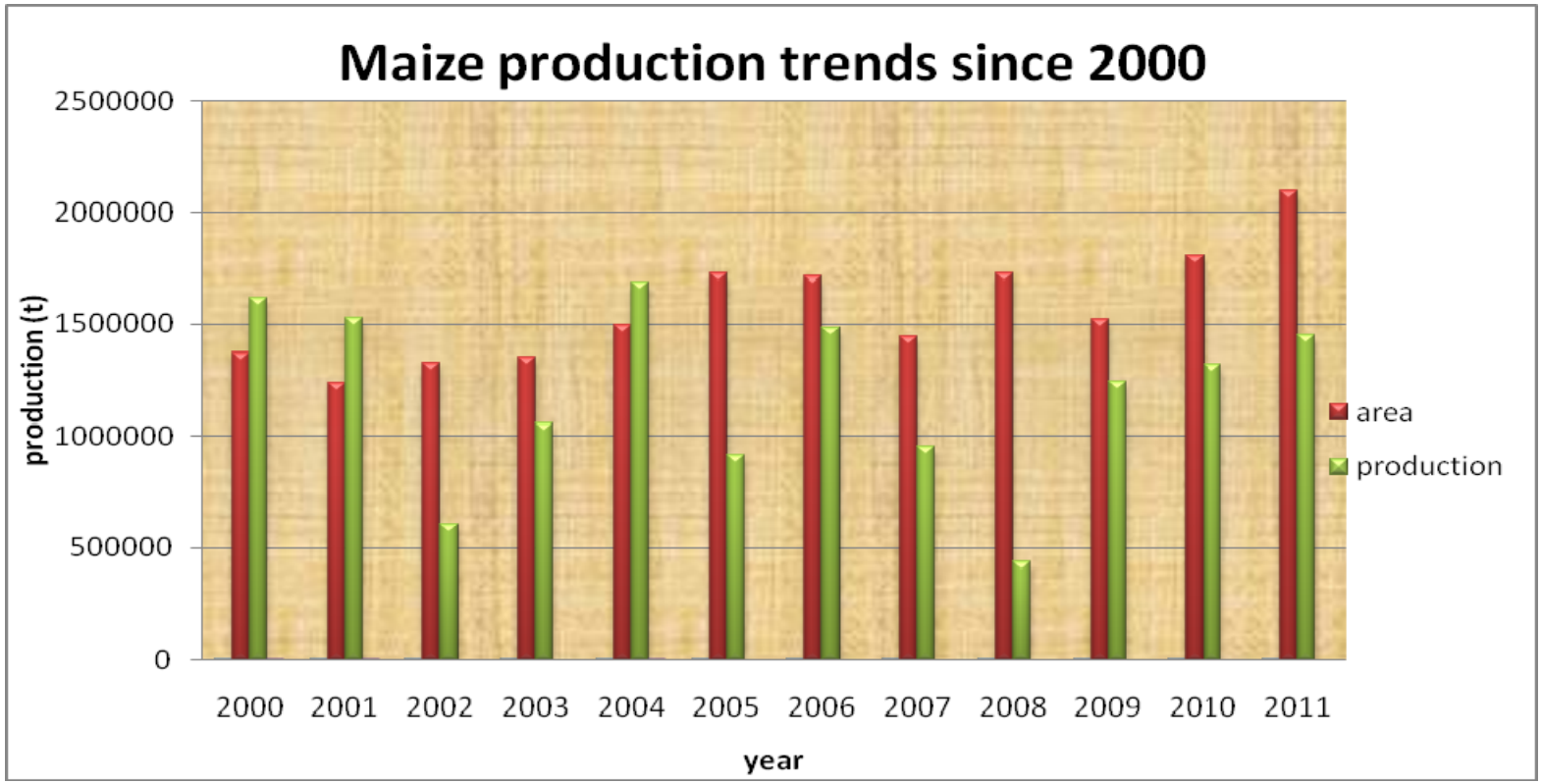
1.2 Maize Production

- Maize production increased by **9%** in 2010/2011 compared to 2009/2010. Maize production has been on the increase over the last 3 seasons.

1.2.1 Maize production trends

Maize production trends from 1999/2000 season to the 2010/2011 season are shown in figure 4 below:

Figure 4: Maize Production Trends (2000 – 2011)



1.2.2 Maize production by province 2010/2011

- The 2010/2011 maize production is estimated at **1 451 629MT** from a planted area of **2 096 035ha** with an average yield of **0.69T/ha**. The production estimate is about **9%** more than the 2009/2010 production estimate of about **1 327 572MT**.
- The increase in maize production is mainly attributed to larger hectarage put under the crop and better yields in the high potential maize producing areas.
- The high potential maize producing districts did not have a pronounced dry spell. The southern parts of the country comprising Masvingo, Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, southern parts of Manicaland and Midlands, parts of Mashonaland East and Central were affected by the mid season dry spell which adversely affected production in these areas.
- The largest proportion of the 2010/2011 maize harvest is expected to come from Mashonaland West (**25%**) followed by Mashonaland Central **(21%)** as shown in Table 2.
- High production of maize in Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central is due to both increased areas planted and high average yields.

Table 2: Maize area, yield and production for the 2010/2011 season as compared with 2009/2010 season

	Area(Ha)			Production (MT)			Yield (T/ha)		
Province	**2010/2011**	**2009/2010**	**% change**	**2010/2011**	**2009/2010**	**% change**	**2010/2011**	**2009/2010**	**% change**
Manicaland	262 106	237 052	**11**	159 885	118 658	**35**	0.61	0.5	**22**
Mash Central	231 814	179 839	**29**	296 722	223 516	**33**	1.28	1.2	**7**
Mash East	247 511	243 995	**1**	148 507	181 994	**-18**	0.6	0.7	**-14**
Mash West	379 066	263 621	**44**	451 089	336 855	**34**	1.19	1.3	**-8**
Masvingo	276 105	229 887	**20**	80 070	56 201	**43**	0.29	0.2	**45**
Mat North	166 265	100 936	**65**	79 807	73 311	**9**	0.48	0.7	**-31**
Mat South	148 922	139 643	**7**	35 741	58 290	**-39**	0.24	0.4	**-40**
Midlands	384 246	408 569	**-6**	199 808	278 747	**-28**	0.52	0.7	**-25**
Total	**2 096 035**	**1 803 542**	**16**	**1 451 629**	**1 327 572**	**9**	**0.69**	**0.7**	**-1.4**

1.2.3 Maize Production by time of planting

- The early planted crop (planted by end of November) performed better than the late planted crop (Table 3).
- The late planted crop was adversely affected by the dry spell that set in, in February.

Table 3: Crop production by time of planting

Province	**Crop Planted by end of November**			**Crop planted in December**			**Crop planted in January**		
	Area(Ha)	**Production(Mt)**	**Yield (t/ha)**	**Area(Ha)**	**Production(Mt)**	**Yield (t/ha)**	**Area(Ha)**	**Production(Mt)**	**Yield (t/ha)**
Manicaland	111 546	95 092	0.9	115 728	43 847	0.4	34 832	9 568	0.3
Mash Central	83 839	92 449	1.1	132 763	100 649	0.8	15 212	6 710	0.4
Mash East	127 763	191 647	1.5	106 053	99 426	0.9	13 695	5 649	0.4
Mash West	172 344	220 966	1.3	180 409	213 514	1.2	26 313	16 609	0.6
Masvingo	84 644	33 270	0.4	132 165	38 962	0.3	59 296	7 575	0.1
Mat North	49 664	14 240	0.3	89 117	17 035	0.2	27 484	4 466	0.2
Mat South	46 254	39 569	0.9	70 753	30 263	0.4	31 915	10 238	0.3
Midlands	164 596	93 788	0.6	182 644	59 470	0.3	37 006	6 627	0.2
Total	**840 650**	**781 020**	**0.9**	**1 009 632**	**603 165**	**0.6**	**245 753**	**67 442**	**0.3**

- In terms of sectoral contribution, communal areas are expected to produce the biggest share (**43%**) of national maize production compared to **40%** in 2009/2010 season. This production is shown in Table 4 and figure 6 below.

Table 4: Contribution to Maize Production by Sector (MT)

Sector	**2010/2011**	**2009/2010**
CA	627 210	536 051
A1	357 408	296 964
A2	285 443	259 668
OR	69 603	133 740
SSCFA	29 909	40 454
LSCF	56 704	60 695
Peri-Urban	31 522	-
Total	**1 451 629**	**1 327 572**

Figure 5: Maize Production by Sector

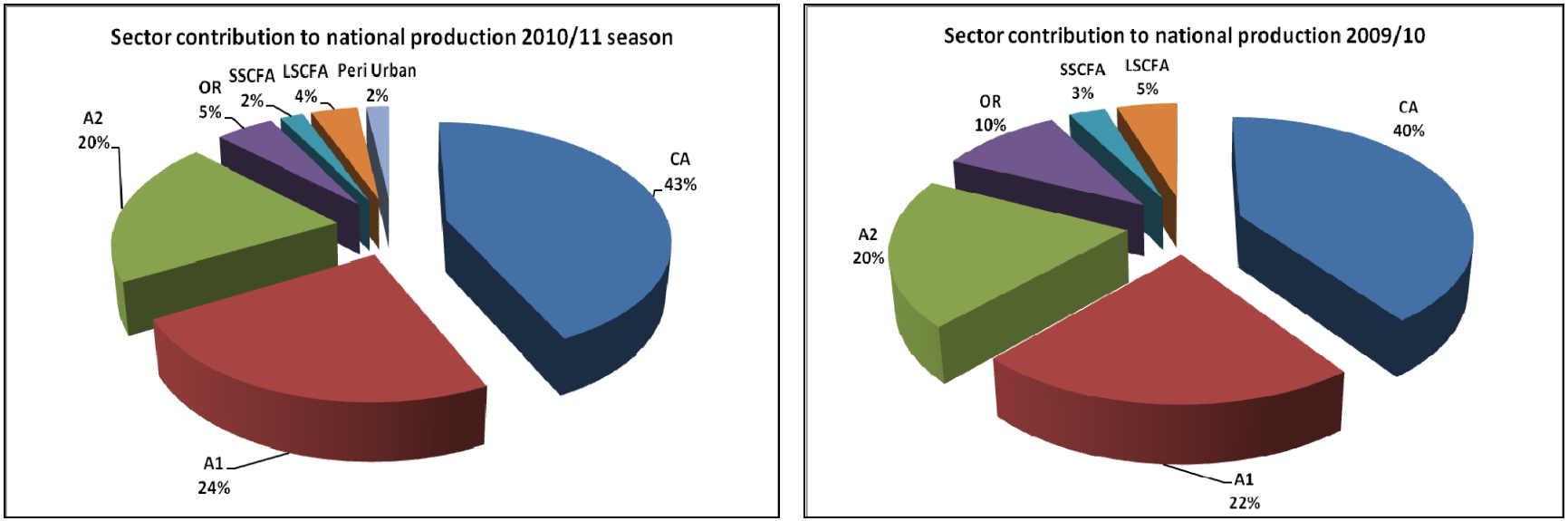
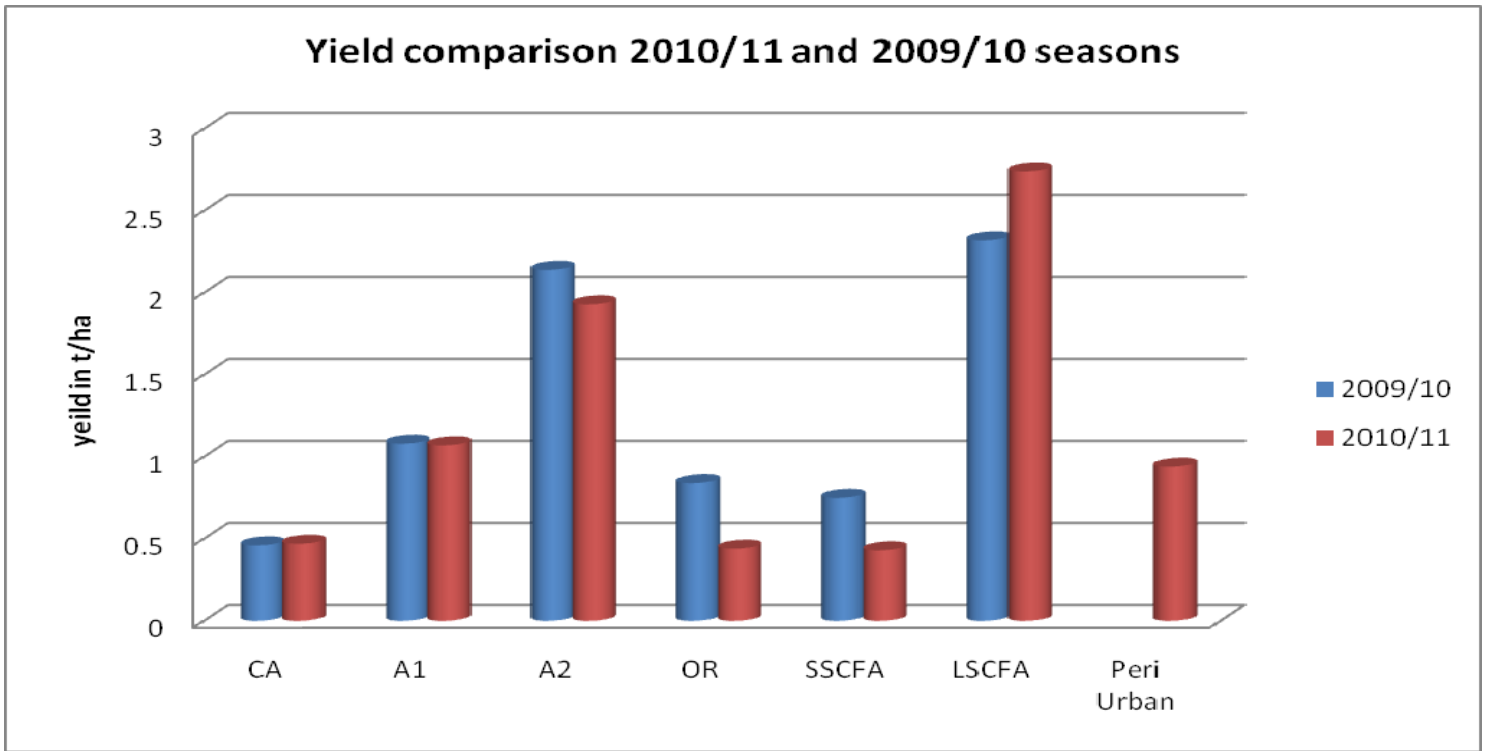


Figure 6: Average Maize Yields by Farming Sector



Source: AGRITEX Crop and Livestock Assessment 2011

**NB. Peri-urban yields were not captured separately in the 2009/2010 season*

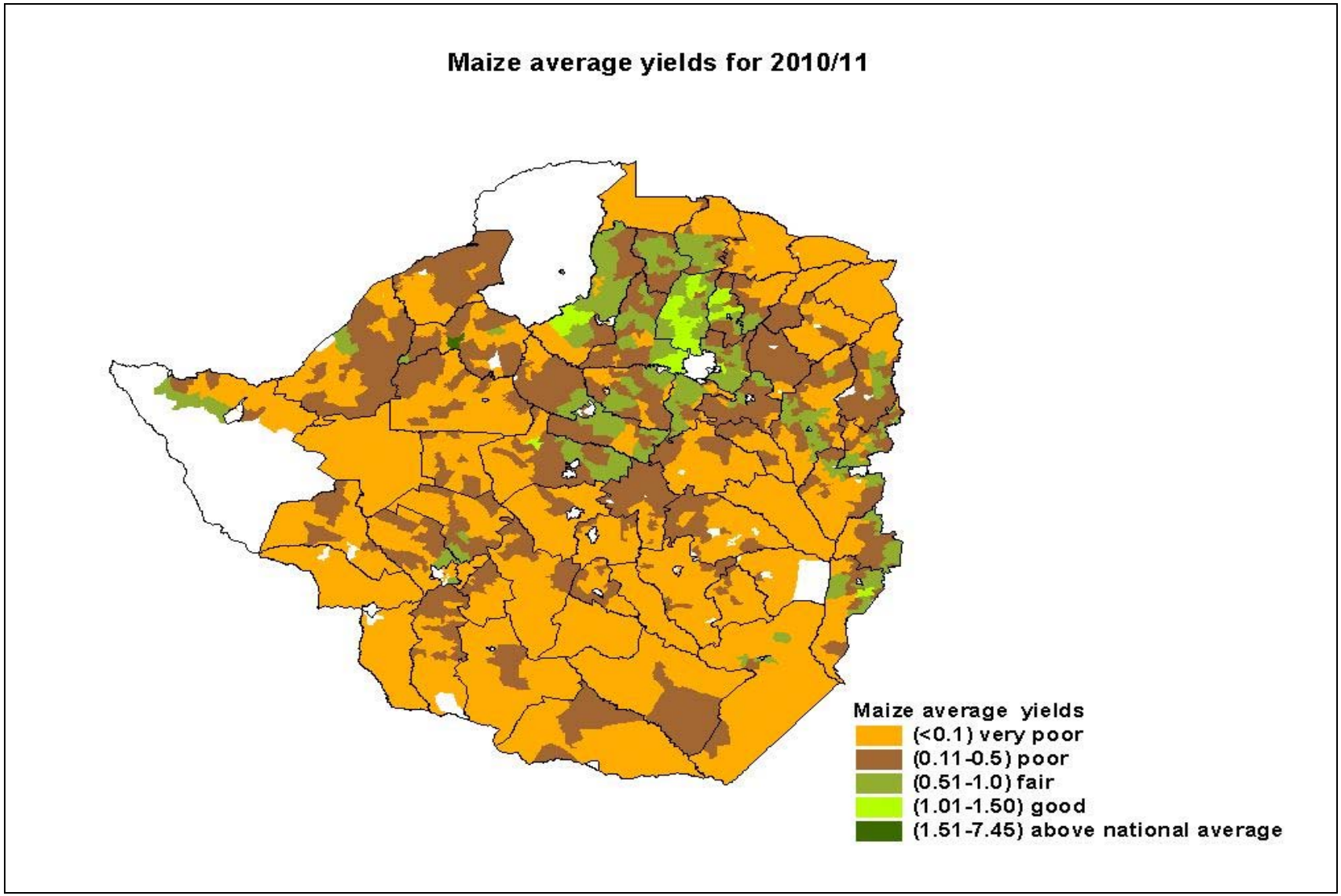
- Yield changes per sector 2010/2011 in comparison to 2009/2010 are shown in Table 5:

Table 5: Percent yield change for 2010/2011 compared to 2009/2010 season.

Sector	**% Change**
Communal	2.2
A1	-0.9
A2	-10
Old Resettlement	-47
Small Scale Commercial Farming	-42
Large Scale Commercial Farming	18

- The decline in yield for the Old resettlement and Small Scale Commercial Farming area could be attributed to poor soil type which succumbed to water logging in January and subsequent dry spell in February and March.
- Communal farmers were the major beneficiaries of crop input support programmes hence the slight increase in yield.

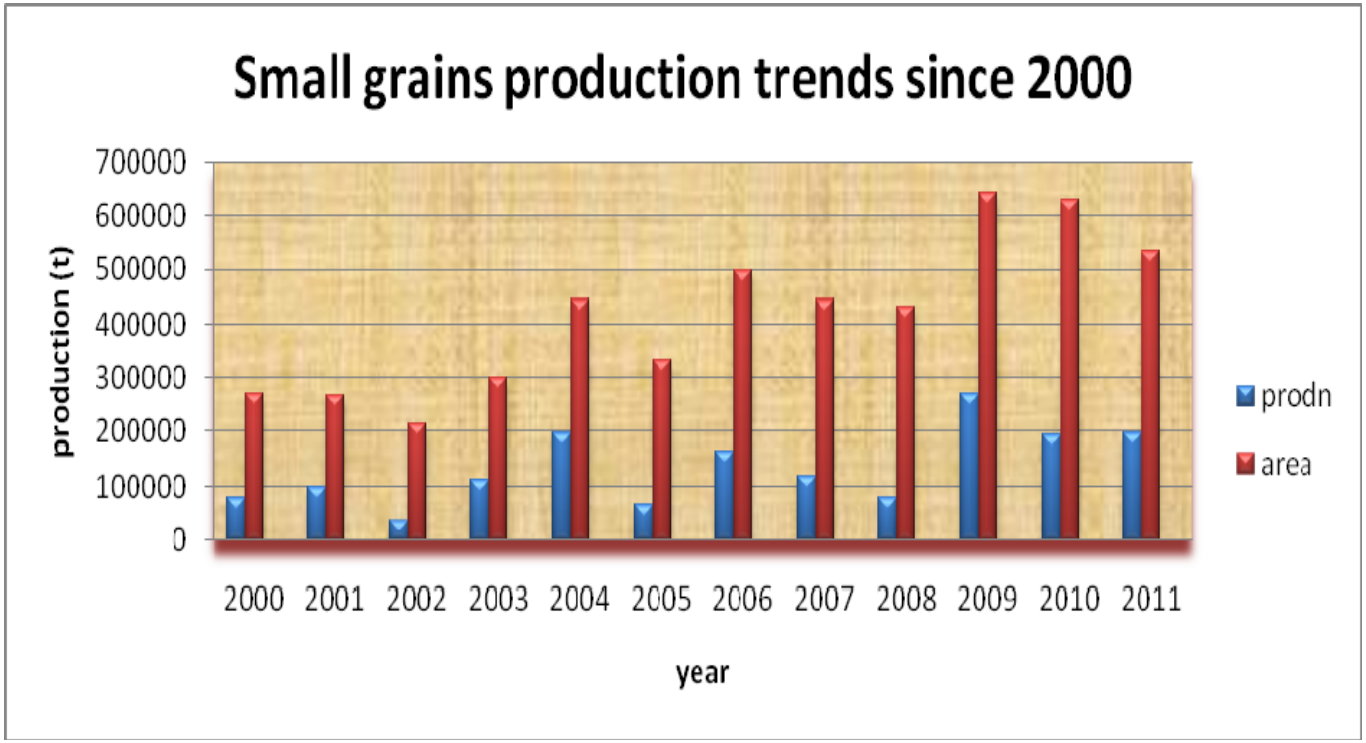
Figure 7: **Average Maize Yields (t/ha)**



1.3 Small Grains Production

- Sorghum and millets production for the **2010/2011** summer cropping season is estimated at **156 082MT**. The sorghum production is expected to be **94 789MT**, finger millet **16 627MT** and pearl millet **44 666MT**.
- The combined small grains area decreased by **15.5%** while production decreased by **19.5%** compared to 2009/2010 (figure 8).The dry spell affected the regions where significant areas are put under small grains.
- Also quelea birds were reported to be a menace.

Figure 8: Small Grains Production 2010/2011 Compared to the 2000 – 2010 Production



- Manicaland and Masvingo have the highest small grains production. This can be attributed to larger hectrages under small grains in these provinces.

Table 6: Small Grains Production for the 2010/2011 Season by Province

Province	Sorghum			Pearl Millet			Finger Millet			Total Small Grains	
	Area (Ha)	Production (T)	Yield (t/ha)	Area (Ha)	Production (T)	Yield (t/ha)	Area (Ha)	Production (T)	Yield (t/ha)	Area (Ha)	Production (T)
Manicaland	61 593	18 478	0.3	36 276	10 157	0.28	11 790	3 065	0.26	**109 659**	**31 700**
Mash Central	34 114	10 916	0.32	3 251	748	0.23	1 540	416	0.27	**38 905**	**12 080**
Mash East	27 673	7 195	0.26	6 763	1 014	0.15	7 391	1 848	0.25	**41 827**	**10 057**
Mash West	7 140	3 784	0.53	125	15	0.12	730	146	0.2	**7 995**	**3 945**
Mat North	23 626	9 450	0.4	26 925	7 808	0.29	103	43	0.42	**50 654**	**17 301**
Mat South	24 340	5 842	0.24	33 061	6 612	0.2	1 697	611	0.36	**59 098**	**13 065**
Midlands	32 479	10 068	0.31	13 490	5 261	0.39	8 877	2 397	0.27	**54 846**	**17 726**
Masvingo	93 728	29 056	0.31	45 004	13 051	0.29	31 159	8 101	0.26	**169 601**	**50 208**
Total	**304 693**	**94 789**	**0.31**	**164 895**	**44 666**	**0.27**	**63 287**	**16 627**	**0.26**	**532 875**	**156 082**

- The combined maize, sorghum, pearl millet and finger millet production for **2010/2 011** is about **1 607 700MT** against an estimated national requirement of **1 717 800MT.** A national cereal deficit of about **67 345MT** is therefore estimated (Table 7).

Table 7: Grain and Cereal Production Compared to National Requirements in Metric Tonnes

Requirements		Available Grain and Cereals		Surplus/Deficits
[1]Human	1 367 800	Production 2011	1 607 700	
Livestock and other uses	350 000	Carryover Stocks 2010 (GMB)	270 000	
Total	**1 717 800**		**1 877 700**	**159 900**

- However, 42 rural districts do not have enough cereal to meet the requirements of their rural population for the full year (figure 9).

- Districts with per capita cereal production of twelve months do not imply all households are food secure.

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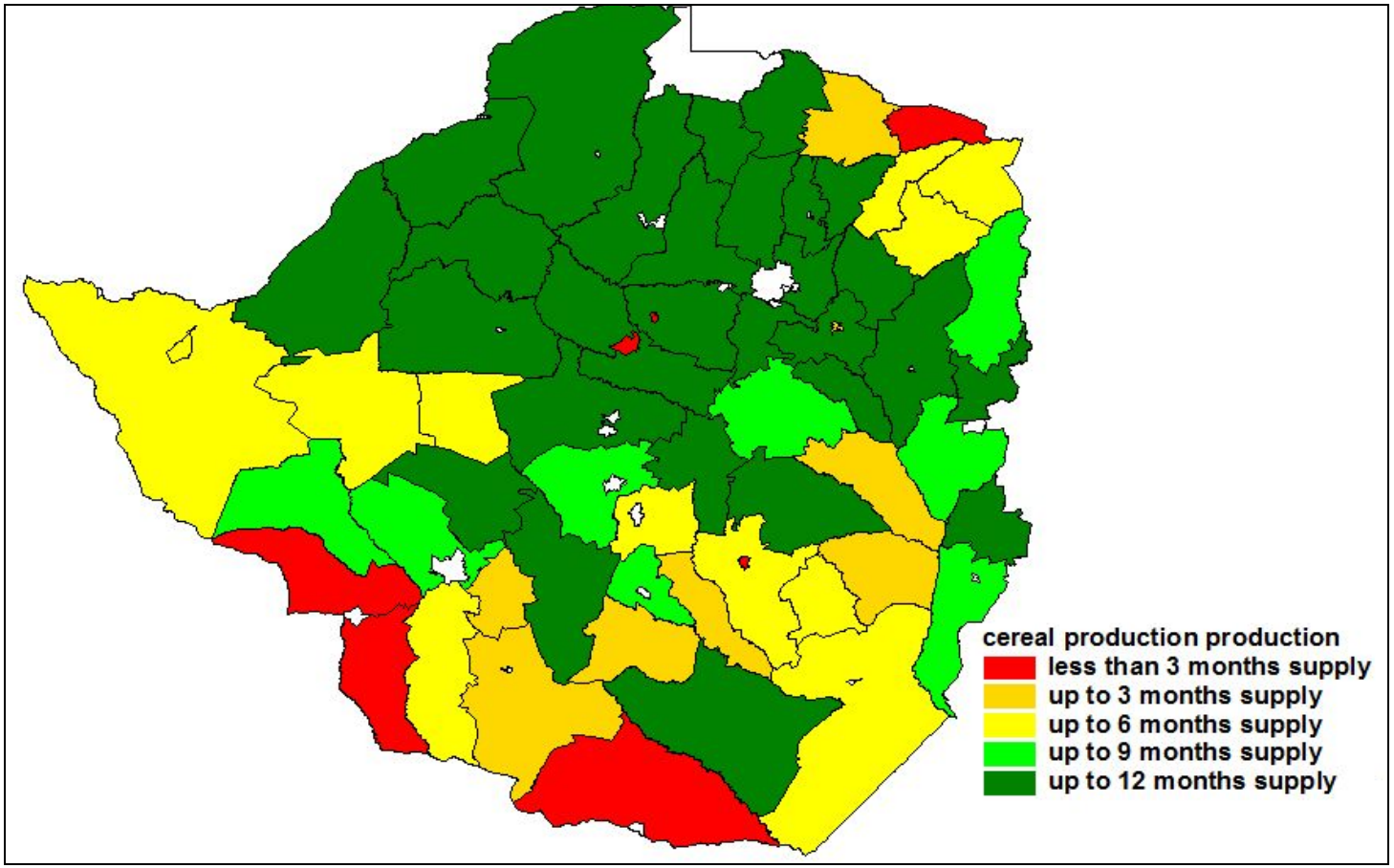
[1]Human consumption is computed from a consumptions rate of 110kg/year and a national population estimate of 12 434 734

Figure 9: Per Capita 2010/2011 Cereal (Maize and Small grains) Production at District level [1]



[1] Mbire included in Guruve, Mhondoro Ngezi and Sanyati mapped as part of Kadoma Rural. Per capita requirements where calculated based on rural population only.

1.4 Other Crop Production Estimates

- Estimated production of all other crops, except tobacco, is lower compared to 2009/2010 season's production.
- In tobacco, the increase in production is due to increased area planted.

Table 8: Other Crops Area, Yield and Production for the 2010/2011 Season as compared with 2009/2010 season

Crop	**Area (ha)**			**Production (t)**			**Yield (t/ha)**		
	2010/2011	2009/2010	% change	**2010/2011**	2009/2010	% change	**2010/2011**	**2009/2010**	% change
Groundnuts	**426 806**	424 532	0.5	**230 475**	186 214	24	**0.54**	0.44	23
Tobacco	**148 160**	100 287	48	**177 792**	123 400	44	**1.2**	1.23	-2
Cotton	**379 689**	338 270	12	**220 219**	260 000	-15	**0.58**	0.77	-25
Soya bean	**60 124**	48 010	25	**84 173**	70 256	20	**1.4**	1.46	-4
Sugar beans	**26 778**	30 715	-13	**13 121**	17 200	-24	**0.49**	0.46	7
Sunflower	**31 102**	38 293	-19	**11 508**	13 960	-18	**0.37**	0.36	-2.7

1.4.1 Groundnuts

- A total area of **426 806 ha** was planted, which is a **0.5%** increase from the **424 532 ha** planted last year.
- National production is forecast at **230 475mt,** with an average yield of **0.54 t/ha** for the 2010/2011 season.
- This production level is 24% more than that of last season's production of **186 214mt** due to the good start of season. Groundnuts are normally planted early on in the season with the first rains.

1.4.2 Tobacco

- A total area of **148 160 ha** flue cured tobacco was planted in 2010/2011 compared to **100 287 ha** planted in 2009/2010.
- National production is forecast at **177 792mt**, with an average yield of **1.2 t/ha** for the 2010/2011 season.
- This production level is 44% more than last season's production of **123 400mt.** This can be attributed to increased area under the crop in response to high prices offered to the crop last season.

1.4.3 Cotton

- A total area of **379 689 ha** was planted, which is a **12%** increase from the **338 270ha** planted last year.
- National production is forecast at **220 219mt**, with an average yield of **0.58t/ha** for the 2010/2011 season.
- This production level is **15%** less than last season's production of **260 000mt**.
- Part of the crop was planted late and most cotton growing areas were affected by the dry spell in February and March.

1.4.4 Soya beans

- A total area of **60 124ha** was planted, which is **25%** increase from the **48 010 ha** planted last year.
- National production is forecast at **84 173mt**, with an average yield of **1.4 t/ha** for 2010/2011 season.
- This production level is **20%** more than last season's production of **70 256mt**. This can be attributed to increase in area.

1.4.5 Sugar Beans

- A total area of **26 778 ha** was planted, which is a **13%** decrease from the **30 715 ha** planted last year.
- National production is forecast at **13 121mt**, with an average yield of **0.49t/ha** for the 2010/2011 season.
- This production level is **24%** less than that of last season's production of **17 200mt**. This is because planting of sugar beans which is normally done end of January to March was stalled by the dry spell that set in, in February.

1.4.6 Sunflower

- A total area of **31 102 ha** was planted, which is a **19%** decrease from the **38 293 ha** planted in 2009/2010.
- National production is forecast at **11 508mt**, with an average yield of **0.37 t/ha** for the 2010/2011 season, compared to 13 960mt in 2009/2010.
- This represents a decrease in production.

Executive Summary-Livestock

Table 9: Livestock Numbers by Species

Province	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Horses	Donkeys
Manicaland	609 705	100 462	634 742	41 630	35	39 200
Mashonaland Central	511 552	38 977	227 751	53 905	114	7 654
Mashonaland East	557 259	29 500	154 502	24 881	30	7 052
Mashonaland West	707 883	126 398	85 546	69 871	226	4 245
Masvingo	997 634	71 453	805 884	26 661	-	80 160
Matabeleland North	551 858	31 709	445 827	14 492	385	33 349
Matabeleland South	530 478	87 365	429 418	5 657	26	138 161
Midlands	690 384	16 341	289 180	20 994	51	61 974
Grand Total	**5 156 753**	**502 205**	**3 072 850**	**258 091**	**867**	**371 795**

- Calving rates stand at **45%** which is an improvement over the previous season's **35%.**
- Off-take for cattle now stands at **5.3%** up from **3.34%** in 2010.
- Dairy production increased by **32%** in 2010 compared to 2009.
- The National average cattle mortality is at **4.4%** slightly above the acceptable **3%.**
- The pig sow herd increased to **12 000** in 2010 from **7 000** in 2009.

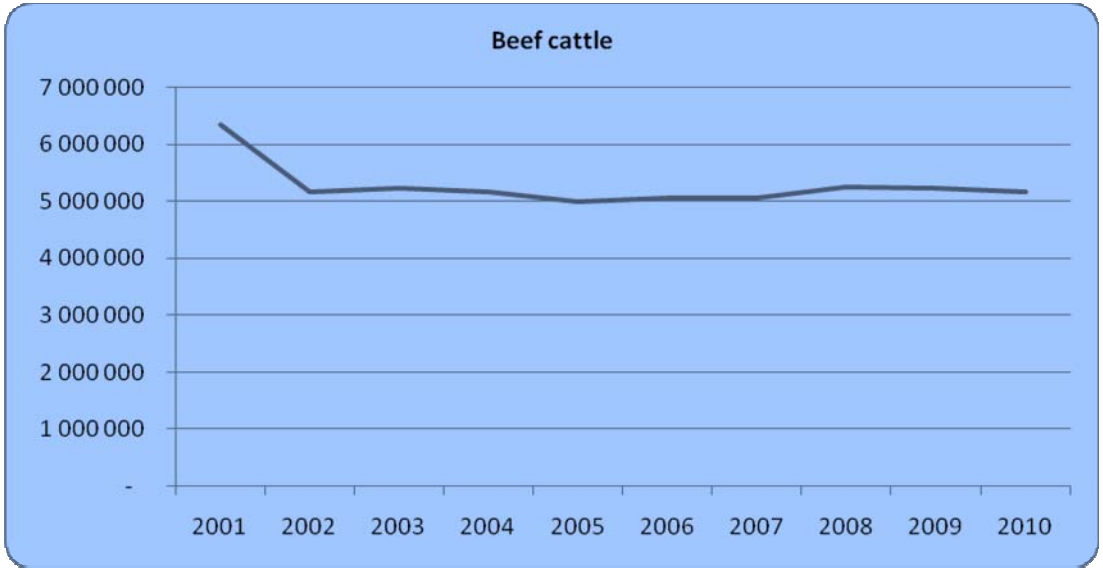
2. Livestock Production

2.1 Livestock production Trends

2.1.1 Cattle Production trends

- Cattle numbers have remained more or less constant from 2002 to date as shown in figure 10 below:

Figure10: Cattle population from year 2001 to 2010



Source: Department of Livestock and Veterinary

2.1.2 Cattle distribution by sector

- The distribution of cattle by sector is shown in Table 10 below:

Table 10**:** Number of Cattle by Farming Sector

Province	**CA**	**A1**	**A2**	**OR**	**SSCFA**	**TOTAL**
Manicaland	446 106	5 448	13 606	136 166	8 379	**609 705**
Mashonaland Central	367 649	62 694	40 720	26 854	13 635	**511 552**
Mashonaland East	382 659	52 506	1 650	91 634	28 810	**557 259**
Mashonaland West	249 560	171 179	245 715	25 124	16 305	**707 883**
Masvingo	669 473	149 176	61 821	81 122	36 042	**997 634**
Matabeleland North	430 719	32 853	38 664	36 406	13 216	**551 858**
Matabeleland South	450 567	1 465	17 777	53 759	6 910	**530 478**
Midlands	533 007	38 647	33 433	61 036	24 261	**690 384**
TOTAL 2010	**3 529 739**	**513 968**	**453 385**	**512 102**	**147 559**	**5 156 753**

Source: Department of Livestock and Veterinary

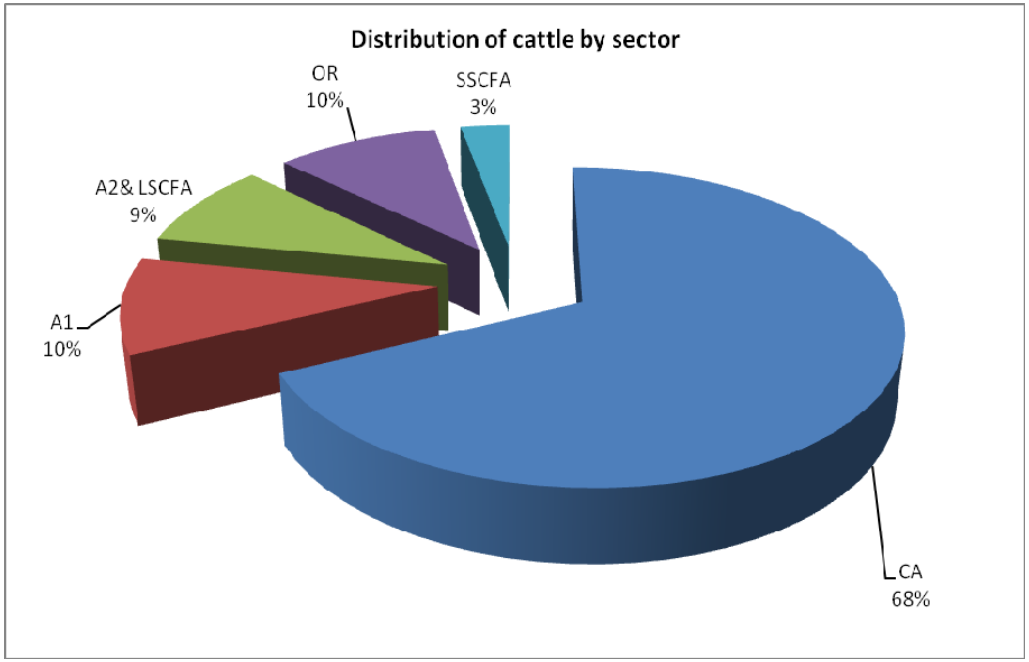
- There has been a general upward shift in cattle numbers in A1, A2, and Old Resettlement sectors, as shown in Table 11 below:

Table 11: Comparison of cattle population from year 2009 to year 2010 by sector

Year	**CA**	**A1**	**A2**	**OR**	**SSCFA**	**TOTAL**
2 010	**3 529 739**	**513 968**	**453 385**	**512 102**	**147 559**	**5 156 753**
2 009	3 692 196	498 926	442 080	420 690	167 828	**5 221 720**

- The distribution of cattle by sector is illustrated in the figure11

Figure 11: Distribution of cattle by farming sector



2.1.3 Sheep and Goats Production trends

- There was a **26%** decline in the number of goats in 2010 compared to 2009 (Figure 12). This was probably due to increased market demand.
- Sheep population increased **by 6%** as shown in figure 13 and continues to show recovery.

Figure 12: Goat Production trend

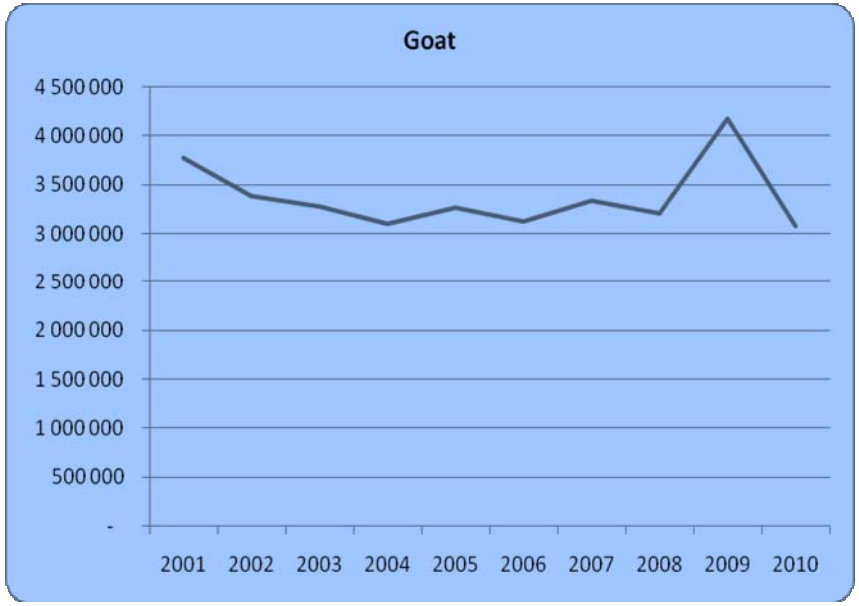
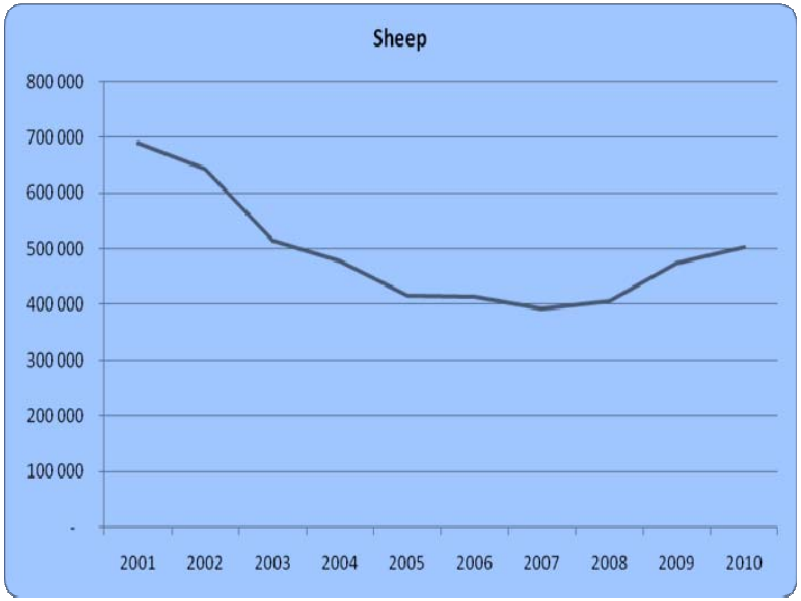


Figure 13: Sheep Production trend



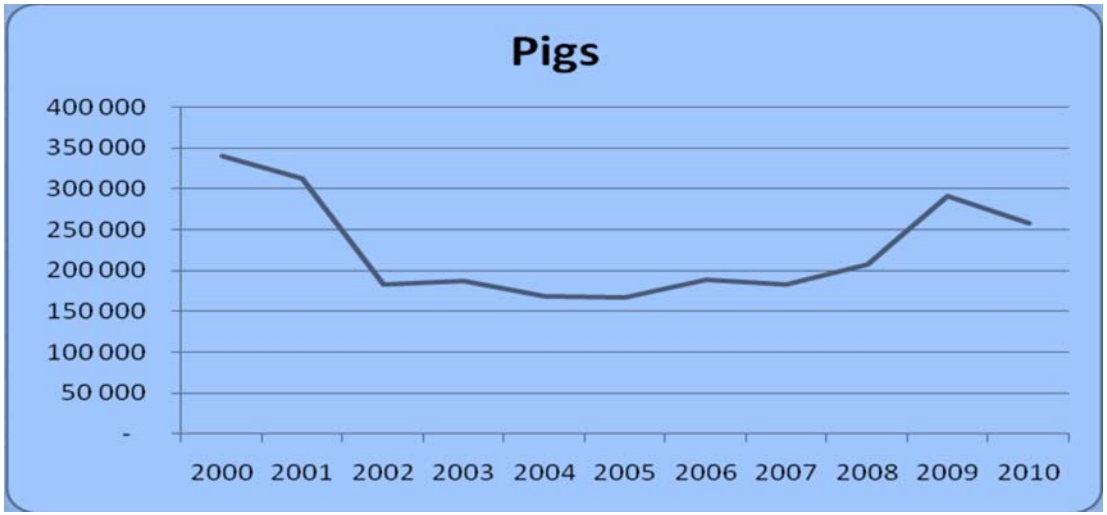
Source: Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services

2.1.4 Pig Production trends

- Pig production has been very variable over the years with drought years showing massive declines due to stock feed shortages.

- The national **commercial** sow herd declined from **14,000** in 2000 to **9,000** in 2004. The herd then recovered to above **16,000** sow units in 2007 but declined again in 2009 to about **7,000** sows due to unavailability of stock feeds. Currently the commercial sow herd has recovered and stands at an estimated **12 000** sows.
- High initial capital requirements and availability of good quality breeding stock are still the major challenges being faced by this sector.
- The national pig population trend is shown in figure 14 below:

Figure14: Pig population trends



Source: Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services & Pig Industry Board

2.1.5 Poultry Production trends

- Production of poultry and poultry products has been steadily increasing since year 2007.
- Figure 15 and 16 show the production trends of Table eggs and day-old broiler chick respectively.

Figure 15 Egg Production

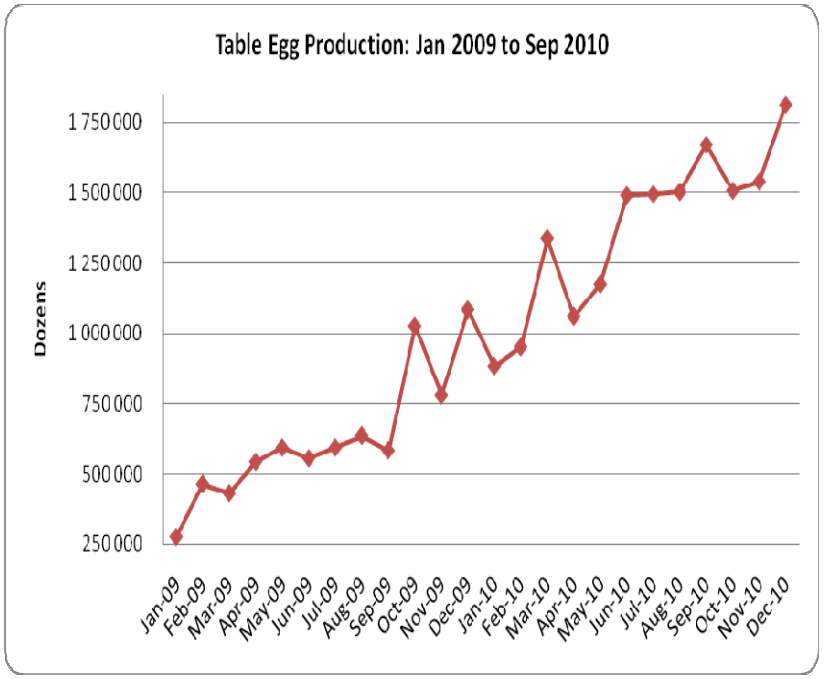
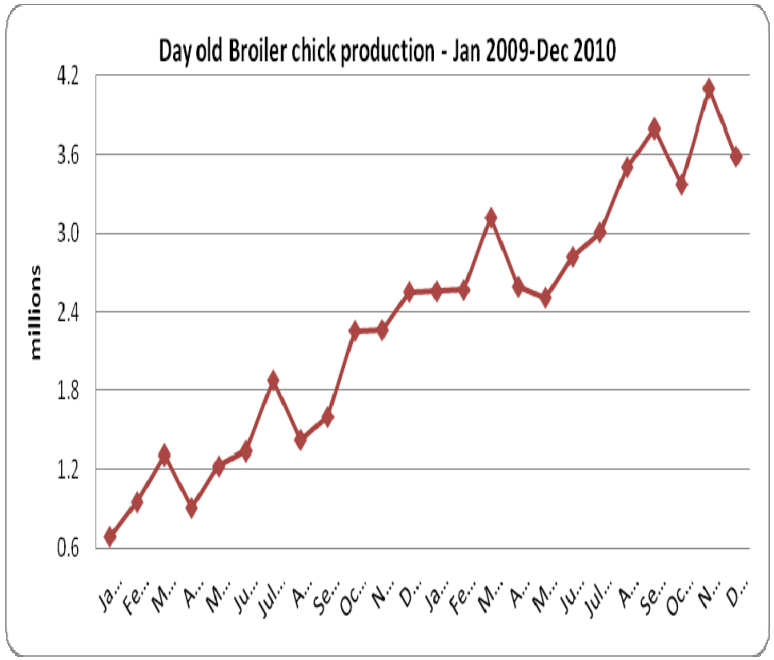


Figure 16: Day old Broiler chick Production



Source: Zimbabwe Poultry Producers Association

The current production levels of poultry meat still fall short of national requirements.

2.1.6 Commercial stock feeds

- There has been a general shortage of stock feeds on the market attributed to shortage of Soya bean meal.
- Stock feeds prices are generally too high, thus affecting viability of livestock enterprises.
- The worst affected enterprises are poultry and pig enterprises.

2.1.7 Calving rates

- There was a general improvement in the calving rates compared to the previous season across all provinces as shown in Table 12 below. This can be attributed to improved livestock management by farmers, improved nutrition and effective disease control. However, the calving rate of **45%** is still lower than the national target calving rate that of above **65%.**

Table 12: Calving rates 2010/2011 in comparison to 2009/2010

Province	**Calving rates**	
	2009/2010	**2010/2011**
Manicaland	37%	42%
Mashonaland Central	32%	46%
Mashonaland East	23%	51%
Mashonaland West	30%	44%
Masvingo	40%	44%
Matabeleland North	34%	44%
Matabeleland South	45%	39%
Midlands	35%	46%
National Average	**35%**	**45%**

- Calving rates in the dairy sector and some A2 farms average **70%**.

2.1.8 Kidding and Lambing Rate

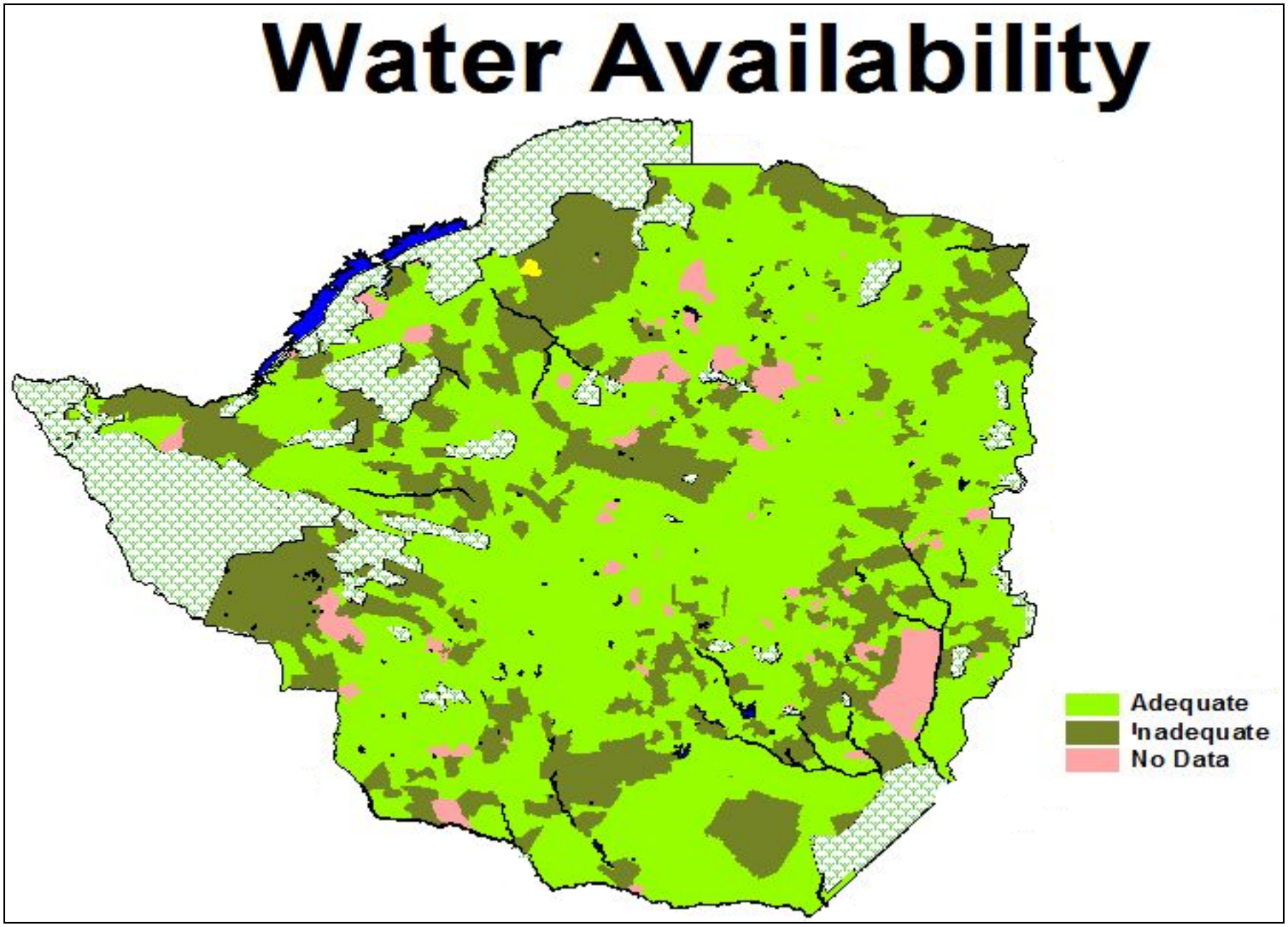
- Kidding rate for goats was **108%** which is below the target of **120%**,
- Lambing rate is at **43%,** too low a figure compared to a national target rate of **100%.**
- The low kidding and lambing rates are related to poor management practices.

2.2 Livestock Condition, Water and Grazing availability

2.2.1 Livestock Water Supply Situation

- Water for livestock was available in most districts at the time of assessment. However, there are some areas especially in the southern districts (Masvingo, Midlands and Matabeleland South) that may experience inadequate supplies before the next rainy season. A few wards in the northern districts might experience the same problem but to a lesser extent.
- Figure 17 below indicates livestock water supply situation until the next rainy season

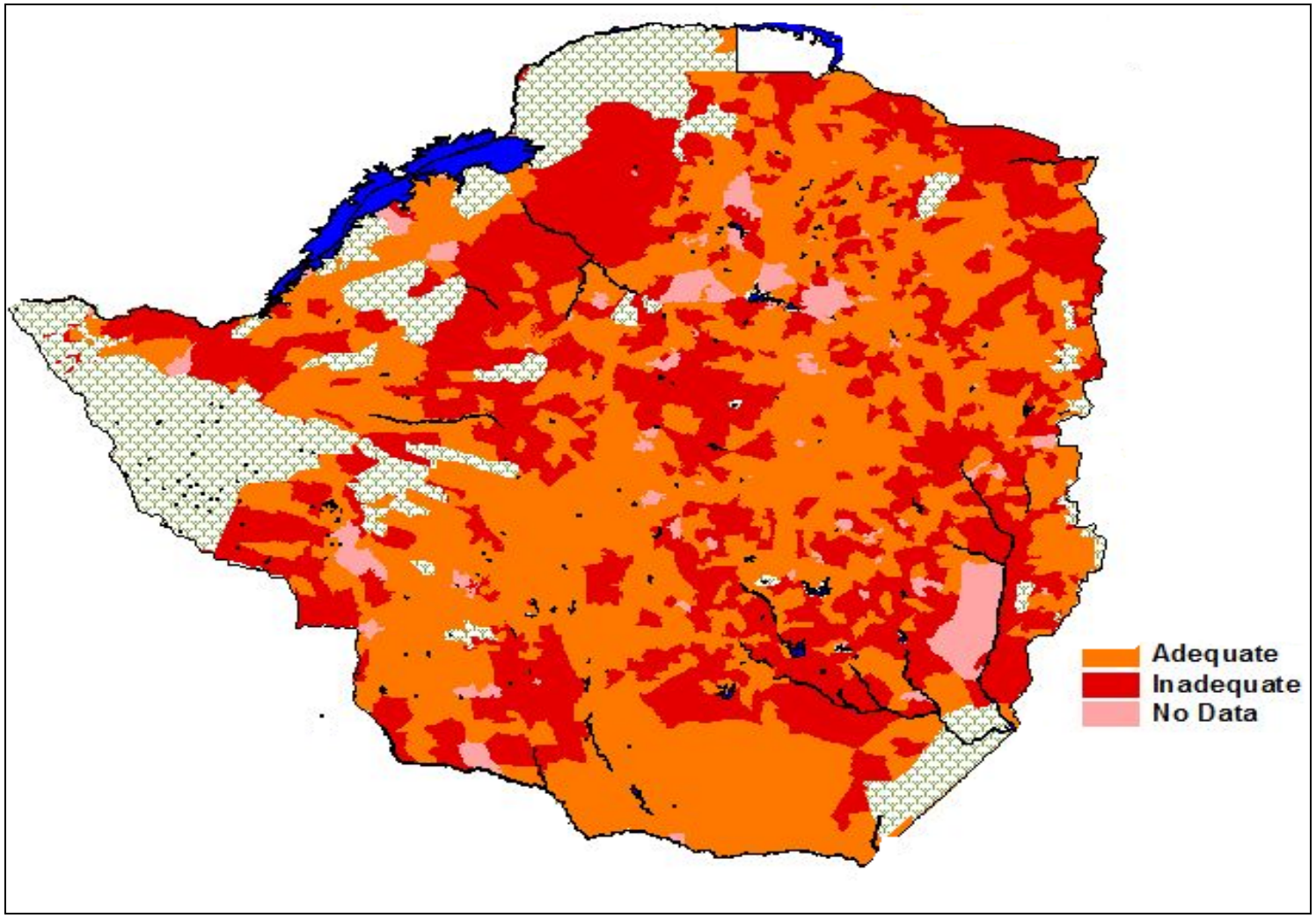
Figure17: Livestock water supply situation to next season



2.2.2 Grazing situation

- The grazing, ranges from poor to fair in communal areas to good in other farming sectors.
- In some A1 and A2 farming areas, there is grazing capacity that is underutilized.
- Figure 18 below shows the availability of grazing until the next season.

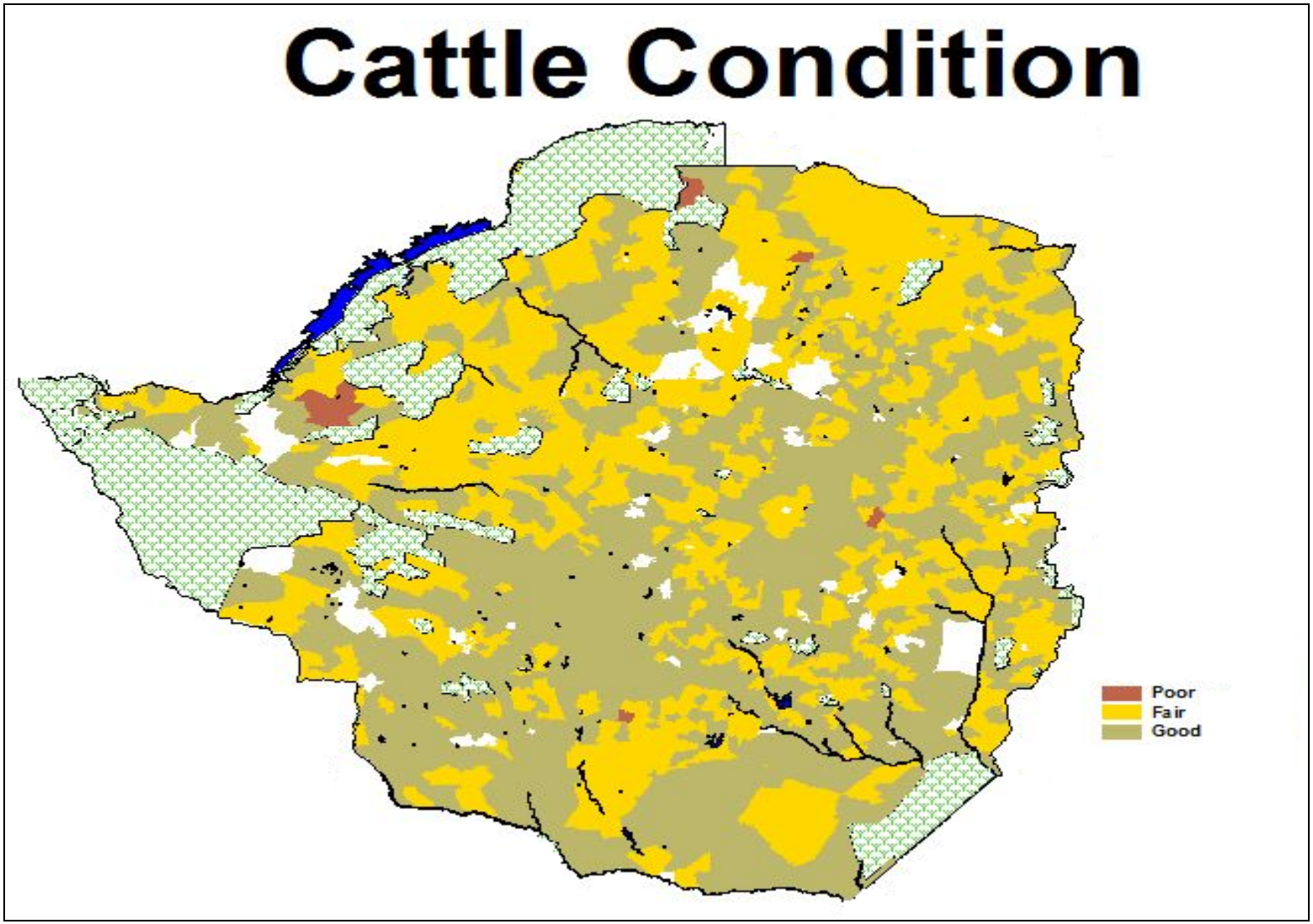
Figure 18: Grazing situation



2.2.3 Livestock condition

- The condition of livestock was good in the Old Resettlement, A1 and A2 sectors. In communal areas the condition ranged from fair to good depending on grazing pressure.
- Figure 19 depicts the areas where livestock were in good, fair or poor condition. In general, the condition of livestock was fair to good.

Figure 19: Current livestock condition



2.3 Bulling Ratios

- The recommended ratio should be 1 bull to 20-25 cows
- The national average number of cows to a bull is **7** as shown in the Table 13 below.

Table 13: Current bulling ratios

Province	Bulls	Cows and Heifers	Cows per Bull
Manicaland	45 148	289 272	6
Mashonaland central	31 322	265 586	8
Mashonaland east	51 487	271 046	5
Mashonaland west	29 712	296 955	10
Masvingo	118 503	455 917	4
Matabeleland north	29 712	296 955	10
Matabeleland south	15 337	257 093	17
Midlands	41 701	357 722	9
National	**362 922**	**2 490 546**	**7**

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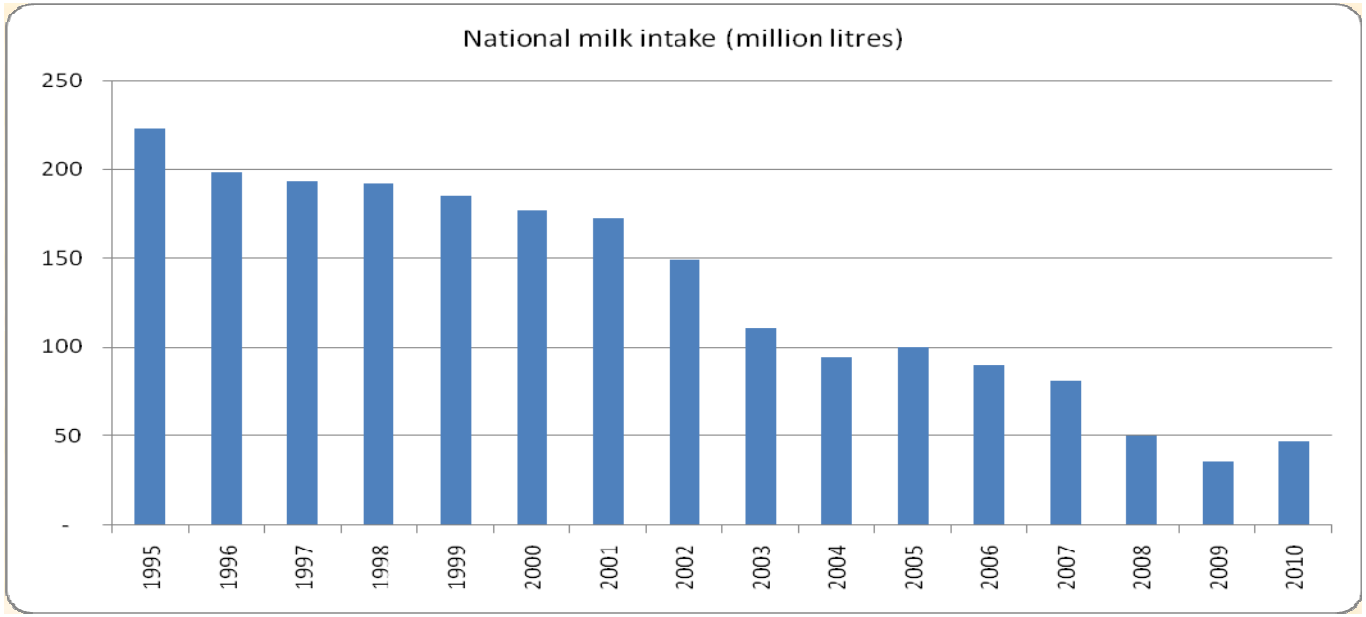
2.4 Dairy Situation

- After a decline in milk production in the last few years, milk volumes have started to steadily go up as shown in the figure 20 below.

Figure 20: Milk production trends from 1995 to 2010



Source: Dairy Services, LPD

- Production for 2010 increased by **32%** over 2009 milk volumes from **35 723 784**.to **47 188 093** litres.
- Annual national market demand is **96** million litres of milk.

- The dairy herd has been on the decline from **97 460** dairy cows in 1995 to **25 000** in 2009. The current number of dairy cows stands at **28 000.**
- The shortage of good quality breeding animals continues to affect all dairy farmers. This has led to farmers keeping milking cows beyond their productive life as there are no replacement heifers. This leads to high maintenance costs from both health and feed aspects.
- Local dairy farmers are being paid from as low as **$0.40** per litre to as high as **$0.70** depending on the quality of milk.
- Milk quality continues to be affected by the continued use obsolete milking equipment.
- Availability of capital for stock purchases, infrastructure improvement and development continues to be a big challenge for the dairy sector.

2.5 Prevalence of Disease

- The assessment of animal health at farmer level was best captured using animal mortalities as a key indicator. Mortality rates ranged between **3%** and **10%** in the sampled areas.
- In a normally healthy population, mortalities of between **1%** and **3%** are acceptable. The National average mortality was **4.4%.**
- Vaccination against anthrax and quarter evil was markedly improved country-wide.
- An anthrax outbreak occurred at Binga which was however controlled swiftly at end of 2010.
- Foot and mouth disease outbreaks were also reported in Mat South (Insiza, Matobo, Gwanda and Umzingwane).
- Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is on the increase throughout the country and control is proving difficult as it is not one of the scheduled diseases (not covered under government vaccination program). The vaccine is very expensive on the open market and most farmers cannot afford it.

- Whilst provisions for vaccine procurement were adequate for scheduled diseases (Rabies, Anthrax, FMD), no provision was made for preventive vaccinations against diseases such as Lumpy skin disease (LSD) and Ephemeral Fever (EF) which are prevalent in some areas in the country.

2.5.1 Cattle Mortality

Cattle mortality by province is shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14: Mortality of cattle for 2010/2011 season by Province

Province	**Cattle mortality**
Manicaland	4%
Mashonaland central	5%
Mashonaland east	4%
Mashonaland west	5%
Masvingo	3%
Matabeleland north	5%
Matabeleland south	5%
Midlands	4%
National Average	**4.4%**

- Marginally higher mortalities are recorded in areas where Cluster A diseases were prevalent.
- Cluster A comprises those diseases which can easily result in death if untreated whereas Cluster B are those which kill less than 30% of affected animals.

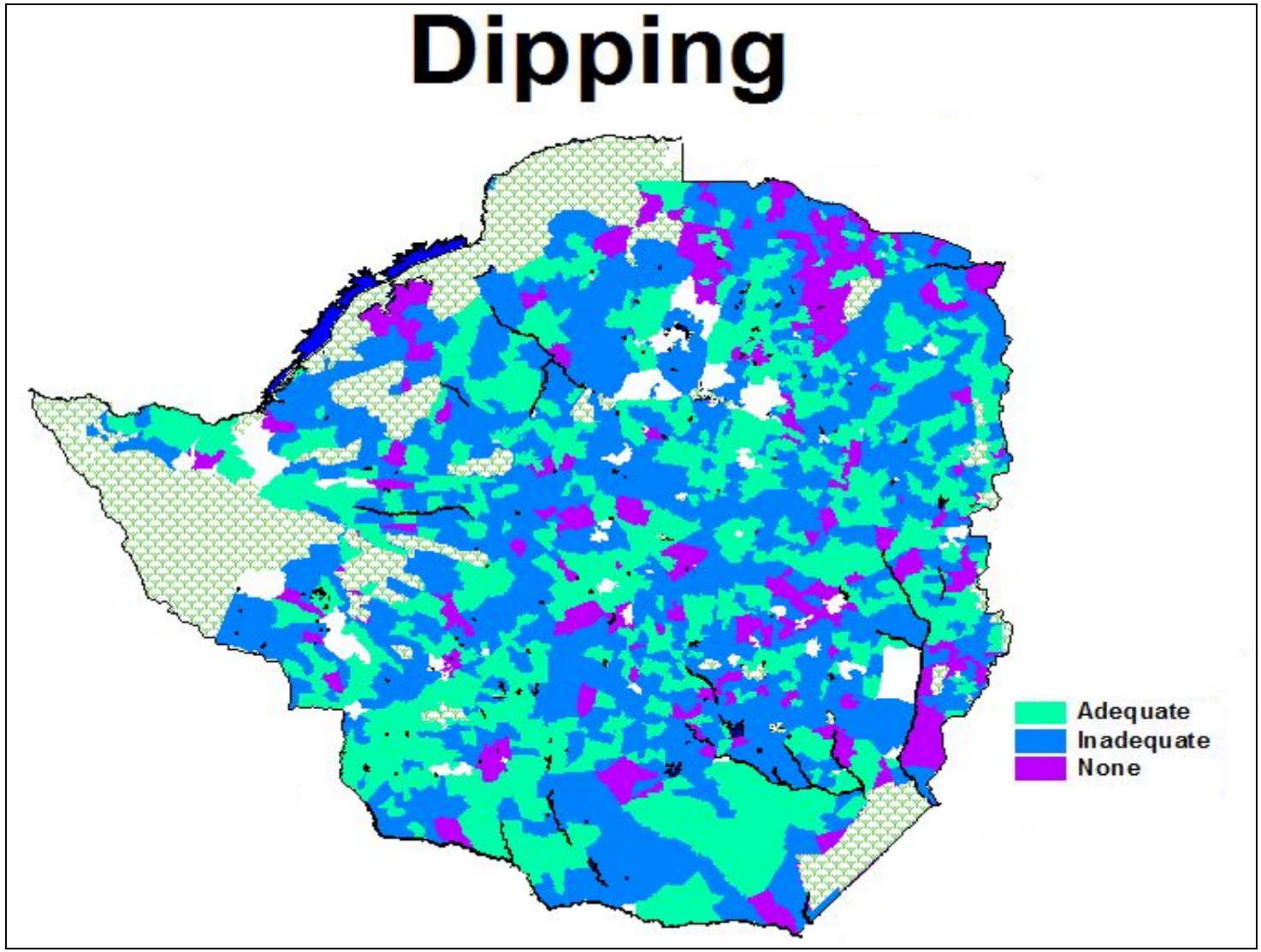
- Recorded mortalities for tick-borne diseases were however generally lower than in previous years as the supply of acaricides for dipping was excellent.
- Notwithstanding this however, at least a third of the dip tanks no longer have roofs and therefore given the above-normal rains at the beginning of the rainy season (2010-11), dilution of dip wash by rain water run-off naturally results in ineffective dipping at specific dip tanks, even under the best acaricide application management.

Cluster A	Cluster B
1. Sweating sickness 2. Heart water 3. Anaplasmosis 4. Babesiosis 5. Theileriosis 6. Quarter evil 7. Anthrax 8. Natural and chemical poisonings	1. Lumpy skin disease 2. Dermatophilosis 3. Ephemeral fever

2.5.2 Dipping Situation

- The map below show areas where dipping was adequate, inadequate, or not available at all. The reasons for no dipping varies from area to area and includes:
  - Broken down dip tanks
  - Water supply problems
  - High staff turn-over (dip attendants) some dip tanks remain without dip attendants for extended periods.

Figure 21: Dipping Situation as at end of February 2011



2.5.3 Mortality in Small ruminants

- Mortality rates for goats and sheep for 2010/2011 season were above the normal mortality of **5%** as shown in Table 15 below.

Table 15: Mortality of goats and sheep for 2010/2011 season

Province	Flock mortality (%)	
	Goats	Sheep
Manicaland	9.7	7.7
Mashonaland Central	7.2	7.6
Mashonaland East	9.0	7.9
Mashonaland West	8.9	5.9
Masvingo	9.0	3.7
Matabeleland North	8.3	4.3
Matabeleland South	4.0	4.0
Midlands	9.0	8.3
National Average	**8.1**	**6.2**

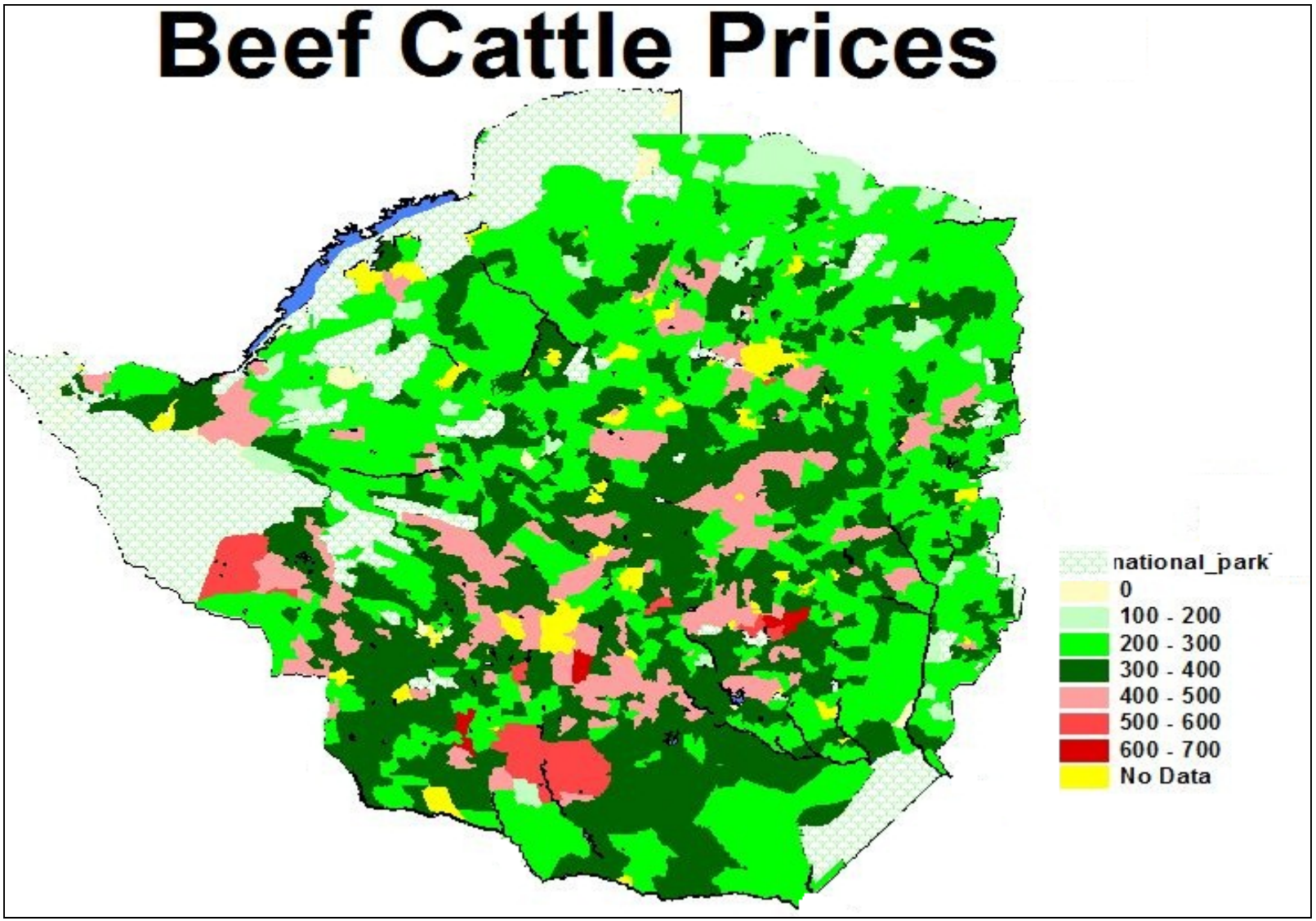
- The high mortalities were attributed to chronic worm infestations, scabies, anthrax and tick-borne diseases.

2.6. Livestock marketing

2.6.1 Live cattle sales

- Cattle prices varied across all farming sectors with no significant trend. Most animals were within the $100 to $700 price range. The prices of cattle across various provinces are shown in the map below.

Figure 22: Cattle Prices as at end of March 2011



Cattle sales at organized auction markets

The annual average price per kilogram live mass for cattle sold through auctions at both commercial and communal sale pens increased in 2010 as compared to 2009, as shown in Table 16 below:

Table16: Comparison of cattle prices at public auctions.

Year	Commercial sale pens	Communal sale pens
2009	$1.34	$1.05
2010	$1.58	$1.25

Source Livestock and meat

- Price increases are attributed to increased market demand.
- A peak price of **$1.80** per kilogram live mass was realized in December 2010 at Mt Hampden sale pens.
- The difference in price between communal and commercial sales is due to differences in quality of stock. Stock sold at commercial sale pens generally attain better grades than stock sold at communal sale pens.

2.6.2 Slaughter statistics (March 2010-February 2011)

- There was a general increase in slaughter figures by about 8% at registered abattoirs as compared to the same period the previous year as shown in Table 17 below.

Table 17: Slaughter figures for formal abattoirs

	Beef Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Goats
Total slaughters at registered abattoirs March 2010-Feb 2011	233 566	120 363	29 328	6 448

Source Livestock and meat

- The bulk of the slaughter animals fell under the economy and commercial grades, as in the Table 18 below.

Table 18: Average slaughter grades for cattle

Super	Choice	Commercial	Economy	Manufacturing
20%	6%	31%	37%	5%

Source Livestock and meat

2.6.3 Off-take

- There was a general increase in off take across all provinces. The National cattle off-take for the current season was **5.3%,** which was a **1.96%** increase from the 2009/2010 season average of **3.34%.** This can be attributed to increased demand by the market. The national target for cattle off take should be above **10%** for both national demand and exports.

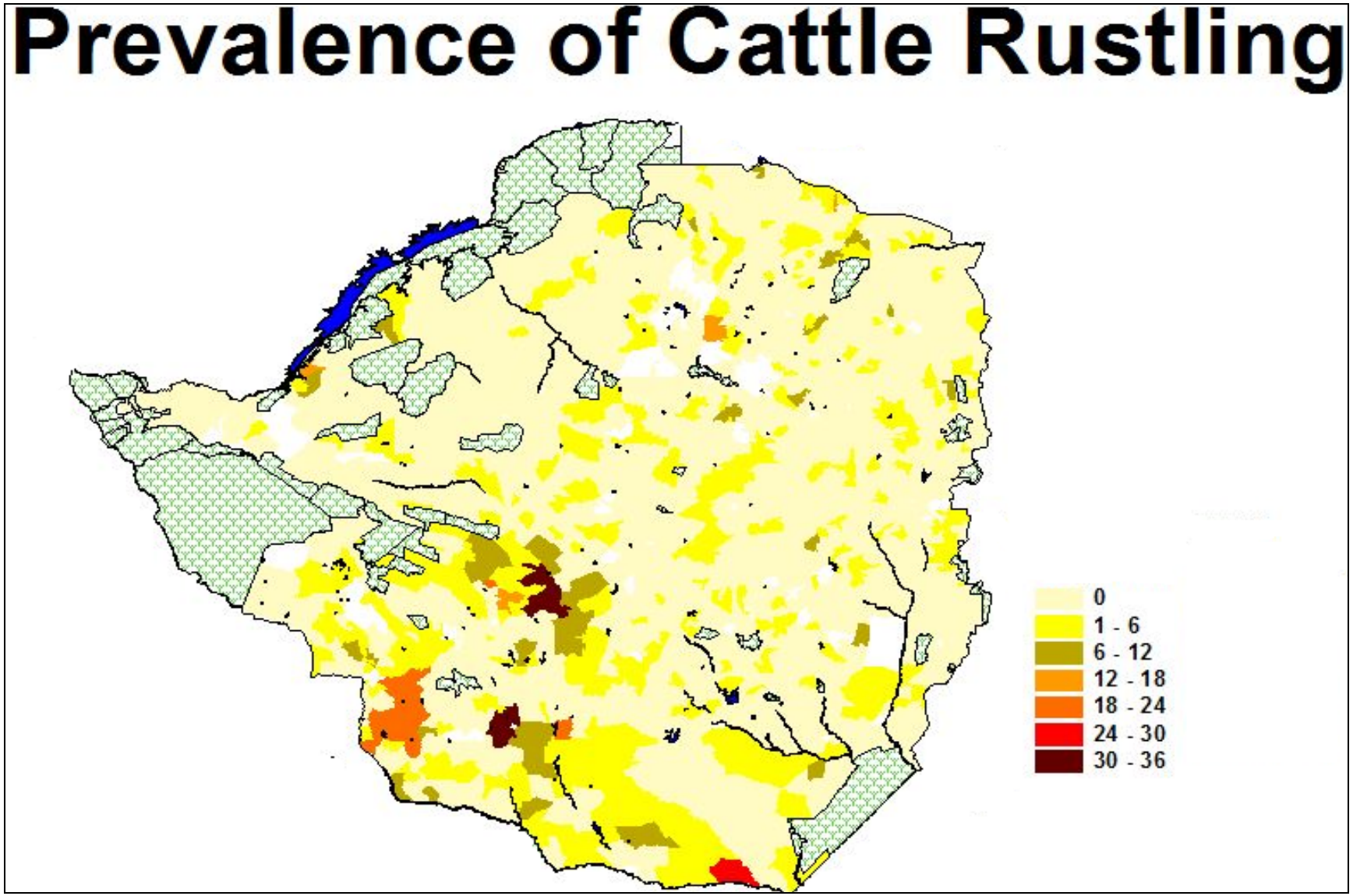
Table 19: Percentage Cattle off-take by Province

Province	**Cattle off-take (%)**	
	2009/2010	**2010/2011**
Manicaland	2.7	3.7
Mashonaland Central	3.3	6.5
Mashonaland East	2.7	6.6
Mashonaland West	3.4	5.5
Masvingo	4.3	5.5
Matabeleland North	2.1	3.7
Matabeleland South	4.6	6.0
Midlands	3.2	4.7
National Average	**3.3**	**5.3**

2.7 Stock theft

- Stock theft continues to be a major problem for livestock farmers.
- Cases of cattle theft vary from area to area as is shown on the map below. Prevalence is highest in the border areas of Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South.
- Total cattle losses through rustling were reported at **0.6%.** However, some losses are not reported to police.

Figure 23: Prevalence of cattle rustling in 2010/2011 period



3. Recommendations

1. Agricultural input support in the form of credit lines should be to all classes of farmers.
2. The Presidential Well-wishers Agricultural Inputs Scheme had the greatest impact on grain, cotton, pulses and livestock production and should be continued.
3. The Government should avail finances to promptly purchase grain and cereals (maize and small grains) for the **National Strategic Grain Reserve**
4. Government should intensify the programme to rebuild the national herd and,
5. Intensify irrigation development.

Signed
Honourable Senator Dr Joseph. M. Made (M.P.)

Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development