ZIMBABWE

FIRST ROUND CROP AND LIVESTOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT 2019/2020 SEASON

MINISTRY OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE, WATER AND RURAL RESETTLEMENT

24 FEBRUARY 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND 3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4
CROPS 4
LIVESTOCK 5
1. SEASON QUALITY 7
1.1 START OF SEASON 7
1.2 TOTAL RAINFALL AND DISTRIBUTION 9
1.3 DRY SPELLS 11
1.4 FLOODS 12
2. CROP PRODUCTION 13
2.1 PLANTING 13
2.2 CROP STAGE 13
2.3 CROP CONDITION 14
2.4 PESTS AND DISEASES 14
3. INPUT SUPPORT SCHEMES 15
3.1 PRESIDENTIAL INPUT SUPPORT SCHEME 15
3.2 SPECIAL MAIZE AND SOYABEAN PROGRAMME FOR IMPORT SUBSTITUTION 18
3.3 PRIVATE CONTRACTORS 20
3.4 INPUTS ON THE OPEN MARKET 23
4. CROP PRODUCTION 24
4.1 MAIZE 24
4.2 SORGHUM AND MILLETS 32
4.3 TOBACCO 39
4.4 COTTON 41
4.5 SOYABEAN 43
4.6 OTHER FOOD CROPS 45

5. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION 67
5.1 LIVESTOCK NUMBERS 67
5.2 LIVESTOCK CONDITION 68
5.3 GRAZING ADEQUACY 70
5.4 CATTLE MORTALITY 72
5.5 DROUGHT RELATED DEATHS 73
5.6 DROUGHT MITIGATION STRATEGIES 74
5.7 SMALL RUMINANTS 76
5.8 MILK PRODUCTION 78
5.9 LIVESTOCK DISEASES PREVALENCE, PREVENTION AND CONTROL 79
6 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES 87

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement conducts three National Crop and Livestock Assessments every year. These are: the first, the second and post-harvest assessments. For the 2019/2020 First Round Crop and Livestock Assessment, data collection by field staff was undertaken from the 28th of January to the 10th of February 2020. The verification exercise by national teams took place from the 10th February to 23rd February 2020.The main objectives were to:

- Ascertain the areas planted under major crops and determine the main factors that influenced area planted.
- Assess the availability, accessibility and usage of inputs.
- Assess the quality of the rainfall season (start of season, temporal and spatial rainfall distribution) on crop growth stages and crop condition.
- Assess grazing and livestock condition, water supply, disease prevalence and control.
- Assess overall prospects for the season (early Warning).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CROPS

- The 2019/2020 season was marked by a delayed onset of the season and a false start throughout the country.
- The Government, private sector and NGOs supported production through a number of input schemes.
- Inputs were available on the open market; however, the prices were out of reach for most of the farmers.
- Area planted to maize decreased by **5%** from **1 623 757 Ha** to **1 549 324 Ha.**
- **652 008 Ha (42%)** were planted in November, **606 124 Ha (39%)** in December and **291 192 Ha** were planted in January.
- **113 365ha** was planted to maize while **11 507ha** was planted to soya bean under the **Special maize and soyabean program for import substitution**.
- **106 520 Ha** of maize were written off due to the dry spell.
- Crop condition is generally fair to poor. The worst affected crop is the early planted November crop, which was affected by moisture stress and hence had poor establishment.
- Area under traditional grains increased significantly owing to the overwhelming support by Government, private sector and NGOs towards the cultivation of small grains in light of climate change
- Planting of pulses and sweet potatoes was in progress owing to rains received during the assessment period, (end of January to early February), hence the bulk of these crops are in the early vegetative stage.
- Tobacco area decreased by **6%** from **106 558 Ha** to **100 426 Ha**. The bulk of the irrigated tobacco is ready for marketing, whilst the dryland crop is being harvested, cured and graded.
- Cotton area decreased by **13%** from **197 242 Ha** in 2018/2019 season **to 170 622Ha in the 2019/2020 season.**
- Soyabean area decreased by **40%** from **55 660 Ha** to **33 599Ha** in the 2019/2020 season.

LIVESTOCK

- The national cattle herd decreased by **4.7 %** from **5 774 525** in 2018 to **5 489 364** in 2019.
- Decreases in cattle numbers were attributed to deaths due caused by tick-borne diseases and drought.
- A total of **66 088** cattle succumbed to drought with Masvingo and Matabeleland South being the worst affected provinces.
- There is a lot of cattle destocking in areas hit by Theileriosis as desperate farmers sell to middlemen who are taking advantage and buying at very low prices.
- Grazing and water availability have improved in most wards as a result of rain received since beginning of February 2020 but more is needed to take animals to the next season especially in the southern parts of the country.
- Generally, the body condition for all livestock classes ranged from fair to good.
- Total national milk production increased by **5.89%** from **75.4** million litres in 2018 to **79.9 million** litres in 2019.
- The dairy herd stands at **38 000** of these, **12 000** are in milk producing an average of **14** litres/cow/day.
- There was a drop in FMD outbreaks in 2019 compared to 2018. The disease was reported in only four provinces namely, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo, Matabeleland South and Midlands.
- Tick –borne diseases especially Theileriosis continue to pose a serious threat to the national herd with the worst affected provinces being the three Mashonaland provinces and Manicaland.

TABLE 1: AREA PLANTED TO FIELD CROPS (HA)

Crop	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Maize	1 549 324	1 623 757	-5
Sorghum	305 865	201 065	52
Pearl millet	166 429	151 708	10
Finger millet	34 353	25 146	37
Rice	1 588	1 005	58
Tobacco	100 426	106 558	-6
Soyabean	33 599	55 660	-40
Cotton	170 622	197 242	-13
Groundnut	208 229	210 468	-1
Sesame	15 044	16 181	-7
Sunflower	24 595	21 258	16
Bambara nut	87 938	104 316	-16
Cowpeas	60 799	53 917	13
Sugar bean	22 997	30 574	-25
Sweet potatoes	20 537	17 502	17
Cassava	718	584	23
Paprika	1 227	611	101

Planting of Sugar beans was still ongoing at the time of the assessment

1. SEASON QUALITY

1.1 START OF SEASON

1.1.1 The 2019/2020 season was marked by a delayed onset in the southern and south eastern parts of the country.

1.1.2 In the south and south eastern parts of the country the season started in the first week of January, (Chipinge south, most districts in Masvingo province, parts of Matabeleland South and parts of Midlands province). This was 30-40 days after the normal onset of the rains.

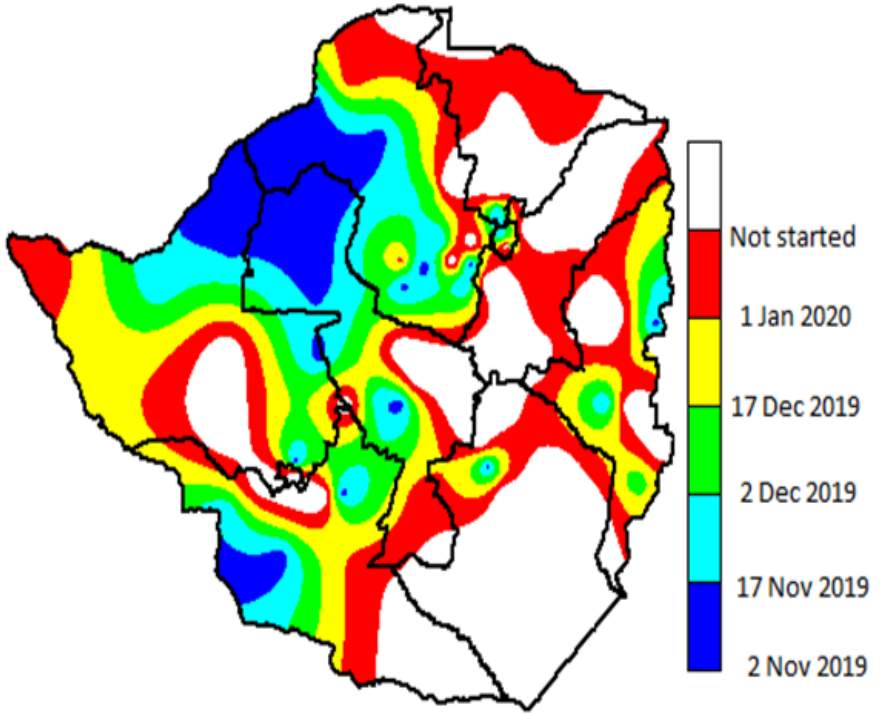
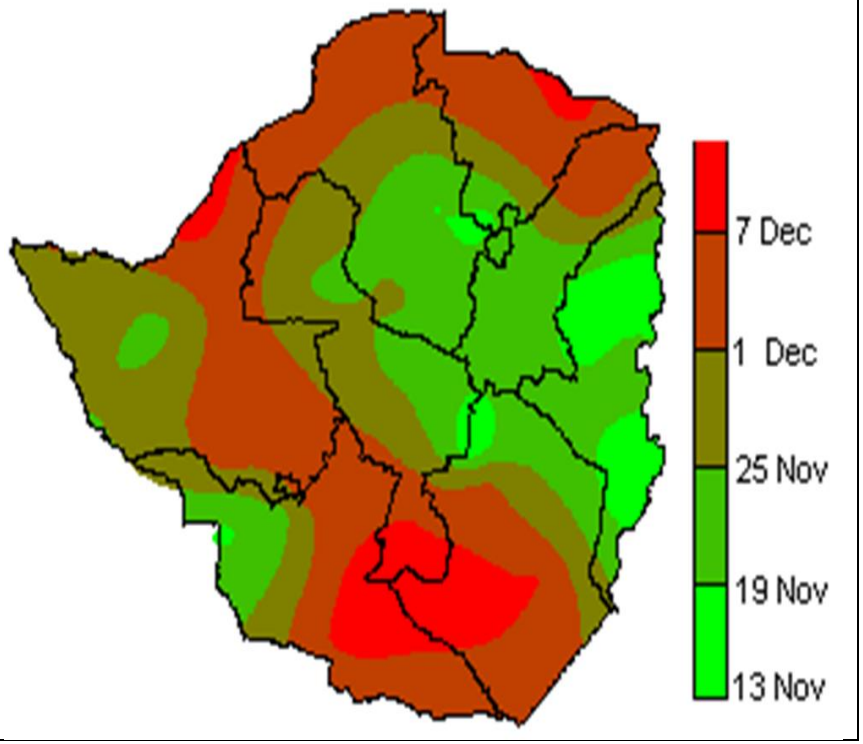
1.1.3 Some districts such as Mwenezi, Chipinge south, Chiredzi, parts of Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South (Beitbridge, Matobo, Bulilima) and parts of Midlands (Mvuma, Gokwe South) had not received effective rainfall for planting as late as end of December 2019.

1.1.4 In the northern parts of the country covering Mashonaland West and Mashonaland East (Hurungwe, parts of Makonde, Mutoko, Murewa and Goromonzi) received significant early rains in November and therefore have an early crop

1.1.5 Though most parts of the country had a normal start to the season (Fig 1), this was a false start as it was followed by prolonged dry spells coupled with high temperatures.

1.1.6 In the south and south eastern parts of the country the season started in early February.

FIG 1: ONSET OF THE 2019/2020 RAINFALL SEASON

Start of Season as at 1 January 2020	Mean Rainfall Season Onset Dates
	

Start of the season is when an area receives 20mm or more in three days or less provided there is no dry spell of 10 days or more in the next 20 days.

1.2 TOTAL RAINFALL AND DISTRIBUTION

1.2.1 The rainfall distribution was erratic in both space and time between October to December 2019, coupled with prolonged dry spells experienced between the second week of December 2019 and mid-January 2020.

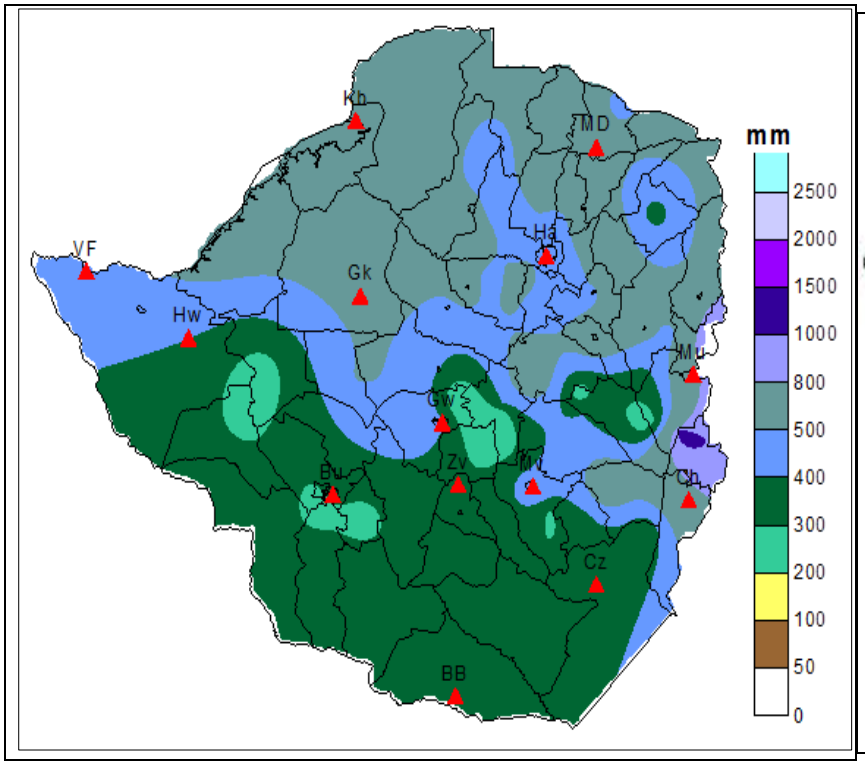
1.2.2 Increased rains were received from mid-January; however, they were still significantly below normal.

1.2.3 The first and second weeks of February experienced increased rainfall totals leading to an improved crop condition.

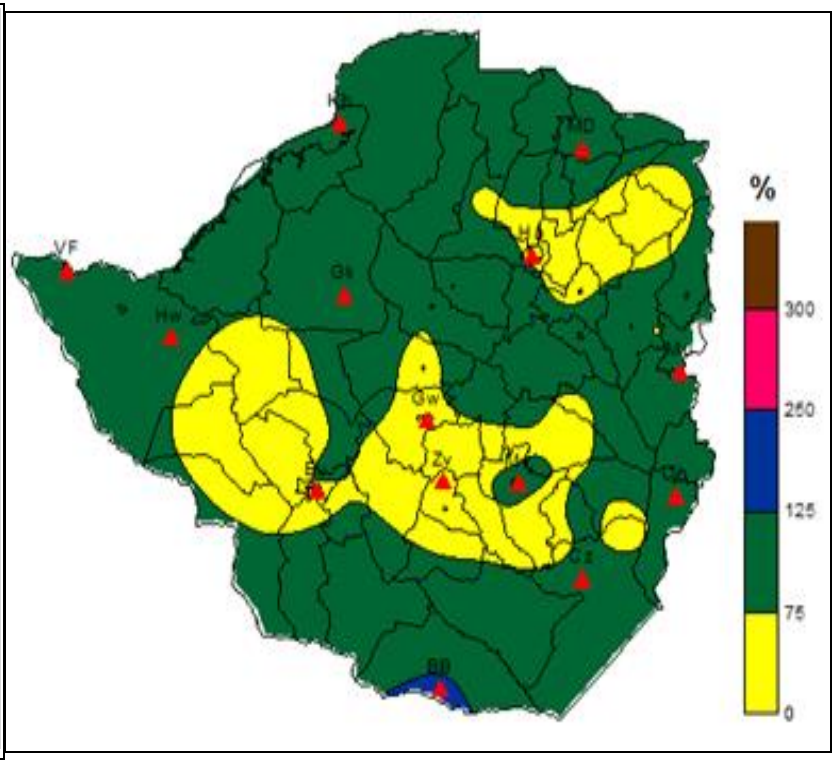
1.2.4 The rainfall situation subsequently improved from the first week of February leading to an improved crop condition across the country.

FIG 2: RAINFALL TOTAL

Rainfall totals received as at 26 February 2020



Percentage of normal rains as at 26 February 2020

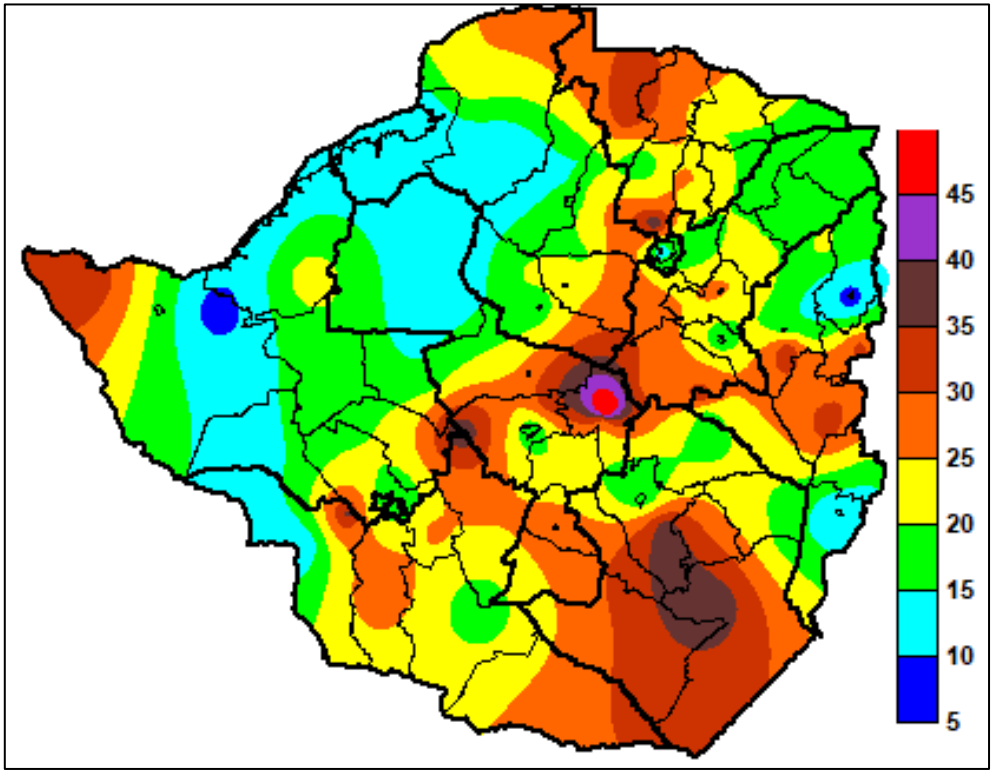


1.3 DRY SPELLS

1.3.1 Longest dry spells (40-50 days) were experienced in Masvingo (Mwenezi, Chiredzi, Zaka, Chivi) and some pockets along the main watershed and the extreme northern parts of the country.

1.3.2 Dry spells were relatively short (6-10days) in the northwest and east of the country.

FIGURE 3: DRY SPELLS DURATION



1.4 FLOODS

1.4.1 Some low lying areas of the country in the Zambezi valley received flash floods which led to destruction of both crop and livestock.

1.4.2 In Binga about **60ha** of maize and **50ha** traditional grains was written off due to floods.

1.4.3 Some fields were washed away by floods due to poor conservation works.

2. CROP PRODUCTION

2.1 PLANTING

2.1.1 In most areas planting coincided with the start of the rains.

2.1.2 However due to high temperatures experienced soon after the rains and poor season preparedness, most of the farmers had to replant several times and do gap filling.

2.1.3 Most of the farmers started tillage and input acquisition after the first rains which resulted in delayed planting and hence poor crop establishment.

2.2 CROP STAGE

2.2.1 The maize crop planted by November 2019 constitutes **42%** of the total area and is now at late reproductive to maturity stage.

2.2.2 The crop planted by end of December 2019 is now ranging from early reproductive to maturity stage and constitutes about **39%** of area under maize**.**

2.2.3 The crop planted in January 2020 is at the early vegetative to late vegetative stage and constitutes **19 %** of the total maize area.

2.2.4 The early planted irrigated maize crop has reached physiological maturity and is ready for harvesting.

2.2.5 The bulk of the small cereal grain crop is at the late vegetative to early reproductive stage.

2.2.6 Planting of sugar beans, cowpeas and sweet potatoes is in progress owing to rains received during the period, end of January to early February, hence the bulk of these crops are in the early vegetative stage.

2.2.7 Bulk of the irrigated tobacco is ready for marketing, whilst the dryland crop is being harvested, cured and graded.

2.3 CROP CONDITION

2.3.1 The early planted dry land cereal crop is in fair to poor condition due to moisture stress as a result of prolonged dry spells, poor input acquisition and occurrence of pests such as the fall and African armyworm.

2.3.2 The late planted crop is mostly ranging from fair to good due to the rains experienced since the last week of January to date.

2.3.3 False and flush ripening of the tobacco crop was experienced due to fluctuating moisture and temperature levels resulting in barn space being a major constraint.

2.3.4 Most of the other crops are in fair to good condition.

2.4 PESTS AND DISEASES

2.4.1 Fall armyworm attack on maize and other cereal crops remained a major challenge during the season.

2.4.2 The pest affected all provinces and control was hampered by high costs of chemicals for control of the pest. Pest infestation levels on individual farmer crop ranges from1 to 10%.

2.4.3 There were also isolated reports of African armyworm and smut fungal diseases incidences.

2.4.4 Weed management remains a major challenge especially in the A2 and Large scale farming sectors.

2.4.5 There were also incidences of grasshopper infestations. No locust outbreaks were reported

3. INPUT SUPPORT SCHEMES

- The 2019/2020 agricultural season was supported by a number of agricultural input support schemes that included the Presidential Inputs Support Scheme (Maize and Cotton) and Special Maize and Soyabean Program for Import Substitution administered by CBZ as well as contract scheme programmes.

3.1 PRESIDENTIAL INPUT SUPPORT SCHEME

TABLE 2A: SEED, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTION AS AT 26 FEBRUARY 2020

Product	Total Inputs Received (MT)	Total Inputs Distributed (MT)	Number of households benefited	Balance at Depots (MT)
Maize Seed	12 582	12 570	1 257 037	12
Sugar bean Seed	319	236	23 570	83
Traditional Grains	15 560	15 431	1 543 086	129
Compound D	41 581	41 427	828 535	154
Top Dressing	30 508	29 841	596 812	668
Demise (packs)	245 372	244 682	1 223	690
Knapsack Sprayers	32 181	21 997	21 997	10 184

3.1.1 VEGETABLE PACKS DISTRIBUTION

3.1.1.1 The programme was rolled out to support **1.8million** households with **10kg** maize seed and **50kg** each of both basal and top-dressing fertilizer and chemicals for fall armyworm control**.**

3.1.1.2 Vegetable seed packs were also distributed late in January as part of the Presidential input package and some of the seed packs are still with GMB.

3.1.1.3 Transport and fuel challenges affected timely distribution of the inputs to wards.

TABLE 2B: VEGETABLE PACKS DISTRIBUTION AS TA 26 FEBRUARY 2020

Product	Input packs Targeted	Number of packs received	Number of packs distributed	Balance at GMB depots
Cabbage Seed (5g)	400 000	277 500	207 595	69 905
Carrots Seed (5g)	400 000	277 500	207 595	69 905
Rape Seed (5g)	400 000	277 500	207 595	69 905
Butter nut Seed (5g)	400 000	277 500	207 595	69 905
Tomato Seed (2.5g)	400 000	277 500	207 595	69 905

TABLE 3: COTTON INPUTS DISTRIBUTION AS AT 26 FEBRUARY 2020

Item	Target	Quantity Delivered	Percentage Delivered
Basal Fertilizer (Mt)	40 000	13 659	34
Top Dressing (Mt)	20 000	13 222	66
Seed (Mt)	8 000	7 732	97
Chemicals		Nil	Nil

3.1.1.4 Fertiliser deliveries and distribution was affected by transport and fuel challenges.

3.1.1.5 No chemicals were delivered for cotton. Some areas had left-overs from last season but these were insignificant compared to the planted crop.

3.1.1.6 Shortage of chemicals has the potential to affect cotton productivity and lint quality.

3.2 SPECIAL MAIZE AND SOYABEAN PROGRAMME FOR IMPORT SUBSTITUTION

TABLE 4: MAIZE SEED, SOYABEAN SEED, FERTILISER AND FUEL DISTRIBUTION AS AT 26 FEBRUARY 2020

Item	Requirements[1]	Total Deliveries	% Delivered	Balance To Be Delivered
Maize Seed (Mt)	5 250	3 160	60	2 090
Soya Seed (Mt)	4 000	3 557	89	443
Maize and Soya Basal (Mt)	104 500	36 661	35	67 839
Top Dressing (Mt)	94 500	445 773	48	48 727
Lime (Mt)	175 000	10 840	6	164 160
Fuel (L)	25 000 000	6 500 000	26	18 500 000

1

3.2.1 The bulk of the inputs were generally distributed late in the season and some of the farmers did not use the inputs due to the erratic rainfall pattern especially in November and December.

3.2.2 The inputs were also inadequate to meet the requirements.

3.2.3 The inputs were generally inaccessible and unavailable at farmer level.

[1]The requirements were based on the targeted area of 210 000 Ha of Maize and 40 000ha of Soyabean

TABLE 5: CHEMICALS DISTRIBUTION

Item	Target	Total Deliveries	Percent delivered	Balance To Be Delivered
Pre-emergence				
Glyphosate (maize & soya)(L)	1 000 000	226 600	23	773 400
Metolachlor (maize & soya) (L)	250 000	156 343	63	93 657
Atrazine (maize) (L)	630 000	541 236	86	88 764
Dual magnum (maize)L	315 000	0	0	315 000
Post-emergence				
Stella star/ infinity/ (L)	210 000	9 886	5	200 113
Nicosulfuron (maize)(grammes)	9 450 000	5 356 874	57	4 093 125

TABLE 6: FUNGICIDES AND PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTION

Item	Target	Total Deliveries	Percent Delivered	Balance To Be Delivered
Fungicides				
Triademinol (Shavit) (soya) (L)	20 000L	7 595	38	12 405
Insecticides				
Carbaryl (maize & soya)(Mt)	162 500	6 003	4	156 497
Lambda/ karate (maize & soya)(L)	30 000	62 398	208	-32398
Dipterex (maize & soya)(Mt)	750 000	156 990	21	593 010

3.3 PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

3.3.1 Different private contractors also contracted farmers during this season.

3.3.2 The contracting companies in some instances were distributing inadequate input packages especially in cotton where some companies only distributed seed without fertilisers and chemicals; this might lead to side marketing activities by farmers.

TABLE 7: COTTON CONTRACTORS FOR THE 2019/2020 SEASON

Company	Growers	Targeted Area(Ha)	Seed(Kg)	Basal Fertilizer(kg)
Alliance	9 355	14 123	282 455	0
China Africa	8 820	13 352	267 045	0
Cottco	242 550	289 005	5 780 093	11 428
Innovative Cotton Company	2 194	3 404	68 070	0
Shawashi Agri	7 726	10 337	206 740	0
Southern Cotton Company	19 773	34 181	683 613	115
Zimbabwe Cotton Consortium	23 040	33 887	677 735	49
Total	**313 458**	**398 288**	**7 965 751**	**11 592**

3.3.3 The targeted area for cotton was not achieved due to the erratic rainfall pattern in the traditional cotton growing areas.

3.3.4 Most farmers who could not plant have kept cotton seed for next season.

TABLE 8: TOBACCO CONTRACTORS FOR THE 2019/2020 SEASON

CONTRACTOR	REGISTERED GROWERS	AREA (HA)
ZLT	11 592	14 251
MTC	11 678	13 014
Consolidated	12 355	7 586
Northern Tobacco	4 710	12 117
Boost	19 250	9 738
Shasha	2 799	2 768
Premium Leaf	12 684	8 960
Curverid	5 357	6 024
Kratos	529	424
GBT	3 081	2 298
Sub-Sahara	2 608	-
Onhardt	1 013	1 852
Interoll	2 138	2 679
Pamuka	2 807	2 715
Ethical Leaf Tobacco	12 117	11 561
Tianze	104	7 633
Aqua	4 064	1 537
TOTAL	**108 886**	**105 156**

TABLE 9: OTHER CROPS CONTRACTED DURING THE 2019/2020 SEASON

Crop	Maize	Soyabean	Wheat	Sunflower	Velvet Beans	Chia	Potatoes	Sesame	Groundnuts	Funding
Target Hectares	**Ha**	**Ha**	**Ha**	**Ha**	**Ha**	**Ha**	**Ha**	**Ha**	**Ha**	**US$**
Interoll Agro	5 000									2 000 000
Chia Growers Zimbabwe						1 000				200 000
Leguninosea (Pvt) Ltd					400					100 000
Decent Investments								500		5 000
IMIG Trading (Pvt) Ltd	1 500	1 500								500 000
Northern Farming (Pvt) Ltd	5 000	2 000	5 500							20 000 000
Paperhole Investment t/a PHI	3 000	2 500	2 000				500			8 000 000
Petrana Farming (Pvt) Ltd		125	125							250 000
Precision Oil Seed International				100 000					30 000	45 868 250
Staywell t/a Origen Corporation	5 000	5 000	3 000							8 000 000
Surface Wilmar (Pvt) Ltd	5 000	5 000								3 000 000
Framond Trading (Pvt) Ltd	5 000	1 000								7 600 000
Total	**29 500**	**17 125**	**10 625**	**100 000**	**400**	**1 000**	**500**	**500**	**30 000**	**95 523 250**

3.4 INPUTS ON THE OPEN MARKET

3.4.1 Inputs were generally available on the open market. However, prices are high and beyond the reach of most farmers.

3.4.2 Most retail outlets have different tier prices depending on the method of payment and some are also charging in United States dollars and South African Rand.

4. CROP PRODUCTION

4.1 MAIZE

4.1.1 MAIZE AREA

TABLE 10: MAIZE AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Province	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	**299 834**	297 360	1
Mashonaland Central	**202 293**	208 699	-3
Mashonaland East	**191 338**	206 960	-8
Manicaland	**223 294**	233 414	-4
Midlands	**305 430**	333 118	-8
Masvingo	**158 620**	157 953	0
Matabeleland North	**89 183**	98 736	-10
Matabeleland South	**79 333**	87 517	-9
Total	**1 549 324**	**1 623 757**	**-5**

4.1.1.1 Area planted to maize decreased by **5%** from **1 623 757 Ha** to **1 549 324 Ha.**

(42% planted November, 39% December and 19% January).

4.1.1.2 Maize area planted under The Special program for import Substitution stands at **113 365 Ha**. This represents **7%** of the total area under maize.

4.1.1.3 There was a decrease in area planted to maize across provinces.

4.1.1.4 The decrease is attributed to the late onset of the season, false start coupled with high temperatures, erratic rainfall distribution; prolonged long dry spells during the first half of the season, late distribution of inputs and the high input price on the open market.

4.1.1.5 Maize crop establishment and crop stand is poor as many stages of the crop were found in the same field due to re-plantings

4.1.1.6 Crop stage ranges from vegetative stage in the January crop to maturity stage in the November crop.

FIG 3: MAIZE AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

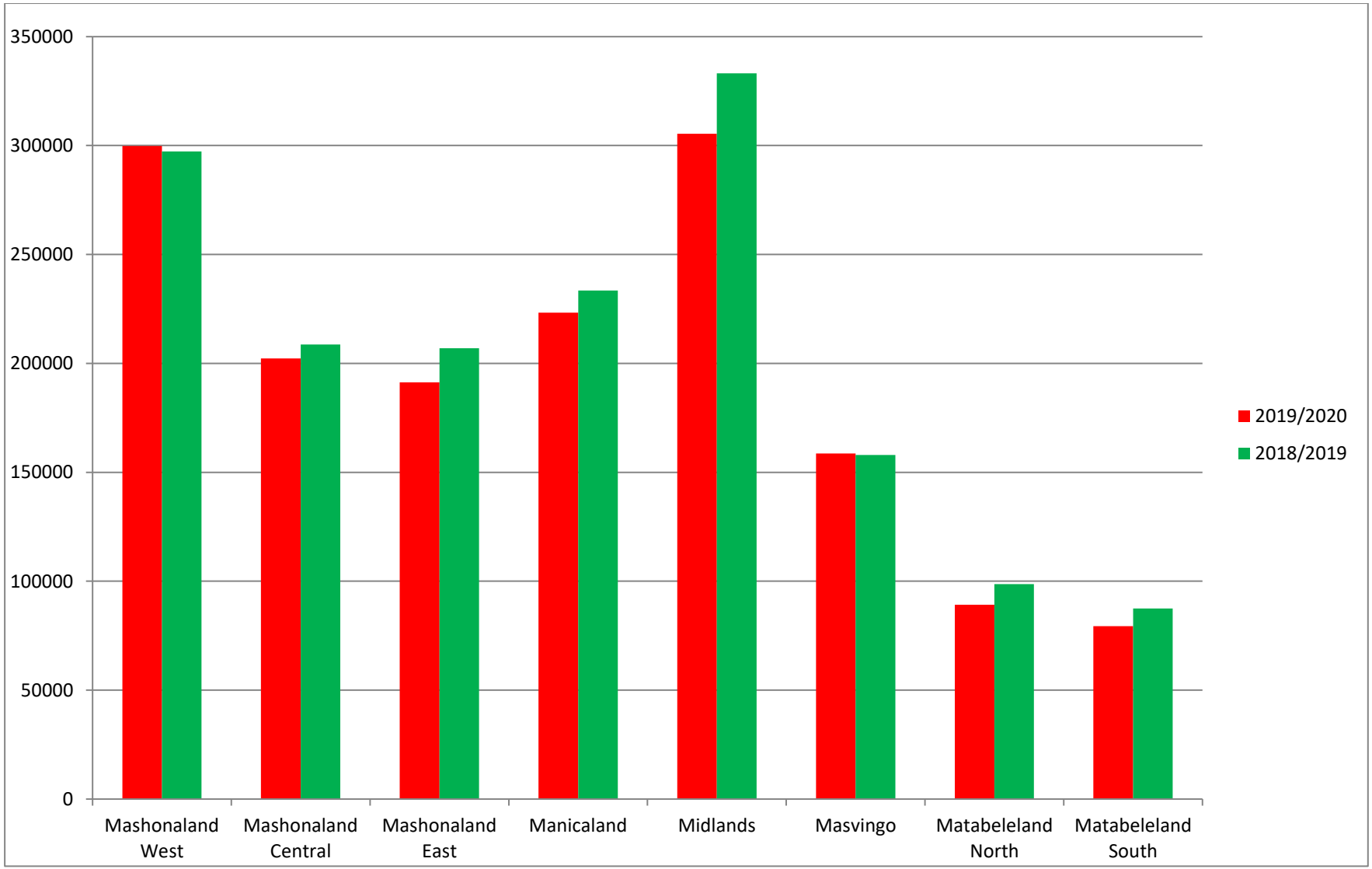


TABLE 11: MAIZE AREA (HA) BY TIME OF PLANTING

Province	Planted Area	November	December	January	Planted Area	November	December	January
	2019/2020	2019	2019	2020	2018/2019	2018	2018	2019
		%	%	%		%	%	%
Mashonaland West	299 834	48	40	12	297 360	31	56	13
Mashonaland Central	202 293	35	53	12	208 699	30	64	6
Mashonaland East	191 338	57	35	8	206 960	46	47	7
Manicaland	223 294	49	34	17	233 414	39	46	15
Midlands	305 430	43	37	20	333 118	16	57	27
Masvingo	158 620	24	30	46	157 953	26	45	29
Matabeleland North	89 183	31	45	24	98 736	13	57	31
Matabeleland South	79 333	27	45	29	87 517	5	57	39
Total	**1 549 324**	**42**	**39**	**19**	**1 623 757**	**28**	**54**	**19**

MAIZE AREA BY FARMER CATEGORY

Figure 4a: MAIZE AREA BY SECTOR 2019/2020

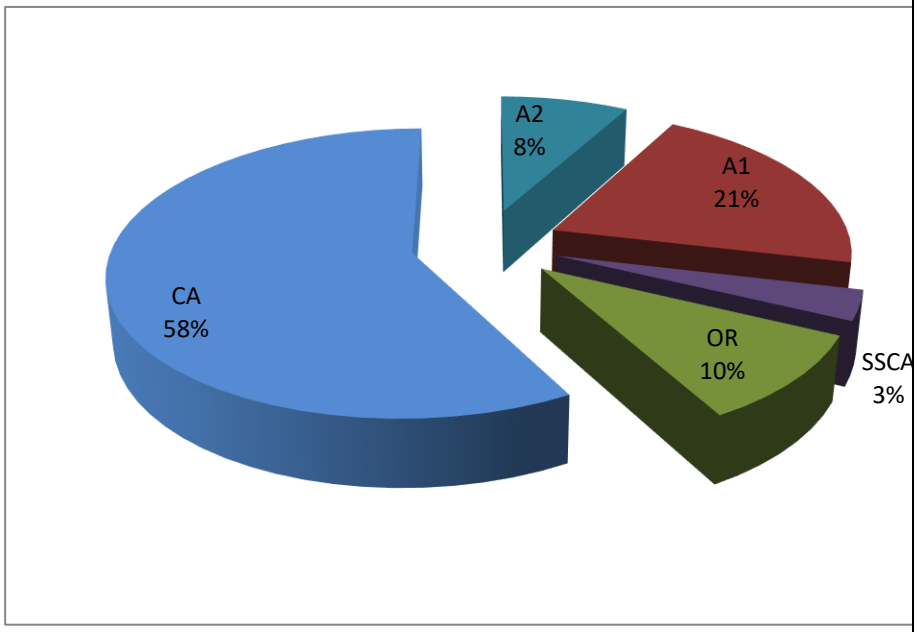
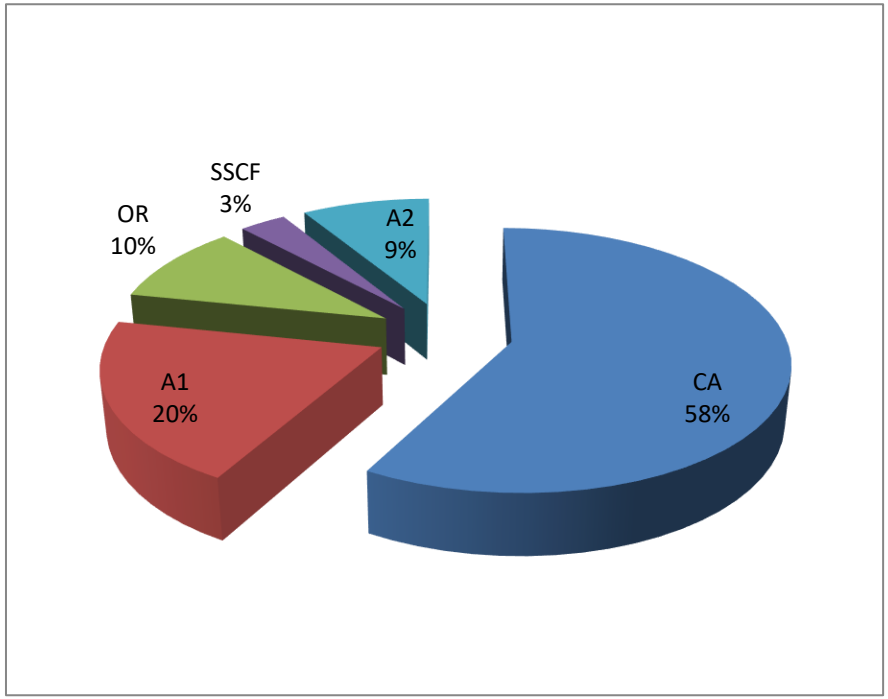


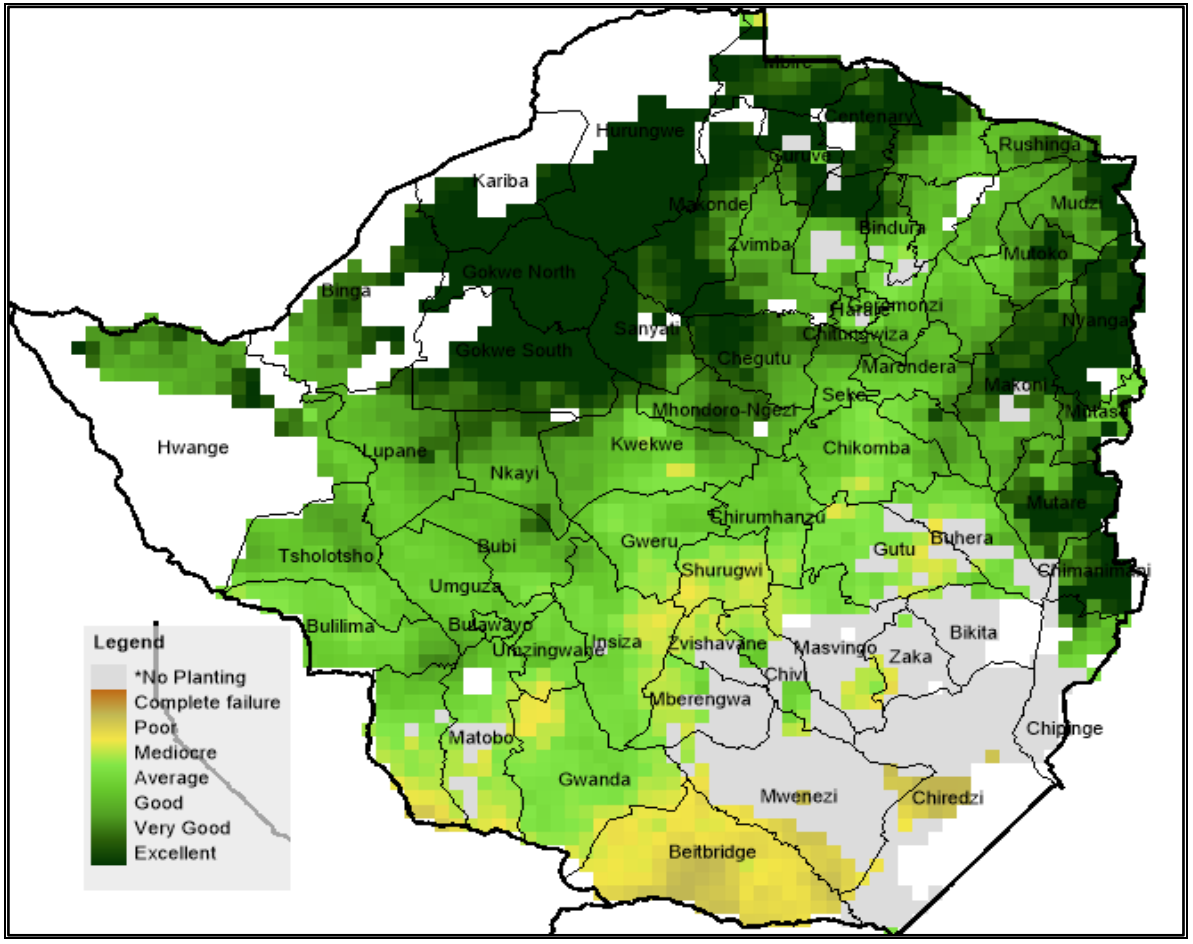
Figure 4b: MAIZE AREA BY SECTOR 2018/2019



4.1.1.7 The communal sector still contributes the largest area under maize **(58%),** whilst the large scale and A2 contributed **8%** of the area under maize a **one percent** drop from **9%** in the 2018/19 season.

4.1.2 MAIZE CROP CONDITION

FIG 5: MAIZE CROP CONDITION AS INDICATED BY WRSI



WRSI (Water Requirement Satisfaction Index) is a measure of how much the water requirement for maize has been satisfied. However, it does not take into account the rainfall distribution

4.1.2.1 Crop condition was generally fair to poor at the time of the assessment, with the early planted crop being the worst affected in all provinces. There was evidence of stunted growth of the early crop across sectors

4.1.2.2 Though parts of Mashonaland West, Manicaland and Midlands received enough rains to satisfy maize crop requirements, poor distribution coupled with high temperatures resulted in poor germination, establishment and stunted growth. Fig 5

4.1.2.3 If the current wet conditions persist, farmers may salvage the late planted crop i.e. crop planted in December and January as it was still in good condition at the time of the assessment.

4.1.2.4 Significant crop write offs have been noted. A total of **106 520ha** of maize have been written of due to prolonged dry spells.

4.2 SORGHUM AND MILLETS

4.2.1 There was a marked increase in area under sorghum from **201 065 ha** to **305 865 ha (52%)** across all provinces.

4.2.2 Area under pearl millet increased by **10%** from **151 708 ha** (2018/2019) to **166 429ha** in the 2019/2020 season.

4.2.3 Area under finger millet increased by **37%** from **25 146ha** in the last season to **34 353ha** this season

4.2.4 This may be attributed to deliberate efforts to support traditional grains production through the Presidential input support scheme, donor community and private contractors.

4.2.5 The traditional grains range from vegetative to reproductive growth stages, and are in a fair to good condition.

4.2.6 About **27 835 ha** were written off due to dry spells.

TABLE 12: SORGHUM AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	**2019/2020**	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	**13 641**	4 361	213
Mashonaland Central	**51 936**	31 002	68
Mashonaland East	**22 982**	20 339	13
Manicaland	**42 435**	25 970	63
Midlands	**67 403**	33 879	99
Masvingo	**48 252**	38 068	27
Matabeleland North	**35 153**	24 234	45
Matabeleland South	**24 063**	23 212	4
Total	**305 865**	201 065	52

FIG 6: SORGHUM AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

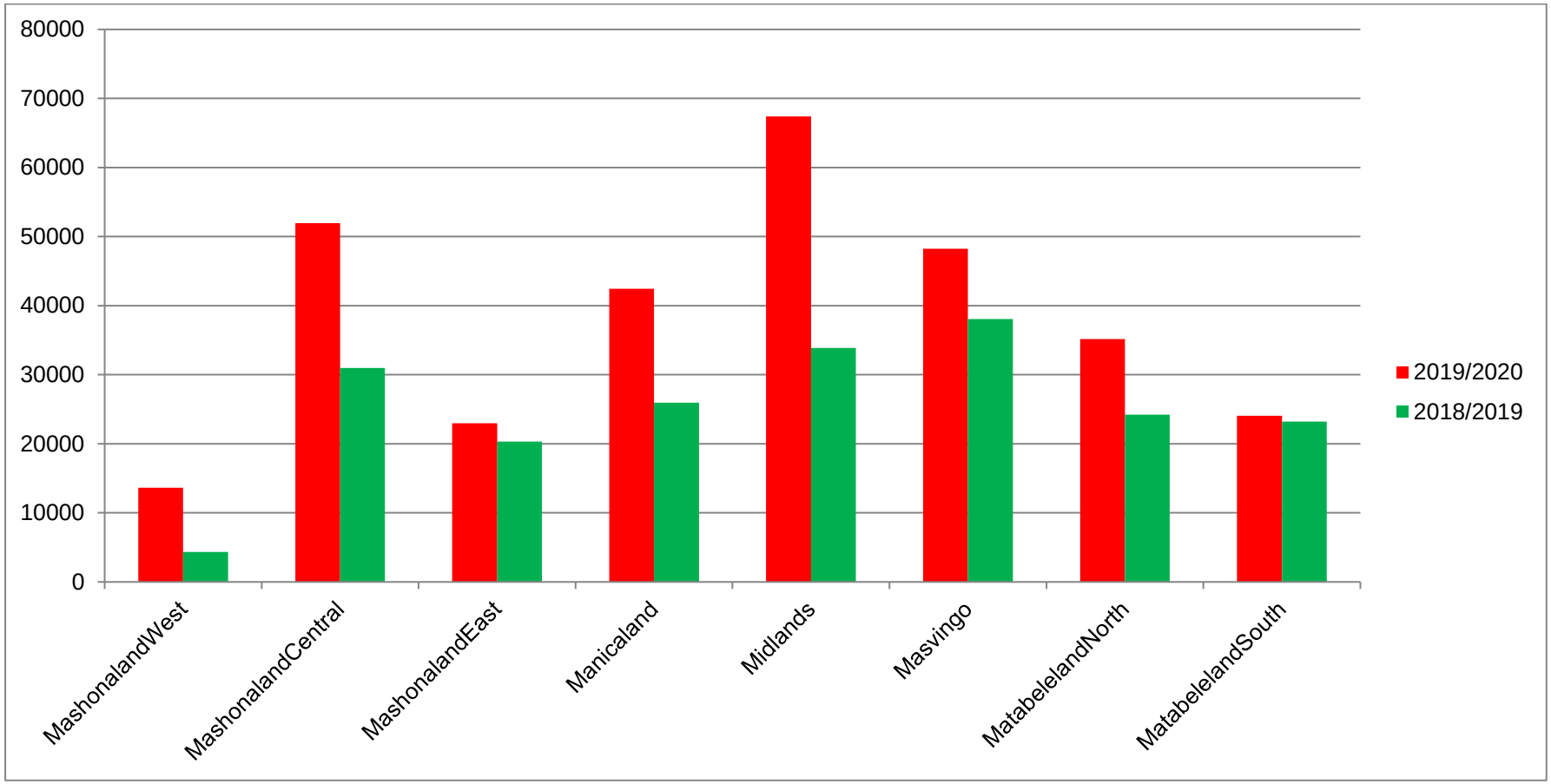


TABLE 13: PEARL MILLET AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	**2019/2020**	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	**460**	346	33
Mashonaland Central	**3 111**	2 119	47
Mashonaland East	**5 222**	3 909	34
Manicaland	**46 992**	37 766	24
Midlands	**12 534**	9 141	37
Masvingo	**31 592**	26 735	18
Matabeleland North	**44 582**	46 081	-3
Matabeleland South	**21 938**	25 611	-14
Total	**166 429**	151 708	10

FIG 7: PEARL MILLET AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

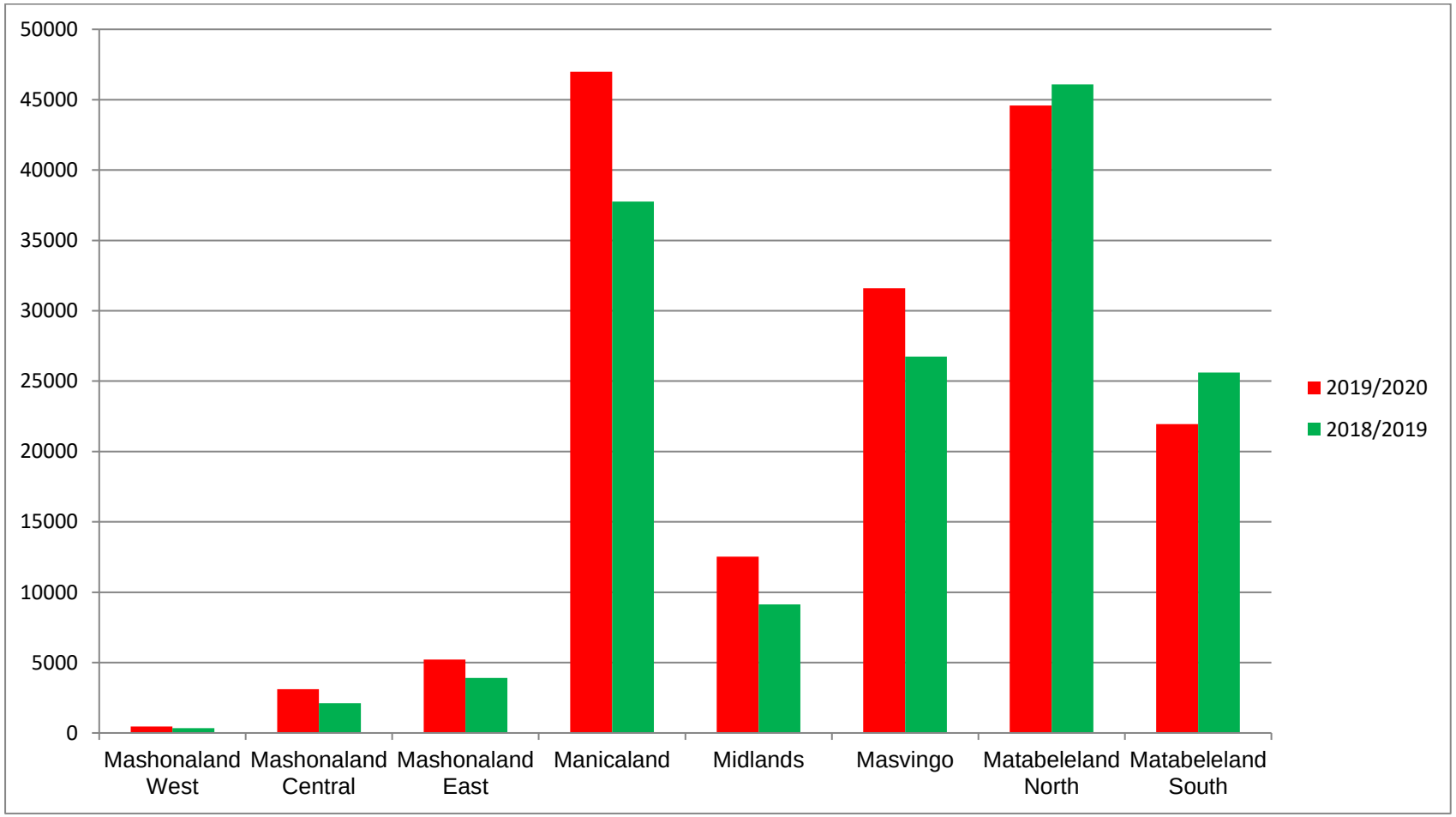
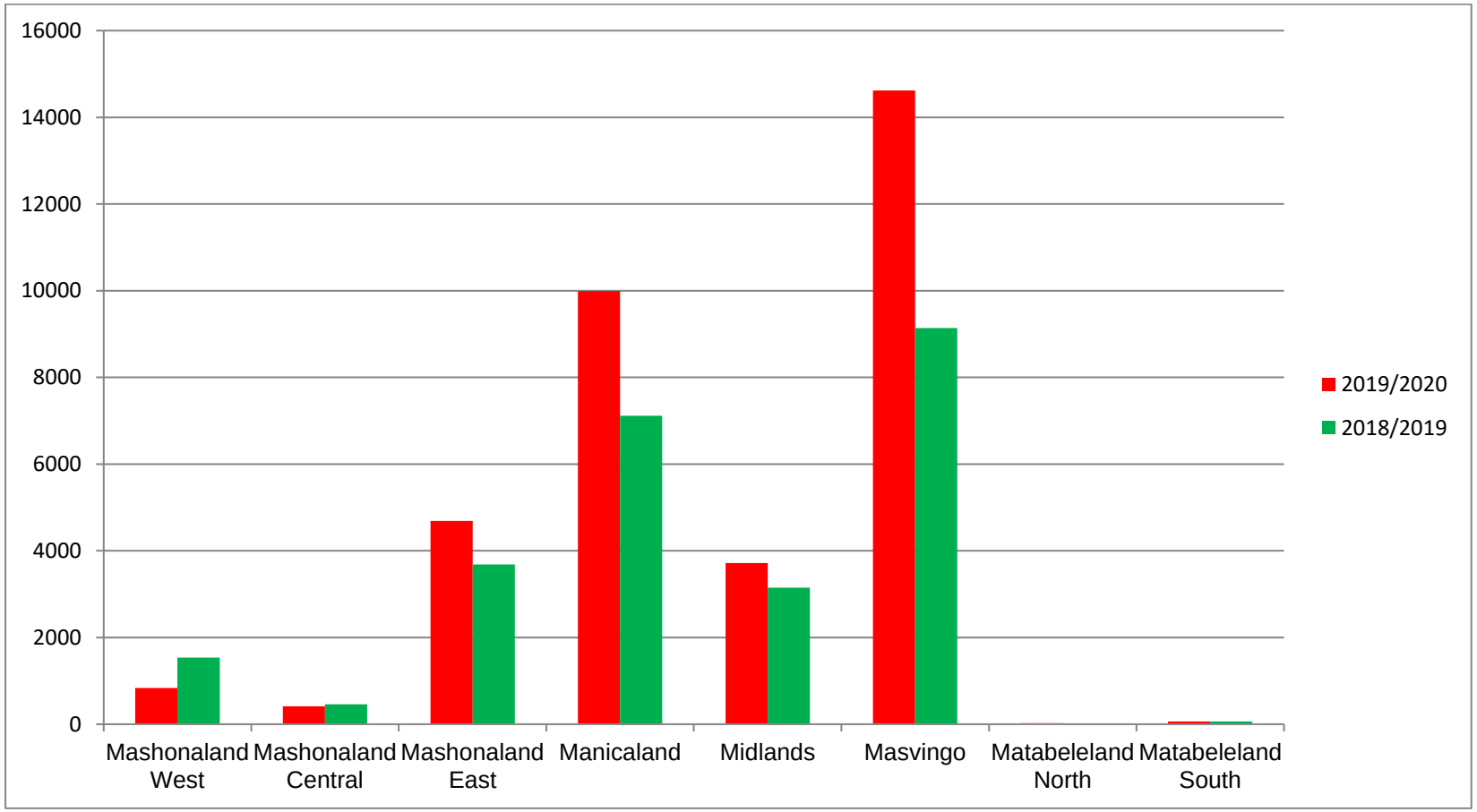


TABLE 14: FINGER MILLET AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

P**ROVINCE**	**2019/2020**	2018/2019	**%**
Mashonaland West	**837**	1 537	-46
Mashonaland Central	**410**	456	-10
Mashonaland East	**4 690**	3 685	27
Manicaland	**9 990**	7 117	40
Midlands	**3 719**	3 147	18
Masvingo	**14 621**	9 140	60
Matabeleland North	**24**	2	1100
Matabeleland South	**62**	63	-2
Total	**34 353**	25 146	37

FIG 8: FINGER MILLET AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

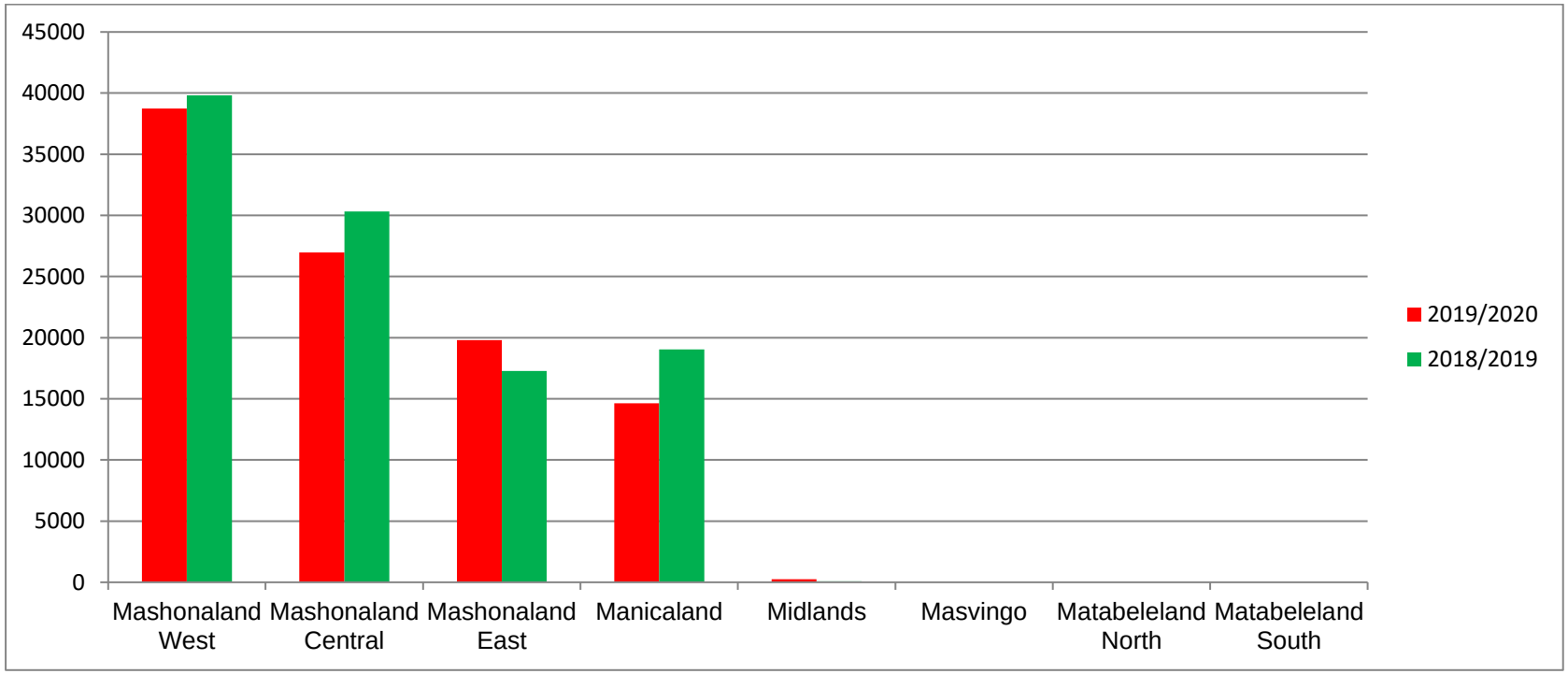


4.3 TOBACCO

TABLE 15: TOBACCO AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	38 746	39 822	-3
Mashonaland Central	26 973	30 311	-11
Mashonaland East	19 807	17 280	15
Manicaland	14 632	19 050	-23
Midlands	249	75	232
Masvingo	19	20	-5
Matabeleland North	0	0	
Matabeleland South	0	0	
Total	**100 426**	**106 558**	-6

FIG 9: TOBACCO AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE



4.3.1 Tobacco area decreased by **6%** from **106 558 ha** in the last season to the current **100 426 ha**.

4.3.2 Black shank disease is a serious threat to tobacco output especially in Mashonaland west province.

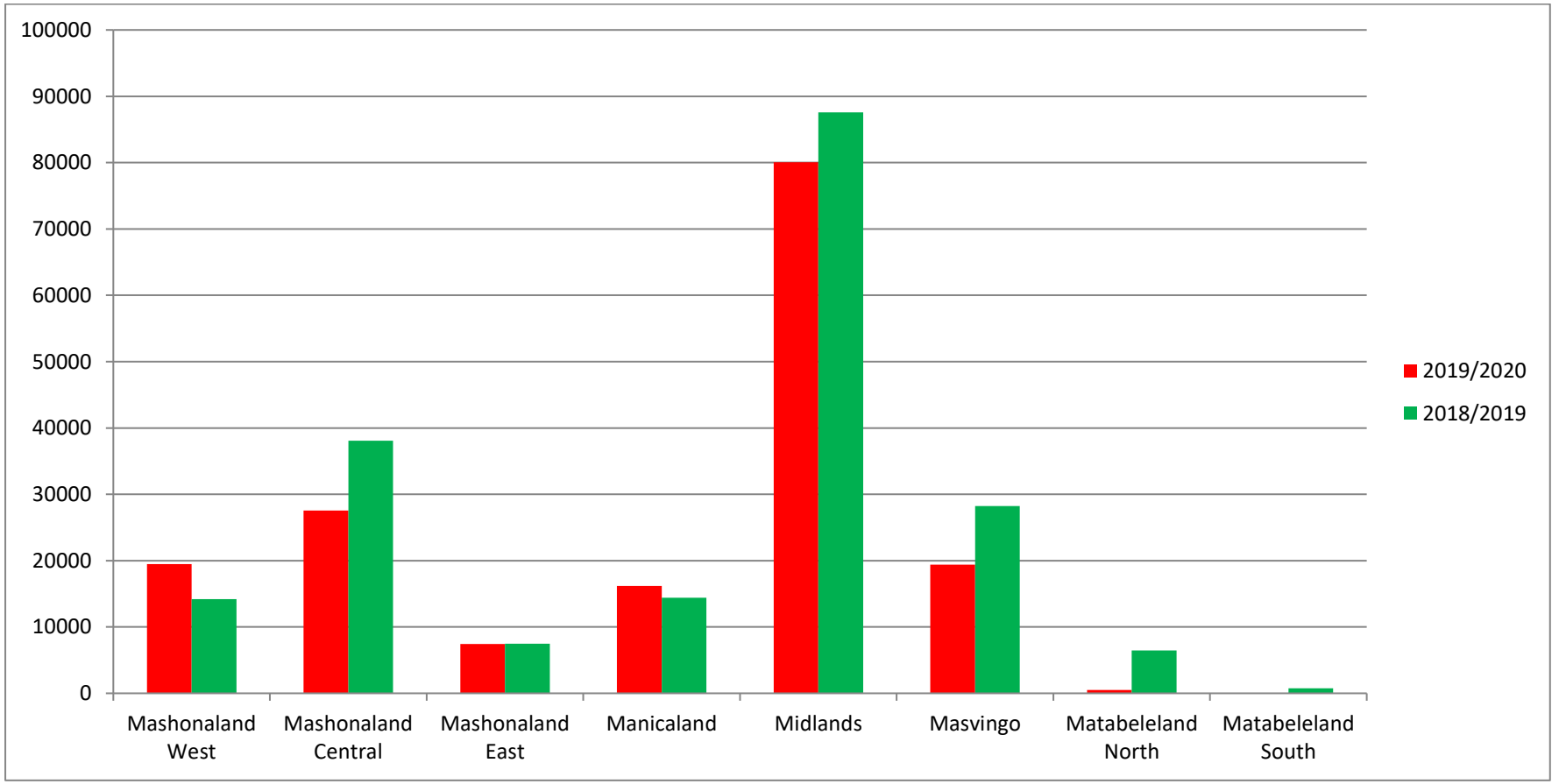
4.3.3 Harvesting of the early irrigated crop is in progress and the current rainfall persistence is leading to high barn pressure as ripening speed has increased.

4.4 COTTON

TABLE 16: COTTON AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Province	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	19 488	14 183	37
Mashonaland Central	27 540	38 088	-28
Mashonaland East	7 427	7 493	-1
Manicaland	16 195	14 421	12
Midlands	80 067	87 584	-9
Masvingo	19 377	28 247	-31
Matabeleland North	493	6 450	-92
Matabeleland South	35	776	-95
Total	**170 622**	**197 242**	-13

FIG 10: COTTON AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE



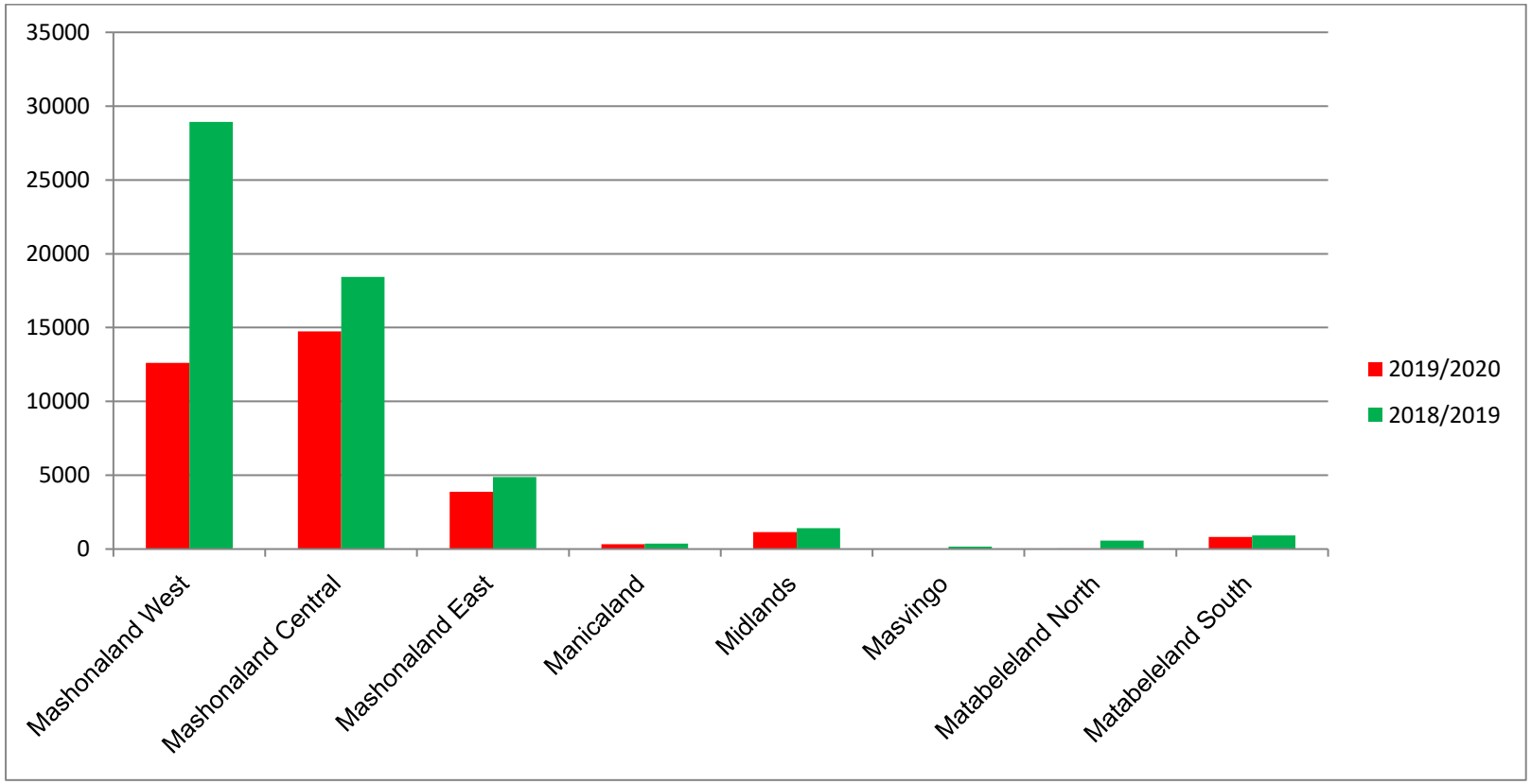
4.4.1 Area under cotton decreased by **13%** from **197 242ha** in the last season to **170 622ha** in the current season.

4.5 SOYABEAN

TABLE 17: SOYABEAN AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Province	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	12 607	28 923	-56
Mashonaland Central	14 750	18 426	-20
Mashonaland East	3 874	4 888	-21
Manicaland	323	363	-11
Midlands	1 153	1 422	-19
Masvingo	14	154	-91
Matabeleland North	49	567	-91
Matabeleland South	829	917	-10
Total	**33 599**	**55 660**	**-40**

FIG 11: SOYABEAN AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE



4.5.1 Area under Soyabean decreased by **40%** from **55 660ha** in the last season to **33 599ha** in the current season. Out of this a total of **1 362ha** is reported to be a write off.

4.5.2 The crop ranges from fair to poor and was adversely affected by the prolonged dry spell especially the early established crop.

4.6 OTHER FOOD CROPS

TABLE 18: SUGARBEANS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	3 426	4 033	-15
Mashonaland Central	5 949	7 466	-20
Mashonaland East	3 904	6 674	-42
Manicaland	5 964	7 049	-15
Midlands	1 360	2 996	-55
Masvingo	1 779	1 848	-4
Matabeleland North	267	153	75
Matabeleland South	397	356	12
Total	**22 997**	**30 574**	-25

FIG 12: SUGARBEANS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

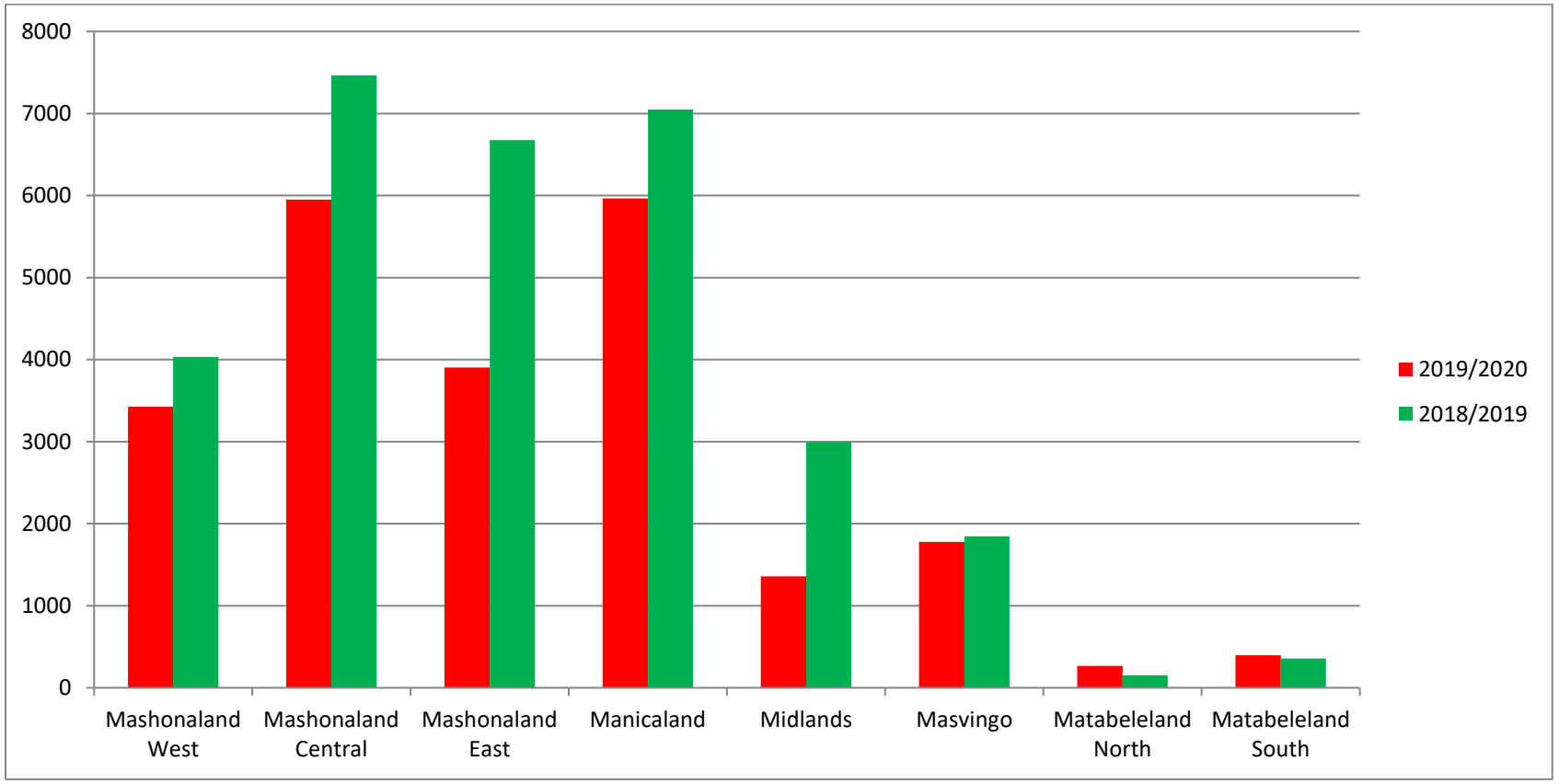


TABLE 19: GROUNDNUTS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	13 016	13 942	-7
Mashonaland Central	23 327	22 011	6
Mashonaland East	40 334	36 370	11
Manicaland	39 646	37 575	6
Midlands	38 823	41 764	-7
Masvingo	40 743	41 529	-2
Matabeleland North	3 957	5 969	-34
Matabeleland South	8 384	11 308	-26
Total	**208 229**	**210 468**	**-1**

FIG 13: GROUNDNUTS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

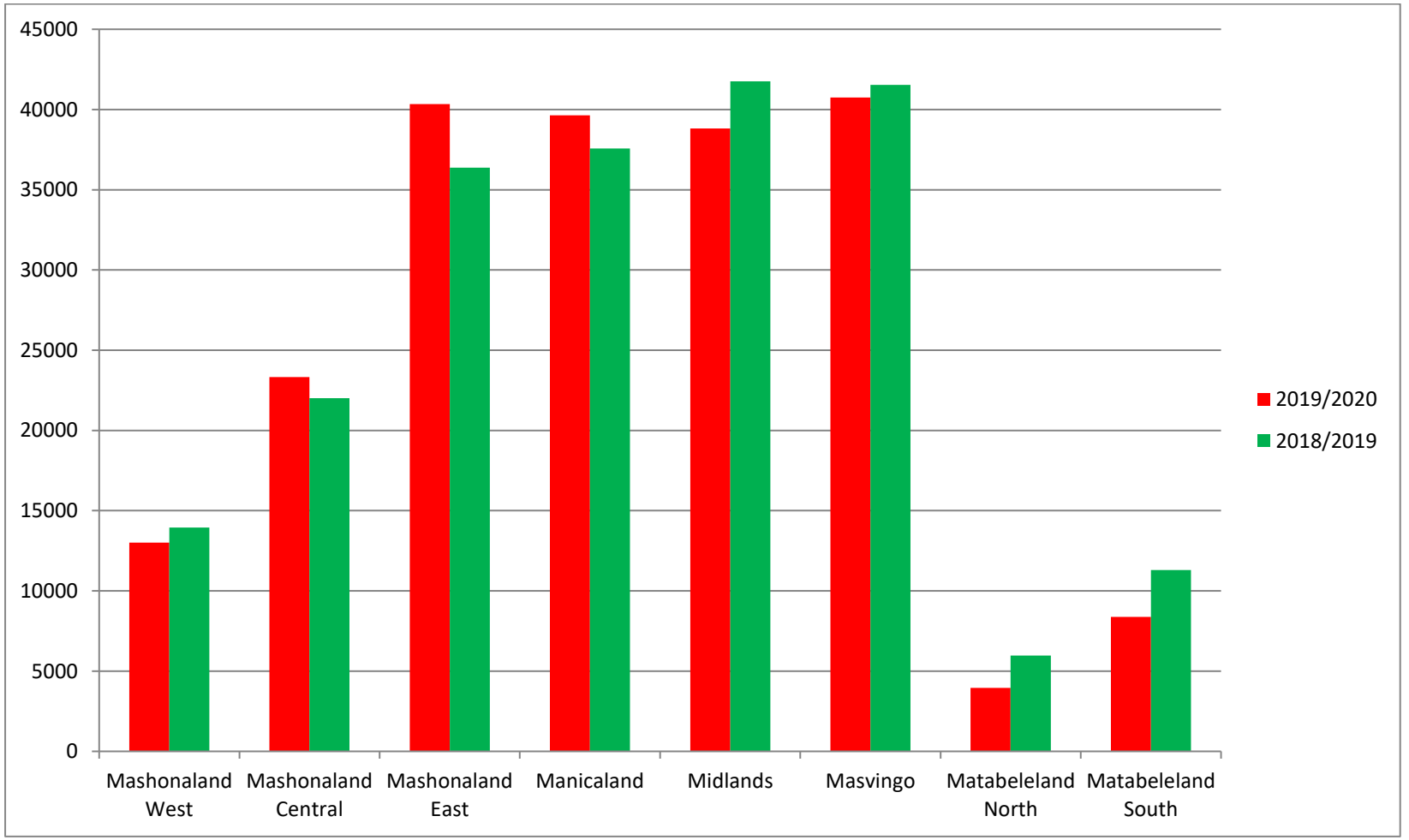


TABLE 20: SWEET POTATOES AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	973	604	61
Mashonaland Central	4 316	1 472	193
Mashonaland East	6 151	5 440	13
Manicaland	3 033	2 386	27
Midlands	1 190	2 249	-47
Masvingo	4 341	5 100	-15
Matabeleland North	129	139	-7
Matabeleland South	404	111	264
Total	**20 537**	**17 502**	**17**

FIG 14: SWEET POTATOES AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

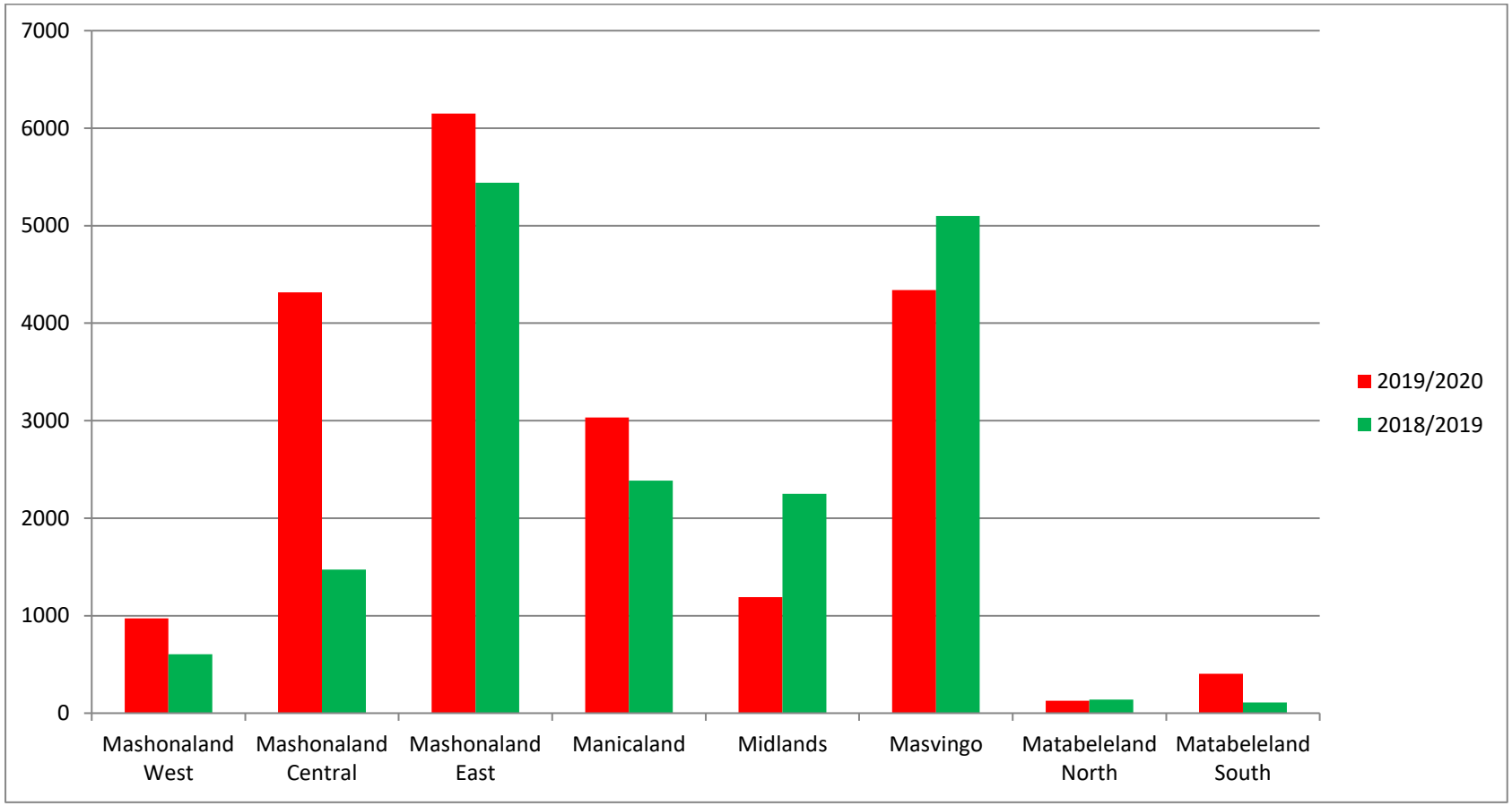


TABLE 21: BAMBARA NUTS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Province	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	1 591	3 486	-54
Mashonaland Central	914	2 097	-56
Mashonaland East	8 782	12 122	-28
Manicaland	27 041	25 974	4
Midlands	14 524	20 075	-28
Masvingo	28 653	29 607	-3
Matabeleland North	2 423	5 317	-54
Matabeleland South	3 977	5 637	-29
Total	**87 938**	**104 316**	**-16**

FIG 15: BAMBARA NUTS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

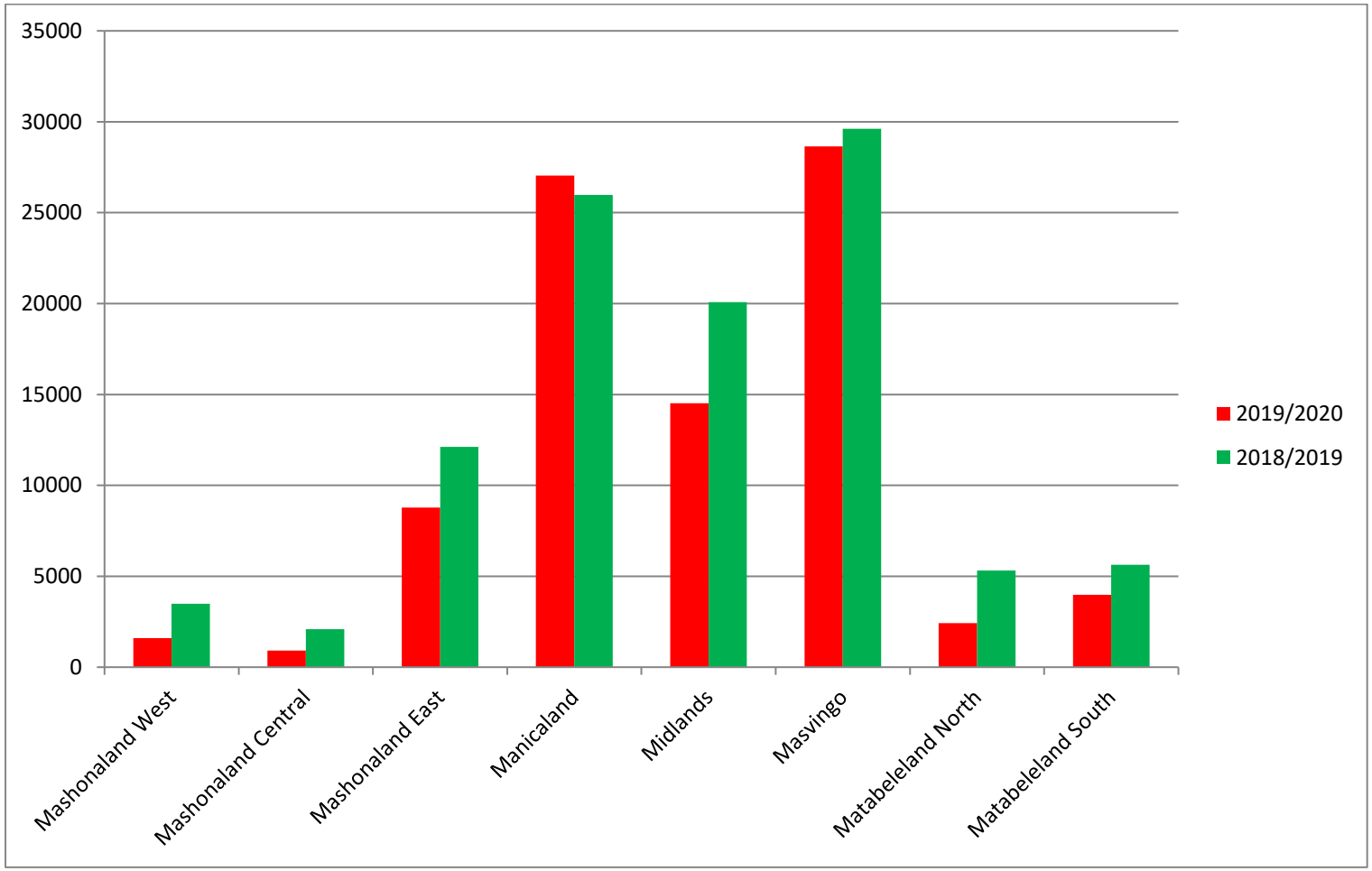


TABLE 22: COWPEAS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Province	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	4 771	7 119	-33
Mashonaland Central	8 647	11 327	-24
Mashonaland East	7 957	7 667	4
Manicaland	9 648	3 361	187
Midlands	16 561	4 566	263
Masvingo	4 232	11 921	-64
Matabeleland North	3 388	4 387	-23
Matabeleland South	5 595	3 569	57
Total	**60 799**	**53 917**	**13**

FIG 16: COWPEAS AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

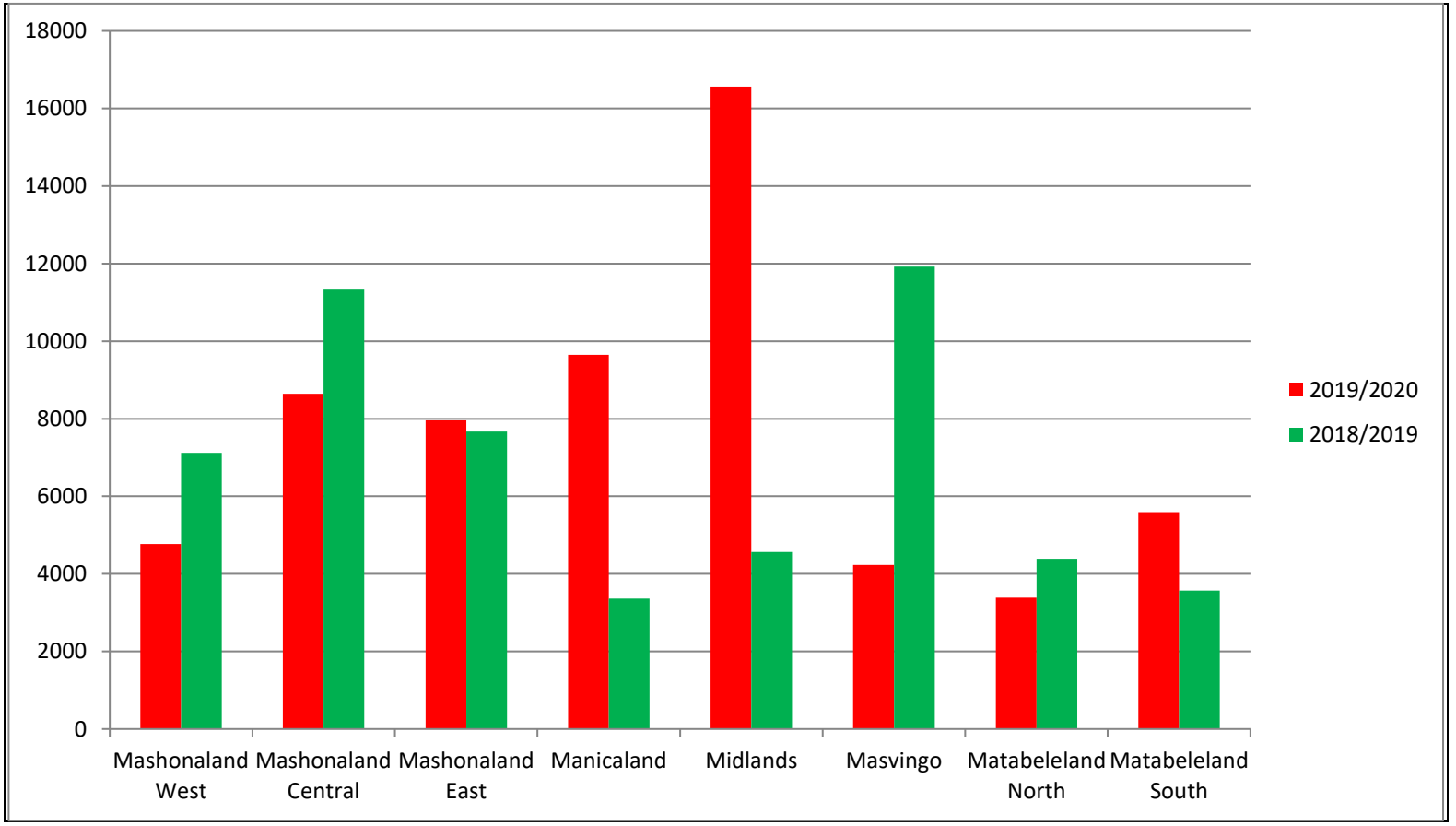


TABLE 23: SUNFLOWER AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	1 725	1 559	11
Mashonaland Central	3 596	4 119	-13
Mashonaland East	5 781	4 670	24
Manicaland	7 241	4 334	67
Midlands	5 168	5 920	-13
Masvingo	432	284	52
Matabeleland North	192	310	-38
Matabeleland South	460	62	642
Total	**24 595**	**21 258**	16

FIG 17: SUNFLOWER AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

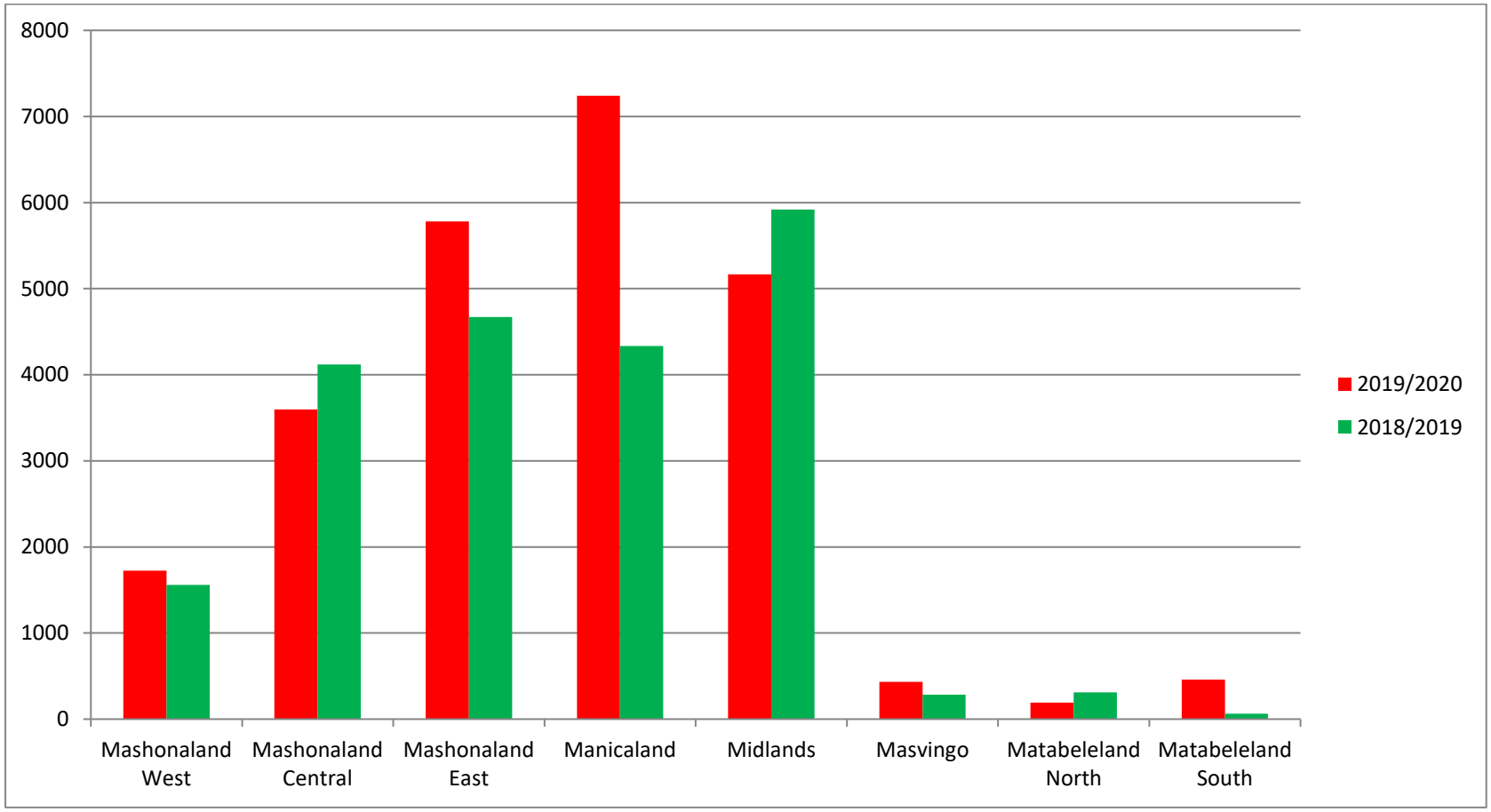


TABLE 24: SESAME AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	53	144	-63
Mashonaland Central	9 596	14 043	-32
Mashonaland East	140	33	324
Manicaland	2 836	577	392
Midlands	350	637	-45
Masvingo	2 018	509	296
Matabeleland North	45	200	-78
Matabeleland South	6	38	-84
Total	**15 044**	**16 181**	-7

FIG 18: SESAME AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

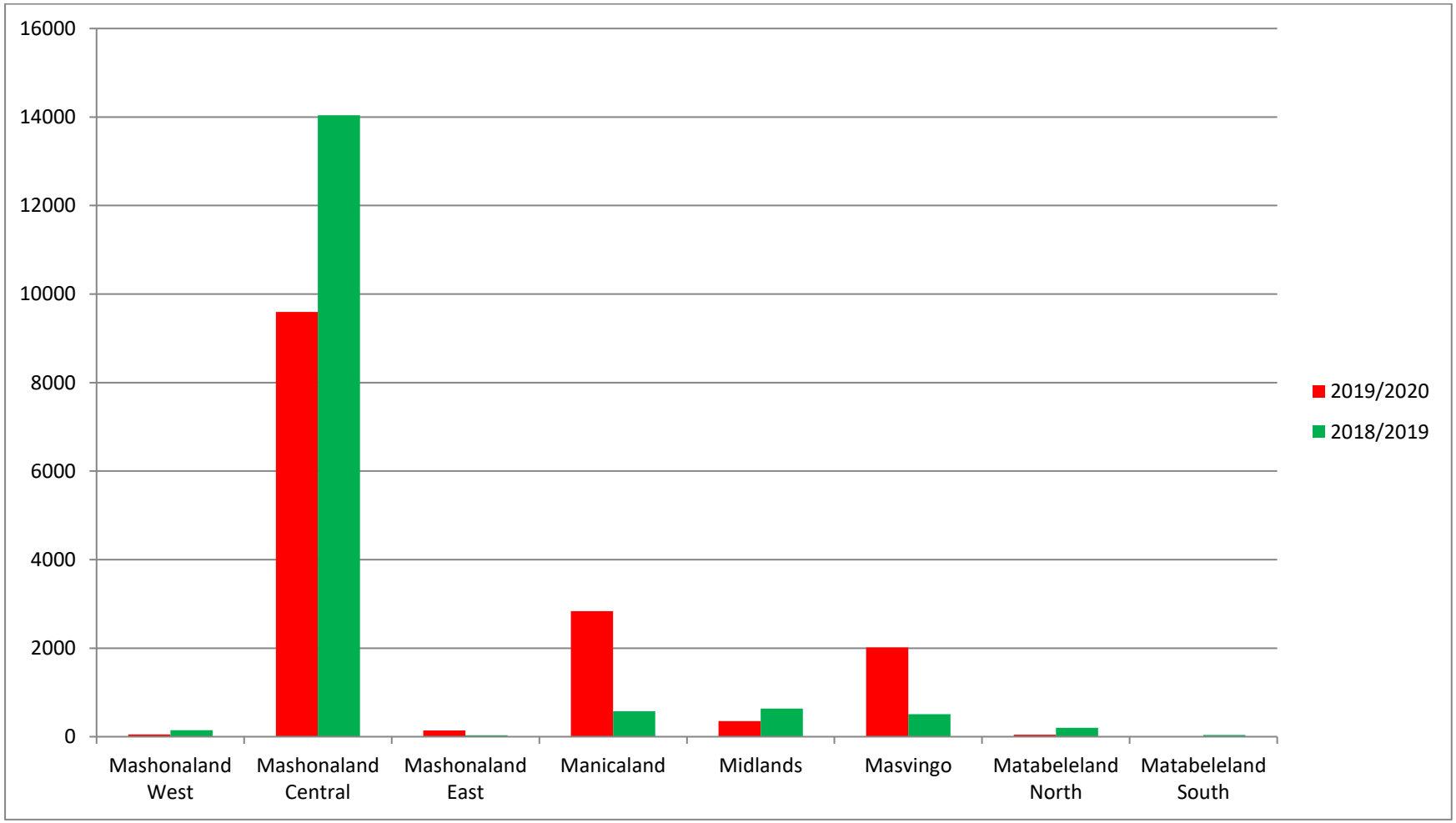


TABLE 25: CASSAVA AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	0	0	
Mashonaland Central	14	372	-96
Mashonaland East	4	26	-85
Manicaland	567	160	254
Midlands	0	0	
Masvingo	128	26	392
Matabeleland North	5	0	
Matabeleland South	0	0	
Total	**718**	**584**	23

FIG 19: **CASSAVA AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE**

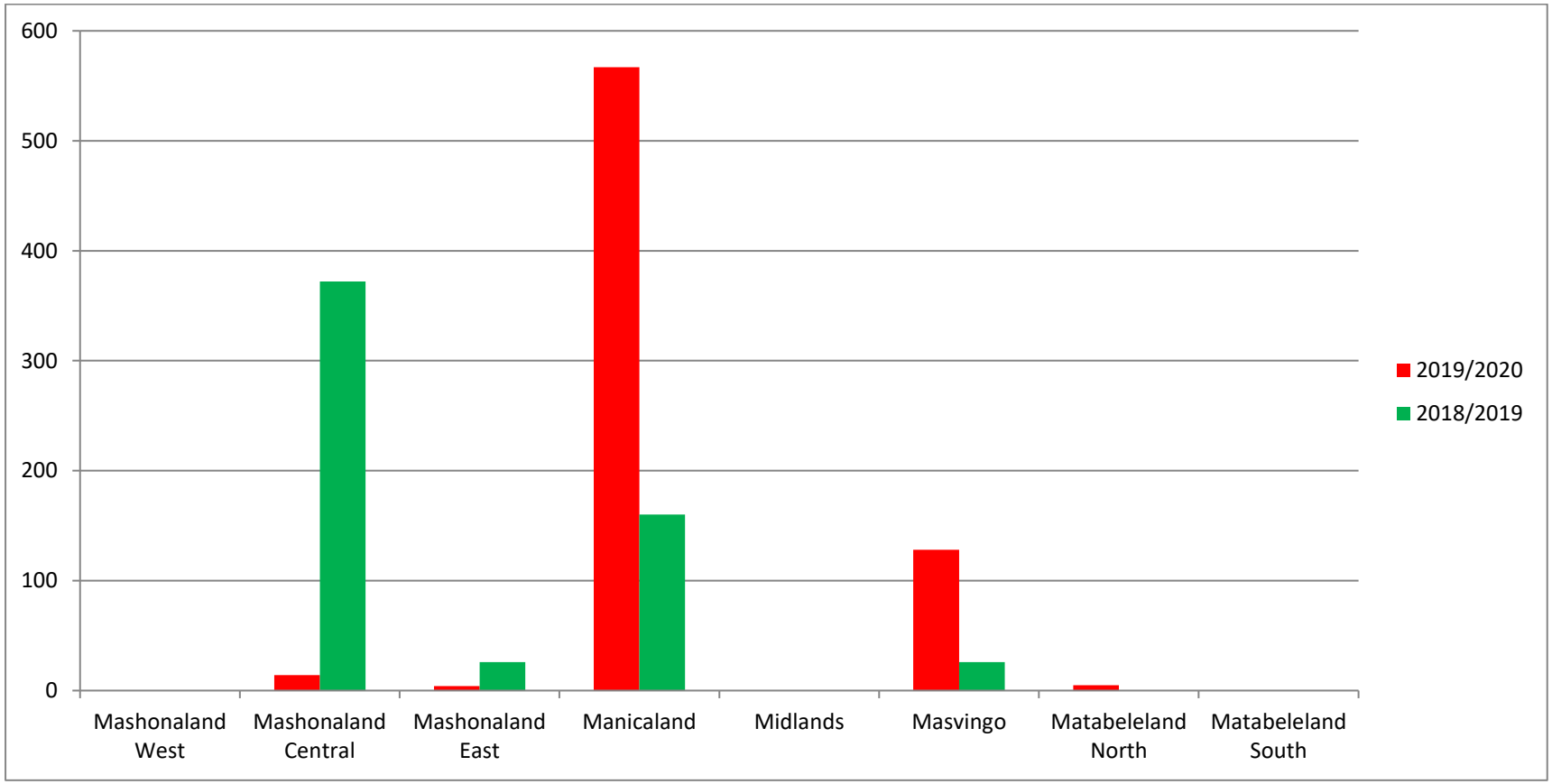


TABLE 26: RICE AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	34	93	-63
Mashonaland Central	67	15	347
Mashonaland East	508	237	114
Manicaland	514	350	47
Midlands	73	47	55
Masvingo	392	263	49
Matabeleland North	0	0	
Matabeleland South	0	0	
Total	**1 588**	**1 005**	58

FIG 20: RICE AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

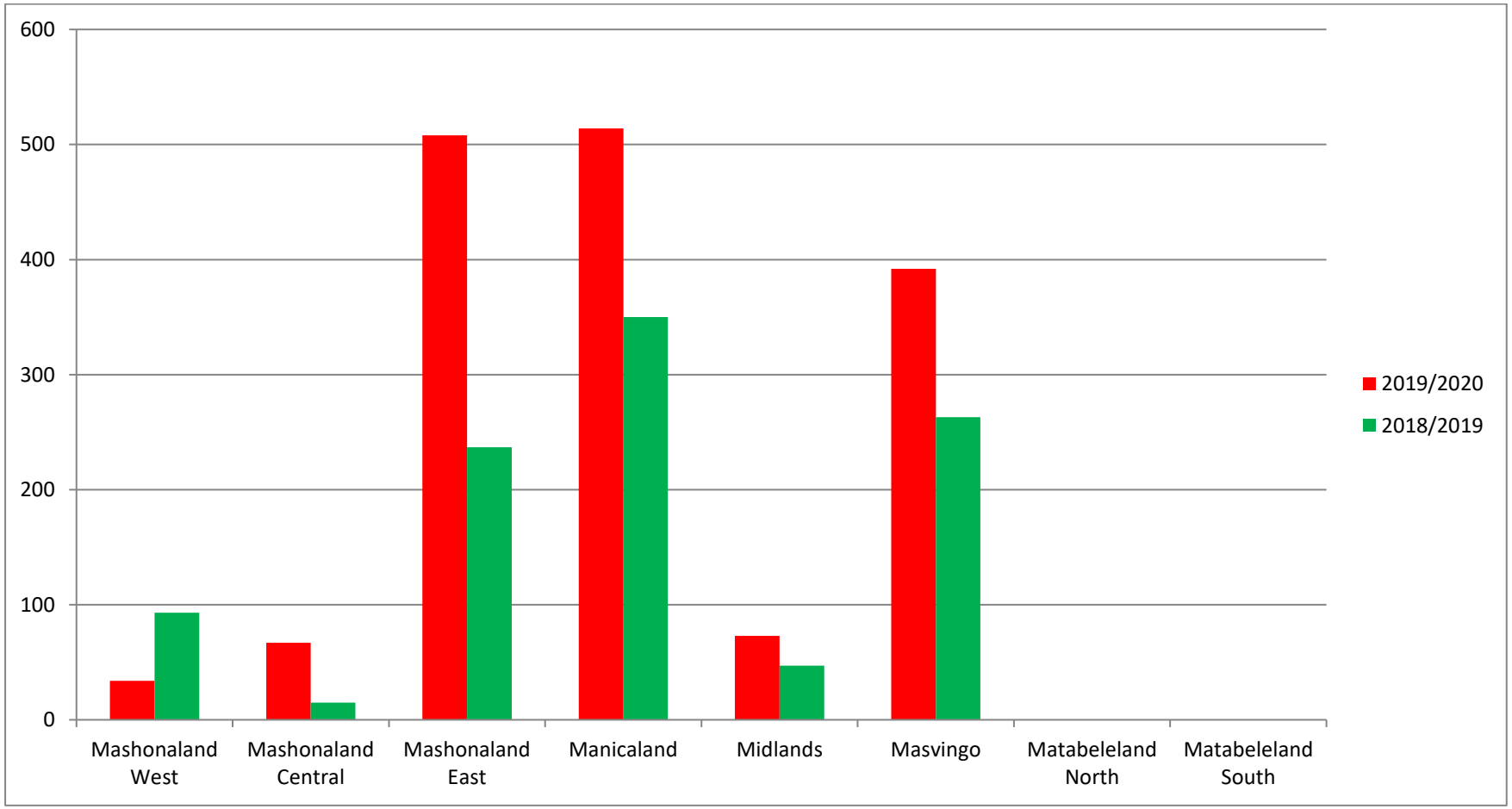
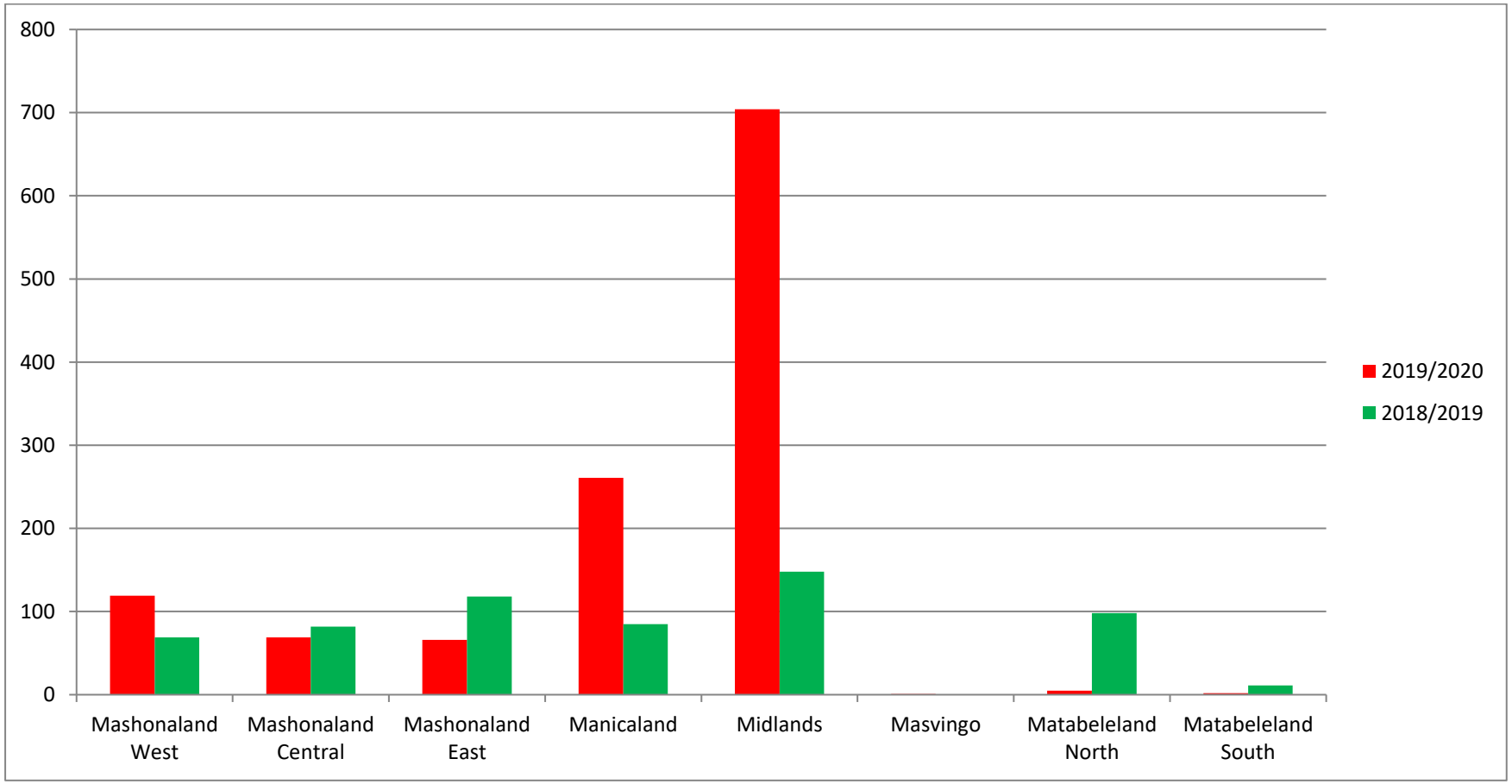


TABLE 27: PAPRIKA AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	2019/2020	2018/2019	%
Mashonaland West	119	69	72
Mashonaland Central	69	82	-16
Mashonaland East	66	118	-44
Manicaland	261	85	207
Midlands	704	148	376
Masvingo	1	0	
Matabeleland North	5	98	-95
Matabeleland South	2	11	-82
Total	**1 227**	**611**	101

FIG 21: **PAPRIKA AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE**



4.6.1 Groundnuts

- A total of **208 229 ha** was planted, which is a **1%** decrease from the **210 468 ha** planted last year owing to the late onset of the rainfall season in the traditional groundnut growing areas.

4.6.2 Edible Beans

- A total of **22 997 ha** was planted, which is **25%** decrease from the **30 574 ha** planted last year.
- Planting was still in progress in all provinces during the time of the assessment.

4.6.3 Sunflower

- A total of **24 595 ha** was planted, which is a **16%** increase from the **21 25 ha** planted last year.
- Increased planting has been boosted by the late rains received across all the provinces.

4.6.4 Cowpeas

- A total of **60 799 ha** was planted, which is a **13%** increase from the **53 917 ha** planted last year.
- The increase may be attributed to the support given to farmers under the government and NGO programs.
- Planting was still in progress at the time of the assessment in response to the rains received during this period.

4.6.5 Bambara nuts

- A total of **87 938 ha** was planted, which is a **16%** decrease from the **104 316 ha** planted last year.
- The decrease in area is attributed to the late start of the season and seed unavailability during the season.

4.6.6 Sesame

- A total of **15 044 ha** was planted, which is a **7**% decrease from the **16 181ha** planted last year.
- The bulk of the crop in the vegetative stage.

4.6.7 Sweet potato

- A total of **20 537 ha** was planted, which is a **17**% increase from the **17 502ha** planted last year.
- Planting of sweet potatoes was on-going at the time of the assessment.

4.6.8 Paprika

- A total of **1 227 ha** was planted, which is a **101**% increase from the **611ha** planted last year.
- The increase is a result of contract farming that offered a more lucrative market for the crop.

4.6.9 Cassava

- A Total of **718ha** was planted which is a **20%** increase from the **584ha** planted last year.
- The increase may be a result of increased mobilisation by government and NGOs to diversify crop production and achieve food and nutrition security

4.6.10 Rice

- A total of **1 588ha** was planted, which is a **58%** increase from **1 005ha** planted last year.

5. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

5.1 LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

TABLE 28: LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY SPECIES BY PROVINCE

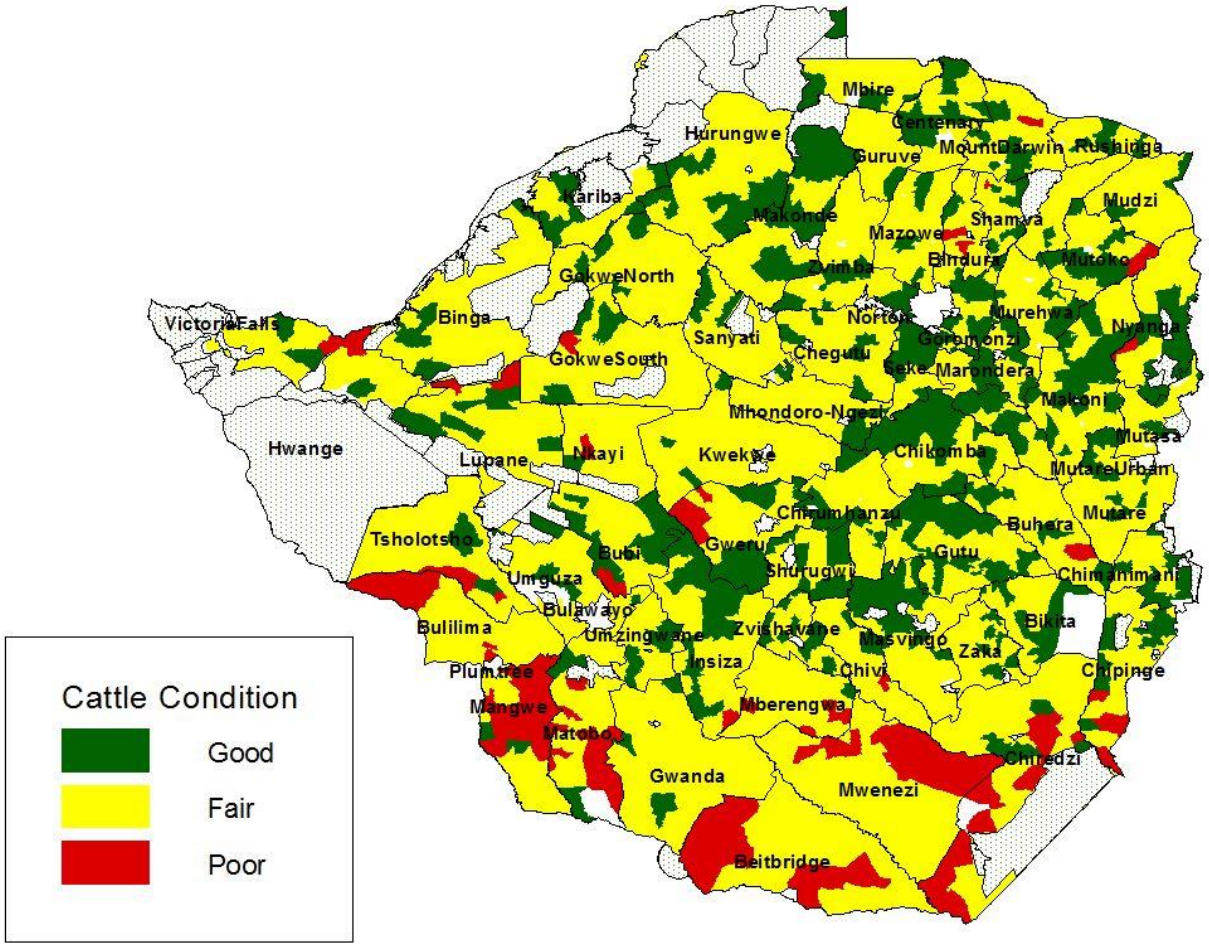
Province	Cattle		Sheep		Goats		Pigs	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Mashonaland West	497 369	443 682	14 976	10 451	252 515	437 886	20 785	14 504
Mashonaland Central	563 470	590 547	68 931	90 453	321 732	391 622	41 421	41 820
Mashonaland East	674 532	567 616	35 476	28 037	315 796	272 567	51 443	44 436
Manicaland	591 084	607 990	75 693	84 963	637 123	608 739	40 579	51 760
Midlands	922 890	921 672	24 566	23 476	538 255	562 583	26 453	21 631
Masvingo	1 277 577	1 028 976	95 460	109 675	625 541	659 430	66 464	58 417
Matabeleland North	583 871	670 363	39 835	36 723	415 900	405 569	23 560	30 469
Matabeleland South	658 518	612 924	126 222	163 918	576 134	530 006	7 592	6 471
Total	**5 774 525**	**5 443 770**	**481 159**	**522 955**	**3 707 357**	**4 360 838**	**278 297**	**227 749**

5.2 LIVESTOCK CONDITION

5.2.1 Cattle condition is generally fair in most districts in the country. However, in districts such as Mwenezi, Beitbridge, Gwanda, Mangwe, Matobo, Tsholotsho, and parts of Mberengwa body condition are poor and livestock deaths due to drought have been recorded.

5.2.2 The fair condition is attributed to the poor 2018/2019 agricultural and rainfall season which resulted in little to no supplementary feeding.

FIGURE 22: CATTLE CONDITION



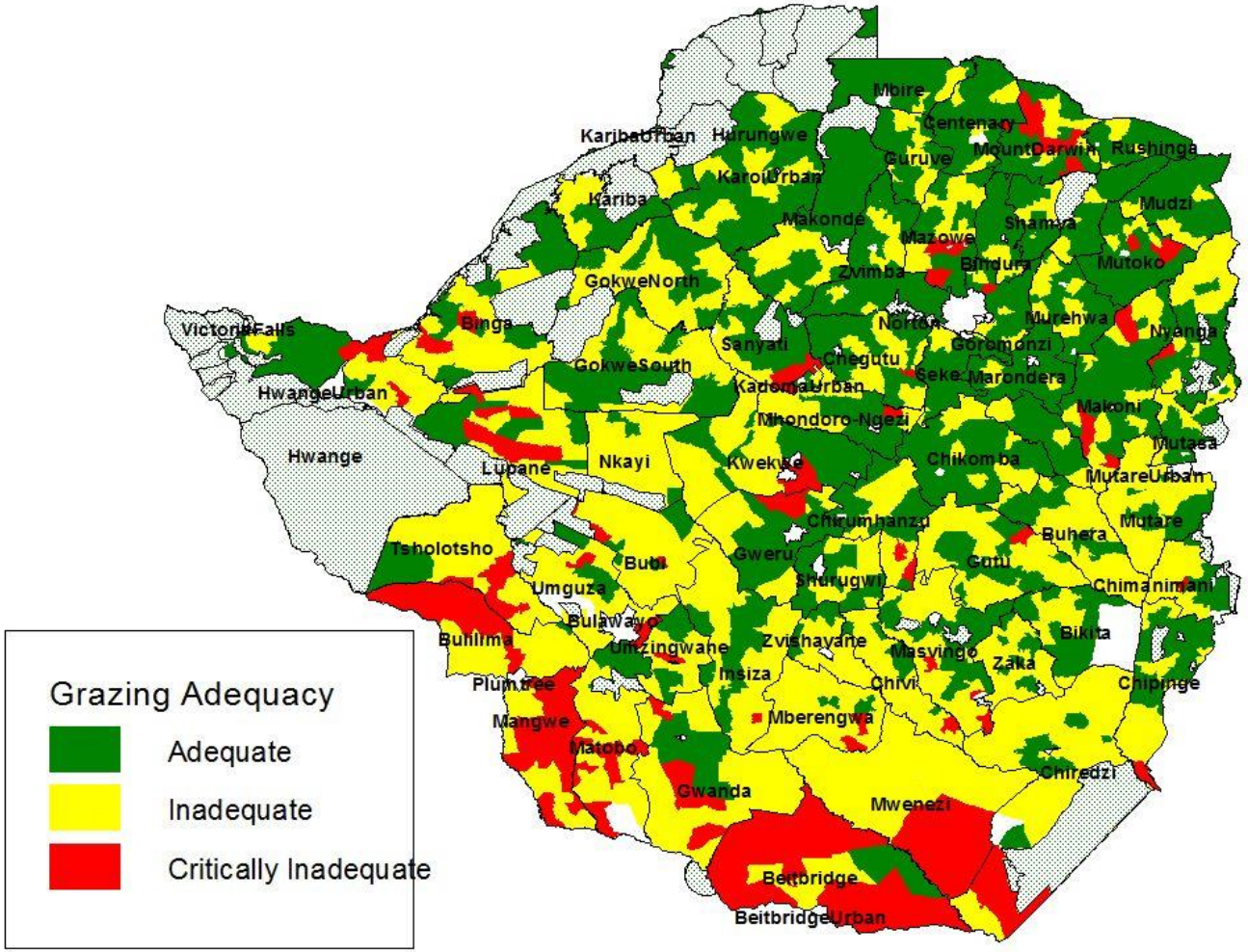
5.3 GRAZING ADEQUACY

5.3.1 Grazing is generally adequate in the Highveld (Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and parts of Manicaland)

5.3.2 It is inadequate in the Middleveld

5.3.3 Grazing is critically inadequate in the Lowveld (Beitbridge, Mwenezi, Mangwe, Gwanda, Bulilima, Tsholotsho, Matobo, Lupane districts)

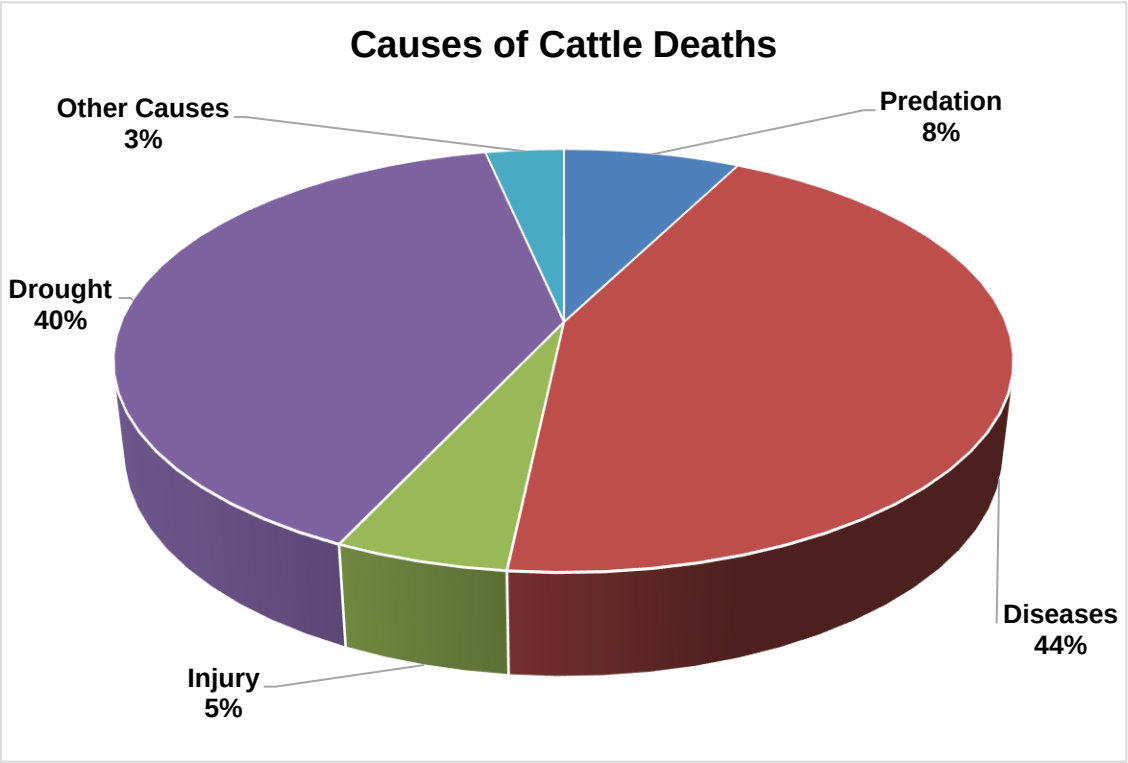
FIGURE 23: GRAZING ADEQUACY



5.4 CATTLE MORTALITY

5.4.1 Diseases contributed **44%** to cattle deaths followed by drought **40 %,** predators **8%,** injury **5%** and the remaining **3%** were other causes.

FIGURE 24: CAUSES OF CATTLE DEATHS



5.5 DROUGHT RELATED DEATHS

5.5.1 A total of **66 088** cattle succumbed to drought with the worst affected provinces being Matabeleland South, Masvingo, Matabeleland North and Midlands.

5.5.2 Highest numbers of deaths were recorded in Beitbridge, Gwanda, Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts.

TABLE 29: DROUGHT RELATED CATTLE DEATHS

Province	Poverty Deaths
Mashonaland West	57
Mashonaland Central	1 552
Mashonaland East	35
Manicaland	1 436
Midlands	9618
Masvingo	17 580
Matabeleland North	10 052
Matabeleland South	25 758
Total	**66 088**

5.6 DROUGHT MITIGATION STRATEGIES

5.6.1 Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund through its implementing partners is providing training on feed formulation to farmers, promoting pasture production and providing subsidized commercial feeds in **17** districts across the country.

5.6.2 Relief grazing in Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and Masvingo provinces.

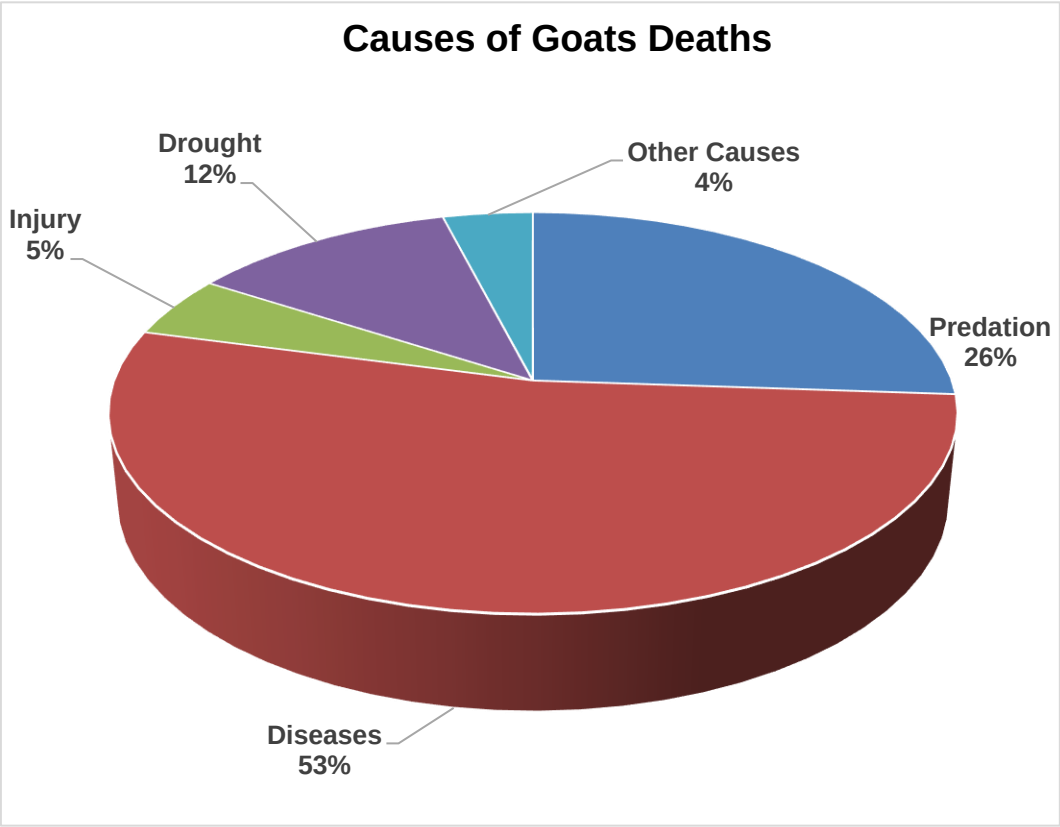
5.6.3 Destocking is being carried out however, at a lower rate.

5.7 SMALL RUMINANTS

5.7.1 GOATS

5.6.3.1 Most goats' mortalities were due to diseases **53%** followed by predation at **26%**, Drought **12%**, Injury **5%** and to other causes **4%**.

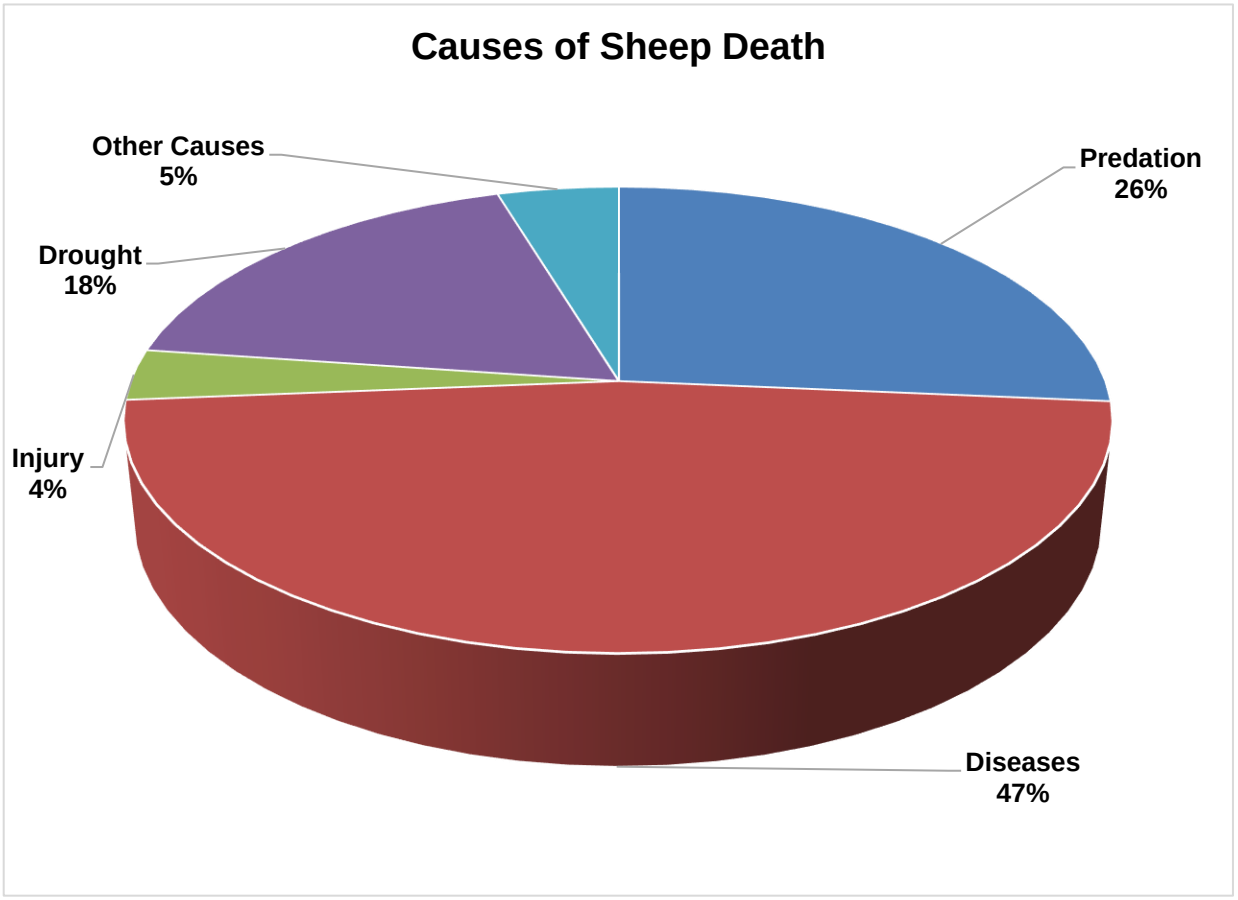
FIGURE 25: CAUSES OF GOAT DEATHS



5.7.2 SHEEP

5.6.3.2 Most sheep deaths were due to diseases at 47% followed by predation 26%, drought 18%, injury 4%, and other causes 5%.

FIGURE 26: CAUSES OF SHEEEP DEATHS



5.8 MILK PRODUCTION

TABLE 30: MILK PRODUCTION IN 2019 COMPARED TO 2018

MONTH	TOTAL MILK PRODUCTION (LITRES)		DIFFERENCE (%)
	2018	2019	
January	6 086 385	6 709 436	10

February	5 263 450	5 955 244	13
March	5 662 186	6 496 573	14
April	5 700 445	6 408 839	12
May	6 047 974	6 652 145	10
June	6 010 579	6 548 104	9
July	6 296 211	6 767 445	7
August	6 778 472	6 973 747	3
Sept	6 568 832	6 807 179	-4
Oct	7 080 920	6 932 868	-2
Nov	6 860 450	6 559 004	-4
Dec	7 066 254	7 085 631	0
Total	**75 422 158**	**79 896 215**	**6**

5.9 LIVESTOCK DISEASES PREVALENCE, PREVENTION AND CONTROL

5.9.1 DIPPING

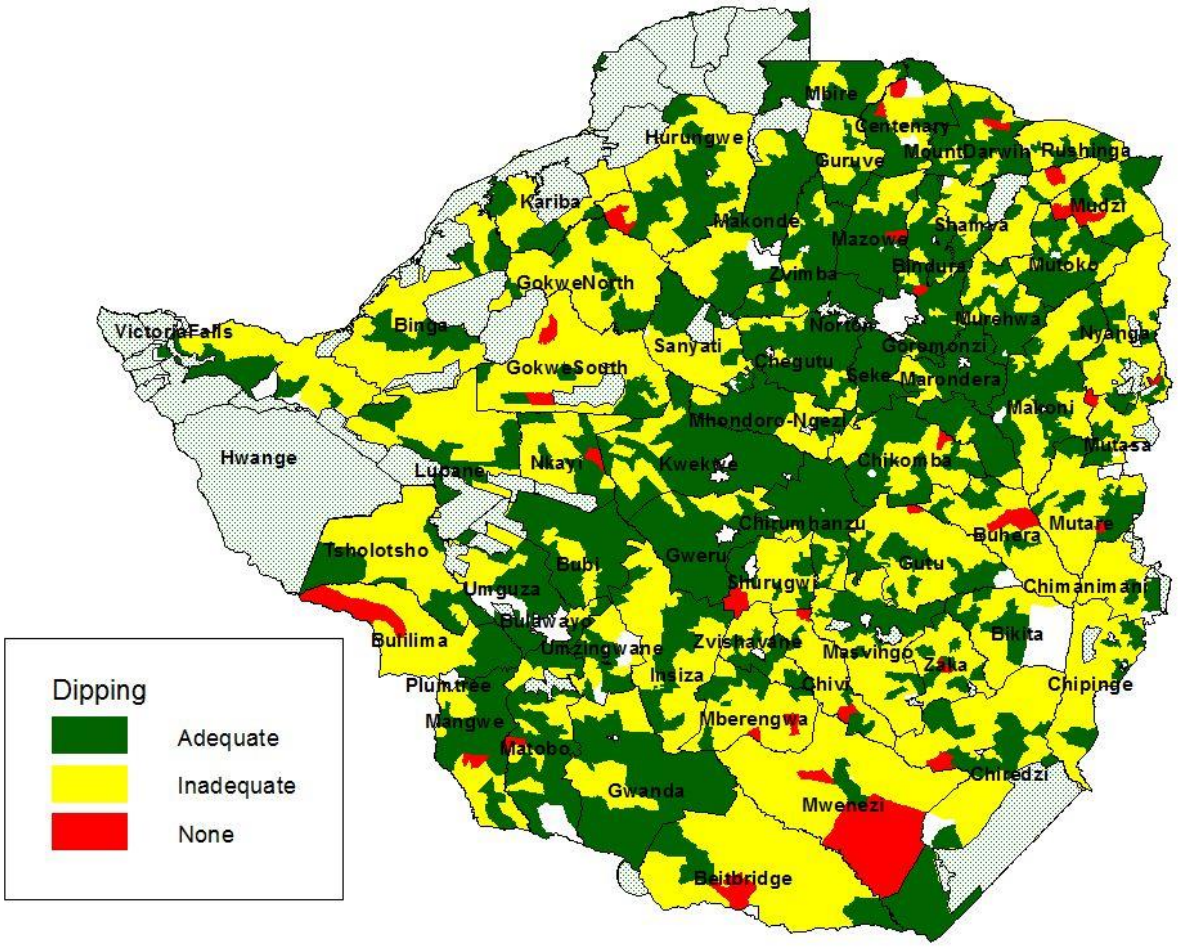
5.9.1.1 The continued shortage of foreign currency to import the necessary ingredients for dipping chemicals negatively affected the country's dipping programme in 2019.

5.9.1.2 Dipping sessions per dip tank averaged **8 to 12** across the country in 2019 instead of the recommended **26 to 32** owing to shortages of dipping chemicals.

5.9.1.3 Shortages of water especially in the southern parts of the country coupled with poor animal body conditions also affected implementation of the dipping programmes.

5.9.1.4 Dipping has improved in 2020 because of involvement of development partners under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (UNDP) and FAO who have committed to supply accaricides for the next 6 months covering almost **50%** of the country's dip tanks.

FIGURE 26: DIPPING SITUATION



5.9.2 FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

5.9.2.1 There was a drop in the number of reported cases with the disease reported in only 4 provinces (Mashonaland Central, Masvingo, Matabeleland South and Midlands) in 2019 compared to all provinces in 2018.

5.9.2.2 A total of 656 500 doses of FMD vaccine were availed against a requirement of 900 000 and 638 441 cattle were vaccinated.

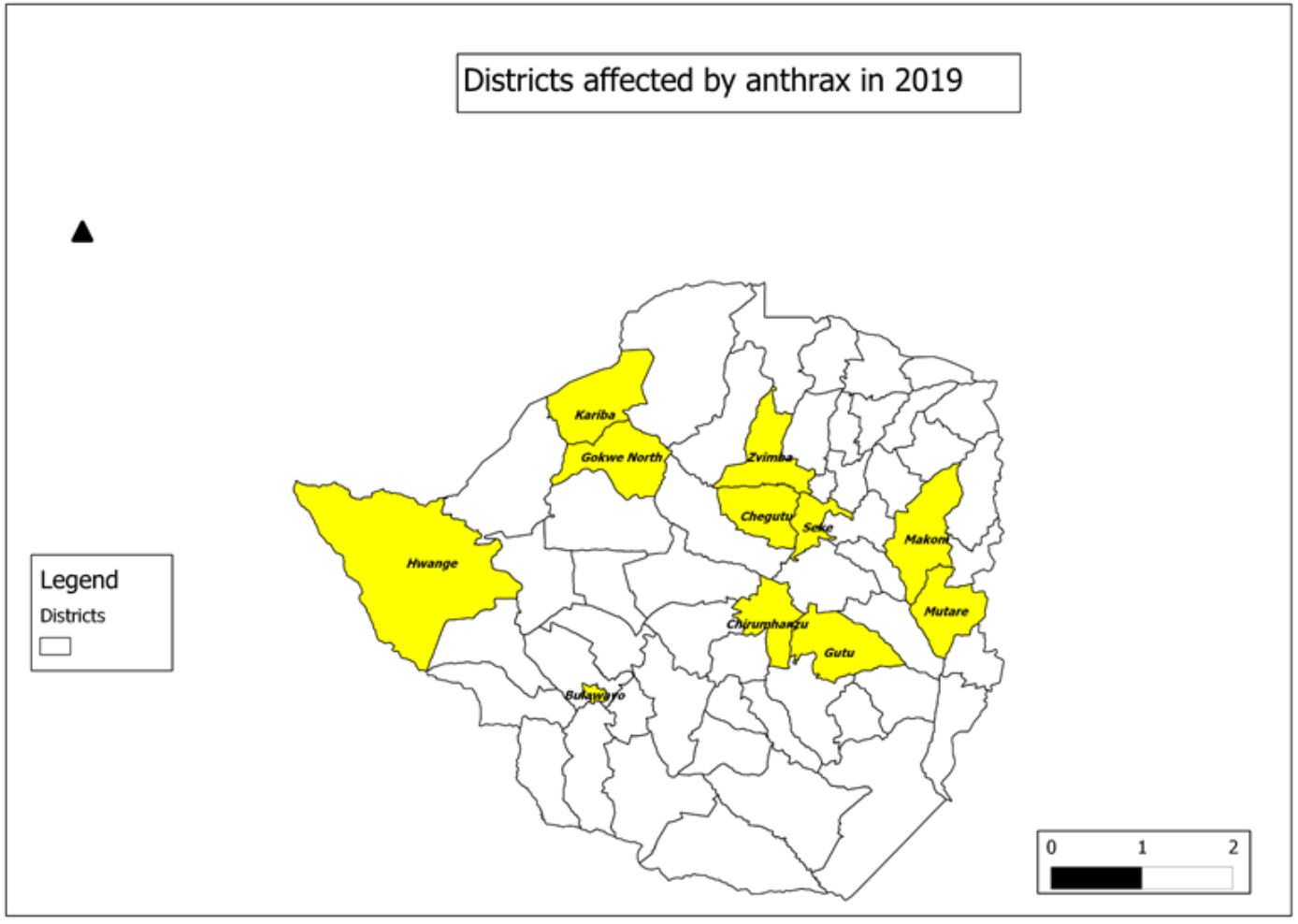
5.9.3 ANTHRAX

5.9.3.1 Inadequate vaccination programme in 2019 resulted in an increase in cases compare to 2018 with 20 outbreaks compared to 9 the previous year.

5.9.3.2 800 000 **vaccine doses were procured against a requirement of** 1.4 million **doses and this was used to vaccinate** 761 483 **cattle.**

5.9.3.3 313 cases of humans being affected by Anthrax were also reported in 2019.

FIGURE 27: ANTHRAX OUTBREAKS IN 2019



5.9.4 TICK BORNE DISEASES

5.9.4.1 Tick borne diseases continue to pose a serious threat to the national herd. This is a continuation of the problem that started in 2017 when the national dipping programme started to face serious challenges.

5.9.4.2 The highest number of cattle deaths have been attributed to Theileriosis with Mashonaland East, West, Central and parts of Manicaland being the worst affected.

5.9.4.3 Other tick borne diseases reported were Anaplasmosis (Gall sickness), Babesiosis (Red water) and Heart water.

5.9.5 BLACK LEG

5.9.5.1 A total of 1 075 cases were reported in 2019 compared to 1 225 in 2018 in all the provinces.

5.9.5.2 Highest number of black leg cases was reported in Masvingo and Matabeleland South.

5.9.6 LUMPY SKIN

5.9.6.1 Prevalence of Lumpy Skin was high in the high rainfall areas of the country.

5.9.6.2 High mortality rates due to lumpy skin were reported in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West.

TABLE 31: LUMPY SKIN DISEASE OCCURRENCE IN 2019

Province	Number of cases	Deaths
Manicaland	1 234	16
Mashonaland Central	766	13
Mashonaland East	1 201	43
Mashonaland West	1 772	32
Masvingo	211	0
Matabeleland North	56	7
Matabeleland South	618	21
Midlands	1 007	5
TOTAL	**6 865**	**137**

5.9.7 RABIES

5.9.7.1 A total of 313 rabies cases were reported throughout the country.
5.9.7.2 300 000 rabies vaccine doses carried forward from 2018 plus 110 000 donated by the OIE enable the vaccination of 265 875 dogs by end of 2019.

5.9.8 AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

5.9.8.1 Two outbreaks were reported in free range pigs along the country's border with Mozambique in Nyanga and Mount Darwin killing a total of **714** pigs.

5.9.9 NEW CASTLE DISEASE

5.9.9.1 Isolated cases were reported in all the country's 8 provinces. Notable cases were reported in backyard poultry units in Bulawayo.

5.9.9.2 The small holder sector lost **7 661** birds to the disease.

5.9.9.3 **6 480 040** birds were vaccinated in 2019 compared to **7 081 314** in 2018 as the Central Veterinary Laboratory faced funding challenges and failed to produce enough vaccine.

6 CHALLENGES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Challenge	Possible Solution(s)
Prolonged dry spells leading to low area planted and poor crop establishment and write offs	• Promotion of water harvesting and moisture conservation techniques such as mulching, dead contours, infiltration pits, tied ridges, potholing and rain water harvesting. • Prioritize rehabilitation of existing irrigation infrastructure and develop new irrigation infrastructure where water bodies are available • Review communal irrigation models to improve water and irrigation infrastructure management. • Promote the adoption of low cost irrigation and water harvesting infrastructure. • Crop diversification in order to spread the risk of crop failure.
• **Washing away of fields due to floods** • **Drying of crops due to prolonged dry spells**	• Enforce construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation structures across all farming sectors
• **Late planting due to poor planning such as tillage after the first rains instead of planting, acquisition of**	• Promote winter field preparations both conventional and conservation techniques. • Enhance farmer preparedness in terms of input acquisition, Soil testing and conditioning

inputs after the rains have started, lack of draft power • **Late roll out of input support programs**	
• **High incidence of tick borne diseases**	• Avail adequate dipping chemicals and vaccine • Rehabilitation of dip tanks
• **High drought related deaths**	• Provision of hay to affected areas • Subsidising stock feeds
• **Shortage of grazing especially in the Southern Region where most cattle are.**	• Enforce regulations to control stocking densities
• **Shortage of drinking water especially in the southern Region of the Country where most of the cattle are.**	• Drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes • Construction of water troughs at water point • Construction of weirs and dams
• **Limited formal livestock marketing**	• Establish regulated livestock markets • Resuscitating the livestock selling points