NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS, FOOD SECURITY AND DROUGHT SITUATION REPORT

JUNE 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

The country's agricultural production suffered the effects of severe drought condition, following a very poor and below average rainfall performance experienced during the 2014/2015 rainfall season. Since the start of the season in October last year, the rainfall performance has been poor and characterised by sporadic and erratic patterns with insufficient rainfall. The situation became worse in the second half of the season as the drought conditions worsen where a severe and prolonged dry spells were experienced in most parts of the country

Crop estimates indicated extremely poor crop harvest in all the dry land crop producing regions (both commercial and communal sectors) which is below average and lower than the last season's harvest. Crop production under rain-fed conditions noted poor crop germinations especially those planted between the middle of December to February this season. Much of the crops germinated dries up due to a severe and prolonged dry spells coupled with high temperature which dominated the season. Subsequently aggregate cereal is estimated at 67, 800 metric tonnes, reflecting a massive reductions in the harvest of 46% below average and 49% lower than last season's harvest.

Household food security continues to weaken as the recent main crop harvest failed to provide the much needed improvement to the deteriorated food security. According to the households, this season's drought is very severe than the 2012/2013 drought as many farmers only received a very little or no harvest at all. The recent harvest only provided a short-lived relieves to most household and this improvement is expected to last at most end of August this year.

Poor grazing conditions were reported in most parts of the country due to below normal rainfall performance experienced this season. It was noted that, grazing in most areas have not yet recovered from the effects of the last season's dry season, veld fires as well as the 2012/2013 drought. Water availability (rain water) for rainfall dependent livestock is limited as most catchment areas did not receive significant inflow this season. The affected regions are mostly the north central regions that are heavily dependent on surface/ rainfall water for livestock.

The recent Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the north central regions affected the destocking and marketing of livestock exercise as part of the drought mitigating measures. Despite the advice given to farmers to sell some of their livestock because of the current drought condition, farmers in the north central regions are unable to sell their cattle because of the recent FMD outbreak which was detected in May this year.

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

1.0 OVERVIEW 1

2.0 AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION 2

3.0 CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS 4

5.0 FOOD SECURITY SITUATION 8

6.0 PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS 9

7.0 CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN THE MAJOR CROP PRODUCING REGIONS 15

8.0 NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION FOR 2014/2015 CROP SEASON 50

9.0 CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND FORECAST 52

10. CONCLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 53

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 55

OVERVIEW

The Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) undertook its first Crop Assessment mission in the seven major communal crop producing regions[1] as from 5th May to 2nd June 2015. The main purpose of this assessment was to assess crop condition in the major crop-growing regions of Namibia and provide early warning report on geographic locations of agronomic anomalies, the effects of floods, droughts, and other significant events. Moreover the mission assessed changes in household food security, livestock and pasture conditions. Information regarding the drought situation on the ground in the rest of the regions were also gathered through a rapid assessments conducted by the Agricultural Extension staff and incorporated in the main report. The assessment team was composed of the following staff:

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Since the situation may change, it should be noted herein that, this report present the results of the assessment that took place during the abovementioned dates supplemented by a rapid assessment reports from the Agricultural Extension staff in Kunene, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, !Karas, Erongo, Khomas and Hardap regions. Moreover, secondary information from the commercial areas through the Namibia Agronomic Board (NAB) and quick field visits in the maize triangle area (Grootfontein, Otavi and Tsumeb) was also used in this report.

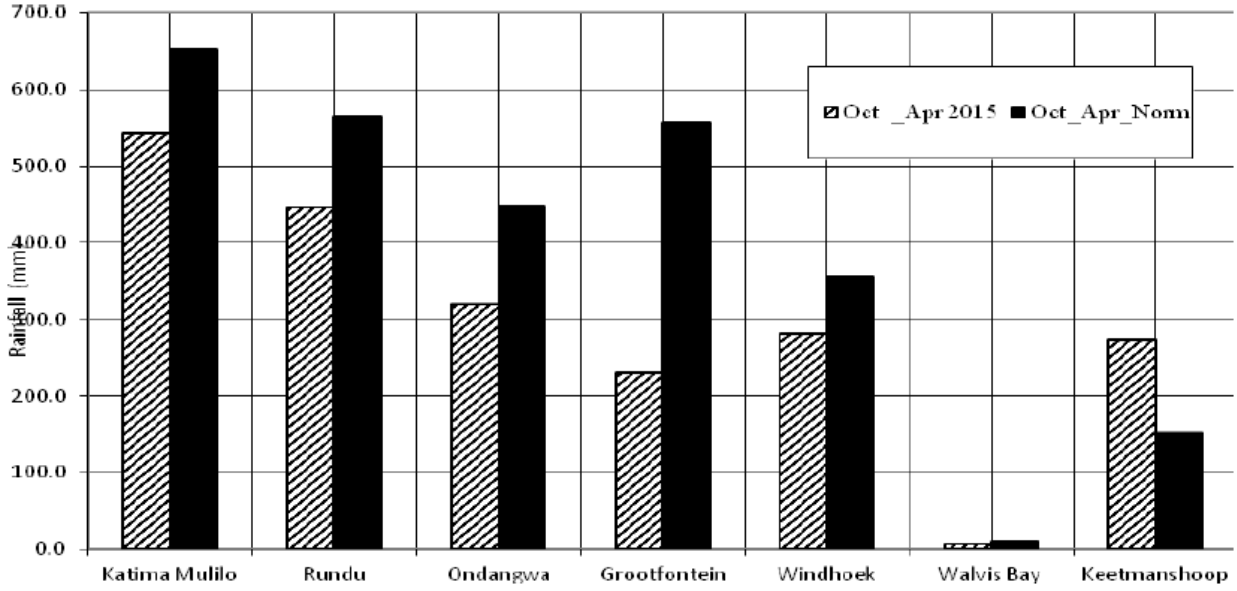
[1] Crop producing regions included Zambezi, Kavango east, Kavango west, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto region

AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

2014/2015 Rainfall Performance for Namibia

According to the Namibia Meteorological services, most parts of the country received a below normal rainfall for the 2014/2015 rainfall season. Since the start of the season in October last year, the rainfall performance has been poor and characterised by sporadic and erratic patterns with insufficient rainfall. The situation became worse in the second half of the season as the drought conditions worsen where a severe and prolonged dry spells were experienced in most parts of the country. Figure 1 below provides a summary of the rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 rainfall season at various major towns in Namibia.

Figure 1: Cumulative Seasonal Rainfall Relative Performance Chat - October 2014 to April 2015 relative to Normal at various towns in Namibia

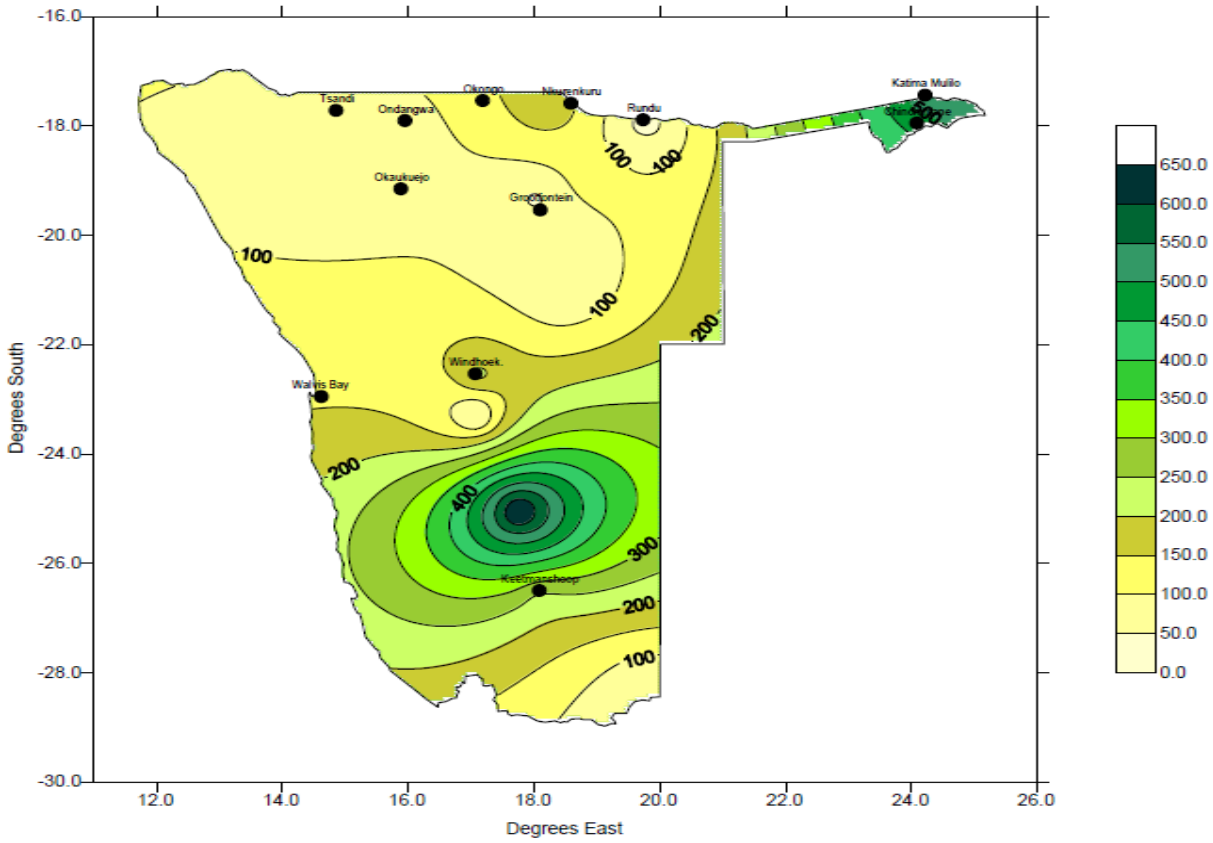


Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

As indicates in figure 1 above, most of these towns noted below normal rainfall performance, except Keetmanshop where above normal rainfall conditions were recorded. Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi region, rainfall progression followed a normal profile until mid-December when it slipped and maintained a below normal profile, closing the season to 17% below normal. Rundu in the Kavango East region, the rainfall started off with an above normal profile until toward the end of January when it fell and maintained a below normal profile, closing the season with a 21% below normal performance. Ondangwa in the Oshana region, rainfall progression was below normal from onset to cessation, ending the season with a performance of 29% below normal. Grootfontein in the Otjozondjupa region, rainfall performance started well on time with an above normal profile until mid-November, and slipped below normal as

rainfall failed to pick up, closing the season with a performance of 59% below normal, and the worst in 8 decades, since 1932/33 season that totaled only to 199.9 mm. In the Khomas region, Windhoek district, the progression of the season maintained a below normal profile throughout, with a season closing to 21% below normal. Keetmanshop in the //Karas region, rainfall progression followed a below normal profile until the beginning of March, when rainfall picked up to above normal, maintaining the profile to the end and closing the season with an above normal performance of 80%. Figure 2 below indicates the cumulative amount of rainfall received in various parts of the country.

Figure 2: Cumulative seasonal rainfall in millimetres - October 2014 to April 2015



Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

As indicated in Figure 2, the amount of rainfall received in various parts of the country is very low with the highest cumulative amount of 500mm in the extreme north eastern part of the country. Most parts of the country received a total less than 200mm of rainfall for the 2014/2015 rainfall season. The poor rainfall performance has resulted in poor agricultural production (both crop and grazing) in terms of the crop harvest, grazing and water availability predominantly for livestock.

CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

Crop estimates indicated that, all the dry land crop producing regions both communal and commercial areas received a very poor crop harvest this season which is exceedingly below the average production and lower than last season's harvest. The poor crop harvest had resulted from the poor rainfall performance which is said to have dominated the cropping season this year. It was reported that, crop germination was very poor prompting farmers to attempt replanting so many times with little success and even those crops germinated have wilted as drought condition strengthen.

In the communal crop producing regions, majority of farmers were unable to cultivate the greater part of their crop fields due to repeated dry spells experienced during the critical period of ploughing (December, January and February). It was further noted that, even government tractors were parked, due to the fact that, the soil was too dry and hard to tilth. Very little crop harvest obtained this season and some farmers are reported to have suffered total crop failure. Figure 3 and Figure 4 shows crop harvests for one of the farmers who received some harvest this season.

Figure 3: shows one of the lucky farmers who obtain some maize harvests at Kongola constituency in the Zambezi region

Figure 4: shows Pearl millet and sorghum harvests from one of the farmers at Omundaungilo constituency in Ohangwena region

In Kunene region, crop germinated, following some showers received in December, but had since wilted up between January and February due to lack of rainfall. Omaheke and Otjozondjupa regions reported that, there were good crop germination, following some good showers received in November, but have later on wilted during January and February period owing to lack of rainfall. It was further reported that, even if rainfall conditions improved for the reminder of the season, it will be too late for the crop to be revived hence, very poor to no harvest in most of these areas is likely to occur.

In the commercial dry land maize triangle area (Otavi, Tsumeb and Grootfontein), maize producers are reported to have planted at least 23% less than usual, due to poor rainfall performance experienced at the critical planting period. However, few bigger produces and new farmers planted more, based on the rainfall outlook at that time which indicated normal to above normal rainfall conditions for Namibia. Figure 5 below shows some of the worst affected maize in the dry land commercial area.

Figure 5: Shows wilted maize in Grootfontein and Tsumeb areas

Over 50% of dry land maize producers in the commercial area are reported to have experienced a total crop failure and as such, no harvest was obtained from their crop fields. Most of these farmers planted their maize between December and early January and germination was good with most farmers. As from mid January, February and most of March, there were no rainfall and a severe and prolonged dry spells were experienced resulting in the crop to wilt.

Table 1 below indicates aggregate cereal production from 2000/2001 to 2013/14 crop seasons. The table also indicated the harvest estimates (highlighted in red) for the 2014/2015 crop season, a 16- year average, and the 2014/2015 harvest estimates as percentage of average and as percentage of 2013/14 production.

Table 1: National cereal production statistics and 2014/15 forecast compared to 2013/14 harvest and average production

National Cereal Production Statistics Trend (in '000 metric Ton) and 2014/2015 forecast compared with a 16 year average and 2013/2014 Production

	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	2014/15	16 year average	2014/15 as % of average	2014/15 as % of 2013/14
Maize (Communal)	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	5.2	1.4	7.0	-80	-73
Maize (Commercial)	35.0	22.8	23.3	28.3	49.8	39.2	48.6	46.0	48.8	48.0	64.0	83.1	37.2	68.2	36.7	41.5	-12	-46
Millet	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	44.1	15.3	58.4	--74	-65
Sorghum	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	4.1	1.7	8.0	-79	-60
Wheat	6.1	6.8	10.3	8.3	11.3	13.0	12.3	12.1	14.9	12.5	11.5	17.2	14.9	10.3	12.7	10.5	21	23
Aggregate	146.5	84.0	95.2	137.5	148.6	179.0	116.4	105.7	113.5	147.8	127.6	168.5	81.5	132.1	67.8	125.5	-46	-49

From table 1 above, crop harvest for the 2014/2015 crop season are very poor when compared to the normal production and the last season's harvest. Maize production in the communal area (Zambez, Kavango East and Kavango West regions) showed a substantial reduction of about 80% below average and 73% lower than last season's harvest. In the commercial area, maize harvest showed a significant drop of 46% less than the last season's harvest and 12% below the average production. Although maize production in the commercial area recorded about 36 700 tons of the harvest this season, over 92% of this total came from the irrigation projects and dry land maize has only contributed about 8% of the total. Pearl millet production showed a decrease of over 74% below average and 65% less than last season's harvest. Moreover sorghum production has also showed a significant decrease in the harvest and is estimated at 79% below the average production and 60% lower than the last season's harvest. Wheat is a winter crop and production thereof is ongoing. Harvest estimate for wheat is provisionally forecasted at 12 700 tons. This reflects an increase of 21% above the average production and 23% higher than last season's harvest.

Many dry land crop producers in both communal and commercial areas are reported to have suffered a total crop failure, with no single harvest this year because of the poor rainfall performance experienced this season. Therefore, as a country, the national coarse aggregate production (maize, millet, sorghum and wheat) is estimated at 67, 800 metric tonnes, reflecting a substantial decrease in the harvest of about 46% below the average production and 49% lower than last season's harvest. In addition, the national cereal aggregate is about 17% lower than the 2012/2013 drought, demonstrating the seriousness of the current drought.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

As the country was recovering from the devastating drought experienced in 2012/2013 crop season, this season's drought is said to have worsened the fragile household food security situation which is still recovering from the 2012 drought. Although most households in the northern communal crop producing regions noted an improvement in crop harvest last season, such improvement was not sufficient and has already been depleted. According to the households, this season's drought is even very severe than the 2012/2013 drought as many farmers only received a very little or no harvest at all. The recent harvest only provided a short-lived relieves to most household and this improvement is expected to last at most end of August this year. Meanwhile, majority of the farmers are currently dependent on the market purchases to supplement their poor harvest in order to prolong its availability. Farmers and the Regional Council officials are therefore requesting the government to provide them with drought relief foods and water for both human and livestock consumption.

In a good season, household food security situation improve as from March when the green harvests such as green maize, cow peas, squash, etc become available and ready for consumption until the main harvest. However, farmers indicated that, the availability of these crops were very limited especially in the north central regions and communal crop growing areas of Omaheke, Kunene and Otjozondjupa regions.

The assessment team took note of the drought relief foods which sent to the regions for the vulnerable people. At the time of the assessment, the regions received their first consignment and were in a process of transporting the foods to various constituencies for distributions.

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

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

Pasture, livestock and water supply situation

Grazing in most parts of the country was reported to be poor due to the poor rainfall performance experienced this season. It was noted that, grazing in most areas have not yet recovered from the effects of the last season's dry season, veld fires as well as the 2012/2013 drought.

In the north eastern part of the country (Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions), grazing was reported to have improved slightly after the March April rainfall. The eastern part of Zambezi (low-lying areas), grazing was noted to be fair and is expected to deteriorate much earlier before the next rainfall season. However, elsewhere in the region grazing was observed to be good and farmers indicated that it is enough and will sustain livestock till next season, if no veld fires occur. The Kavango East and Kavango West regions, the situation is almost similar to Zambezi, except that, grazing is poor in areas along the river due to the high concentration of livestock and range between fair to poor in the inland. Many farmers are likely to lose some of their livestock to drought this year. Water for livestock is satisfactory through the boreholes and or pipeline in most areas in the inland and rivers and streams in areas along the rivers.

For the north central, grazing condition in the Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and Omusati regions is worrisome and in most places was noted to range between poor to very poor, except in the cattle post areas in the southern part of Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto regions. Ohangwena region, grazing is also poor, except in the extreme eastern part of the region where poor to fair grazing conditions were reported. According to farmers, grazing respondent well to few early good showers received in late November to early December, but later on the grass started wilting due to lack of follow up rainfalls. Even few showers received end of March to early April did not make any significant improvement to grazing condition. Many farmers in these areas has already started moving their livestock to cattle post areas for better grazing condition. Water availability for livestock is poor in most parts of these regions as many earth dams other water catchments did not receive any significant inflow this season. The situation is said to be critical in the remote and cattle post areas in these regions. Farmers and the Regional Council officials are therefore requesting the government to assist in

providing water in the affected areas. Figure 6 below, shows one of the few earth dams with water and expected to dry up as from July this year.

Figure 6: One of the few earth dams with water at Omundaungilo constituency in the Ohangwena region.

As shown in figure 6, above many farmers are dependent on the surface water (rainfall water) for both livestock and human consumption. The water is expected to dry up soon, since there was no significant inflow this season due to poor rainfall received. Figure 7 below shows poor grazing conditions in some of the hardest hit areas in the north central regions.

Figure 7: One of the areas affected by poor grazing conditions at Ompundja constituency in the Oshana region

As shown in Figure 7 above, many areas in the north central regions are experiencing poor grazing condition and most livestock are facing poor grazing conditions this year.

In the Kunene region the grazing was reported to be critical poor to poor in most parts but fair especially where no water is available for livestock including some isolated parts of Morewag, Ovikango and Omakange. Some farms in the Outjo area grazing is poor while those farms in the Kamanjab area pasture is reported to range between fair to good.

In the Erongo region, grazing condition in the communal areas was reported to be poor in most parts and fair in some areas especially where no water is available for livestock including some isolated parts of Uis (south) and Spitzkoppe (north). The situation is reported to be worse at Utuseb and many farmers are very much worried about the poor grazing condition in the area. Animals in this area depend entirely on Anna pods from the Anna tree that do not bear fruits/flowers during this season due to the drop in underground water as the main source of fodder. The commercial area, grazing is reported to range from poor to good. Farms in the Karibib constituencies in the Karibib Constituency reported fair to poor grazing, while those in Omaruru constituency reported fair to good grazing conditions. Water

availability for human and livestock is reported to be fair to poor as the underground water level of Uis area in the Daures constituency dropped significantly due to poor rain in the past three years. Moreover, some new boreholes drilled in the area are reportedly dry.

In the //Karas region, grazing condition in the communal areas especially the Berseba constituency (Bethanie, Tses and Berseba areas) was reported to range between fair to poor in the northern parts (Phalz, Swartrand to Kutenhoas) and poor to critically poor towards the south (Soromaas, Kosis, Sniprivier, Snyfontein) of the constituency. In the Tses area the grazing condition was reported to be critically poor especially around the Kalkplateau area. However, after the rainfall received during April-May, there was a significant improvement in grazing around Vaalgras and Blouwes areas. The western section of the Karasburg communal areas (Bondelswartz) reported good grazing conditions, following good rainfall received in the area. However, the commercial areas reported fair to poor grazing conditions. Berseba, Bethanie in the Karasburg constituency reported poor grazing conditions. Poor grazing conditions were also reported at Aroab and Naute dam in the Keetmanshop constituency and some cattle are reported to have died due to drought. The water table is said to have dropped in most areas commonly known for shallow underground water and this was attributed to the poor rainfalls experienced for the past consecutive seasons.

In the Hardap region, grazing conditions were reported to be poor to fair. Farms in the Gibeon area to the west of the Fish River grazing was reported to range between poor to extremely poor while farms in the Schwartzrante fair grazing conditions were reported. Farms on the Kalk Plato were reported to be poor to fair due to the poor and highly isolated rainfall. Farms in the Hoachanas area are also poor to fair while farms in the Rehoboth area are critical poor with the exception of a few that are in a fair condition.

Omaheke region, the grazing conditions were reported to range from fair to good in the communal. However, the major part of the Aminuis constituency especially the entire Aminuis ward and some of the Corridor 13 ward reported poor grazing conditions. Only small parts that consist of Corridor 13, 14 and 15 were found to have fair grazing due to higher downpours. The Otjombinde constituency especially the ward of Tallismanus in Rietfontein was recorded as poor due to low rainfall, however parts to the west and towards Eiseb 10 are good. This is solely due to the occurrence of poisonous plants including the shortage of water. Larger parts of the Otjinene Constituency including the Epukiro and Otjinene wards were

grazing were found to range between poor to fair. This was due to late rains received towards the end of March and the beginning of April 2015. In the commercial area most areas grazing was reported to range between fair to good. However, some farms especially in the Steinhausen and Summerdown areas poor to fair grazing were reported. Farms in the Leonardville area towards Aranos in the Hardap Region experience some challenges with re-growth of grazing. This is suspected due the exceptional high downpours recorded over a short period of time that washed away the top soil. Some farms reported around 300mm in 24 hours that caused severe natural environmental damages such as erosion. Resettlement farms towards the west of Gobabis in the Gobabis constituency and in the Kalahari constituency reported fair to poor grazing condition. Water condition is said to be fair on existing boreholes in the region. However, farmers requested that more boreholes should be drilled in areas where abundant grazing exists.

In the Otjozondjupa region, grazing condition ranges from poor to good in the communal areas. The major part of the Tsumkwe constituency reported fair to good grazing while the Gam area, grazing was found to be poor due to late rains and high stocking densities. Okakarara constituency grazing is poor due to insufficient rains received. Some farms in the Otjituuo and Coblenz areas reported fair grazing conditions due to their fences and lower stocking densities. In the commercial areas, grazing was reported to range between poor to fair. Farms in the western part of Otjiwarongo towards Kalkfeld reported poor grazing and late rains that resulted in poor re-growth of grasses. The east and south of Otjiwarongo grazing condition improved significantly due to higher rainfall measured. Farms in the Otavi constituency also reported fair to good grazing including those farms in the Grootfontein area. However, some farms reported poor grazing due to poor rainfall received. Water condition was reported to be satisfactory through the existing boreholes in the area. However, farmers requested that more boreholes should be drilled in areas where enough grazing exists.

Livestock Conditions and Marketing

Livestock body conditions ranges between poor and fair. However, the situation is expected to deteriorate after the winter when most grazing materials have been depleted. The marketing of livestock is generally progressing well in most parts in the south and central parts of the country, following the advice from the government that farmers should sell some of their livestock because of the serious drought conditions this year.

However, the recent Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the north central regions affected the destocking and marketing of livestock exercise as part of the drought mitigating measures. Despite the advice given to farmers to sell some of their livestock, farmers in the north central regions are unable to sell their cattle because of the recent FMD outbreak which was detected in May this year. The Directorate of Veterinary Services has since put some measures in place in order to contain the further spread of the diseases. Some of the measures that are currently enforced included the ban on the livestock marketing, vaccination and revaccination, restrictions on livestock movements and livestock products, and surveillance team at strategic points.

Furthermore, farmers north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence complained about the lack of formal marketing facilities in their areas, which is said to hamper the effective marketing of livestock.

CROP AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN THE MAJOR CROP PRODUCING REGIONS

Zambezi region

The regions is expecting a poor crop harvest which is below average and lower than last season's harvest. Apart from the late start of the 2014/2015 rainfall end of November instead of the normal start in mid October, the region had experienced a severe prolonged dry spells in February and March during flowering. As a result, some crops wilted and even those that were able to pull through dry spells grain formation was seriously affected, hence grain is of poor quality. Planted area is estimated at 81% of the cropped area and the remaining part could not be covered due to poor rainfall performance which dominated the season. Crop prospects showed a reduced harvest with maize is reported to have drop by 76% below average and 71% lower than last season's harvest. Pearl millet is down by 82% of the average and 73% lower than last season's production. Moreover, sorghum production is estimated to have dropped by 44% below average and 53% less than last season's harvest. Poor crop harvest was also reported in non-cereal crops such as legumes (cow peas, Bambara nuts and ground nuts), melons and squashes. Grazing is reported to be good in most parts of the region. However, the flood plain areas in the eastern part of the region reported fair grazing conditions due to the high concentration of animals in the area. Water for livestock is also reported to be satisfactory in most areas as most reservoirs still have water and through boreholes and rivers. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment and livestock are said to be in good condition. With regards to household food security, situation was noted to be satisfactory following a recent harvest, but expected to weaken as from August. Most households interviewed indicated that their harvest is poor and expected to last till August or even earlier.

(No accurate rainfall information were available at the time of this report)

Constituencies

Katima Urban

Most part of this constituency is a town and residential area. With the exception of few home gardening and irrigation projects exist in this area, no farming activities other than these are taking place. Hence it is irrelevant from the assessment team to report on the crop situation in this area.

Linyanti and Lyaboloma

According to farmers, the 2014/2015 rainfall season was very poor and has been characterised by

frequent and prolonged in December, January, February and partly March. Majority of farmers used draft animal power for plough their crop fields. Planted area is estimated at 68% of the cropped area. The remaining part of the cropped area could not be covered because of drought. Crop harvest is extremely poor this season and some farmers are reportedly to have suffered total crop failure. Harvest estimates indicated a significant reduction in crop harvest were maize is estimated to drop by 77% of the previous season. Pearl millet and sorghum production are estimated to have drop by 86% and 60% respectively when compared to previous season. In addition, non cereal crops have also noted poor harvest this season. No major crop pests were reported, except few cases of birds and elephants.

Livestock diseases reported included Lumpy Skin disease and Gall Sickness in cattle at Samukolofu and Sangwali areas. Both livestock and grazing were observed to be in good condition with enough water available in the area. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory, following a recent harvest. However, according to households, this improvement is only short lived and many household are expected to face food insecurity by end of August this year.

Kongola

This area noted a poor rainfall performance especially in the second half of the season. According to farmers, the area suffered a prolonged dry spells during February and most of March, resulting in crop wilting and hence poor crop harvest. Furthermore, farmers reported that the dry spells were first experienced as from second week of December to the 3rd week of January and this has caused multiple replanting and maize wilted. Crop estimates indicated a substantial reduction in the harvest with maize estimated to drop by at least 59%, millet by 30% and sorghum by over 45% lower than the last season's harvest. Moreover, production for non-cereals such cow peas, melons, squash and Bambara nuts are also said to be poor this year as compared to last season. Crop pests reported included termites, ants; caterpillars were experienced in February as well as worms attacking seedling leaves and roots.

A pasture was reported to be good condition in the western part of the constituency, and fair in the east, but expected to deteriorate during the dry season because of insufficient rainfall received. Water for the livestock is satisfactory as livestock receive water supply either from the river or boreholes. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Household food security is reported was noted to be satisfactory, following the recent harvest. According to households, their harvest is only enough till end of August. However, some farmers received no harvested this year due to poor rainfall and are currently dependent on the market for food access.

Katima Rural

As it is the case with other constituencies in the region, this area has also reported poor rainfall performance this season. According to farmer, the 2014/2015 rainfall season has been poor, characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall with severe and prolonged dry spells. Farmers further indicated that, the harvest received this season is extremely poor with maize as a major crops noted to have dropped by over 74% of last season's harvest. Farmers further indicated that,

other crops such as pearl millet, sorghum and non-cereal crops, cases of no harvest are more common this year. Crop pests reported included monkeys and elephants which according to the farmers are destroyed their crops thereby reducing their harvest.

On livestock health cases of Black Quarter and Lumpy skin disease were reported at Naishuwa area. Sporadic cases of tick's infestation in cattle were also reported in the area, but the magnitude of the infestation is said to be lower than last season. Livestock were reported to be in good condition, following significant improvements in grazing condition. Water availability for the livestock is also said to be satisfactory as many swamps still have water. On the household food security, the situation is said to be satisfactory, following a recent harvest. However, this harvest according to households is only short-lived and is expected to last till end of July this year.

Kabbe north and Kabbe south

The overall rainfall performance has been very poor in these constituencies affecting the agricultural production, particularly crops. According to farmers, the season has been dominated by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with prolonged dry spells. Planted area is estimated at about 85% of the cropped area. Maize and pearl millet production was severely affected by dry spells and as such, harvest losses of over 74% and 80% of last season's harvest respectively has been reported. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops was also reported to be low.

Both pasture and livestock are said to be in good condition. However, in the inland part of this area, most swamps and catchment areas are dry, since there was no significant water inflow this season. No major livestock diseases or crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment.

With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be poor as many household did not receive any significant harvest this season. The current harvest according to household owners is expected to last till end of July this year. Farmers further added that, they are currently dependent on the market for food access, since the last seasons' harvest got depleted long times ago.

Sibbinda

Like other constituencies reported, the 2014/2015 rainfall season was very poor in terms of amount of rainfall received which is lower than the previous season. According to farmers, since the beginning of the rainfall season in October last year, rainfall has been sporadic and insufficient, affecting both crop production and grazing conditions. Planted area is estimated at 80% of the crop field which is similar to the same period last season. Farmers indicated that, they have received extremely poor harvest this year due to drought. Harvest estimates indicated that, maize production is very low and estimated to have declined by over 70%, while pearl millet is down by 95% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops such as legumes, melons and squash were also reported to have dropped because of the poor rainfall performance. Cases of termites, grasshopper as well as sting bugs on melons were widely reported in the constituency. However, the extent of these pest infestations is said to be low. Basic inputs and services such as improved seeds, fertilizers and tractor services were sufficient and available on time at the beginning of the crop season. Due to the high demand of government

tractor services in the area, most farmers used draught animal power to plough their crop fields.

Livestock diseases reported included suspected cases of Food and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease, tick infestation and coughing in cattle were reported at Shaile village in Chinchimane area.

Pasture establishment as well as the livestock body condition is good. On household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, such improvement according to farmers is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Kavango East and West region

The regions noted poor agricultural production this year due to poor and below average rainfall received for the 2014/2015 rainfall season. Despite the sufficient availability of all the basic inputs and services such as improved seeds, fertilizers as well the ploughing and weeding subsidy services, the regions are reported to have suffered the effect of poor rainfall performance especially in the second half of the season. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall, coupled with frequent severe dry spells. As it depicted in figure 8 below, the second part of the season experienced below normal rainfall resulting in wilting of crops and subsequently poor crop harvest

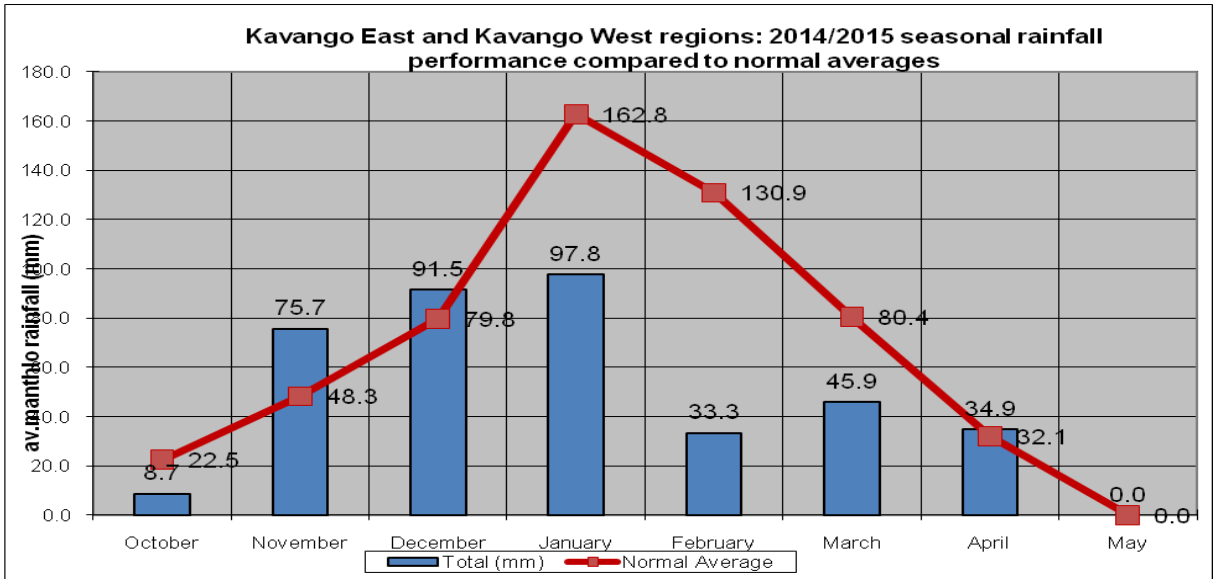


Figure 8: Summary of the rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 rainfall season compared to normal averages

Planted area was significantly reduced as compared to the previous season and most farmers were only able to cover about 74% of their crop fields, which is about 13% lower than the corresponding period last year. Crop estimates indicated a very poor harvest which is below average and lower than last season's harvest. Pearl millet harvest is estimated to have decreased by least 73% lower than last season and 84% below the average. Maize production was the hardest hit and noted a reduction of 82% of last seasons' harvest and 90% below the average production. Sorghum production has also noted a reduction of 60% below last season's harvest and 82% below the average production. Crop pests reported included sporadic cases of grasshopper in Ruuga area in the Kapako constituency as well as sting bugs in Mukwe, Ndiyona and Kapako constituencies. Moreover, cases of crop damages by elephants were also reported in Rupara and Musese areas. With regards to livestock health, restrictions of movements of livestock, livestock products as well as slaughtering in the Kavango East region are still in place at the time of the assessment. This followed an outbreak of the Food and Mouth Disease at Mutjiku village in the Mukwe constituency which was detected in December last year.

Other diseases reported included Black quarter in Mutindiko village in Mukwe constituency of the Kavango East region and sporadic cases of Botulism in the two regions. Furthermore, internal parasites and Pasturella in small stock were also reported. Pasture was reported to be good in the inland and fair in areas along the river, but the situation is expected to worsen during the dry season. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly following a recent harvest, but expected to weaken as from August this year. According to most households interviewed, the current harvest is very poor and expected to last till end of July. Some households could not harvest anything in their crop fields due to poor rainfall and as such they are currently dependent on the market for food access.

Constituencies

Rundu Urban

According to farmers in this area, poor rainfall performance has been experienced this season, resulting is poor crop production this year. According to farmers, insufficient rainfall was received and the situation worsened in the second half of the season that saw severe and prolonged dry spells. Most crops have wilted due to lack of rainfall. Planted area is estimated at over 98% of the cropped area as many farmers uses tractor service to plough their crop fields. Crop harvest was noted to be poor with pearl millet estimated to have drop by 64% of last season's harvest. Compared to last season, maize and sorghum were the hardest hit with a decrease of 83% and 74% respectively. Furthermore, non-cereal harvest is also reported to be poor due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the area.

No major livestock diseases were experience at the time of the assessment. Grazing is said to be fair and according to farmers the situation is expected to deteriorate during the dry season. Water for livestock was noted to be satisfactory, through the river and streams exist in the area. On the household food security, the situation is still weak since the recent harvest did not bring any significant improvement to household food security. Majority of household interviewed and who harvested indicated that, the harvest is expected to last up to end of July this year.

Rundu Rural West

This area noted a poor rainfall performance especially in December, January, February and March. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent prolonged dry spells. Planted area is estimated at 61% of the cropping area which is 29% less than the same period last season. Farmers have further indicated that, harvest is very poor this year with maize production being the hardest hit with over 96% lower than last season. Pearl millet harvest is also very low and estimated to have drop by 78% of last season's harvest while sorghum production is down by 90% of last season's harvest. On inputs, subsidized seeds and fertilizers were available on time and in sufficient quantity. 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.

No crop pests or livestock diseases were reported, at the time of this assessment. Grazing was reported to range between fair and poor. Livestock body condition is good. On household food security, the situation is said to be poor as farmers did not get any significant harvest this year. According to farmers, the current harvest is so little and expected to last till end of July this year. It was further reported that, majority of households in the area are dependent on the market for food access.

Kapako

Farmers described the 2014/2015 rainfall performance as poor, characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent dry spells. As a results majority of farmers received a very poor crop harvest this year. Poor rainfall performance affected ploughing activities and many

farmers were only able to cover about 70% of their crop fields. Farmers indicated that this season's harvest is very poor and had negatively affected their household food security. Production estimates indicated that pearl millet is down by 58% and maize 71% lower than the last season's harvest. Moreover, sorghum production noted a reduction of about 15% less than last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereal crops is also poor when compared to last year's and normal harvest. Crop pests reported included sting bugs, birds and rodents, but the damage is said to be minimal.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture establishment is fair in the inland and poor in areas along the river and streams. Water for livestock is satisfactory particularly from the streams, river and the boreholes. On the household food security, the situation is reported to be poor as households did not receive any significant harvest this year. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of July this year. Farmers further added that, they are heavily dependent on the market for food access.

Mashare

Although, the area noted good crop germination following good rainfall in the first half of the season, the harvest prospect was marred by poor rainfall performance which is said to have dominated the second part of the season. Farmers further indicated that, the rainfall performance became poor and characterised by sporadic and prolonged dry spell in January, February and most of March. As a result, farmers received a very poor crop harvest with pearl millet estimated to have drop by over 86%, maize by 95% and sorghum is 90% lower than last season's harvest. Some farmers are reported to have suffered a total crop failure this year. Planted area is estimated at about 80% of the cropped area. The constituency reported that, basic inputs and services were available on time and enough to supplement traditional seed varieties kept by farmers from the previous season. Crop pests reported included few cases of birds on flowering pearl millet as well as minor cases of sting bugs on cow peas especially in Fumbe and Mashare villages.

On the household food security, the situation is said to be poor as the recent harvest did not brought any significant improvement to household food security. Even those received some harvest; most of the interviewed farmers indicated that, their harvest is expected to last for one month only. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Grazing is fair to poor in areas along the river and fair to good in the inland. Water availability, predominantly for livestock is also said to be satisfactory, either through the river, borehole and some ponds or reservoirs.

Rundu Rural East

Apart from a slight delay in the onset of the rainfall season, rainfall performance has been very poor. According to farmers, rainfall performance has been poor and characterised by insufficient, sporadic and erratic rainfall with frequent prolonged dry spells in the second part of the season. Under the circumstance, most farmers were only able to cover about 68% of their crop fields. Crop harvest is poor this season with pearl millet estimated to have drop by 38% of last season's harvest. Maize and sorghum was the most affected crop with their estimated reduction of 64% and

70% of last season's respectively. Moreover, non-cereal harvest is also reported to have gone down significantly, mainly as results of poor germination which is associated with poor rainfall performance. No major pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment.

Grazing is said to be fair in areas in the periphery of the town and fair to good in the inland. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock are said to be in good condition and water for livestock is also said to be satisfactory. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this improvement was not significant as most of the harvest according to farmers is expected to last till end of July.

Mpungu

The area noted a very poor rainfall performance which according to farmers was very sporadic, erratic and insufficient. Farmers further indicated that, there were frequent dry spells as from December to March, affecting both crop and grazing conditions. Much of the crops and grass are reported to have since dried due to lack of rainfall. Furthermore, there was an increase in demand for early maturity seeds at ADC. Due to poor rainfall performance, most farmers were only able to cover 45% of their crop fields. Farmers indicated that, they have received a very poor harvest this year where pearl millet and maize are each estimated to decrease by 78% and 90% of last season's respectively. Moreover, sorghum production is also very low and production loss of over 87% of last season's harvest has been reported. Harvest for non-cereals crops such beans, melons and Bambara nuts are also very poor due to poor rainfall performance experienced this season. Crop pests reported included grasshoppers, birds and rats feeding on planted seed and small seedlings but the damage were moderate. Moreover, elephants and birds were also reported during Mach this year.

On the livestock health, reports of pink eyes in cattle at Nkata village and farmers were advised to buy eye powder and treat the animal. Grazing is said to be fair and expected to deteriorate during the dry season. With regards to food security, the situation is said to be poor as most households did not get significant harvest this year. According to farmers, the current harvest is expected to last probably until end of July. It was also reported that, many households are dependent on the market for food access.

Kahenge

Rainfall performance this season in this area resembles that of Mpungu constituency. According to farmers, the rainfall when compared to last season is very poor and extremely low. Apart from being sporadic and erratic, there have been frequent dry spells in December, January, February and most March causing farmers to replant so many times with very little success. Furthermore, farmers added that, much of the crops that came through dry up due to lack of rainfall. Planted area is estimated at 58% of the crop fields. The remaining part of the crop field could not be covered due to poor rainfall performance. Subsequently, farmers received a very poor harvest this year where pearl millet and maize production estimated to have decreased by 71% and 85% respectively as compared to that of last year harvest. Moreover, sorghum harvest is also very low with an estimated reduction of 80% lower than last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereal crops such as legumes, melons and squash is also very

poor this year. Cases of sting bugs on millet and beetles feeding on seeds and small seedlings as well as Elephants were reported at Sitopongo and Desi villages during February and March causing some considerable damages to crops.

Livestock body condition and pastures are reported to be fair and expected to deteriorate fast than usual during the dry season. The pasture is reported to have been affected by poor rainfall performance and many livestock are likely to face poor grazing condition this year. There were no reports of livestock diseases at the time of the assessment, except unconfirmed case of Food and Mouth Disease at Desi village during May this year. On the household food security the situation is said to be poor as many households received a very poor harvest this year. According to farmers, the current harvest is expected to last up to end of July this year.

Mukwe

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, the 2014/2015 rainfall season was very poor in terms of the rainfall amount and distribution. Prolonged dry spells were experienced during December and January, February and partly March, affecting both crop production and grazing condition. Although most farmers were able to cover 90% of their crop fields, farmers indicated that, germination was poor and much of the crops that came through died due to drought. Subsequently, crop harvest is very poor with pearl millet harvest estimated to have drop by 97% of the crop fields. Farmers further indicated that, maize and sorghum were the hardest hit in the area and majority of farmers noted a total crop failure for these crops. Furthermore, harvests for non cereal crops are also poor as compared to the previous season. Majority of farmers used draft animal power to plough their crop fields. No crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment.

The pasture establishment and livestock body condition was reported to be good. Cases of limping in cattle were reported at Kanyanga village in the area. Water for the livestock is fairly satisfactory either through the river and boreholes. However, water shortages were reported in area of Omega. On household food security, the situation is said to be poor as most households did not get any significant harvest this season. According to households, the current harvest is very little and expected to last till end of July this year.

Ndonga Linena

Like other constituencies in the region, farmers e reported that the 2014/2015 rainfall season has been poor characterised by sporadic, erratic and serious prolonged dry spells which affected both crop production as well as pasture establishment. It was noted that, most of the crops wilted and died due to lack of rainfall. Crop harvest is very poor with pearl millet estimated to have decreased by 70%, maize by 66% and sorghum is down by 68% of last season's harvest. Average planted area is estimated at about 78% of the crop fields and the remaining portion of the crop field could not be covered due to severe dry spells.

Farmers have also reported that, on-cereal crop such as melons; squashes and legumes were hardly available this season. With regards to food security, the situation is still poor since many households depleted their last season's harvest. Moreover, the current poor harvest did not made any significant improvement to household food security. Many

farmers interviewed indicated that, the current harvest is expected to last till end of July. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing is fair in areas along the river and better in the inland but is expected to get finish during the dry season. Water for livestock is satisfactory, either from the river or boreholes.

Ndiyona

According to farmers, the 2014/2015 rainfall season was very poor, characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent severe dry spells. Since early December last year, the amount of rainfall received was very little and since then, there were too much dry spells with high temperature, causing crops to wily up. Planted area is estimated at about 66% of the cropped area. Most farmers in this area uses traditional seed varieties retained from the previous seasons. Fertilizers are hardly used here and few farmers use livestock manure to fertilize their crop fields. On ploughing services, most farmers used draft animal power for ploughing; however some farmers benefitted from the government ploughing subsidy services. Farmers indicated that, they have received a very poor harvest this season with pearl millet estimated to have dropped by 94% of last season's harvest. Farmers further indicated that maize and sorghum production were the hardest hit and there were very little or no harvest received from these crops. Furthermore, the harvests for non cereal crops are also very poor this year because of severe drought. Crop pests reported this season included porcupines and quellea birds but the dames are said to be minimal.

On livestock health, limping and blindness in cattle were reported at Karokoko village. Grazing was reported to be poor in areas along the river and fair in the inland. On household food security, the situation is reported to be poor as most households did not receive significant harvest this year. According to households, the current harvest is very little and expected to last till end of July this year. Farmers further added that, they are currently dependent on the market for food access since the last season's harvest depleted many months ago.

Omusati region

The region noted poor agricultural production, both crop and grazing which is below average and lower than the last season production. The poor agricultural production came as a result of poor rainfall performance received this season. According to farmers, the 2014/2015 rainfall season was characterised by sporadic and erratic rainfall in the first half of the season and more frequent prolonged dry spells in the second half of the season**.** The western part of the region especially Onesi, Outapi and Okahao constituencies noted heavy rainfall during January period, resulting in localised floods, thereby causing poor crop germinations. Elsewhere in the region, most areas are reported sporadic and erratic rainfall coupled with severe and prolonged dry spells in February as shown in Figure 9 below.

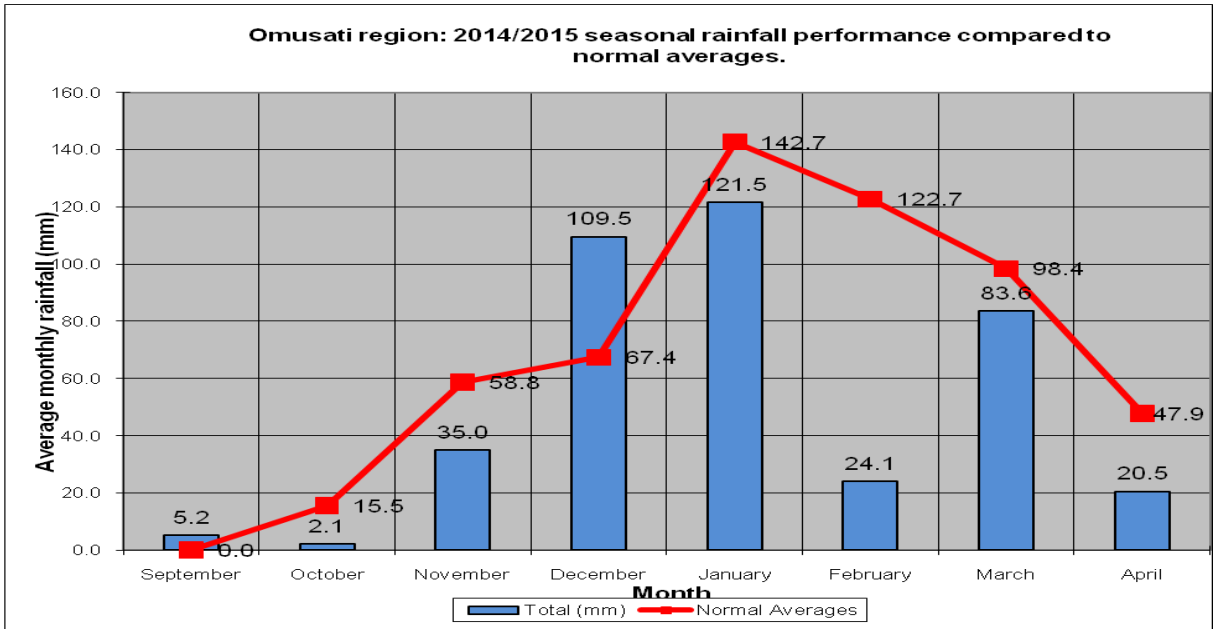


Figure 9: Summary of rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 rainfall season in Omusati region

Although the region had reasonable sufficient quantity of basic inputs especially improved seeds, many farmers run out of seeds due to several attempts to replant with little success in order to make up a loss of poor germinations. Moreover, some crops dried up due to severe dry spells in February. As a result, crop estimates below average harvest with pearl millet estimated to have decreased by 55% of last season's harvest and 80% below the average production. Sorghum production was the hardest hit and is down by 66% of last season's harvest, and 94% below the average production. In addition, non-cereal crops such as cow peas, Bambara nuts, melons and squash are also low because of poor rainfall performance experienced in the area. Crop pests reported, included False Army worms during the dry spell, but the magnitude of the infestations is said to be minimal. Apart from poor grazing related conditions such as Botulism, bone fractures and internal parasites, no major livestock diseases reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture condition is poor in the west and northern part of the region and fair to good in the extreme west and southern part of the region. However, the grazing situation is expected to deteriorate much faster during the dry season and many livestock are facing starvation this season. Moreover, water for livestock particularly surface/rain water, the situation is poor in the eastern part of the region, and satisfactory in the west but expected to dry up soon. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, but expected to weaken by August. According to most households interviewed, the current harvest is expected to last till August this year. Some households are

reportedly experienced a total crop failure, hence no harvest and as such are currently dependent on the market for food access

Constituencies

Onesi

Although this area experienced erratic and sporadic rainfall, the constituency has also suffered the effects of heavy rainfall during January, flooding crop fields thereby causing poor crop germinations. According to farmers, the first half of the season (October – December) saw sporadic and insufficient rainfall with prolonged dry spells dominating the season. This has caused poor crop germinations, prompting farmers to replant several times with limited success. In addition, most parts of this area noted heavy rainfall which according to the local ADC, over 120mm of rain was recorded in one day. This has resulted in flooding of several crop fields leading to poor crop germinations. Average cultivated area is estimated at about 63% of the crop fields. Farmers indicated that, they obtained a poor crop harvest this year where pearl millet is reported to have declined by 50% and sorghum is 28% below the last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops is also reported to be poor this season.

Crop pests reported included False Army worms during the dry spells as well as crickets reported at Ombome and Oshika villages during March this year. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, the constituency reported water shortages for livestock in the cattle post areas. Grazing is said to range between fair to poor, but expected to deteriorate much faster than usual. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short-lived as the harvest is expected to last between September and December this year

Ruacana

Despite the poor rainfall performance experienced in the region, this constituency reported that, the rainfall received this season has been much better compared to previous seasons. According to the Agricultural Extension Official responsible for this area, the area recorded high significant amount of rainfall this season as compared to the previous season. This constituency has been affected by drought conditions for almost three years in a row. However, the rainfall distribution was still poor as compared to normal. Planted area is estimated at about 83% of the cropped area. Farmers noted that, given the good crop germinations recorded this season and that, reasonable good rainfall performance, a better crop harvest than previous seasons' was obtained this season. In this regard, pearl millet harvest noted an increase of 66%, while sorghum harvest is up by 23% of the last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop has also noted a good harvest this season which according to farmers is much better than previous seasons.

Crop pests reported included False Army worms especially during the dry spells affecting young crop and rats and birds affecting crops during the emergence stage. On livestock, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing condition range between fair to poor and farmers indicated that, pasture is affected by poor rainfall performance experienced in the

area, but better than the previous season. On the household food security, the situation was reported to be satisfactory following a recent harvest. However, this improvement is only short-lived since it was not sufficient and that, the reserves from the past season has been long depleted.

Tsandi

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, this area also experienced poor rainfall performance, affecting both crop production and grazing condition. According to farmers, poor rainfall was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent prolonged dry spells observed in November, December, January, February and March. As a result, many farmers were unable to cover all parts of their crop fields due to severe drought. On average, farmers cultivated about 73% of their crop fields. Farmers indicated that, they have received poor harvest this season because of poor rainfall performance experienced this season. In this regard, pearl millet is estimated to have drop by 38%, while sorghum is down by 56% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops are also said to be low. Crop pests reported this season included mouse/ rats during crop germinations, as well as crickets and birds especially when crop started flowering.

Grazing condition range between fair to poor with livestock reported to be in good condition. Water for livestock is said to be not enough as most swamps could not receive enough inflow this season. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is only short-lived as it is expected to last between August and September this year.

Outapi

The 2014/2015 rainfall season has been characterized by poor rainfall, affecting both crop and grazing condition in the area. Sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with repeated dry spells are said to have dominated the season and were noted in November, December and January, February and March. This area has a relatively high number of private tractors operating in various villages and farmers use both tractor and draught animals to plough their crop fields. Despite poor rainfall performance, most farmers were able to cover over 60% of their crop fields. On inputs, the demand for subsidized seeds was generally high especially, due to the fact that, there has been poor germinations and farmers replanted so many times. Farmers indicated that, this season's harvest is extremely poor and some farmers are reported to have conceded a total crop failure due to drought this season. Pearl millet harvest is estimated to have drop by 82%, while sorghum is down by over 95% of the last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvests for non cereal crops are also very poor as compared to the previous season.

On pests, false army worms were reported at Omafa and surrounding villages. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the area, where some farmers are reported to have lost some of the goats to this problem. Pasture conditions was reported to be poor. On household food security, the situation is said to be poor as most households did not get a significant harvest this season. According to

households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of July this year

Etayi

Like other constituencies in the northern part of the region, the 2014/2015 rainfall season was very poor as compared to last season and normal season. According to farmers, rainfall performance was good end of November to early December, but became poor as from mid December where it become erratic with more frequent dry spells in February and most March. Many farmers were only able to cover 82% of their crop fields, but germination was very poor. Most farmers in this area uses draught animals to plough their crop fields and some farmers benefitted from GRN tractor services. Moreover, 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. Crop pests reported this season included false Army worms, grasshoppers and termites. Farmers indicated that, crop harvest is poor this season and pearl millet is estimated to have decreased by 57% of last season's harvest and sorghum is down by 95% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops especially legume is very poor.

With regards to livestock health, internal parasites in goats were reported in various areas in the constituency. Pasture is poor, but livestock body condition range between fair to good. On household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following the recent harvest, but expected to weaken by end of August. Household owners indicated that, the current harvest is very little and is expected to last till end of July this year.

Okalongo

Although, the rainfall started well in the first half of the season where good crop germinations was realised, poor rainfall performance in the second half resulted in poor agricultural production this year. According to farmers, the second half of the season was dominated by erratic and insufficient rainfall which were followed by a serious and prolonged dry spells in February and most of March. Planted area is estimated at 55% of the cropped area and the reaming part could not be covered because of poor rainfall. Crop harvest is poor this season with pearl millet estimated to have drop by 60 of last season's harvest, while sorghum is 80% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals crops such beans, melons and Bambara nuts are also lower this year when compared to the previous season. Cases of crop damages by false army worm, ants and grasshoppers were reported and the damage was severe that farmers have to replant their crop field.

Livestock were reported to be in fair to good condition, but the situation is expected to deteriorate very soon due to poor grazing condition in the area. On livestock health, internal parasites and flies in cattle were reported. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short lived as is only enough till end of August.

Anamulenge

As it was reported by other constituencies in the region, farmers described the 2014/2015 rainfall season as very poor, characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall accompanied by a severe and

prolonged dry spells. According to farmers, a prolonged dry spells as well as insufficient rainfall were experienced during December, January, February and partly March, causing both crops and grass to wilt. Planted area is estimated at 60% of the cropping area. On inputs, many farmers indicated that they used seeds retained from the previous season with some farmers also bought subsidized seeds from the local agricultural office. Moreover, the demand for fertilizers was moderate, since the many farmers use kraal manure. Majority of farmers used family members for weeding. Farmers are very much disappointed with the current harvest which they said is extremely poor. As a result, pearl millet harvest is estimated to have drop by at least 70% below the last season's harvest while sorghum is down by over 90% of last season's harvest. Moreover, other crops such as legumes, melons and squash are also said to have been affected by poor rainfall and harvest thereof is very poor.

Crop pests reported included false Army worms during the dry spells and the damage is said to be significant. Livestock body condition was reported to be fair, but pasture is in a poor state. Water availability for livestock is also said to be poor since most swamps and earth dams did not get a significant inflow this season. On the household food security, the situation is reported to be poor as most households did not get a significant harvest this season. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of July this year.

Ogongo

Farmers reported that the rainfall amount and distribution was very poor as compared to the previous season and normal. More frequent and prolonged dry spells were experienced during December, January, February and March, affecting both crop production and pasture condition. Farmers indicated that, their crops have since wilted and there were even poor crop germination, prompting farmers to replant but with little success. This constituency is one of the areas blessed with a lot of private tractors operating in various villages. Many farmers use both tractors and draft animal power to cultivate their crop fields. Most farmers were able to cover all of their crop fields. Crop pests reported included, false army worms that were reported at Ombafi, Okapya and surrounding villages. Many farmers noted a poor crop harvest this year due to poor rainfall performance. As a result, pearl millet production is estimated to drop have by 64% of last season's harvest, while sorghum is down by 80% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvests for non cereal crops are also very poor as compared to the previous season.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition was reported to be fair; however the pasture is reported to be poor. On household food security, the situation is said to be poor as most households received a very poor harvest this season. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Okahao

This constituency noted a poor agricultural production this season, following a very poor and below average rainfall. According to farmers, since the start of the 2014/2015 rainfall season, the rainfall performance has been poor and was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rain with frequent dry spells. Farmers indicated that, most of their crops dried up due to lack of moisture in the soil and there were even poor germinations

which prompted farmers to replant with little success. Planted area is estimated at about 72% of the crop fields. Despite the fact that, basic inputs such a seeds and fertilizers came on time, farmers received a very poor harvest this year because of poor rainfall. As a result, pearl millet is estimated to have drop by 62% of last season's harvest and sorghum is estimated to have dropped by 58% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for no-cereal crops is also said to be poor this year, and as a result, many households are likely to face food insecurity conditions during the 2015/2016 consumption period. Crop pests reported included termites at Uukuvu village during March

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing is reported to be in poor condition and livestock condition was rated to be fair. Water for livestock is also said to be scarce as most swamps and earth dams did not received significant water inflow this season. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is short-lived as the current harvest is expected to last until end of August this year.

Otamanzi

As it was reported by other constituencies in the region, the 2014/2015 rainfall has been poor. The season is said to have been poor, characterised by erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with repeated dry spells, affecting the agricultural production. Crops and grass have dried up due to insufficient moisture in the soil and farmers noted poor crop germinations. Farmers attempted to replant so many times but with limited success. Most water catchment areas are reported to have dried out this season. On average most farmers manage to cover 40% of their crop fields but the germination is reported to be poor. Basic inputs such as seeds and fertilizer where reported to have come on time but was not enough. In addition to the government tractor assigned in this area, four private owned tractors were registered to participate in the government ploughing subsidy services. Most farmers use both family members and hired labour to weed in this area. Crop pests reported were moles damage during crop emergency. Due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the area, many farmers received a very poor harvest this year with pearl millet estimated to have dropped by 50% and sorghum is down by 40%of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop is also said to be very low this season.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Pasture establishment is said to be poor and animal body condition is reported to be fair. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be poor as farmers did not get a significant harvest this season. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Elim

Farmers indicated that, the 2014/2015 rainfall performance has been poor, characterised by erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent serious dry spells, affecting both crop production and grazing condition. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance caused poor germination and wilting of crop resulting in poor and below average harvest. Planted area is estimated at about 58% of the cropping area. Farmers indicated that, crop harvest has been extremely poor and some farmers are reported to receive zero harvest this year. Crop estimates indicated an extreme low crop harvest with pearl millet expected to drop by over 93% of

last season's harvest and sorghum is estimated to have decreased by about 92% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops is also said to be very low because of poor rainfall. Moreover, the constituency has also reported cases of False Army worms which occurred during the dry spells period.

With regards to livestock health, cases of Anaplasmosis and Botulism were reported in the area. Pasture condition is poor and deteriorating. Livestock body condition is fair, but expected to weaken because poor grazing and many livestock are expected to face starvation this year. Water for livestock is also said to be limited, since many swamps and earth dams did not received a significant water inflow this season. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of July this year.

Oshikuku

This constituency is one of the most affected areas in the region in terms of poor rainfall experienced this year. It was reported that, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall coupled with repeated severe dry spells. As results, both crop and grazing conditions have been affected negatively. Many farmers were able to cultivate about 90% of their crop fields. Cases of False Army worms, grasshoppers and ants were reported especially during the dry spells affecting crops especially during the germination. Poor rainfall performance did not only cause destructions to crops, but also on grazing which failed to establish. Therefore, crop production indicated a poor harvest this year with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to have decrease by over 96% and 98% of last season's harvest respectively. Some farmers noted a total crop failure in the crop fields and as such no harvest at all.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases reported in the area at the time of the assessment. However, grazing is poor in most parts with very limited or no rainfall water available for livestock. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to be satisfactory, following a recent harvest, but expected to weaken by end of August. Many household interviewed indicated that, their current harvest is only enough till end of August this year.

Oshana region

Poor agricultural production was noted throughout the region, following a serious drought conditions experienced and is said to have dominated the season. According to farmers, the Regional Council Management and Agricultural Scientific officials the region received very little amount of rainfall this season. The rainfall has been sporadic and erratic with frequent and severe prolonged dry spells affecting both crop production and grazing

condition. As shown in Figure 10 below, the region noted a very poor rainfall performance which is way too below normal.

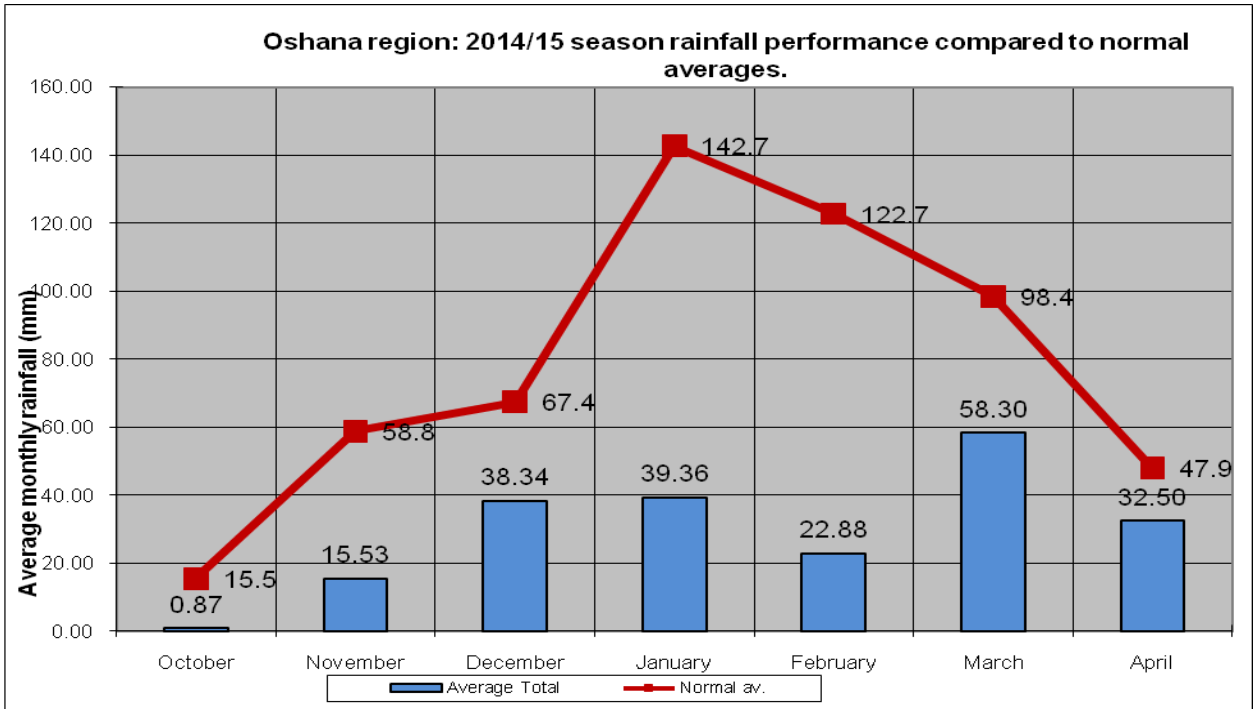


Figure 10: Summary of rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 rainfall season in Oshana region

Despite a significant cropping area covered this season which is estimated at 79% of the crop fields, many farmers are reported to have experienced crop failure this year because of poor rainfall. Pearl millet harvest is estimated to have declined by 63% below average and over 62% lower than last season's harvest. Sorghum is down by over 86% below average and 76% less than last season's harvest. Moreover harvest for non-cereal crops such as legumes, squash and melons is also very low this year and according to farmers, this is the worst drought ever happen in their life time. Grazing condition was rated poor in the inland and fair to good in the extreme western part of the region (areas along the cattle posts). Livestock body condition is reported to range between fair to poor and some cattle in Okatjali constituency are reported to be weak and unable to wake up on their own. Rainfall water for livestock is hardly available as most reservoirs such as earth dams, Iishanas and pans are dry and only very few with some little water. Both crops and grazing have wilted as a result of limited moisture in the soil. Livestock diseases or conditions reported included Botulism, Black quarter, Pulpit kidney, plant poisoning and internal parasites. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short lived as the current harvest is only enough till end of August.

Some farmers are reported to have experienced a total crop failure and as such no harvest this year. These farmers are mainly dependent on the market for food access.

Constituencies

Ongwediva

Rainfall performance was very low and uneven distributed in the area. The dry spells were experienced during November to December and February. However, in some places farmers received good showers during mid - March and April which have contributed to some few farmers able to have a better crop harvest compared to the rest of the farmers in the area. 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 90% of their crop fields, which is about 6% higher than the corresponding time last season. Farmers further indicated that, this season's drought is very severe and crop production noted very low harvest. Pearl millet is estimated to have decreased by over 60%, while sorghum is down by over 93% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, production for non cereal crops is also very low due to severe drought this year.

Few cases of False Armyworms were reported during the dry spells period. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Grazing area was also affected by dry poor rainfall and is rated to be poor. Farmers indicated that the grass germinated, but have since dried due to lack of rainfall. Moreover, water for livestock is stingily available as most catchment areas did not receive a significant inflow this season. On the household food security the situation is reported to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is short-lived as the harvest is estimated to only last till end of October this year.

Okatana

As it has been reported by other constituencies in the region, this area has also received low rainfall comparing to last season. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent prolonged dry spells. Poor rainfall performance has not only affected crop production, but also affected livestock production in terms of grazing as well as water availability for livestock. According to farmers, water (rainfall water) for livestock is limited since most swamps and earth dams did not get any significant water inflow this season. Average planted area is estimated at about 80% of the cropping area for this constituency. The seeds and fertilizer were received on time prior to the planting. The seeds were not enough due to replanting by farmers that was attributed to dry spells where crops have wilted. Farmers replanted at least 3 times with limited success. Farmers indicated that, this season's harvest was very poor and pearl millet production is estimated to have declined by 26%, while sorghum is 30% less than the last season's production. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop is also said to be very low this season.

Pasture is very poor and livestock body condition is fair. The situation is expected to deteriorate, much earlier and faster than normal during the dry season. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is only short-lived as the current harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Oshakati West

Although the rainfall started early in September last year, the performance has been poor throughout the season. Farmers reported that this year's rainfall distribution is worse compare to that of last year. Sporadic and erratic rainfall was reported from second week of December to third week of January thereafter a prolonged dry spell in February and most of March. As a result of dry spells and pests like false army worm, cutworms, ants and birds were experienced that period causing farmers to replant many times with limited success. Farmers received a very poor crop harvest this year. Pearl millet production is estimated to have drop by 67% and sorghum is 73% lower than the last season's production. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops is also very low this year.

No draft animal power or weeding group service providers registered to participate in the subsidy services this year. According to the agricultural extension official responsible for this area, prospective service providers cited that, government takes too long to pay them. The livestock body condition as well as pasture for livestock is reported to be poor when compared to the same period last year. No livestock diseases or parasites were reported at the time of this assessment. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short lived since the harvest is only enough till end of September this year.

Uuvudhiya

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, this area noted a very poor rainfall performance this season, affecting both crop and livestock production. According to farmers, Productive rainfall was received as from end of November to early December and farmers reacted to good showers received by cultivating their crop fields. However, rainfall performance was poor sparsely distributed and the amount was too low. The constituency has experienced dry spells as from December to March, with few sporadic showers received in-between. The dry spells caused both crops and grazing to wilt and many farmers attempted to replanting so many times with little success. Planted area is estimated at 95% of the cropped area. Farmers further noted that crop production is very poor this year with pearl millet estimated to have declined by over 27%, while sorghum is 49% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops is said to be very low because of the drought experienced this year.

Livestock body condition is reported to be poor than the same period last year. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, cases of limping in cattle were reported in the area. Pasture condition is very poor compare to last season as a result of poor rainfall that hampers grass growth. Water for livestock is also said to be scarce in the area. With

regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly with a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is not significant and is expected to last till end of September this year.

Oshakati East

The rainfall received during mid-March – April was better in comparison to December. Farmers experienced dry spells during January to mid-March which have significantly affected crop production negatively. According to farmers much of this season was characterised by insufficient and sporadic rainfall with frequent and serious prolonged dry spells during February and March. The poor rainfall performance is said to have affected agricultural production negatively and as a result, wilted crops and grazing areas were widely reported in the area. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cover 91% of their crop fields. Farmers reported that, much of their crops died due to severe drought and as such, the harvest is extremely low. Therefore, pearl millet is estimated to have drop by 58% of last season's harvest and sorghum is 98% lower than last season's production. It was further reported that, non cereal crops were also affected by poor rainfall performance; hence its harvest is very poor this year. Cases of Grasshopper, Cutworms, Crickets, birds and False Armyworms were reported in the area.

With regards to livestock health, few cases of Dystocia in cattle were reported and the situation is attributed to poor grazing conditions prevailing in the area. Grazing condition was rated to be and is expected to deteriorate much earlier during the dry season. Furthermore, rainfall water particularly for livestock consumption is said to be limited as many swamps and earth dams did not received a significant water inflow this season. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this harvest according to households is expected to last till July this year.

Ompundja

Like other constituencies in the region, this area experienced serious poor rainfall performance which was not only seen in the forms of erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent and severe prolonged dry spells. As a result, poor crop harvest and grazing conditions have been reported in the area. Most farmers in this constituency use both draft animals and tractors to plough their crop fields. Majority of farmers were able to cover 73% of their crop fields. Farmers reported that, much of their crops died prematurely because of drought and many attempts were made to replant, but with very little success. Therefore, crop harvest is very poor with pearl millet and sorghum estimated to have drop by more than 51% of last season's harvest respectively.

On livestock health, few cases of Gall sickness and plant poisoning were in goats were reported at Oshaaneko village. Grazing condition is poor in most areas; except the cattle post areas where better grazing conditions has been reported. Water availability, particularly for livestock is reported to be poor as most swamps and earth dams did not received a significant water inflow this season. Furthermore, livestock body condition is reported range between poor and fair in the inland, but expected to deteriorate very soon because of poor grazing conditions in the area. Farmers are therefore requesting the government to provide water for both livestock and human consumption especially the remote areas. With regards to

household food security, the situation is said to be satisfactory following a recent harvest. However, the situation is expected to deteriorate by end of August as most households interviewed indicated that the harvest is only enough till August this year.

Ondangwa

This area is reported to have suffered the effects of poor rainfall performance, affecting both pasture and crop productions. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was observed in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall, accompanied with severe prolonged dry spells in December, January, February and most March. Many farmers lost their crops to wilting and have attempted to replant so many time, but the outcome thereof is not significant. Planted area is estimated at about 45% of the cropped area, but according to farmer's germinations has always been poor. Farmers indicated that, this season's harvest was very poor and both pearl millet and sorghum are expected to drop by 92% and 83% of previous season's respectively. Moreover, harvests for non cereal crops are generally poor as compared to the previous season.

On livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition was reported to be fair, however the pasture is poor. On the household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as most households are reported to have poor harvest this season. The recent harvest according to farmers is expected to last at most end of August this year.

Okaku

Like other constituencies in the region, this area received very poor rainfall performance this season. Apart from the delay in the start of the 2014/2015 rainfall season, the rainfall has been dominated by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall, coupled with a severe and prolonged dry spells since December, stretching to March. There is reasonable number of private and government tractors operating in this area, but ploughing was interrupted by poor rainfall performance. Nonetheless, many farmers were able to cover 81% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Farmers indicated that, this season's drought was very severe and worse than the 2012/2013 drought. Therefore, harvest estimates indicated a massive reduction in the production with, pearl millet estimated to have drop by at least 80% of last season's harvest, while sorghum is down by over 85% of the last season's harvest. Moreover, non-cereal harvest is also has also showed a significant drop when compared to last year. Seeds and fertilizer were received on time and are said to have been enough for the season. No crop pests were reported.

No livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. However, grazing condition is poor and water (rain water) is scarce in the area. Livestock body condition is said to be fair, but expected to deteriorate soon during the dry season. With regards to household food security, the situation has improved slightly following a recent harvest, but expected to deteriorate as the current harvest is estimated to last till end of July. Many households are currently dependent on the market for food access.

Okatyali

As it was reported in other constituencies, this area noted a poor rainfall performance since the start of the 2014/2015 rainfall season. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall coupled with prolonged severe dry spells. As a result, both crop and livestock productions are negatively affected. Planted area is estimated 58% of the crop fields, but crop germinations were reported to be poor. Many farmers replanted so many times but with limited success. On inputs, farmers indicated that they used seeds retained from the previous season, but some bought subsidized seeds from their local agricultural office. Furthermore, the demand for fertilizers was high this season, compared to previous season. Most farmers used draft animal power for ploughing, supplemented by tractor services. Crop pests reported were mouse and birds particularly at Okapopo, Okatunduya and surrounding villages attacking emerging seeds. Crop estimates indicated a reduction in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to drop by at least 85% and sorghum by 96% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop is also said to be low as compared with last season's harvest.

The Regional Councillor for this constituency reported that, this area is experiencing serious water shortages due to poor rainfall received this season. The Councillor is therefore requesting the Directorate of Rural Water Supply to provide water in this area as a matter of urgency. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock body condition was reported to be fair but grazing is generally poor and the situation is expected to deteriorate by end of July this year. On the household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as the recent harvest was too little and failed to improve the household food security. According to households, the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Uukwiyu

As it was widely reported by other constituencies in the region, the 2014/2015 rainfall season is said to be very poor when compared with the previous season. According to farmers, rainfall performance was very poor in terms of the amount received as well as the distribution. The season is said to have dominated by serious prolonged dry spells which were observed in December, January and February. Nevertheless, majority of farmers were able to cover over 85% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. However, farmers noted a reduced harvest this season with pearl millet estimated to have dropped by 73% of last season's harvest. Sorghum production in this area is said to be very poor and most farmers received no harvest because of the drought. Furthermore, harvest for non cereal crops are also said to be poor as compared to the previous season.

No crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture condition was reported to be poor and livestock body condition is fair. Water for livestock is also reported to be poor as most of the swamps did not get a significant water inflow this season. On household food security, the situation is reported to have weakened as the recent harvest was poor and failed to provide the much needed relief to household food security. According to farmers, the recent harvest is expected to last at most end of August this year.

Ohangwena region

Poor agricultural production was reported throughout the region, following a below average and extremely poor rainfall performance experienced this season. Although the region received enough basic agricultural inputs and services such improved seeds, fertilizers and tractor services on time, such efforts were marred by poor rainfall performance which is said to have affected both crop production and grazing conditions. According to farmers and agricultural extension officials, poor rainfall performance was widely reported in all parts of the region and the situation was seen in the forms of erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall, accompanied by frequent prolonged dry spells since the start of the rain season. Figure 11 below provides a summary of the 2014/2015 rainfall performance as compared to normal averages.

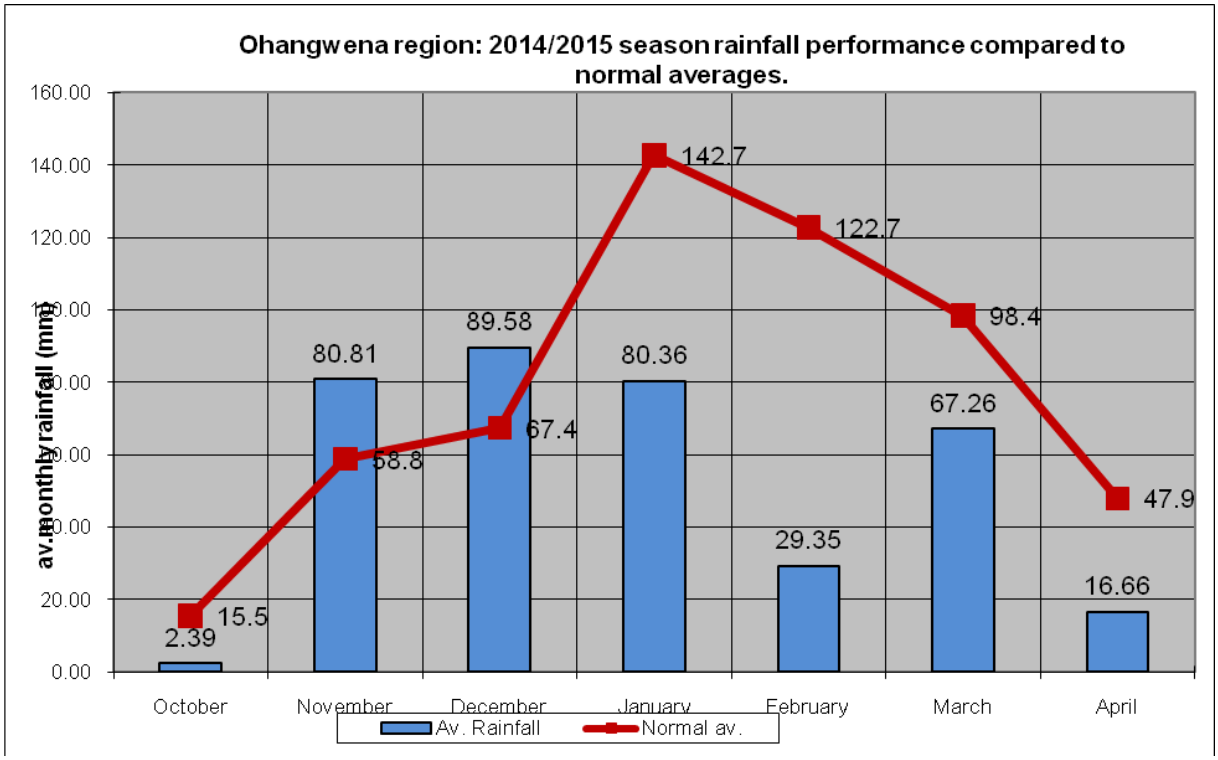


Figure 11: Summary of rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 rainfall season in Ohangwena region

As a result, farmers received a very poor crop harvest which is below average and lower than last season's harvest. Farmers reported that, crop germinations were very poor and even those germinated have since wilted due to lack of rainfall. Many farmers replanted their crop fields so many times with little success. Crop estimates indicated that, pearl millet is noted a

significant reduction in harvest of 84% below average and 64% lower than last season. Sorghum production on noted a decrease of 83% below average and 56% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops is also reported to be very poor this season. Planted area is estimated at about 73% of the crop fields and this reflects a reduction of 16% in planted area when compared to the corresponding period last year. Grazing areas were also affected by poor rainfall performance and could not establish properly and is ranged as poor in the west and fair to good in the eastern part of the region. On the livestock health, the region reported an outbreak of Food and Mouth Diseases especially in the eastern part of the region. The disease was detected in April and is said to have spread to Oshikoto region. At the time of the assessment, the Directorate of Veterinary Services has put measures in place in order to contain the disease and prevent further spread of the disease. The measures included restriction of livestock movements, ban on slaughtering and transportation of livestock product as well as vaccination of all cattle in the area. Moreover, the region reported cases of Elephant skin disease which were reported at Ondobe, Okongo and Eenhana constituencies. Other diseases and conditions reported included Black quarter, internal parasites and snake bites in cattle. With regards to household food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short lived as the current harvest is expected to last between July and August this year. Some farmers did not get any harvest this year because of severe drought and such they are currently dependent on the market for food access. Only very few households are reportedly still dependent on last seasons' harvest which is also being supplemented with market purchases for food access.

Constituencies

Ohangwena

This is one of the constituencies that are worst affected by drought this season. Rainfall performance in this area is reported to resemble that of Oshikango constituency and impacted negatively on both pasture condition and crop production. According to farmers the season is characterised by too much dry spells, insufficient and sporadic rainfall. As a result, farmers received extremely poor and below average harvest this year. Ploughing activities were halted in January and February due to dry spells. Planted area is estimated at about 55% of the cropped area. Crop pests reported included few cases of grasshoppers, false Army worms as well as cutworms on young crops. Crop harvest estimates showed a reduction in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to drop by more than 95% and sorghum is 98% lower than last season's harvest. Furthermore, non-cereal crops are also very poor due to good germination especially

on legumes, which are reported to have wilted due to drought.

No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture condition is poor with the livestock condition reported to range between fair to good. Water for livestock is also said to be limited in the area, since swaps did not received enough inflows this season. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have weakened as majority of the households did not get a significant harvest this season. The current harvest is very poor and according to household owners, the harvest is expected to last till end of June this year. Majority of households are reportedly to be dependent on the market for food access.

Ongenga

The 2014/2015 rainfall season has been very poor, affecting both crop production and grazing condition. According to farmers, poor rainfall performances was seen in the forms of sporadic erratic and insufficient rainfall coupled with frequent serious dry spells in December, January, February and March. As a result, crop germinations have been poor causing farmers to replanting their crop fields so many times with limited success. The grass has germinated, but later on died due to severe drought. Furthermore, the little water filled in natural catchments immediately dried up due to the hot sun and prolonged dry spells. Planted area is estimated at 81% of the crop fields and farmers could not cover the rest of the field due to drought. Farmers further indicated that, they got a very poor crop harvest this year with pearl millet estimated to have dropped by over 49% and sorghum is 64% lower than the last season's production. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereals crops is also reported to be very poor this year. No major crop pests were report at the time of the assessment.

Pasture condition is very poor and the situation is expected to deteriorate very soon before the start of the next rainfall season. Livestock body condition is reported to be fair. No livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. On the household food security, the situation is said to be poor as households did not get any significant harvest from the recent harvest. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of July this year.

Eenhana

Like other areas in the region, this constituency have suffered poor rainfall performance since the start of the 2014/2015 rain season. According to farmers, this season is characterised by sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with repeated severe dry spells experienced in December, January, February and most March. Planted area is estimated at about 40% of the cropped area. Crop estimates indicated a poor crop harvest where Pearl millet and sorghum each is estimated to have declined by 65% of last season's harvest. Similarly, harvest 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 the 2012/13 drought.

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 has weakened as most households are reported to have depleted their harvest and are now

dependent on the market for food access. The recent harvest according to households is short-lived and is expected to last up to end of August this year.

Ondobe

As it is the case with other constituencies in the region, this area was not spared the negative effects of rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 rainfall season. According to the Agricultural official responsible for this area, the rainfall started late, insufficient amount received as well as too much dry spells are said to be dominating the season. Majority of farmers in this area use draft animal powers to plough their crop fields and at the time of the assessment, most farmers covered at least 68% of their crop fields. However, owing to poor rainfall performance experienced in the area, many farmers suffered poor crop germinations and most farmers attempted to replant so many times, but the results thereof according to farmers has always been disappointing. Subsequently, crop estimates indicated a massive reduction in harvest with pearl millet estimated to have decreased by at least 68% and sorghum with 89% below last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops is also reported to be very low due to poor rainfall received. It was noted that, basic agricultural inputs and services such as seeds, fertilizers and tractor services were available on time and was reasonably sufficient in the area. The problem responsible for the low crop harvest is basically poor rainfall. Ball worms were reported during February in the area and have caused some damages on pearl millet crops in some farmer's fields.

On the livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. However, some farmers at Omhedi village complained of their goats dying from an unknown disease whereby, goats stomachs were reported to be swelling and having diarrhoea Livestock body condition range between fair to good. However, pasture condition is reported to be poor but is feared to deteriorate much earlier during the dry season. Moreover, surface water for livestock is said to be poor as most swamps and earth dams did not received a significant water inflow this season. Regarding the household food security, the situation is said to be poor as many households did not receive any significant harvest this season. According to households, the current harvest is expected to last till end of July this year.

Omulonga

The general rainfall performance in terms of amount and distribution was reported to be poor as compared to the previous season. According to farmers, frequent and prolonged dry spells were experienced during December and January and February which caused some crops to wilt and farmers had to replant. However, farmers indicated that, germination is good this year compared to last year. Planted area is estimated at 81% of the total cropped area. Farmers indicated that, good crop germinations were observed, but the crop had wilted because of poor rainfall performance. As a result, pearl millet harvest is estimated to have dropped by 53%, while sorghum is down by 50% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non cereal crops were reported to be poor as compared to the previous season. On inputs, the majority of farmers managed to buy subsidized seeds from the ADC, supplemented by owned seeds retained from the previous season. Furthermore, the demand for fertilizers was reasonable high since some farmers managed to buy it. On ploughing services, the majority of farmers used draft animal power and private tractor services for ploughing. Moreover,

family members and hired labour are commonly used for weeding activities.

No crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. The pasture was reported to be poor; however livestock body condition is generally fair. On household food security, the situation is reported to be weakening as the recent harvest did not provide the much needed relief to household food security. According to households, the recent harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Endola

As it was reported in other constituencies in the region, most part of this area only noted a better rain performance late November to early December 2014. Farmers reported that this year rainfall has been poor when compare to last season. Moreover, frequent prolonged dry spells were experienced in January, February and March which has resulted in many farmers replanting multiple times with limited success. Although the majority of farmers manage to cover 70% of their crop field, crop harvest is very poor with pearl millet harvest estimated to have drop by 66% while sorghum is 43% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for no-cereal crops is also said to be very low this season because of the drought situation. Farmers have further reported that their crops were also destroyed by army worms, false army worm, ants and grass hoppers, especially during the dry spells period.

Grazing is poor in the area and water for livestock is also scarce since most catchments are dry. Livestock body condition is poor compare to last year and some livestock are reported to be too lean especially eastern and southern part of the constituency. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, the improvement according to households is only short-lived as the current harvest is expected to last till end of August this year

Oshikango

Although, good rainfall was noted in the first half of the season, a very poor rainfall performance was experienced as from mid December, January and February, and March destroying what could have been a very good to a bumper harvest for this area. According to farmers, good crop germinations were noted in the first half of the season which later on turns to a disaster as much of the crops dried due to drought. On average, farmers cultivated about 70% of their crop. Crop estimates indicated a massive reduction in harvest with pearl millet noted a decline of 93% of last season's harvest. Sorghum production was the hardest hit and many farmers are reported to receive a total crop failure on sorghum. Moreover, non-cereal crops were also affected by poor rainfall performance and according to farmers' poor harvest have been recorded this year. No major crop pests were reported except few cases of grasshoppers, but the damage is minimal.

Grazing was also affected by poor rainfall performance is reported to be poor. Farmers are therefore worried about the grazing condition in the area. Even water for livestock is hardly available as most swamps could not get significant inflow this year. On the household food security, the situation is said to have worsened as most households did not receive a significant harvest this season. Majority of

the households indicated that the current harvest is very little and is expected to last till end of July.

Engela

Poor rainfall performance was widely reported in the area. Farmers indicated that, the 2014/2015 rainfall season was very poor, characterised by erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent and a prolonged dry spells. As a result, the agricultural production was severely affected, resulting in poor crop harvest and poor grazing condition. On average farmers, were able to cover 85% of their crop fields. Farmers reported that they received a very poor crop harvest this year with pearl millet estimated to have dropped by 60% and sorghum is 43% lower than the last season's production. The low production is mainly attributed to poor rainfall performance which is said to have dominated the season. Crop pests reported included grasshoppers, rats and birds especially during the germination and seedling stages.

Grazing is reported to be poor and livestock are said to be in fair condition. The livestock and grazing conditions are expected to deteriorate much earlier than usual during the dry season. Apart from internal parasites and flies in cattle, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is only short-lived as the current harvest is expected to only last till end of August this year.

Okongo

Like other areas in the region, this constituency noted poor rainfall performance which affected the agricultural production. According to farmers, the start of the 2014/2015 rainfall season was delayed and started in later of November instead of October. Furthermore, the rainfall performance has been poor and was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent and severe dry spells observed in December, January, February and March. Planted area is estimated at 85% 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 made several attempts to replant with little success. As a result, farmers received poor crop production as well as poor grazing conditions. Crop estimates indicated that, pearl millet harvest is estimated to have drop by at least 50% and sorghum is down by 51% below last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops is also reported to be poor due to insufficient rainfall received.

Pasture condition was affected by poor rainfall performance and was noted to range between poor and fair. Cases of Food and Mouth Disease and Elephant skin diseases were reported in various areas in the constituency. These diseases are reported to have been detected during April/ May this year. Livestock body condition is good, but is expected to deteriorate much earlier due to poor grazing condition. On household food security the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, according to most interviewed households, this improvement is only short lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of December this year.

Omundaungilo

Majority of farmers were able to cultivate at least 94% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Farmers reported that, rainfall was

very poor this season as compared to last season. According to farmers, frequent prolonged dry spells were experienced during December, January, February, and March causing farmers to replant many times with limited or no success.

No crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Crop estimates indicated a very poor harvest received this year with pearl millet estimated to have drop by 57%, while sorghum is down by 87% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non cereal crops is also poor this year.

On the livestock health, cases of Food and Mouth Disease and Elephant skin disease were reported at Onakalunga villages during May. The Directorate of Veterinary Services in the area is currently busy with vaccinations. The directorate further put some measures in place to curb the further spread of the disease. The measures included restrictions of animal movements, ban on slaughtering and transportation of livestock products and vaccinations. The livestock body condition was reported to range between fair to good, but pasture is generally poor. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, such improvement according to farmers is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Epembe

Farmers described the 2014/2015 rainfall season as poor, compared to the previous season's rainfall. According to farmers, prolonged dry spells were experienced during December, January, February and most March. Although, most farmers in this area use draft animals to cultivate their crop field, this season, only 76% of the crop fields was covered. Farmers indicated that, the soil become dry and difficult to tilth, hence ploughing services was put on hold due to dry spells. Most farmers used seeds retained from the previous season and some farmers managed to buy subsidized seeds. Furthermore, the majority of farmers used kraal manure in their crop fields. On ploughing activities, the majority of farmers used draft animal power for ploughing. Moreover, the majority of farmers use family members for weeding activities. Crop estimates indicated that pearl millet harvest decreased by 51% and sorghum is 62% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non cereal crops were also reported to be poor than last season's harvest and the normal harvest.

On livestock health, no livestock diseases were reported at the time of the assessment. Livestock boy condition and the pasture were reported to be poor. On household food security, the situation is reported to be poor since, the recent harvest did not provide a much needed relief to household food security. According to households, the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Oshikoto region

The region noted a very poor agricultural production following a poor and below average rainfall received this season. according to farmers, the Regional Council Management and the agricultural extension officials, since the start of the 2014/2015 rainfall season, the region has been experiencing poor rainfall performance which was seen in the forms of sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent serious and prolonged dry spells in December, January, February and March. Figure 12 below shows a summary of the rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 crop season.

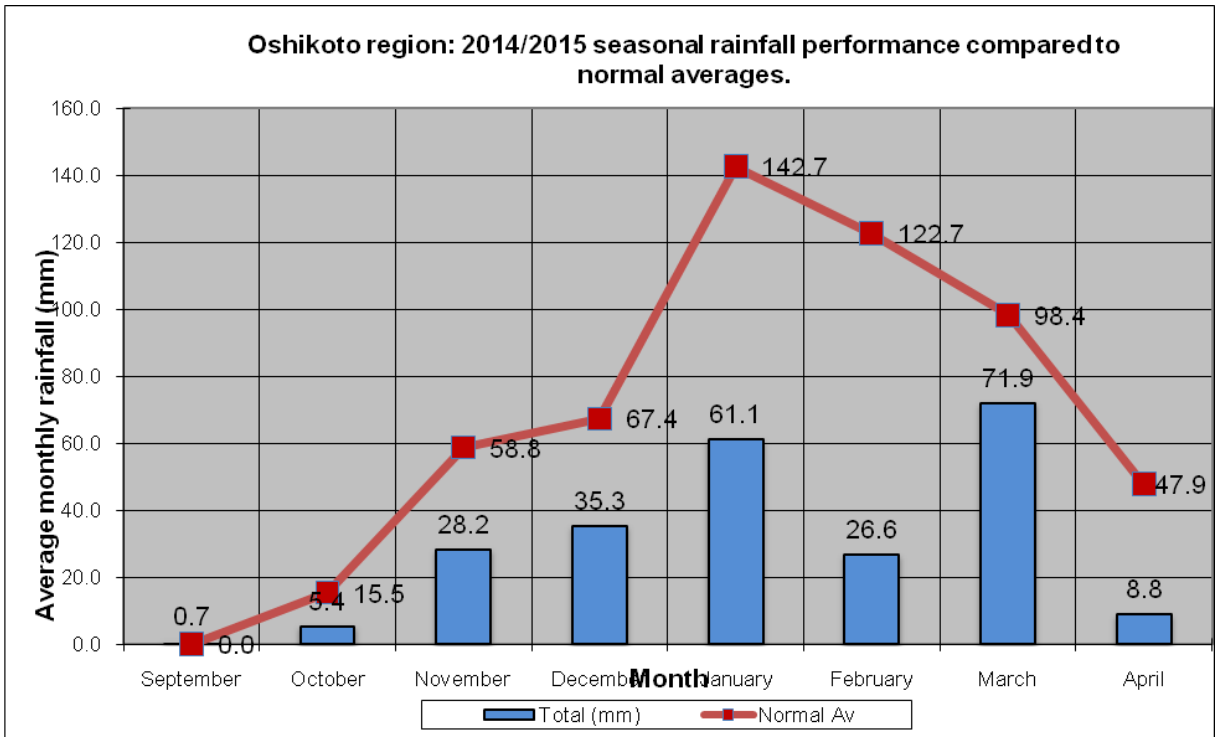


Figure 12: Summary of rainfall performance for the 2014/2015 rainfall season in Ohangwena region

Most crops as well as grass are reported to have wilted due to insufficient rainfall, hence poor agricultural production this year. Crop estimates for this area showed enormous reduction in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to have declined by over 64% below the average production and 69% lower than the last season's harvest. Sorghum production was the hardest hit and is estimated to have decreased by 89% below average and 67% lower than last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops are also extremely low and hardly available because of the poor rainfall received this season. Average planted area is estimated at about 83% of the cropped area and it was reported that, ploughing activities were brought to

a halt due to lack of rainfall. Pasture condition was reported to be poor in the western part of the region and is expected to deteriorate much earlier than usual. The extreme eastern part of the region (Tsumeb and to some extend Guinas, and Nehale LyaMpingana constituencies) fair to poor grazing, were reported, but again is expected to weaken fast than usual. Water for livestock is poor in the region as most of the reservoirs could not get a significant water inflow this year. The region further indicated that, some boreholes drilled during the 2012/2013 drought were not installed and many communities especially in Eengodi, Okankolo and Nehale LyaMpingana constituency are experiencing water shortages. Livestock were reported to be in good to fair conditions. Livestock diseases reported included Food and Mouth Disease in at Okakango village in the Okankolo constituency during May this year. Other diseases reported included Rabies in dog, cattle and goats and conditions related to poor grazing. With regards to food security, the situation is reported to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is only short-lived as the current harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Constituencies

Omuthiya

This area is said to have experienced poor rainfall performance since the start of the 2014/2015 rainfall season. Poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent severe dry spells experienced in December, January and February. Most farmers were able to cultivate about 92% of their crop fields. 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 harvest is very poor with pearl millet estimated to decrease by 95% last season's harvest. Sorghum production showed an extremely low harvest this year and majority of farmers are reported to have suffered a total crop failure. With regards to crop pests, Grasshoppers, false Army worms and ants were widely reported in this constituency and according to farmers, the pests are 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. Grazing and livestock body condition range between fair to poor. Household food security situation is reported to have weakened as the recent harvest is said to be very little and expected to last until end of August this year.

Nehale LyaMpingana

According to farmers, the 2014/2015 rainfall season has been poor and both crop and livestock productions were affected this year. The season was dominated by sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent severe dry spells. Planted area is estimated at about 92% of the cropped area. Farmers indicated that this year's crop harvest and grazing conditions are very poor. Pearl millet harvest is estimated to

have drop by about 55% of last season's harvest, while sorghum is down by 33% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, harvest for non-cereal crops is also poor.

Crop pests reported included grasshoppers in Olukupa area, affecting emerging crops but, the extent of damage is said to be minimal. Pasture condition is reported to range between fair and poor and is expected to deteriorate much faster than usual. On the household food security, the situation is reported to have improved, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is very poor and the harvest is expected to last till December this year.

Oniipa

The rains started in November with few rain drops. The actual ploughing activities started in December followed by dry spell in January, February and March. With low rainfall experienced, crop production was negatively affected whereby most farmers harvested little or nothing. Most farmers were able to plough 95% of their crop fields. Inputs such as seeds were provided to farmers through subsidy and farmers were also able to buy seeds from open market or make use of their own seeds from last season's production. Although farmers use to buy fertilizers at the ADC, most of them were unable to buy this season because of the poor rainfall experienced. Farmers received a very poor harvest this year with pearl millet estimated to have declined by over 87% of last season's harvest. Moreover, sorghum was the hardest hit with an estimated loss of about 98% of last season's harvest and according to farmers, most of the sorghum dried due to severe drought. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop was also reported to be very low compared to that of last year.

Livestock were reported to be in fair to poor condition with grazing already depleted. There were no major livestock diseases reported at the time of the assessment. However, cases of death in goats from an unknown disease and farmers suspected of plant poisoning. A total of 50 goats were reported to have died during January – February at Ondembo village because of this problem. The Directorate of Veterinary Services in the areas was informed about the problem. Water for livestock is a problem in the area as most earth dams, ponds and other catchments areas did not receive any significant water inflow this season. Reservoirs are dry and livestock are drinking from the water pipeline. No significant improvement to household food security noted this season. The recent harvest did not bring any significant improvement to food availability at household level. According to farmers, the current harvest is expected to be depleted between July and August this year.

Olukonda

About 75% of the cropping area was covered this season. The rainfall performance was reported to be poor and worse than that of last seasons' with low and erratic rainfall recorded in that area. Dry spells were experienced from December to April. The crop production of this current season is recorded to be lower compared to last years' crop harvest. Seeds were sourced from the ADC through subsidy, open markets and own seeds from last year crop harvest were also used because farmers were forced to replant several times with limited success. Farmers used private tractors and draft animal power as well as government tractor to plough their crop fields. Farmers are aware of the weeding groups but preferred to weed their crop

fields themselves. Fertilizers were available on time but they also preferred to use manure in their fields. There were no major crop pests reported. Farmers recorded poor crop harvest this year with pearl millet production showed a reduction of 85% and sorghum is down by 96% of last season's harvest. Furthermore, non-cereal crops performed very low compared to last year as well.

Livestock body condition range between good to fair. Grazing is poor in most parts of this area and water availability for livestock is also very poor. Most water reservoirs are dry as there was no sufficient water inflows received this season. An unknown disease in cattle was reported at Ontananga B village whereby cattle are reportedly couching. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year. Furthermore, households indicated that the current harvest is being supplemented with market purchases.

Okankolo

As it was the case with other constituencies in the region, this area is reported to have experienced poor rainfall performance which is said to have affected agricultural production negatively. According to farmers, good rainfall were received end of November to early December last year, prompted farmers to respond by cultivating their crop fields. However, since mid December last year, rainfall has been very poor, characterised by sporadic and insufficient rainfall with frequent severe dry spells dominating the season. Farmers were able to cover at least 93% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Farmers indicated that, crop harvest has been poor this season where pearl millet is estimated to have decreased by 76% while sorghum is down by 64% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereals is also said to be poor compared this year because of drought. Crop pests reported included, grasshoppers especially during December to January this season.

Pasture is condition is poor and livestock are said to be in fair condition. Water for livestock is said to be scarce this season as most earth dams and swamps could not get significant inflow this year. As a result, livestock are reported to be travelling long distances to the nearby water point available. On household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is said to be short-lived as the current harvest is expected to last till end of July this year.

Onyaanya

As it was reported in other constituencies, the 2014/2015 rainfall performance has been very poor. The first half of the season experienced erratic and insufficient rainfall which was followed by serious prolonged dry spell in January, February and most March. This has cause crops and grass to wilt resulting in low crop harvest as well as poor grazing conditions in the area. Planted area is estimated at about 83% of the cropped area and farmers indicated that, the ploughing activities were interrupted due to dry spells. Farmers further noted that, they have received poor crop harvest were pearl millet is estimated to have dropped by 21% of last season's harvest. Harvest for non-cereal crops is also said to be very poor this year because of poor rainfall experienced this year. Contrary to poor crop harvest report, sorghum on the other hand is reported to have noted an improvement in

production where on average, many farmers are said to have recorded an increase of about 35% of last season's harvest. No major crop pests reported this season.

Pasture is said to be poor since it was affected negatively by poor rainfall this season. Livestock body condition was reported to be fair and is expected to deteriorate soon because of poor grazing condition. On the household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly, following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to households is short-lived as the current harvest is expected to last between September and October this year.

Onayena

The rainfall was very low and unpredictable with dry spells recorded during January to February which have affected both crop production and grazing condition. About 68% of the cropped area was cultivated and planted. On the crop pest, cases of Bollworms were reported and are said to have caused major damages to crops during April. The current crop harvest is very low compared to last year season. Pearl millet production is estimated to have declined by 83% and sorghum is down by 94% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crops is also very low because of poor rainfall received.

Grazing condition is poor and livestock are said to be in fair to good conditions. Water availability for livestock is also reported to be poor. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly as a result of a recent harvest. However, the improvement according to households is only short-lived as the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year.

Omuntele

Like other constituencies in the region, this area has also experienced poor agricultural production because of poor rainfall. According to farmers, poor rainfall performance was seen in the forms of erratic and insufficient rainfall with frequent severe dry spells experienced during February and March this year. Most farmers were able to cover about 68% of their crop fields. Farmers indicated that, cultivation activities were interrupted because of the dry spells and as a result, a big portion of the crop field was left uncultivated. Crop estimates indicated a massive reduction in the harvest with pearl millet estimated to drop by 63%, and sorghum is down by 82% of last season's harvest. Farmers further reported that much of their crops wilted and were also affected by Army worms, false army worm, ants and grass hoppers that feed on seeds and seedlings. Furthermore, cases of caterpillars, army worms and crickets feeding on germinating seedlings were also reported, but the damage is said to be minimal. The constituency has also reported that, the government tractor assigned to this area could not cover a significant area due to poor rainfall performance and too much break downs which took long time to be fixed.

Grazing conditions were reported to be poor and the situation is expected to deteriorate fast during the dry season. Farmers in the eastern part of the constituency reported a problem with the slow flow of tap water that their livestock dependent on. With regards to household food security, the situation is said to have improved slightly following a recent harvest. However, this improvement according to farmers is short-lived since the harvest is expected to last till end of August this year. The constituency

is requesting that basic inputs and government tractor in good condition as well as veterinary medicine should be brought at the ADC on time.

Eenghodi

This constituency noted a very poor agricultural production, following a poor rainfall performance experienced this season. Farmers reported that the rainfall started in December but was poor in terms of the distribution and amount. Furthermore, prolonged and severe dry spells were experienced in January, February and part of Mach, resulting in the wilting of crops and grazing. Planted area is estimated at 78% of the crop fields. Farmers indicated that they have received a very poor crop harvest this year because of the poor rainfall. In this regard, pearl millet is estimated to have decreased by over 52% of last season's harvest while sorghum is down by 71% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop is also said to be low.

The majority of farmers interviewed indicated that, they used their own seeds following good harvest last year. Livestock body condition is reported to be fair, while grazing is poor. No major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment. On household food security, the situation is said to be poor as farmers did not get a significant harvest this season. The current harvest according to households is expected to last between August and October this year.

NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION ANALYSIS FOR 2014/2015 CROP SEASON

The national's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, sorghum, pearl millet and wheat) is presented in the Table 2 below and is estimated at **67,800 metric tonnes**. This consists of 38,100 tonnes of white maize, 15,300 tonnes of pearl millet, 1,700 tonnes of sorghum and 12,700 tonnes of wheat[2]. This represents a considerable decrease in output of **46 percent** below average and **49 percent** lower than the previous season's production. This substantial decrease in production is attributed to the serious drought conditions experienced in the country this year.

Table 2: Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2014/2015 compared to a 16-year average (1999/2000 to 2013/2014) and 2013/2014 harvests.

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

National Total Cereal Production ('000 tons) - 2014/2015 harvest estimates compared to a 16 year average and 2013/2014 production																		
Region/Sector	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	2014/15	16-year average	2014/15 as % of average	2014/15 as % of 2013/14
Zambezi	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	7.5	2.5	8.8	-71	-67
Kavango	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	3.8	1.1	6.2	-84	-74
Omusati	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	7.4	3.3	16.2	-80	-55
Ohangwena	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	7.3	2.6	14.6	-82	-65
Oshana	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	8.9	3.3	9.3	-65	-63
Oshikoto	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	18.6	5.8	16.1	-64	-69
Commercial	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	78.6	49.4	54.6	-10	-37
Namibia	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	132.1	67.8	125.7	-46	-49

As indicated in Table 2 below, all the major dry land crop producing regions noted a massive reduction in harvests which according to the analysis are below the average production and lower than the previous season's harvest. The poor crop harvest is due to poor rainfall performance experienced in the country this season and both communal and commercial dry land crop production sectors are affected. National planted area to coarse grain production in various parts of the crop major crop producing regions is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2014/2015 compared to a 16-year average (1999/2000 to 2013/2014) and 2013/2014 harvests.

Namibia: Total Area ('000 hectares)- 2014/15 compared to a 16 year average)																		
Region/Sector	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	2014/15	16-year average	2012/13 as % of average	2012/13 as % of 2011/12
Zambezi	36.8	35.7	22.0	15.2	13.8	19.6	21.5	18.4	18.9	16.1	20.9	20.1	20.6	19.4	20.4	22.5	-14	-6
Kavango East & West	42.0	13.6	17.3	19.7	13.0	15.9	12.2	14.6	18.4	20.9	23.1	20.6	20.6	21.6	18.4	20.0	8	5
Omusati	160.4	74.2	73.0	78.1	75.8	68.9	61.2	50.0	76.0	80.8	82.6	73.4	61.5	78.0	64.3	89.1	-12	27
Ohangwena	129.0	74.7	62.3	85.1	83.4	87.3	59.7	49.9	80.9	82.5	85.2	84.3	76.2	79.8	65.5	87.1	-8	5
Oshana	97.5	40.5	43.8	26.4	25.1	31.8	23.8	33.9	37.1	37.4	36.3	35.1	33.2	35.1	30.8	45.0	-22	6
Oshikoto	134.1	53.9	58.2	63.7	60.6	56.5	47.9	45.1	61.3	62.0	62.0	60.1	54.1	58.1	54.8	69.1	-15	7
Commercial	10.2	8.9	12.8	15.0	14.2	15.4	13.0	14.7	14.4	13.4	15.1	18.0	15.9	15.8	14.4	14.3	11	-1
Namibia	610.9	301.4	289.4	303.2	285.9	295.4	239.3	226.6	306.9	313.3	325.2	311.6	282.1	307.8	268.5	346.4	-11	9

As shown in table 3 above, the area planted to cereal crops this season is estimated at 346,500 hectares. This represents a decrease of about 11% below the average planted area and a slight increase of about 9% higher than last season. The below average planted area came as a result of severe drought conditions experienced this season and farmers could not cover most parts of their crop fields. A substantial reduction in planted area according to the table 3 were more severe in the communal crop producing regions, of Zambezi, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions. The Kavango West, Kavango East regions as well as the commercial dry land areas, most farmers covered a greater parts of their crop fields, but germination was poor and much of the crops have since wilted because

CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND FORECAST

Table 4 below provide a summary of the cereal supply and demand situation analysis for the 2015/2016 marketing year.

Table 4: Cereal food supply and demand situation analysis for 2015/2016 Marketing year

Namibia: Cereal Supply/Demand Forecast for 2015/16 Marketing Year (May/April) ('000 metric tonnes)				
	Wheat	**Maize**	**Millet/Sorghum**	**Total**
Domestic Availability	**20.3**	**54.7**	**17.5**	**92.5**
Opening stocks (as at May 2015*)	7.6	16.5	0.5	24.7
Forecasted Production**	12.7	38.1	17.0	67.8
Total Utilization	**80.1**	**172.7**	**73.7**	**326.5**
Food use	69.5	158.9	56.1	284.5
Losses and other uses	0.6	3.8	2.5	7.0
Closing stocks (as at April 2015*)	10.0	10.0	15.0	35.0
Shortfall to be covered by import	**-59.8**	**-118.1**	**-56.1**	**-234.0**
Commercial imports received	**12.8**	**11.0**	**1.2**	**24.9**
Export already shipped	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
After trade Deficit/Surplus	**-47.0**	**-107.1**	**-55.0**	**-209.1**

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

*** Exclude cereal production for animal feed*

Source: Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit

The balance sheet as indicated in table 4 shows that, the available cereal locally for the current marketing/ consumption period is estimated at 92,500 tonnes. This comprises of 20,300 tonnes of wheat, 54,700 tonnes of white maize and 17, 500 tonnes of pearl millet and sorghum. In contrast, the current cereal domestic availability is only about 28% of the domestic cereal requirements; hence a shortfall of 234,000 tons is required to cover the shortfall. This is consist of 59, 800 tons of wheat, 118,100 tons of maize and 56 100 tons of pearl millet and sorghum. The cereal food balance sheet further noted that, after the considerations of imports received during May and June this year, an after trade deficit of 209, 100 tonnes is estimated. This deficit is consists of 47, 000 tonnes of wheat, 107, 100 tonnes of maize and 55,000 tonnes of millet/sorghum. This deficit under the normal circumstances is expected to be covered through commercial imports in the form of either grains or meals.

Meanwhile, South Africa where Namibia gets most of its maize imports, reported a 31% decrease in commercial white maize harvest this season. According to South Africa June 2015 Monthly Food Security Bulletin, the country is expecting 9840 million tonnes this season, compared to 14 250 million tonnes received last season.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

The main finding of the assessment indicated that: The 2014/2015 rainfall performance has been poor since the start of the rainfall season in October last year and the situation deteriorated in the second half of the season when severe drought conditions were experienced. The report noted that, crops production, grazing conditions and water availability were seriously affected by the abnormally severe and frequent prolonged dry spells observed in various parts of the country during December, January, February and most March. All dry land crop producing regions noted considerable reduction in crop harvest which according to these regions is worse than the previous 2012/2013 drought year. Crop estimates indicated that, the country aggregate cereal production is estimated at of 67,800 metric tonnes, reflecting a decrease of nearly 50% below the last season's harvest and 46% below the average production. It is further noted that, poor grazing conditions which were widely reported in various parts of the country is threatening the livestock production this season.

Water availability for livestock (rain water) is reported to be limited this season, as most catchment areas did not receive significant inflow this season. The affected regions are mostly the north central regions that are heavily dependent on surface/ rainfall water for livestock consumptions. Household food security is said to be poor as the recent crop harvest was too little and did not provide significant improvement to household food security. Given the poor crop harvest as well as poor grazing conditions, majority of households are expected to face serious food insecurity conditions by end of July this year. Based on these findings, the following recommendations made for possible interventions and future assistance to improve agricultural production:

- For the poor food security situation, majority of the households received a very poor crops harvest this season which is expected to be depleted by at most end of August this year. It is therefore, recommended that the current food aids which was set for three months, targeting the vulnerable people should be extended and be broadened to include all households affected by drought situation this year, until such time that, they are able to regain their normal livelihoods.
- Strengthening of food/cash-for-work programme in the regions to target households affected by food insecurity in order to provide them with a temporary safety net. 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 where resource permit.

- The Directorate of Research and Training as well as Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services are being reminded to consider producing improved pearl millet seeds under irrigation during offseason for the next cropping season.

- There is a need for the MAWF to make favorable considerations on the request submitted by the commercial dry land maize farmers for assistance during the drought situation.
- Areas affected by poor grazing conditions, The Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services is requested to reiterate its advice to farmers affected by poor grazing conditions to take the necessary precautionary measure such as destocking, culling, etc while livestock are in good condition to avoid a complete

loss. It is also advisable to re-introduce the support services such as the livestock marketing incentives, transports and lease of grazing and livestock fodder/hay and animal health package.

- On the water shortages in the affected regions, the Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC) is being reminded of the need to monitor the situation closely and where necessary emergency water supply intervention to the affected communities is advised as short term measures. DWSSC is further reminded to complete all the outstanding boreholes and pipeline extensions works for the 2012/2013 drought program and ensure that, water is readily available to the communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Directorate of Agricultural Production Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES)
- Directorate of Agricultural Research and Training (DART)
- 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 (DDRM)
- Directorate of Veterinary Services
- Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)