



NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION REPORT

15 MARCH 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

Good Harvest Prospects for 2009/2010 crop season in the north central regions are highly likely, despite the general rainfall performance reported. Crop production outlook for the north central regions, are much better by far than last season. Most farmers interviewed in these regions indicated that, should rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, good harvests of up to almost 90% above last season and nearly 20% above average in Oshana region can be expected.

Production outlook for white maize showed no significant improvement in outputs due to poor rainfall performance in the dry-land crop producing areas. Analysis on various cereal crop productions indicated that, in general, white maize production shows a slight increase of nearly 2% of last season. The recorded increase came as a result of increasing production in the commercial irrigation areas.

The country's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, pearl millet, wheat and sorghum) is provisionally forecasted at 134,713 tonnes. This represents an increase in output of over 10 percent above average and nearly 25 percent higher compared to 2008/09 poor harvest.

Lumpy Skin Disease and Internal Parasites have been widely reported in most parts of the northern communal regions. Cases of Lumpy Skin Disease as well as internal parasite in both small and large stock are still being reported in the northern communal crop producing regions except Oshana. Moreover, Ticks infestations among cattle are still a problem in the eastern part of Caprivi region.

Household food security is reported to be tightening in the regions as hunger season has reached its peak. Most households interviewed have indicated that, they have depleted their food stocks in September last year and are mainly dependent on the market for food access. In the mean time, flood/drought relief foods from the government are only meant for the critically needy people. However, the situation is expected to improve as from mid March when most seasonal produce (legumes, green maize, squashes, etc) will become available till the time of the main harvest in May

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

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

OVERVIEW

The Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) undertook its first Crop Assessment in the six crop producing regions¹ as from 01st to 17th February 2010. The main purpose of this mission 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. The mission was conducted in collaboration with the Meteorological Service of Namibia of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, Regional Councils and Extension staff and Agro-meteorologist from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Since the situation may change, it should be noted herein that, this paper attempt to present the results of the assessment that took place during the abovementioned dates.

Various crop stages were observed ranging from vegetative, flowering and grain formation. In spite of these stages, it is therefore too early to give a definite quantitative forecast of the season's outcome. It is however, possible to provide some preliminary indications, based on latest rainfall data, field observations, qualitative farmer interviews, brief information from the Office of the Regional Councilors and crop situation reports from the agricultural extension technicians. Much of the information in this report was obtained during the crop assessment mission conducted in the **Caprivi, Kavango, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions** by the crop assessment team of the Namibia Early Warning Unit, during the first three weeks of February 2010. Till to date, the unit is still unable to use remotely sensed satellite data in the assessment. However, the Directorate of Planning together with the Agro-Ecological Zonings of this Ministry is looking into the possibility of the use of the remote sensed satellite technology.

Based on the assumption that, rainfall performance improve and that favorable crop growing conditions prevail for the remainder of the season, the country's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, pearl millet, wheat and sorghum) is **provisionally forecasted at 134,713**. This consists of 52,715 tonnes of white maize, 61,255 tonnes of pearl millet, 5,828 of sorghum and 14,915 tonnes of wheat. This represents an increase in output of **10 percent above average** and over **24 percent higher** as compared to 2008/09 poor harvest. This improvement is mainly from the commercial areas as well as the north central regions.

The abovementioned cereal forecast suggests that, in general, Namibia may expect normal to slight above normal harvest for the 2009/10 cropping season. Pearl millet production indicates a positive outlook of almost 65% above last season, while sorghum showed at least 25% higher than last season. Moreover, white maize under irrigation is reported to have increased by at least 10% of last season, following an addition of a new irrigation project (Ndonga Linena) in the Kavango region. However, white maize under dry-land productions is expected to drop by at least 13% of last season due to poor rainfall performance in the dry land crop producing areas.

Preliminary harvest prospects for wheat in the commercial areas were not available at the time of this report. However, the 2008/2009 production estimates were used in order to allow an in-depth analysis of the national cereal production for the current season.

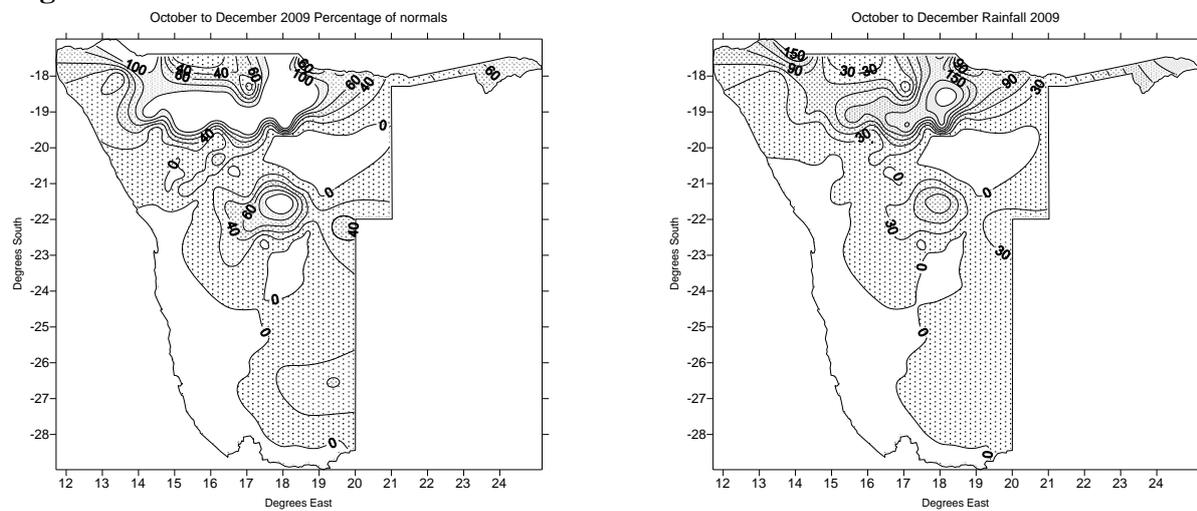
¹ Communal Crop producing regions included Caprivi, Kavango, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto region

AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

2009/2010 Rainfall Performance for Namibia

Poor rainfall performance has been dominating the first part of the season (October-December 2009), stretching toward the beginning of the second part (January-April). As indicated in Figure 1 below, most parts of Namibia received below normal rainfall and according to rain-fed crop producers, the rainfall performance has been characterised by erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfalls. Moreover, dry spells were also reported during December/January in the north east and north central regions during January/February this season.

Figure 2:



Sources: *Meteorological Services of Namibia*

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

According to the Meteorological Service of Namibia, the remainder of the season indicates normal to below normal rainfall over the entire Namibia. As indicated in Figure 2 below (region 1 & 2), the forecast noted that there is greater chance of up to 40% for the country to receive below normal rainfall while the likelihoods for normal rains indicates 35%. Chances for above normal rainfall are very limited and indicate only 25%.

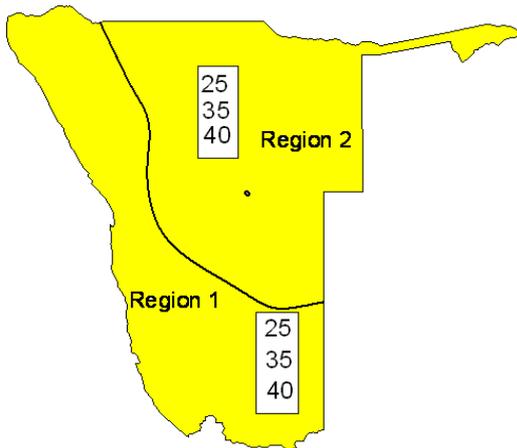


Figure 2: January to March 2010 Rainfall Forecast

Sources: Meteorological Services of Namibia

CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

Cereal crop production outlook indicated that, the country may expect normal to slight above normal production for the 2009/10 cropping season. In general, rainfall performance has been poor in most parts of the rain-fed crop producing regions, resulting in reduction in planted areas and subsequently, the production.

Maize under dry-land productions is expected to drop by at least 13% of last season's poor harvest. It was noted that most maize producers in the communal area (Caprivi and Kavango regions) were unable to cover most parts of their crop fields due to poor rainfall performance which is reported to have dominated the first part of the season. However, according to the Namibian Agronomic Board, maize under irrigation showed a 10% raise in production which resulted from increased planted area due to an addition of a new irrigation project (Ndonga Linena) in the Kavango region.

In Caprivi region, harvest prospects have been reduced as most part of the region's green basket ² still flooded for almost three successive seasons. The areas affected included Linyanti, Chichimane, Dudukabe and some parts of Sangwali area. Most of the crop fields in these areas are still flooded and farmers could not cultivate them for now almost three seasons. It was reported that, farmers from the flood affected areas went to open up new crop fields in the upper land, which according to them is a costly exercise. In addition, many crop farmers in the upper land were only able to cover about 72% of their crop fields due to poor rainfall performance. Farmers described this season's rains as sporadic, erratic and insufficient. If no improvement to rainfall conditions for the rest of the season, poor harvest of at least 23% for both maize and pearl millet and 16% for sorghum can be expected.

Similarly, harvest prospects for Kavango region are on the down trend. Rainfall patterns for this region resembled those of Caprivi region and majority of farmers were only able to cultivate up to 71% of their crop fields. According to farmers, crops could not germinate successfully despite several attempts to replant. Therefore, production outlook indicated that if rainfall conditions do not improve for what's left of the season, poor crop harvests of at least 7% for maize, 5% pearl millet and 30% lower than last season for sorghum can be expected.

On the other hand, crop prospects for the north central regions (Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana), are much better by far than last season. Most farmers interviewed in these regions indicated that, should rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, good harvests of up to almost 90% above last season and nearly 20% above average in Oshana can be expected. Prospects for Oshikoto region shows that good harvest of at least 70% above last season and about 20% higher than normal harvest can be expected. Harvests prospects for Omusati region indicates that good harvest of over 80% above last season's harvest and 5% above average can be expected. Moreover, production prospects for Ohangwena region showed good improvements in both pearl millet and sorghum of more than 45% above last season.

² Green basket refer to the areas along the lake Liambezi where most maize is produced

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Household food security is reported to be tightening in the regions as hunger season has reached its peak. Most households interviewed have indicated that, they have depleted their food stocks in September last year and are mainly dependent on the market for food access. Government food relief program is reported to have come to an end in October/November last year. In the mean time, flood/drought relief foods from the government are only meant for the critically needy people. However, the situation is expected to improve as from mid March when most seasonal produce (legumes, green maize, squashes, etc) will become available till the time of the main harvest in May. During the time of this assessment, most households were hoping that, the upcoming harvests (in April/May) will bring the much needed relief to them by improving household food security in their respective areas.

In Caprivi region, the majority of the interviewed farmers indicated that most households are currently dependent on the market for food access and some drought relief foods from the government. Although it is a normal practice in this region to sell most part of the harvest (mainly maize) to the millers in order to obtain the cash, this would affect the household food access and subsequently threaten the household food security. Given the current harvest prospects for the region, farmers are however cautioned that, they should avoid selling most parts of their harvest for the upcoming harvests and should retain enough stock that will take them through to the next harvest thus ensure household food security.

For Kavango region, the situation is almost the same as Caprivi region that the majority of households are currently dependent on the markets for food access. This region experienced the chronic household food insecurity for the past three seasons as a result of poor harvest caused by unfavourable crop growing conditions. If no improvement to rainfall conditions for the remainder of the season, the situation is likely to repeat itself as from the next consumption period (i.e. May 2010 to April 2011).

The north central region household food security is still stable as most household are currently still dependent on the market to access food. The regions reported that, only few areas with food stocks from previous harvests. Even the few that still have some foods from their previous harvests are reported to have started supplementing the little stock they have with food stuff from the markets to ensure household food security. Given the preliminary harvest prospects in these regions, it is likely that the situation will improve for better, if rainfall performance improves and that; favourable growing conditions persist for the remainder of the season.

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

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

Pasture Conditions

Despite the general poor rainfall performance observed in most parts of the country, grazing in various regions are reported to have made some improvements, following some significant amount of rains received.

Good pasture conditions were reported in the western part of Caprivi region while the eastern part reported fair condition due to high concentrations of livestock that were moved from flood plane to high ground areas. In Kavango region, grazing condition was rated as 'very good', while Oshana region reported good grazing. Pastures for Oshikoto and Ohangwena regions were reported to be in good conditions in the eastern parts while the western parts of these regions reported fair to poor pasture that have resulted from poor rainfall performance this season. Farmers indicated that, what is notable on the rangeland is the overgrowth of herbs which according to them are not eaten by livestock and this was also the same as last season. In Omusati region, grazing was reported to vary from fair to good and differ from one area to another. However, further improvements to grazing are expected as more rains are received.

Livestock Conditions

Livestock in the north central regions were reported to be in good condition due to some improvements in grazing conditions. However, with regards to livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) have been reported in the northern communal crop producing regions except Oshana region. In the Caprivi region, cases of LSD were reported in Katima rural, Kongola and Kabbe Constituencies, while Kavango region cases of LSD were reported in Mpungu constituency. In Omusati region, Outapi, Anamulenge and Okahao Constituencies reported the disease. The disease was further reported in Ondobe and Okongo constituencies in Ohangwena region, while Oshikoto region; cases of LSD were reported in Omuthiya Constituency.

Ticks infestations among cattle are still a problem in the eastern part of Caprivi region. At the time of this assessment, the Livestock Marketing Committee is reported to have met in order to discuss and find a long lasting solution to this problem. Moreover, internal parasites in cattle, goats and donkeys are still being reported in most of the regions visited. Kongola and Katima rural constituencies of the Caprivi region reported this problem while, Okahao Constituency in Omusati region reported the same problem. In Ohangwena region, internal parasites were reported in Oshikango, Omundaungilo and Epembe Constituencies, while Guinas Constituency of the Oshikoto region also reported internal parasites in goats.

Other suspected diseases or conditions reported included, Gall Sickness in Ompundja and Uuvudhiya Constituencies of Oshana region, Manges in goats in Okahao constituency of the Omusati region as well as Eenghodi Constituency in Oshikoto region. Moreover, vaginal prolapse in cattle were also reported in Okalongo Constituency of Omusati region, while Black quarter were reported in Uukwiyu and Okatyali Constituency of the Oshana region.

REGIONAL CROP SITUATION

Caprivi region

Most parts of the green basket for this region is still flooded for almost three seasons in a row and as result, the region may expect another poor harvest worse that last season. In general, the overall planted area is estimated to have been reduced by 25% below average and nearly 10% lower than last season. The reduction in planted area came as a result of flooded river fields and the general low rainfall performance in the upper land that dominated the 2009/10 crop season. Therefore, production prospects have indicated that, reduced harvest of more than 32% below average and 22% lower than last season might be expected. Wild life and human conflict have also contributed significantly to the expected low production, since some farmers are reported to have lost some of their crops to wild animals.

Constituencies

Katima Urban

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

Katima Rural

Farmers in this area have indicated that, this season's rainfall performance is poor, characterised by sporadic type and insufficient rainfalls. Under the circumstance, most farmers at the time of this assessment were only able to cover up to 70% of their crop fields. Moreover, production prospects have indicated that, if rainfall conditions do not improve for the remainder of the season, chances for poor harvest are highly likely. Accordingly, maize, pearl millet and sorghum may expect their respective production to fall 35%, 10% and 30% below last season's poor harvest. Additionally farmers especially in Ngoma area are worried about the presence of elephants in the area which according to farmers are likely to cause some damages to their crops. On livestock health, ticks on cattle were widely reported in most parts of this area. Furthermore, cases of Lumpy skin disease as and internal parasites in cattle were reported in Bukalo and surrounding area. Food security is tightening with most of the households as hunger season progresses. Most households are reported to have depleted their food stock and are currently dependent mainly on the market for food access.

Kongola

Rainfall performance has been scanty and sporadic in the first half of the season and as result, most farmers were only able to cover up to 84% of their crop fields. Apart from inadequate and sporadic rainfall received, some farmers interviewed are complaining about elephants, monkeys and hippopotamus, destroying their maize crops. Moreover, cases of moles destroying Bambara nuts were also reported in this Omega III area. Production prospects indicated that if no improvement to rainfall performance, poor harvest of up to 32% below last season's poor harvest can be expected. On livestock health, cases of internal parasites in donkeys were reported Omega III. In addition, wild dogs are also reportedly attacking both donkeys and goats. Livestock and grazing were observed to be in a very good condition.

Linyanti

Most farmers interviewed have described the 2009/10 rainfall season as very poor, sporadic and insufficient. The area has also suffered by dry spells toward the end of December to early January. Under the circumstance, most farmers were unable to complete their field cultivation and as a result, on average, only 62% of the area was cultivated. Subsequently, the production outlook for maize indicates 8% lower than last season, while pearl millet and sorghum are also expected to be low with their respective reduction of 60% and 20% below last season. With regards to household food security situation, most households are reported to have depleted their food stock since last August and are currently dependent mainly on the Market for food access. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to improve as from April as some of the seasonal

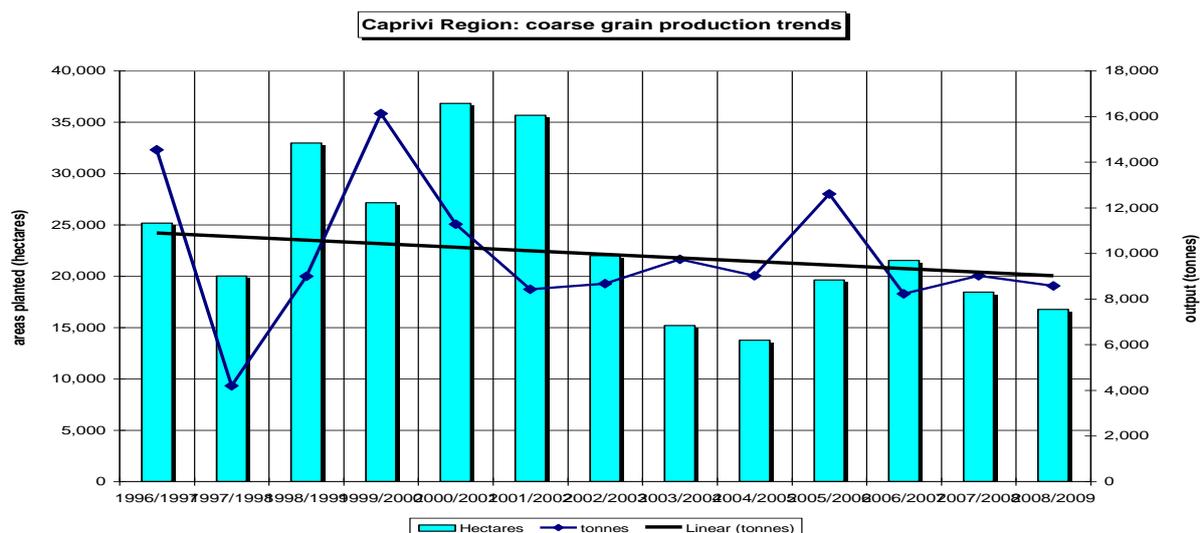
crop will become available until the main harvest time in May.

Sibinda

Most farmers in this area were hard at work, hoping for the best this season and were able to cultivate at least 80% of their crop fields. Most fields around Chinchimani area are reported to be still flooded as a result of overflow of the stream that links this area to Linyanti River. Some farmers from the flood affected fields moved up to the high ground to open up new crop fields. Due to poor rainfall performance in the region, harvest prospect for this area are estimated to have been reduced to 60% for maize, 40% pearl millet and 30% on sorghum lower than last season. Household food security remained tight as most households are reported to have exhausted their little harvest from the previous season and are mainly dependent on market for food access. Pasture and livestock are reported to be in good condition.

Kabbe

Like all other areas in the region, farmers in this constituency has also described 2009/10 rain season as sporadic and erratic. Average planted area is estimated at 60% of the total fields, representing 40% below the field sizes. Last season in the same corresponding time, most farmers were able to cover all parts of their crop fields. Nevertheless, most farmers interviewed have indicated that if rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, better harvest of up to 20% for maize, 30% for pearl millet and 15% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. On the other hand, productions for non-cereal crops are expected to be low than last season due to poor germinations. Some crop farmers have reported rodents, crickets and elephants destroying their crops. On livestock health, minor cases of Lumpy skin disease were reported especially in Kabbe area. Moreover, ticks on cattle were widely reported in this area.



Out of the 17,216 hectares planted to coarse grain this season, some 11,678 hectares was sown to white maize, about 3,218 hectares to pearl millet, and 2,320 hectares to sorghum. The total production of coarse grain in the region is forecasted down to 6,927 tonnes, which is about 22% percent below last season and 32% below average. The production figure is comprises of 4,851 tonnes of white maize, about 1,068 tonnes of pearl millet and some 1,008 tonnes of sorghum. The food security situation is expected to improve as harvest for some seasonal produce such as pumpkins, water melon, green maize, etc, will start from mid March.

Kavango region

Provisional estimates indicates that poor crop production prospects are highly likely, following sporadic, erratic and insufficient rainfall that have dominated the first part of 2009/10 crop season. Crop producers in this region have indicated that rainfall performance has been generally poor and as a result, most farmers were only able to cover 71% of their crop fields. If no improvements to rainfall performance for the remainder of the season, cereal production is likely to drop below last season's poor harvests by at least 30% for pearl millet, 7% maize and 5% sorghum.

Constituencies

Rundu Urban

Majority of interviewed farmers indicated that, this constituency has been receiving sporadic and insufficient rainfall since the beginning of the 2009/10 rain season. Subsequently most farmers were only able to cover at most 75% of their crop fields. Nevertheless, production prospects for cereal crops are much better than last season. Most interviewed farmers have indicated that if rainfall condition improve for the reminder of the season, good harvest for maize, pearl millet and sorghum can be expected with their respective expected harvest of 5%, 20% and 15% respectively. Pasture and livestock were reported to be in good condition.

Rundu Rural East

Poor rainfall performance was reported to have dominated the 2009/10 crop season and as a result, poor crop germinations especially for pearl millet were reported. Production outlook for all major crops grown in this area indicates poor harvest of at least 20% for both pearl millet & maize, while sorghum can expect at least 13% below last season's harvest. Average planted area is estimated at 65% of the total field sizes, which when compared to last season represent a decrease of over 10% in the same corresponding period last season. On crop pests, mouse and birds were reported in most parts of this constituency. Livestock are reported to be in good condition and so is pasture, except areas on the extreme part along the river. With regards to household food security, all the households interviewed have indicated that they have depleted their food stock from last season's harvest. Households are currently dependent on the market and or drought food aid for food access.

Rundu Rural West

Most farmers in this constituency have described the 2009/10 rain season as generally poor. Farmers have indicated that, since the beginning of the season, rainfalls have been sporadic, irregular and insufficient. Subsequently, most farmers at the time of this assessment were only able to cover at most 65% of their total fields compared to almost 95% in the same corresponding period last season. Most farmers in this area use draught animal power to plough their crop fields and no private tractors operating in this area. Moreover, production for pearl millet and sorghum shows negative outlook of 42% and 60% respectively, below last season's harvest. Harvests for non-cereal crops are also expected to drop this season due to poor rainfall performance. However, by and large, farmers are hopeful about maize production prospect which is expected to increase by at least 40% above last season. At the time of this assessment, no major crop pests or livestock diseases reported in the area and both livestock and pasture were reported to be in good condition.

Ndiyona

Due to poor rainfall performance most farmers were only able to cultivate at least 68% of their crop fields. Although, ploughing activities were still ongoing at the time of this assessment, most interviewed farmers have indicated that, the remaining parts of the fields could not be covered due to insufficient amount of moisture in the soil. This area have also suffered dry spells that burned crops during December/January period and affected farmers attempted to replant their crop fields with little success. Hence, crop prospects in this area indicated that, reduced harvests of at least 7% below last season's for pearl millet and sorghum and 15% lower than last season for pearl sorghum can be expected. The household food security is tightening as most household in this area are reported to have finished their food stocks from last season's harvest and are currently dependent on

market for food access. Government food aid is reported to have stopped last October.

Mpungu

Farmers on average were able to cultivate at most 90% of their crop fields as was the case last season. Although most parts of the constituency were dry at the time of this assessment, farmers were hopeful of the prospects as they were able to obtain good crop germinations. Therefore, production outlook have indicated that, should rainfall performance improved for the remainder of the season, good pearl millet harvest of at least 20% and 30% higher than last season for maize can be expected. Moreover, sorghum as well as other crops (non-cereal) can also expect good harvest this season. No major crop pests reported at the time of this assessment, but farmers have fear of quillea birds that are reported in the area. On the livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease were reported in Sikarasompo, Ncarave and Nyege villages.

Kapako

Most farmers in this constituency have described the 2009/10 rainfall season as poor. Farmers indicated that, this season is characterised by sporadic and inadequate rains with dry spells experienced during November/December period. Although, ploughing activities are still ongoing at the time of this assessment, most farmers were only able to cultivate nearly 60% of their crop fields, compared to over 80% in the same corresponding time last season. Moreover production prospects for maize and sorghum looks poor with their respective expected harvests of 34% and 3% below last season's poor harvest. In addition, harvest for non-cereal harvests are also expected to drop because of poor germinations resulted from poor rainfall performance. However, production for pearl millet showed positive outlook of at least 10% above last season's harvest, if rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season. With exception of few cases of birds, no major crop pests reported at the time of this assessment and both grazing and livestock are reported to be in good conditions.

Kahenge

Despite poor rainfall performance experienced since the beginning of this season, farmers on average were able to cover at least 80% of their crop fields. It was reported that, rainfall conditions

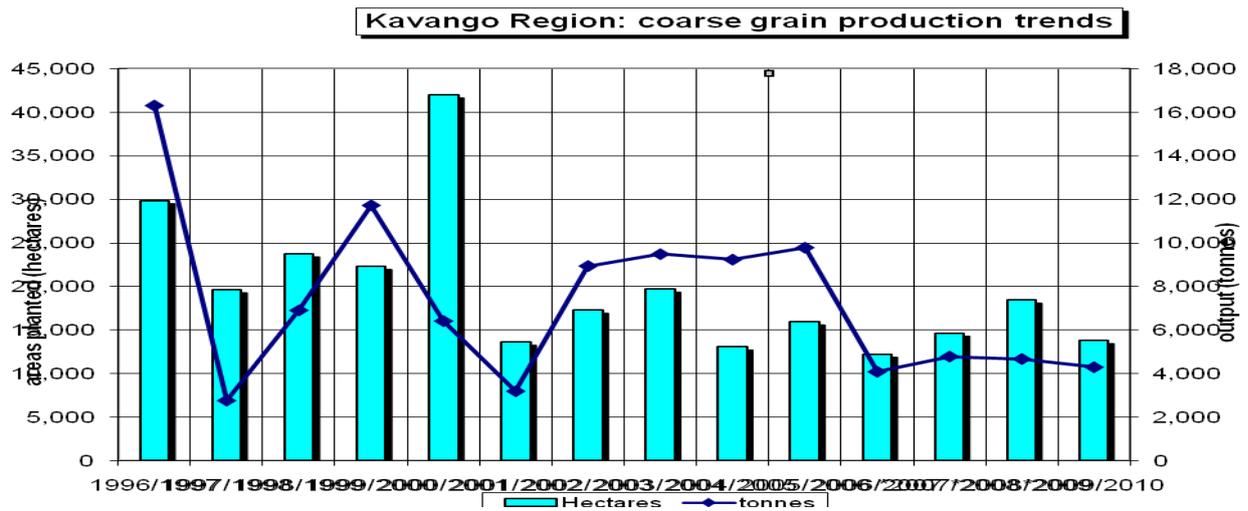
have improved as from mid December and many farmers managed to attain good germinations for their crops. Although, at the time of this assessment, most parts of this constituency are dry, but farmers are optimistic about the harvest. Most farmers indicated that, should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season, a better harvest of at most 100% for pearl millet and 28% higher than last season for maize can be expected. No major crop pests/diseases outbreak reported, except few cases of quillea birds and cricket.

Mashare

Following, good showers received during December and early January, most farmers were able to cover about 70% of their crop fields. However, farmers indicated that, there has been shortage of seeds both improved and local varieties. Some farmers have complained about the way improved seeds are sold by the cooperative or Ministry claiming that the sale for the seeds were arranged only for one day which according to them is not enough. Farmers are therefore suggesting that, seeds should be made available at their local ADC in order to ensure sufficient farmers' access to seeds. Production prospects for this area do not look promising as most indicated that poor harvest for pearl millet, maize and sorghum is highly likely. No major crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment.

Mukwe

Poor rainfall performances have been received since the beginning of this season, causing poor crop germination and wilting up of crops. On average, at least 75% of the crop field were cultivated using mainly draft animal power. Due to sporadic and insufficient amount of rainfall that dominated the season, farmers indicated that, poor harvest of up to 100% below last season for maize and sorghum is highly likely. Moreover, pearl millet harvest is also expected to be 25% lower than last season. At the time of this assessment, No major crop pests or livestock diseases have been reported in the area. Livestock body condition was rated "good" due to sufficient grazing in the area. Household food security is tightening as hunger season progresses and most household interviewed have indicated that, they have finished their food stock and are currently dependent on the market for food access.



Cereal productions for this region are expected to be low than last season and are provisionally estimated at 4,307 tonnes, showing a decrease of 8% of last season and over 40% below average. Out of this total output, pearl millet production is forecasted at 2,650 tonnes, maize 1,352 tonnes and sorghum is put at 305 tonnes. The expected poor harvest this season came as results of sporadic and insufficient amount of rainfalls received. However, should the rainfall conditions improved for the reminder of the season, the situation is likely to improve for better.

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONS (Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto region)

Good crop harvest prospects for 2009/2010 coarse grain production in these regions are highly likely, if rainfall performance improve and that favourable crop growing conditions prevailed for the rest of the season. At the time of this assessment, early indications for this season's grain production are that, good harvest far better than the last two seasons can be expected in all these regions

Omusati region

Despite poor rainfall performance which dominated the first part of the season, cereal crop productions showed a positive outlook, should rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season. Majority of farmers were able to cultivate at least 86% of their crop fields. Crop farmers are optimistic about the expected harvest and provisional estimates indicated that, good cereal harvest of at least 86% for pearl millet and nearly 20% for sorghum above last season's can be expected. No major crop pests reported except false Army worms during January/February dry spells which disappeared on its own as more rains were received.

Constituencies

Outapi

Despite efforts from the farmers to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields, crop germinations were not very satisfactory due to poor rainfall performance. In addition this area have also suffered the effect of January/February dry spells that has wilted some crops especially sorghum and maize. However, crop prospects looks much better and most farmers interviewed have indicated that, favourable crop growing conditions prevail for the remainder of the season; chances for better harvest than last season are highly likely. Provisional estimates indicated that most farmers may expect at least 15% for pearl millet and 3% higher than last season for sorghum. Although some farmers received free improved seeds from the Climate Change Adaptation project, it was reported that that, seed demands were too high this season compared to last season. The assessment team further noted that, farmers are very much satisfied with the current fertilizer price which was reduced by more than 60% of last season's price under government input subsidy program. At the time of this assessment, no major crop pests reported apart from the birds destroying. On livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease were reported in Iishanaputa village. However, the directorate of Veterinary Services conducted vaccination operations in the area and the situation have since been normalised.

Anamulenge

Due to poor rainfall performance especially in the first half of the season, on average, farmers were able to cover 73% of their crop fields. At the time of this assessment, ploughing is still on going and crop stages vary from vegetative to flowering. Most farmers interviewed have indicated that, should rainfall performance improve for the remainder of the season, good harvest than last season of at least 67% for pearl millet and 10% for sorghum can be expected. Light dry spells were experienced during January to early February, but farmers have indicated that dry spells enabled them to weed their crop fields. Few cases of false Army worms were reported during the dry spells period which later on disappear with rains. On livestock health, few cases of Lumpy Skin disease were reported during January in Omalungandjaba village, but the situation has since improved following vaccination from the Veterinary Services.

Etayi

Although, farmers complained about poor rainfall performance, most of them were able to cover at least 93% of their crop fields. Dry spells during January/February were also reported, but farmers described it as mild and some have indicated that, it helped them to do more weeding and cover a big area. Farmers are optimistic about the crop outlook and most of them indicated that, if all goes well, a better harvest than last season of at least 22% for

pearl millet and 8% for sorghum can be expected. Non-cereal harvest especially cow peas are also expected to be higher than last season. Despite the fact that most farmers use own traditional seed varieties, improved seeds supply situation this season is said to be much better than last season, in terms of availability and quality. No major crop pests reported at the time of this assessment and both pasture and livestock are reported to be in good condition.

Oshikuku

Most farmers in this area were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields, which is almost the same as last season. Despite the January/February dry spells and the general poor rainfall performance, farmers were able to obtain good crop germination which at the time of this assessment were observed to range between vegetative to grain formations. Additionally, production outlook is very good and most farmers interviewed indicated that, should good rainfall conditions persist for the remainder of the season; a good harvest of at least 80% for pearl millet and 50% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. Minor cases of false army worms were reported during January/February dry spells, but disappeared later on as more rains were received. On livestock health, no major diseases or parasites reported at the time of this assessment and both livestock and pasture were reported to be in good conditions.

Okalongo

Despite sporadic and insufficient amount of rainfall received, most farmers were able to cover at least 90% of their crop field as compared to 85% at the same time last season. Majority of farmers interviewed are very optimistic about harvest prospects and have indicated that, should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the, then a very good pearl millet harvest of up to 147% can be expected. This constituency was one of the most affected areas by flood last season and most household are reported to be dependent on the market and government food relief program for food access. Pasture is reported to be in fair condition, but expected to improve as more rains are being received. Cases of prolapsed vagina were widely reported in the area and the situation is said to be stable.

Elim

Farmers in this area described 2009/10 rain season as poor. The season is said to have been characterised by sporadic, erratic and inadequate amount of rainfall, which dominated first part of the season. This constituency like other areas have also experience mild dry spells during January/February period. But through it all, most farmers managed to cultivate at least 80% of their crop fields, with successful germination in pearl millet and poor germinations in sorghum. Production outlook therefore have indicated that, pearl millet may expect over 150% higher than last season, while sorghum may expect 70% below last season. Farmers further indicated that, non-cereal crops could not germinated successfully despite several attempts for replanting; hence they might as well expect low harvest than last season. Apart from false Army worms that occurred during the dry spells, not major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment. Furthermore no livestock diseases/parasites were report during this assessment and both livestock and pasture were reported to be in good conditions.

Ogongo

Most farmers have indicated that, rainfall performance has been poor since the beginning of the season but improved a little in December and early January. Under the circumstance, farmers on average were able to cover 85% of their crop fields as compared to 100% in the same corresponding period. Nevertheless, at the time of this assessment, ploughing activities are ongoing. Despite poor rainfall performance, crop prospects looks good and majority of interviewed indicated that, if rainfall performance improved for the remainder of the season, good harvest of at least 193% for pear millet and 60% for sorghum can be expected. Cases of termites where reported destroying young crops in Onamundidi, Ongulugombe, and Okashipu villages. Moreover, false Army worms were also reported in Okeeke and surrounding villages. On livestock health, no major livestock diseases were reported and both livestock and pasture are reported to be in good condition.

Otamanzi

Most farmers in this area were able to cultivate most parts of their crop season as compared to the same corresponding period last season where only 80% of the field sizes were covered. Provisional estimates for cereal crop productions, in particular pearl millet and sorghum looks good. And this accordingly, millet may expect at least 100% high, while sorghum would expect over 90% above last season's harvest, if good rainfall conditions persist

for the remainder of the season. No major crop pests or animal diseases/parasites reported at the time of this assessment. Both pasture and livestock are reported to be in good conditions. On household food security, the situation is reportedly tightening as the hunger season has reached an advance stage. Most households are reported to have depleted their food stocks from previous harvest and are currently dependent on the market for food access. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to improve as from mid March as most seasonal crops such as legumes and squash are expected to become available till the time of harvest in May this season.

Okahao

Most farmers in this area were able to cultivate at least 85% of their crop fields which is 5% lower than same period last season. Farmers have indicated that, rainfall performance has generally been poor this season, characterised by erratic and sporadic type of rains. Nevertheless, at the time of this assessment, ploughing activities were still ongoing and expected to be completed by end of February. Cereal production showed positive outlook for this area and on average, good harvests of at least 40% higher for pearl millet and 50% above last season for sorghum can be expected if good rains received for the remainder of the season. In the same vain, non-cereal crops can also expect a better harvest by far than last season. No major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment. On livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle, internal parasite in donkeys and Mange in goats were reported, but the situation is reported to be under control, following prompt response from the Directorate of Veterinary Services. Both livestock and pasture were reported to be in good conditions.

Tsandi

Majority of farmers in this area were able to cultivate 80% of their crop fields, compared to 90% in the same corresponding period last season. Despite, poor rainfall performance reported in the constituency, production outlook for pearl millet indicates the possibility of good harvest by over 70% of last season. However, sorghum and non-cereal crops are reported to have been affected by poor rainfall performance and January/February dry spells. Therefore, production outlook for sorghum indicated that, reduced harvests of nearly 45% of last season can be expected. In general, this constituency was less affected by floods and heavy rains last season and is one of the areas received a

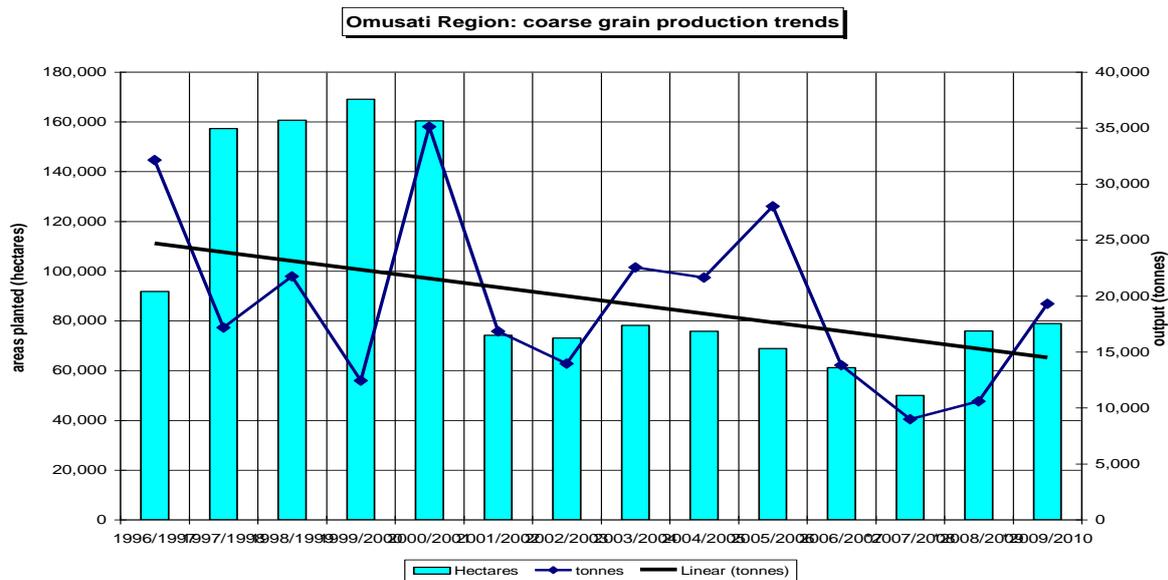
comparative better harvests in the region. At the time of this assessment, no major crop pests or livestock diseases/parasite reported in the area and both livestock and grazing were reported to be in good conditions.

Onesi

Due to poor rainfall performance and dry spells that occurred in the second part of the season, most farmers were only able to cultivate up to 75% of their crop fields at the time of this assessment. Nevertheless, ploughing activities were still ongoing and is expected to be completed early March this season. According to farmers interviewed most crops looks good and harvests of at least 150% for pearl millet and nearly 40% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. This constituency was one of the areas that were less affected by floods and received comparative better harvests last season. Farmers complained about quelea birds that are reportedly attacking flowering crops. On livestock health, no major diseases or parasites were reported at the time of this assessment and both livestock and pasture were observed to be in good conditions.

Ruacana

Most of the major crops grown here are at flowering stage with some already at grain formation. Majority of farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields. This constituency was less affected by flood and received a comparative better harvest in the region last season. However, this season the area was struck by January/February dry spells, in addition to general poor rainfall performance. Production prospects for this area does not look good as most farmers interviewed indicated that if rainfall patterns does not change for the remainder of the season, poor harvest of at least 8% for pearl millet and 3% below last season's harvest for sorghum can be expected. With regards to crop pests, cut worms were reported in Ongolonongeyama village attacking mainly maize and sorghum crops at vegetative stage. Grazing is reported to be well established and livestock body condition also looks good. With regards to household food security, most interviewed households have indicated that they still have some food stock from last season's harvests and expected to take them through to the next harvest.



The total area cultivated to coarse grain for 2009/2010 cropping season is estimated at 78,948 hectares, about **4 percent above** last season. Out of this total, some 774,992 hectares were sown to pearl millet while 3,956 hectares were sown to sorghum. The coarse grain output is provisionally forecasted at 19,308 tonnes, representing an **increase of 82 percent than last year and 5 percent above 10-year average**. Out of this total, pearl millet constituted 18,650 tonnes and sorghum 658 tonnes. Although, rainfall performance were reported to be poor especially in the first part of the season, majority of farmers were able to attain good crop germinations and hoping for a good harvests, should rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season.

Oshana region

Production prospects for cereal crops are highly likely, should good growing conditions prevail for the remainder of the season. Despite the general poor rainfall performance reported in the regions, provisional estimates indicated that, good cereal harvest of nearly 90% higher than last season for both pearl millet and sorghum can be expected. At the time of this assessment, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields and ploughing activities were still ongoing. With exception of false Army worms occurred during January/February mild dry spells, no major crop pests were reported.

Constituencies

Ongwediva

Despite poor rainfall performance, on average, farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields. This compared to the same corresponding time last season indicates a 15% increase in planted area. Crop stages range between vegetative to flowering and crop stand looks good. Most farmers interviewed indicated that, should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season, good pearl millet harvest of at least twice of what was harvested last season can be expected. However, outlook for sorghum did not change from last season and farmers indicated that germination was poor due to insufficient rainfall and also slight impacts from dry spells during January/February. At the time of this assessment, no major crop pests or livestock disease were reported and both pasture and livestock are said to be in good condition.

Oshakati East

Poor rainfall performance dominated the first part of the season and some improvements in rainfall performance were observed during December. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields and have recorded good crop germinations. Production outlook for pearl millet indicates an increase of over 77% of last season while no change in sorghum, according to most interviewed farmers. In terms of input supply situation, especially seeds, most farmers in the area are within the rich of seed supplies, especially those that are sold at the open market. In addition, improved seeds were also made available at the local ADC as well as the Councillor's Office. No major crop pests or animal diseases reported at the time of this assessment and both livestock and pastures are said to be in good condition.

Oshakati West

Due to easy access to tractor services that supplement draft animal power, most farmers were

able to cover 100% of their crop fields. Moreover production prospects for this area indicated that, chances for a good harvest this season are highly likely, should rainfall conditions improve. This accordingly suggests that, harvests of nearly 80% for pearl millet and over 230% above last season for sorghum can be expected. Although, false Army worms were experienced during January/February dry spells which disappear on their own as more rains received, no other crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment. Moreover no major livestock diseases/parasites reported in the area and both livestock and pasture were reported to be in good conditions.

Okatana

Most farmers in this area were able to cover at least 90% of their crop fields as compared to 70% in the same corresponding period last season. It was reported that many farmers bought more fertilizers this season, following further reduction of the price from N\$345 last season to about N\$127 this season as part of the government input subsidy services. Although this area had also experience below average rainfall in the first part of the season, most farmers were able to obtain good crop germinations. Subsequently, production outlook showed a positive indications that, if rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, good harvest of over 100% above and more than 80% of sorghum as compared to last season can be expected. At the time of this assessment, no major crop pests reported, except false Army worms during January/February dry spells which disappeared as more rains received. On the household food security, the situation is reported to be tightening as hunger season progresses. Most households are reported to have finished their food stock from previous season and are currently dependent on the market for food access. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to improve as from mid March, when most seasonal produce

such as legumes and squashes will become available till main harvest in May.

Ompundja

This constituency has also experienced poor rainfall performance since the beginning of the season and most natural reservoirs are dry. On average, farmers were only able to cultivate 82% of their crop fields as compared to 95% in the corresponding period last season. This constituency was one of the flood affected area last season and many farmers received poor harvest. Nevertheless, crop stand look promising and according to most interviewed farmers, good pearl millet harvest of more than twice of last season's harvest can be expected if good rains is to be received for the remainder of the season. Prospects for sorghum have also indicated a better harvest of at least 60% of last season. On crop anomalies, false Army worms were reported during January/February dry spells, but later on disappear as more rains received. On livestock, Gall sickness and Botulism were reported in Oponona and Oniizimba villages and the situation has not yet improved.

Uukwiyu

Despite poor rainfall performance that dominated the first part of the season, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 100% of their crop fields. Both tractors and draft animal powers are used to plough crop fields. Most farmers are very much optimistic about the expected harvest and indicated that, should rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season, good harvest of over 70% for pearl millet and more than 130% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. Moreover, prospects remained good for non-cereal crops (legumes and squash) which are expected to be harvested as from mid March this year, thus improving the household food security. On livestock health, cases of Black quarter were reported in Onamunkulo and surrounding villages. No major crop pests were reported at the time of this assessment.

Okatyali

This constituency was one of the hardest hit by last year's floods and heavy rains that have resulted in poor harvest last season. Nevertheless, most farmers interviewed have indicated that, should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season, good harvests of over 300% for pearl millet and at most 80% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. Provisional total planted area is estimated at 96% of the total field sizes

which is almost the same as last season during the same corresponding period. No major crop pests reported at the time of this assessment. On livestock health, cases of Black quarter and Gall-bladder were reported in Oshikondiilongo and surrounding villages whereby some farmers are reported to have lost their cattle to these diseases. Food security at household level is a major concern to many, as most of them are reported to have depleted their food stock and are now dependent mainly on the market for food access. Nevertheless, the situation is expected to improve as from mid March when most seasonal crops are expected to become available till main harvest in May.

Ondangwa

While appreciating government efforts that are aimed at enabling farmers to afford basic agricultural inputs, some farmers felt that much still need to be done to ensure sufficient availability of these inputs. These sentiments from farmers were referring to insufficient amount of improved seed supply received this season. Nevertheless, most farmers in this area were able to cultivate over 90% of their crop fields. Moreover, production prospects look promising and most farmers interviewed have indicated that, if all goes well, good harvest much better than last season can be expected. Therefore, provisional estimates indicated that pearl millet harvest can expect nearly 60% and sorghum can expect over 45% higher than last season. No major crop pests or livestock diseases reported at the time of this assessment and both livestock and grazing areas are reported to be in good condition. With regards to household food security situation, most interviewed households indicated that, their food stocks got finish last August and are currently dependent on market for food access.

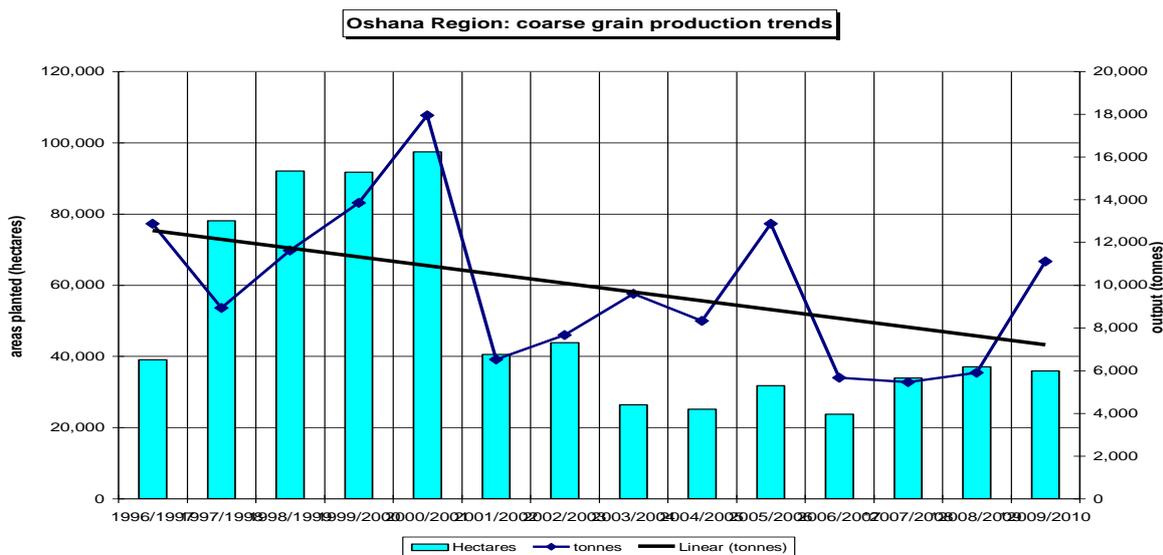
Though the rains started well at the beginning of the season farmers are now beginning to worry about the intensity of rains. Despite the positive response from the farmers for the good rains received, farmers are now beginning to loose hope on the expected harvest because of too much water in their crop fields. On average farmers were at least able to cultivate about 97% of their fields. However, when compared to last season, a harvest loss of more than 300% for pearl millet and 133% sorghum can be expected. The establishment of pasture is good, but farmers indicated that there is no enough space to graze their animals.

Uuvudhiya

Although, rainfall performance has been poor in the region as well as in this area, most crop farmers were able to cover at least 90% of their fields. This compared to same corresponding period last season represent an increase of 10%. Farmers are also hopeful of this season's expected harvest which according to them described as better than last season. This accordingly indicates that should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season, good harvest of at least 93% higher for pearl millet and over 100% above last season for sorghum can be expected. On crop pests, false Army worms were reported during January/February dry spell which disappeared as more rains received. Furthermore few cases of cutworms were reported attacking the roots of young crops, but the situation is reported to have improved. On livestock health, cases of Gall sickness and Botulism were reported in the area and 7 cattle were reported to have died as a result of these diseases.

Despite poor rainfall performance in the area, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields. Farmers expressed their happiness about good crop germination attained amidst sporadic and insufficient rainfall received. It is therefore expected that, should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season, good pearl millet harvest of at almost 90% and over 150% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. Crop stages were observed to range between vegetative and flowering to grain formation. Some farmers are complaining about birds causing damage to their flowering crops. At the time of this assessment, no major livestock diseases were reported in the area and both pasture and livestock are said to be in good condition. On the household food security, most households are reported to have finished their food stock from the previous harvests and are now dependent on the market for food access.

Okaku



Total planted area for the 2009/10 crop season is provisionally estimated at 35,880 hectares, which included 34,086 hectares sown to pearl millet, and 1,794 hectares sown to sorghum. The overall production of coarse grain is on the interim forecasted at 11,110 tonnes, representing almost **90% above last season** and **nearly 20% above average**. This total is comprised of 9,597 tonnes of pearl millet and 1,513 tonnes of sorghum. Expectations for good harvest are based on assumptions that rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season.

Ohangwena region

Crop production in this region showed a positive outlook in most parts of the region, despite poor rainfall performance received¹⁸ since the beginning of the season. Most farmers interviewed have indicated that, they were able to obtain reasonable crop germination and should good rains persist for the remainder of the season, chances for good harvest are highly likely. Provisional estimates indicated that the region may expect good harvest of nearly 50% above for pearl millet, and over 30% higher than last season for sorghum. The average planted area for 2009/10 crop season is estimated at 86% of the total field sizes and at the time of this assessment ploughing activities were still ongoing. This region suffered heavy rains and floods during February/March last season and as a result, harvest received was very low.

Constituencies

Ohangwena

Farmers in this constituency described the 2009/10 rain season as generally poor. It was reported that, rainfall performance this season has been erratic, sporadic and insufficient. Despite the availability of private tractors as addition to draft animal power, farmers were only able to cover about 86% of their crop fields as compared to 100% in the same corresponding period last season. However, farmers indicated that, they were able to obtain good crop germinations especially for pearl millet. Therefore, production outlook has indicated that, should good rains persist for the remainder of the season; an increase of at least 100% of last season's harvest for pearl millet can be expected. However, harvests for non-cereal crops are expected to drop due to poor germination that resulted from poor rainfall performance. On livestock health, no major diseases/parasites reported at the time of this assessment and both crops and livestock are reported to be in good condition.

Eenhana

Farmers complained about poor rainfall performance during the first half of the season. Moreover, dry spell struck during mid January to early February which most farmers regarded as an opportunity for them to advance weeding activities. The assessment team noted the shortage of seeds especially in the second part of the season since the supplies of improved seeds received were insufficient. Nevertheless, most farmers were able to cultivate at most 90% of their crop fields. Moreover, harvest prospects for this season indicated that if rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season, better to good harvest of at least 10% for pearl millet and 23% above last season for sorghum can be expected. No major crop

pests or livestock diseases reported at the time of the assessment.

Oshikango

Most farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields. However, crop germination is reported to be poor due to erratic, sporadic and insufficient rainfall which dominated the first part of the season. Subsequently, production outlook does not look good, unless rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season. Most farmers interviewed have indicated that, if no improvement to rainfall performance received, poor pearl millet harvests of about 5% below poor harvest last season can be expected. Moreover, expected harvest for sorghum is likely to resemble last season's poor harvest, if no improvement to rainfall, said the farmers. No major crop pests reported at the time of this assessment. On livestock health, internal parasites in goats were widely reported in most parts of this constituency and the situation is reported to be stable.

Endola

The ploughing subsidy program seems to be progressing well in this constituency, as five private tractors have registered and participated in the government ploughing subsidy scheme. Most farmers were able to cultivate at least 86% of their crop fields and managed to attain good germinations amidst sporadic and insufficient rainfall. Good pearl millet harvest of at least 60% above last season and almost 90% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected, if rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season. In addition, harvests for none-cereal crops are also expected to be higher than last season. No major

crop pests or livestock diseases reported at the time of the assessment.

Ongenga

On average, most farmers were able to cultivate nearly 80% of their crop fields amidst poor rainfall performance. Farmers indicated that they were able to attain good crop germination and if all goes well, chances for good harvests are highly likely. Accordingly pearl millet may expect good harvest of nearly 140% of poor harvest last season, while sorghum might expect at least 40% above last season's harvest. No major crop pests or livestock diseases/parasites reported at the time of this assessment. Both pasture and livestock are reported to be in good conditions. On the household food security, most households interviewed are reported to have depleted their food stocks from previous harvests. It was however, reported that most households are currently dependent mainly on the market for food access.

Engela

Most farmers in this constituency were able to cover at least 85% of their crop fields. Despite the general poor rainfall performance which dominated the season, most farmers interviewed are very much optimistic about the expected harvest. Provisional production prospect have indicated that, a better harvest of at least 100% higher than last season can be expected, should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season. However, harvests for non-cereal crops are expected to drop which according to farmers were very much affected by poor rainfall performance this season. This constituency have reported false Army worms occurred during January/February dry spells and are reported to have disappeared on their own as more rains were received. On livestock health, no major livestock diseases/parasites reported at the time of this assessment and both grazing and livestock are reported to be in good condition.

Omulonga

A dry spell that was experienced from the last two weeks of January till early February has made it hard for farmers to complete ploughing their crop fields. Nevertheless, farmers were able to cover at least 90% of their crop fields and managed to obtain good crop germination. Therefore production prospects showed an increase in the expected harvest of 43% for pearl millet and 114% higher than last season for sorghum. Farmers have also indicated that, non-cereal crops can also expect a better harvest than last season. No major crop pests or livestock diseases were reported at the time of

this assessment. With regards to household food security, most households interviewed have indicated that they only have little food stock from the previous season supplement with maize meal from the markets so that it can last longer.

Ondobe

Despite poor rainfall performance and January/February dry spells, majority of farmers in this constituency were able to cultivate almost 80% of their crop fields. Most farmers are satisfied with their crop germination they obtained and are hoping for better to good harvest should rainfall conditions improve for the remainder of the season. Production prospects have indicated that good pearl millet harvest of at least 35% above last season can be expected. Sorghum on the other hand is reported to have been affected by erratic rains and dry spell, therefore most farmers does not see the difference between last season and this season's harvest. Youth participations in the weeding subsidy scheme in the constituency are still active. On livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease were reported in Oshandi village and affected animals were treated and are said to be recovering well.

Epembe

Despite shortages or lack of tractors in the area, majority of farmers are still dependent on draught animal powers for their crop field cultivations. At the time of this assessment, the majority of farmers interviewed indicated that, on average they were only able to cultivate at least 82% of their crop fields as it was the case in the corresponding period last season. Although there has been mild dry spells experience during late January to early February, most farmers were able to obtain good crop germination and have indicated that if good rains prevail for the remainder of the season, good pearl millet harvest of over 30% higher than last season can be expected. Sorghum production is reported to have been negatively affected by January/February dry spells and harvest losses of at least 50% below last season's harvest can be expected. No major crop pest or diseases reported at the time of this assessment. Pasture was observed to be in a fair condition and farmers have indicated that, rainfall patterns this season were not favourable for pasture establishment. Nevertheless, livestock were reported to be in good condition and no major disease reported except few cases of internal parasites reported in Onamundidi and the surrounding villages.

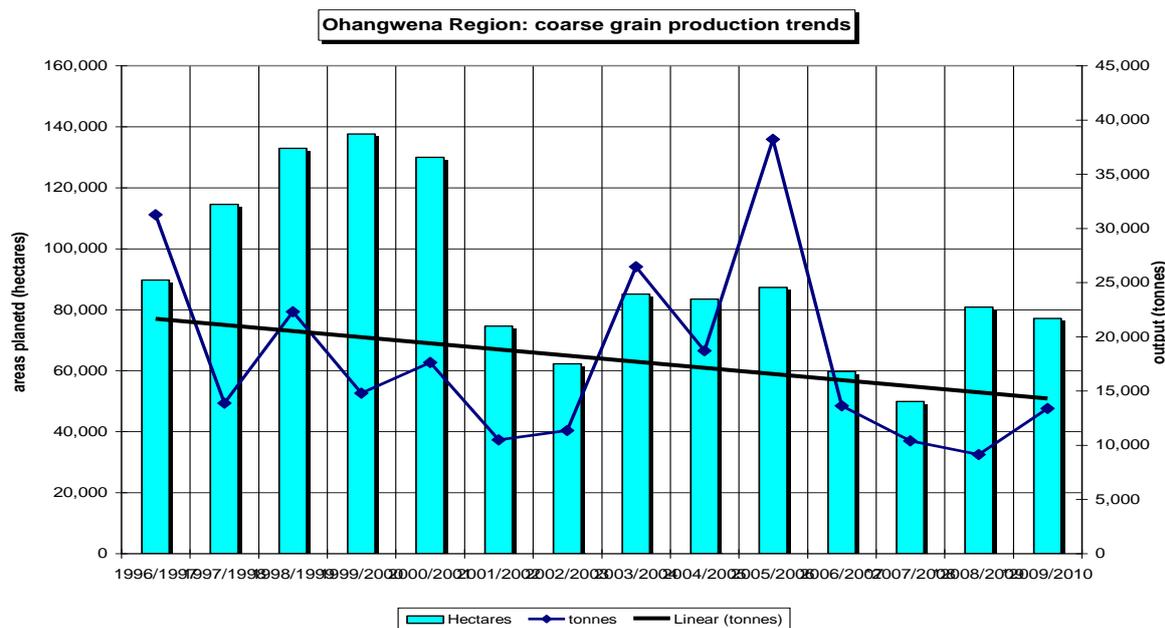
Omundaungilo

Most farmers in this area were able to cover 90% of their crop fields. By contrast with last season, this represent 10% lower whereby most farmers have completed ploughing during the same corresponding period. At the time of this assessment, there was only one known tractor available in this area and most farmers use draught animals to cultivate their crop fields. Despite poor rainfall performance and mild dry spells that occur during January/February period, harvest prospects are said to be 10% much better than last season.

With regards to the household food security situation, this constituency was one of the areas that obtained a comparative good harvest last season. Therefore, majority of households are reportedly dependent mainly on own food stock from last season's harvest for food access. On livestock health, cases of internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the constituency.

Most farmers in this area were able to cover at least 92% of their crop fields. This constituency is the main "green basket" of the region and according to most interviewed farmers, good harvest of about 5% above last season for cereal crops can be expected if good rains prevail for the remainder of the season. Cases of Lumpy skin disease have been reported in almost parts of the constituency and farmers are requesting the government to make appropriate medications available in their area. Moreover, external parasite (flies) attacking mainly cattle, were also widely reported in the area. More cases of suspected Black quarter and Botulism were also reported in Oshikola and the surrounding villages. Furthermore, cases of Lung sickness were also reported in Oidiva village and the situation is said to have improved, following prompt response from the Veterinary Services to vaccinate the affected livestock.

Okongo



Total planted area to coarse grains this season is provisionally estimated at 77,138 hectares, representing about 9% below average and 5% below last season. Out of this total, about 69,424 hectares was sown to pearl millet and some 7,714 hectares to sorghum. The overall production of coarse grain is after all forecasted at 13,388 tonnes representing an increase of **46% above last year's low output but yet still below average by at least 22%**. The total output is comprises of 12,045 tonnes of pearl millet and 1,343 tonnes of sorghum. The expected production increase is based on the assumptions that rainfall conditions improve and favourable growing conditions prevail for the remainder of the season.

Oshikoto region

Harvest prospects remained favourable, in the face of poor rainfall performance which is reported to have dominated the first part of the season. Most farmers were able to cultivate at least 80% of the total fields.²¹ Production prospects indicated that, good harvest of at least 75% for pearl millet and 50% above last season for sorghum can be expected. At the time of this assessment, no major crop pests reported and crop stage range between vegetative to grain formations.

Constituencies

Olukonda

Most farmers were able to cover at most 80% of their crop fields. This constituency suffered heavy rains and floods last season, so most farmers interviewed described the rainfall performance this season as better one than last year. Farmers are also optimistic about the expected harvest, saying that if favourable rainfall conditions prevail for the rest of the season, good harvest by far than last season of over 300% for pearl millet and 30% higher for sorghum can be expected. Non-cereal crops can also expect good harvest this season. No livestock diseases have been reported in the area, and livestock body condition looks good. With regards to household food security, most interviewed households have indicated that they have already depleted their food stock last October and are currently dependent on market for food supply. Nevertheless, food security situation is expected to improve as from the end of March when most seasonal produce such as legumes, squash and so on will be available until the main harvest in May.

Oniipa

Despite poor rainfall performance and the occurrence of dry spells during January/February period, most farmers are very hopeful of the expected harvest. According to the majority interviewed, good pearl millet harvest of at least 60% and nearly 600% for sorghum above last season can be expected. Average planted area is estimated at almost 90% of the total field sizes. Quella birds were reported in Oshilulu and the surrounding villages attacking the flowering crops. At the time of this assessment, no livestock diseases or parasites reported in the area and livestock are reported to be in good condition. On household food security, most houses are reported to have depleted their food stock from previous seasons and are mainly depend on the market for food access.

Onayena

Although, rainfall performance has been sporadic and scanty in most parts of this area, farmers were able to cultivate at most 80% of their crop fields. Most farmers interviewed are very much optimistic about the expected harvest, adding that should rainfall conditions improved for the remainder of the season, good harvest of over 150% above for pearl millet and 204% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. Furthermore, harvests for non-cereal crops such as cow peas, pumpkin, Bambara nuts, etc, is also expected to be higher this year than last year. On crop pests, birds were reported during crop emergence, causing some damage to emerging crops making farmers to do replanting. On livestock health, flies on cattle were reported in Oniimwandi and surrounding village. Moreover, cases of lumpy skin disease and Mange were also reported in Okaliveva village. Livestock and grazing are reported to be in good condition.

Omuntele

Rainfall started on time and enough at the beginning of the season, but its patters changed to sporadic and scanty fashioned. Nevertheless, farmers were able to cover at least 80% of their crop fields which were almost 20% lower than last season. No major crop pests reported except of cases of Mouse reported attacking both pearl millet and sorghum during germination. On livestock, cases of Dystocia were reported in Onyika, Ohaluwa and Onewawa villages, since October last year and the situation is reported to have not yet normalised. Moreover, few cases of sweat in calves were also reported during mid January to early February this year, but the situation is reported to have improved. On the household food security situation, this constituency is one of the areas that received a comparative better harvest last season and the majority of households are reported to still dependent on their own stock for food access.

Onyaanya

Poor rainfall performance has been dominating the first part of the season and as a result, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 80% of their crop fields. Farmers were able to obtain good germination for their crops and majority of them are very much optimistic about the expected harvest. Based on the crop stands observed during the assessment, production outlook showed positive indication and a good harvest of at least 130% for pearl millet and 40% above last season harvest for sorghum can be expected. However, harvests for non-cereal crops are expected to drop due to poor germinations that resulted from poor rainfall performance. Few cases of crickets and birds were reported in the area. No major livestock diseases reported in the area, at the time of this assessment and both livestock and pastures were reported to be in good condition.

Okankolo

Most farmers in this constituency were able to cultivate at least 70% of their crop fields compared to over 90% in the same corresponding period last season. Harvest prospects have indicated that good harvests of at least 70% for pearl millet and over 60% higher than last season for sorghum can be expected. This constituency is one of the areas that received comparative better harvests in the region. No major crop pests or livestock diseases/parasites reported at the time of this assessment. Both livestock and grazing are reported to be in good condition.

Omuthiya

Most farmers in this area described rainfall performance this season being sporadic and scanty since the beginning up to the time of the assessment. Under the circumstance, most farmers were only able to cover up to 87% of their crop fields as compared to 90% in the same corresponding period last season. Nevertheless, most interviewed farmers have indicated that, crop stand is good compared to last season and if rainfalls change its patterns, good pearl millet harvest of at least 50% above last season can be expected. However, sorghum prospect was described as poor than last season due to poor germinations caused by poor rainfall performance. With regards to the household food security situation, this constituency was one of the areas that received a comparative better harvest last season

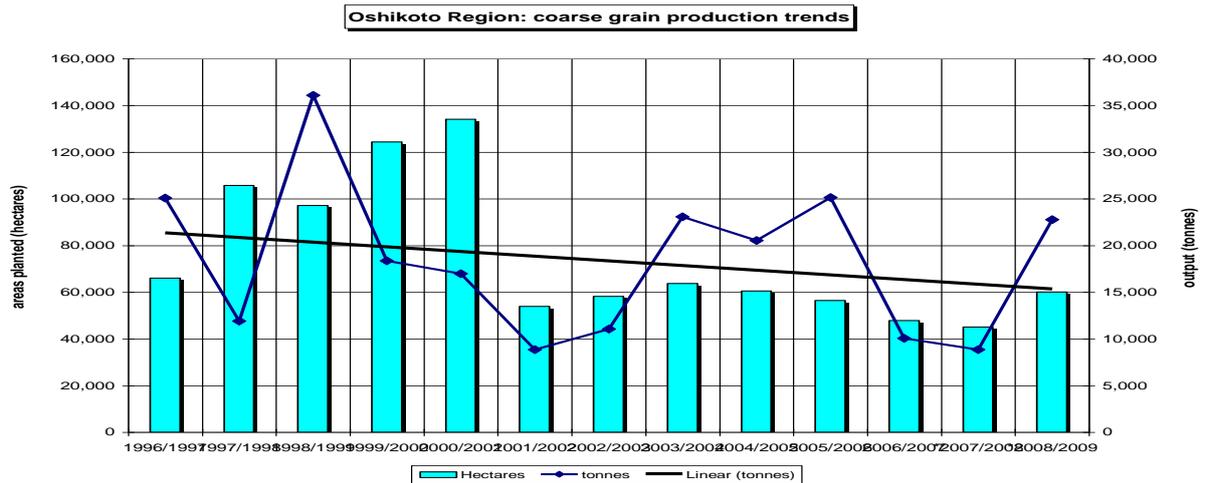
and the majority of households interviewed indicated to have some food stocks from the previous harvest. On livestock health, cases of internal parasites in goats and donkeys are still being reported in most parts of the constituency. Moreover, cases of Lumpy Skin Disease were reported Onamishu and Onakalunga villages during January 2010.

Eenghodi

The average planted area for this constituency is estimated at 75% as compared to at least 90% in the same corresponding period last season. Most farmers interviewed indicated that, this season's rainfall performance has been poor and as a result, farmers were unable to cover the remaining part on time. Nevertheless, ploughing activities are still ongoing and expected to be completed by the end of February. Production outlooks have indicated that, pearl millet and sorghum harvests may expect at least 33% and 22% respectively above last season's harvest. Like other constituencies in the eastern part of the region, this area received a comparative good harvest last season. Birds, crickets and cutworms were reported in Onambika and surrounding villages. Furthermore Manges in goats were reported in the area and the situation is reported to be stable.

Guinas

Although there are very few or no tractors in the area, most farmers uses draught animals to plough their crop fields. Therefore, at the time of this assessment, over 90% of the crop fields on average have been cultivated. Comparing to last season, this would represent about 4% below last season during the same corresponding period. Despite the sporadic and scanty nature of the rainfall patterns, pearl millet prospects looks very good and according to most interviewed farmers if good rainfall comes, harvest prospects of over 300% above last season can be expected. Moreover sorghum has also indicated a slight increase of about 5% over last season. In addition, non-cereal crops are also reported to have increased by at most 70% above last season. No major crop pests, except few cases of mouse reported during germinations. On livestock health, internal parasites in small stock were widely reported in the area since its detection last rainfall season and the situation is said to have not yet normalised.



Total planted area to coarse grain crops for this season is provisionally estimated at 53,460 hectares, comprises of 50,787 hectares sown to pearl millet and 2,673 hectares to sorghum. The overall production of coarse grain is provisionally forecasted at 18,246 tonnes. This represents an **increase of 73% above last year and nearly 20% above the average production**. The total output comprises of 17,245 tonnes of pearl millet and 1,001 tonnes of sorghum.

NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION SITUATION FOR 2009/2010 CROP SEASON

Assuming that good growing condition persist for the reminder of the season, the 2009/10 cereal production is provisionally forecasted at **134,713 tonnes**, which is about **24% above** last season and **10% higher than the combined 10-year average**. This indicates that, if rainfall performance improved for the reminder of the season, the country may expect normal to slight above normal harvest this season.

Analysis on various cereal crop productions indicates an increase of about 10% in white maize production under irrigation. This raise is due to increased planted area under irrigation of about 20% which resulted from an addition of a new irrigation project (Ndonga Linena) that was recently established in the Kavango region. However, white maize under dry-land production showed a decrease of 13% below last season. The reduction in production came as results of reduced planted area of nearly 5% in all dry-land crop producing areas due to a general poor rainfall performance which have dominated the first part of the season.

On the positive note though, production prospects for pearl millet and sorghum in the North Central regions look promising despite poor rainfall performance. At the time of this assessment, most crop farmers interviewed in these regions indicated that, should rainfall performance improve for the remainder of the season, good harvests of up to almost 90% above poor harvest last season in Oshana and about 20% higher than normal harvest in Oshikoto can be expected. However, production prospects for Caprivi and Kavango regions are worrisome, with their respective provisional estimated reduced harvest of **32% and 41% below 10-year average production**.

Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000 tonnes) and 2009/2010 compared to the 10-year average (1999/2000 to 2008/2009)

Namibia: Total Cereal Production ('000 tonnes)- 2009/2010 compared to 1999/2000 to 2008/2009 average															
Region/Sector	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	10-year average	2009/10 as % of average	2009/10 as % of 2008/09
Caprivi	9.0	16.1	11.3	8.4	8.7	9.7	9.0	12.6	8.2	9.0	8.9	6.9	10.2	-32	-22
Kavango	6.9	11.7	6.4	3.2	8.9	9.5	9.2	9.8	4.1	4.8	4.7	4.3	7.2	-41	-8
Omusati	21.7	12.4	35.1	16.8	14.0	22.6	21.7	28.0	13.8	9.0	10.8	19.3	18.4	5	82
Oshana	22.3	14.8	17.6	10.5	11.3	26.5	18.7	38.2	13.6	10.4	9.2	13.4	17.1	-22	46
Oshana	11.6	13.9	17.9	6.5	8.0	9.6	8.3	12.9	5.7	5.5	5.9	11.1	9.4	18	89
Oshikoto	36.1	18.4	17.0	8.8	11.1	23.1	20.5	25.2	10.0	8.9	10.5	18.3	15.3	19	73
Commercial	13.8	14.9	41.1	29.7	33.6	36.5	66.9	52.4	60.9	58.2	66.1	61.4	45.3	36	4
Namibia	121.5	102.2	146.5	84.0	95.2	137.5	154.4	179.0	116.4	105.7	115.8	134.7	123.1	10	24

Namibia: Total Planted Area ('000 hectares) and 2009/2010 compared to 10-year average (1999/2000 to 2008/2009)

Namibia: Total Area ('000 hectares) - 2009/2010 compared to 1999/2000 to 2008/2009 average															
Region/Sector	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	10-year average	2009/10 as % of average	2009/10 as % of 2008/09
Caprivi	33.1	27.1	36.8	36.1	22.0	15.2	14.1	19.6	21.5	18.4	19.0	17.2	22.9	-25	-9
Kavango	23.7	22.3	42.1	13.6	17.3	20.1	13.0	15.9	12.2	14.6	18.4	14.1	19.1	-27	-25
Omusati	161.1	169.1	160.4	74.2	73.0	78.1	76.1	69.1	61.2	50.0	76.1	79.1	89.1	-11	4
Oshana	133.1	137.7	129.3	74.6	62.3	85.1	83.4	87.3	59.8	50.0	81.1	77.1	85.1	-9	-5
Oshana	92.0	92.0	97.5	40.5	44.1	26.4	25.1	32.1	24.0	34.1	37.1	36.1	45.2	-21	-3
Oshikoto	97.2	124.4	134.1	53.9	58.2	63.7	61.1	56.5	48.1	45.1	61.3	53.5	70.6	-24	-13
Commercial	14.9	15.8	10.2	8.9	13.1	15.1	14.2	15.4	13.0	15.1	15.6	15.2	13.5	12	4
Namibia	554.4	588.1	610.9	301.4	289.4	303.2	286.1	295.4	239.3	227.1	308.1	291.6	344.8	-15	-5

Although, planted areas for 2009/2010 crop season shows negative numbers, suggesting a decrease in the planted area, it should be however, noted that most fields in these regions were not cultivated to their fullest size. Most farmers were still covering the remaining parts of their fields and the picture will become clear at harvest when the assessment team will go back in these regions to determine the final planted areas as well as the actual harvest estimates. **However, the National Early Warning and Food Information Unit provisionally forecasted Namibia planted coarse grain area at 291,606 hectares.**

CEREAL FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION

A total amount of 147,100 tons of cereal (white maize, wheat and pearl millet) were imported since the beginning of this marketing season up to end of February 2010. This amount is comprised of 71,500 tonnes of white maize, 67,900 tonnes of wheat and 6,700 tonnes of pearl millet. With the exception of pearl millet, the forecasted cereal shortfalls for maize and wheat were met and the Cereal Food Balance Sheet below noted the resulting surplus which under normal circumstance is exported to neighbouring countries.

Namibia: Revised Cereal Supply/Demand Forecast 1 May 2009 - 30 April 2010 ('000 tonnes)				
	Wheat	Maize	Millet/Sorghum	Total
Domestic Availability	37.0	67.2	57.0	161.2
Opening stocks (as at 1 st April 2009)	24.7	10.3	15.0	50.0
Forecasted Production	12.3	56.9	42.0	111.2
Total Utilization	74.0	158.9	87.5	320.4
Food use	63.4	145.1	51.2	259.7
Losses and other uses	0.6	3.8	6.3	10.7
Closing stocks	10.0	10.0	30.0	50.0
Shortfall	-37.0	-91.7	-30.5	-159.2
Commercial imports received	67.9	71.5	6.7	146.1
Commercial Imports expected	*	*	*	*
Export already shipped	6.0	7.6	0.1	13.7
After trade Deficit/Surplus	75.5	79.2	-38.8	115.9

*No sufficient information available at the time of this report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Early Warning and Food Information Unit of the Directorate of Planning use information from various institutions and organisations within Namibia in order to compile this report. This report was compiled with the aid of primary information and reports sourced from the following Institutions and Organisations.

- Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services (DEES)
- Directorate of Research and Training (DRT)
- Regional Councils
- Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB)
- Mahenene Seed Cooperative
- Likwama Farmers Association
- Meteorological Services of Namibia
- Directorate of Disaster Risk management
- Directorate of Veterinary Services
- National Planning Commission (NPC)