



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 30-April-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production forecast at above-average level in 2021, but lower than last year due to localized abnormal dryness and localized locust infestations
- Livestock production anticipated average to above-average levels
- Cereal imports in 2021/22 forecast to decline for second consecutive year
- Prices of maize meal at high levels in early 2021 due to seasonally tight supplies and increased import costs
- High prevalence of food insecurity in early 2021

Cereal production forecast at above-average level in 2021

Harvesting of the 2021 main cereal crops, mainly maize and millet, is expected to start in May. Cereal crops are currently at grain filling stage and vegetation conditions are generally favourable. Production is anticipated at an above-average level of 165 000 tonnes, slightly below the previous year's level, reflecting expected production declines in the northwest.

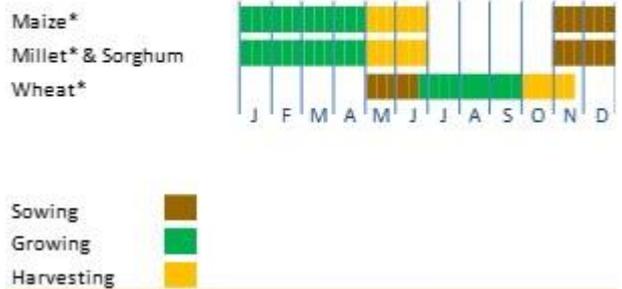
Following a poor start of the rainy season, with sparse precipitation in October and November, rains improved from December 2020 onwards and, as of April 2021, cumulative rainfall amounts were average to above average in most parts of the main cereal producing north and northeast regions. In spite of the reduced early seasonal rains, soil moisture levels were mostly adequate at planting time and the sown area to cereal crops is estimated at a near-average level in 2021, also supported by ample availabilities of seeds, machinery and labour. Based on remote sensing data, values of vegetation indices in the main cropped areas were at high levels in April, which points to an increased likelihood of above-average yields.

In the northwestern Kunene Region and in the key producing northern Omusati Region, seasonal rainfall has been less favourable, with below-average cumulative amounts. Crop lands exhibited stressed vegetation conditions and cereal production shortfalls are expected, which account for the overall reduced production prospects this year.

Namibia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Namibia

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	56	64	65	1.4
Millet	53	95	85	-10.6
Wheat	10	12	12	0.0
Others	2	3	3	-11.8
Total	121	175	165	-5.5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Livestock production is anticipated to remain at an average to above-average level in 2021. Pasture conditions and water availabilities for livestock are generally satisfactory across most parts of the country, except in the northwest where reduced rains were observed. In northcentral and northeastern regions, there have been several outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease since the last quarter of 2020. In response, the Government implemented containment measures and vaccination campaigns that have successfully controlled the outbreaks.

Infestations of African Migratory Locust (AML), Red Locust and Brown Locust (mainly in the southern parts of the country), which were first detected in early 2020, remain a threat to crop and pasture production in 2021. Although weather conditions in northeast and north regions were conducive for crops, they have created a favourable environment for insect breeding and multiplication. Reports from the country indicate that the number of AML swarms have increased between January and April 2021. The Government is currently deploying response actions, with support from FAO, to combat the outbreaks, while conducting an evaluation of the affected areas to establish the level of infestation and assess the extent of the damage caused to crops and pastures.

Cereal imports in 2021/22 to decline for second consecutive year

The country is a net importer of cereals, with imports accounting for about two-thirds of the national cereal consumption requirement on average. In the 2020/21 marketing year (May/April), cereal imports (mainly maize and wheat) are estimated at 295 000 tonnes, about 20 percent less than the previous year reflecting the large cereal harvest obtained in 2020.

Imports of maize, mostly sourced from South Africa, are forecast at 160 000 tonnes, about 15 percent above the five-year average and 35 percent below the high level in the previous year. Imports of wheat are forecast at 110 000 tonnes, slightly above the average level.

Cereal import requirements in 2021/22 are forecast at 275 000, a decline for a second consecutive year, mainly reflecting adequate supplies from carryover stocks and the foreseen above-average cereal output in 2021.

Prices of maize meal at high levels in early 2021

Prices of maize meal generally increased in the first quarter of 2021, reflecting seasonally tight supplies ahead of the 2021 cereal harvest and costlier imports due to increased prices in South Africa, the country's main grain supplier. As of March 2021, prices of maize meal were on average 15 percent above their year-earlier values.

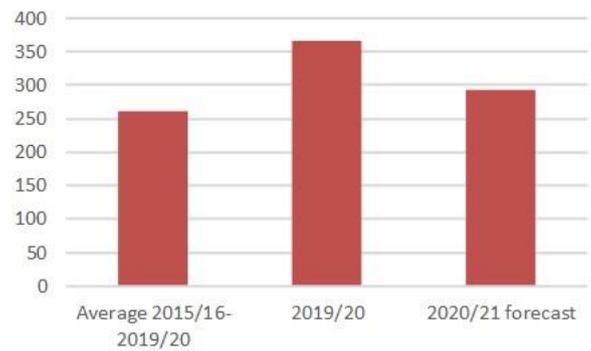
High prevalence of food insecurity in early 2021

About 440 000 people were assessed to be facing food insecurity (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and above), of which 14 000 people were facing IPC Phase 4: "Emergency" conditions, during the October 2020-March 2021 period, which corresponds to the lean season, when rural households are more reliant on market

Namibia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



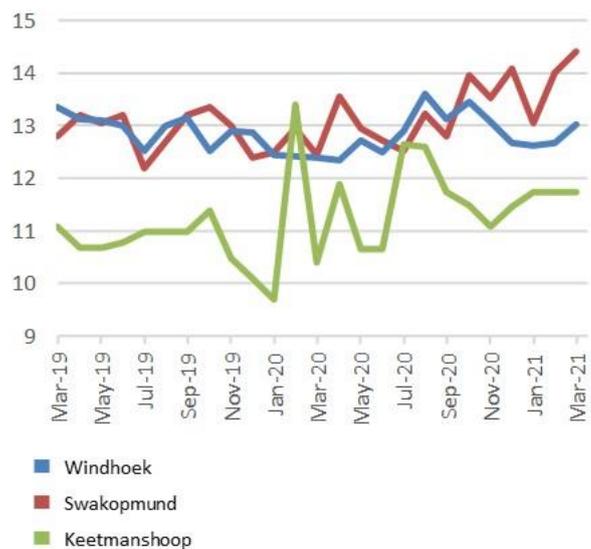
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Namibia

Retail prices of maize meal

Namibia Dollar per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

supplies and daily wage labour to meet their consumption needs. At this level, the number of people that faced critical levels of food insecurity is close to the number estimated in the corresponding period of 2019/20. The high prevalence of food insecurity, estimated at 20 percent of the analyzed population, reflects constraints on households' access to food, mainly due to high food prices and the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on income-generating activities.

The foreseen above-average cereal and livestock production in 2021 is likely to help improve food security conditions, especially from the start of the cereal harvest in May. However, as the country's economic recovery is expected to be modest in 2021, low-income households are likely to continue to experience significant constraints to access food.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 28-August-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2020 estimated at bumper level
- Reflecting improved supply situation, cereal import requirements in 2020/21 estimated at average level and below large volume imported in 2019/20
- Prices of maize meal declined in May and June and were near or slightly below year-earlier values
- Food insecurity conditions in 2020 aggravated by effects of COVID-19 pandemic

Cereal production rebounds in 2020

Harvesting of the 2020 main season cereal crops, predominantly maize and millet, concluded in June and production is estimated at 175 000 tonnes, a well above-average outturn and a significant recovery compared to the drought-affected harvest in 2019.

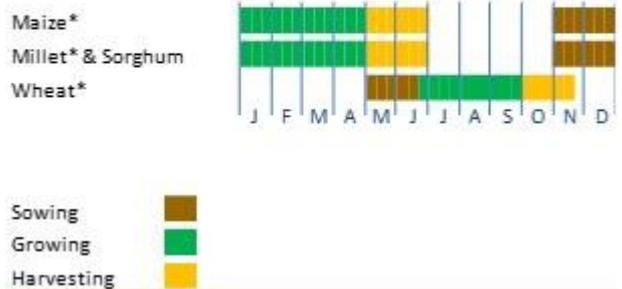
In the main cereal-producing areas in the north and northeast regions, following precipitation deficits at the start of the season, higher rainfall amounts were observed between December 2019 to April 2020. The conducive weather conditions in the second half of the cropping season supported an upturn in yields compared to the reduced levels of the previous year. Localized outbreaks of Fall Armyworm, mainly concentrated in parts of the northeastern Zambezi Region, were reported to have caused some localized damage to the main season cereal crops but, at the national level, crop losses were minimal. Outbreaks of Red Locust and African Migratory Locust were also reported during the cropping season in parts of northern Otjozondjupa, Zambezi, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kunene, Kavango East and Kavango West regions. Estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform indicates that a total area of approximately 150 000 hectares of grazing land and 300 hectares of maize and pearl millet (less than 1 percent of the total area planted with cereals) had been affected. The locust outbreaks also pose a risk to the minor winter cereal crops, mainly wheat and barley, which are expected to be harvested from September.

In the western and southern parts of the country, well below-average seasonal rainfall totals were estimated. The resulting moisture deficits negatively impacted the availability and quality of pasture conditions, mostly affecting the regions of Kunene, Erongo, Hardap and Kharas, and causing a reduction in livestock production. The dry conditions in 2020 in these regions are set against a context of recurrent droughts that these parts of country have experienced in recent years, limiting aquifer recharge rates and increasing water insecurity, which poses a

Namibia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Namibia

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	52	44	64	47.0
Millet	37	9	95	922.6
Wheat	9	8	12	60.0
Others	2	0	3	750.0
Total	100	61	175	187.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

serious risk to agricultural production and domestic water consumption.

Cereal import requirements estimated at average level in 2020/21

Reflecting the recovery in the cereal production in 2020, cereal import requirements for the 2020/21 marketing year (May/April) are estimated at a near-average level of 260 000 tonnes, a decrease of approximately 25 percent compared to the large quantities imported in 2019/20, when domestic cereal production was severely affected by drought conditions.

Import requirements of maize, mostly sourced from South Africa, are estimated at 130 000 tonnes, near the five-year average and 40 percent below the high level in the previous year. The import requirement of wheat is estimated at 105 000 tonnes, slightly above the average level.

Prices of maize meal declined following small uptick triggered by COVID-19 pandemic

Prices of maize increased in March and April due to an uptick in demand triggered by the implementation of the COVID-19 lockdown measures. Subsequently, prices decreased or remained stable in May and June 2020, reflecting an improved supply situation following the harvest and adequate imports. As of June 2020, prices of maize meal were generally close to or slightly below their year-earlier values.

Prevalence of food insecurity expected to increase in 2020

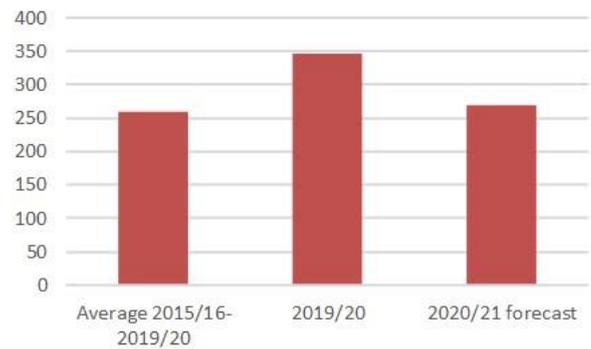
Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the last IPC analysis from 2019 projected that about 354 000 people between April and September 2020 would be in need of food assistance. This number accounts for about 30 percent of the rural population but is nearly 20 percent below the estimated food insecure population for the October 2019-March 2020 period. The projection for 2020 was based on favourable production prospects of the 2020 cereal crops and consequently expectations that there would be an improvement in access to and availability of staple foods. However, these estimates do not capture the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, the number of food insecure is expected to be higher than the current figures. There are particular concerns for the urban populations, as job losses and reduced remittances associated with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be concentrated among these households, resulting in a reduction in households' purchasing power and constraining access to food. An updated assessment of the food insecurity situation, incorporating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to be made available in the coming months.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Namibia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



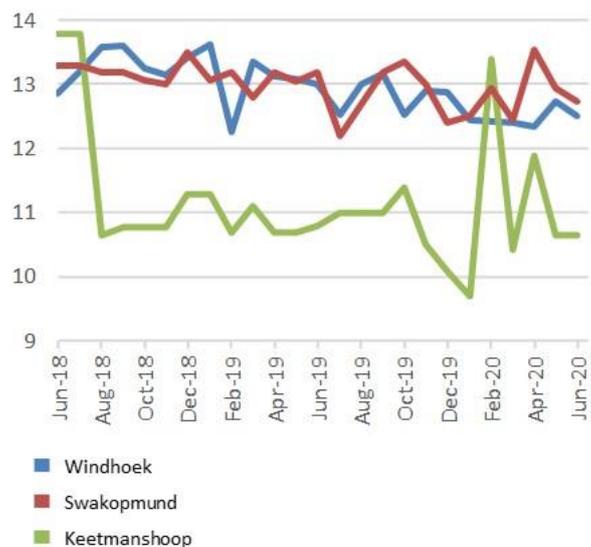
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Namibia

Retail prices of maize meal

Namibia Dollar per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 20-August-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2020 estimated to have recovered from previous year's drought-reduced level
- Reflecting improved supply situation, cereal import requirements in 2020/21 estimated at average level and below large volume imported in 2019/20
- Prices of maize meal declined in May and June and were near or slightly below year-earlier values
- Food insecurity conditions in 2020 aggravated by effects of COVID-19 pandemic

Cereal production rebounds in 2020

Harvesting of the 2020 main season cereal crops, predominantly maize and millet, concluded in June and production is estimated at 120 000 tonnes, an above-average outturn and a recovery from the drought-affected level in 2019.

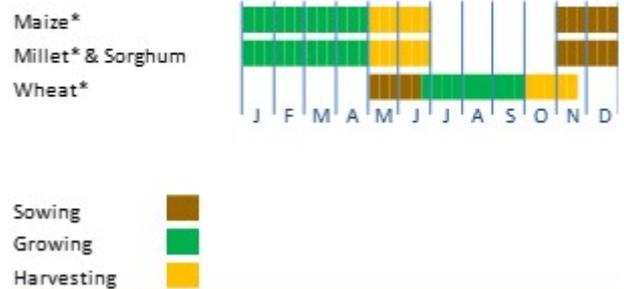
Following precipitation deficits at the start of the season, higher rainfall amounts between December 2019 to April 2020, increasing soil moisture levels in the main cereal-producing areas in the north and northeastern regions. The conducive weather conditions supported an upturn in yields compared to the previous year's reduced levels. Localized outbreaks of Fall Armyworm (FAW), mainly concentrated in parts of the northeastern Zambezi region, were reported to have caused some damage to the main season cereal crops, but at the national level the crop losses were minimal. Outbreaks of Red Locust and African Migratory Locust were also reported during the cropping season in parts of northern Otjozondjupa, Zambezi, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kunene, Kavango East and Kavango West regions, with preliminary estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform indicating that a total area of approximately 150 000 hectares of grazing land, and 300 hectares of maize and pearl millet (less than 1 percent of the total area planted with cereals) had been affected. The locust outbreaks also pose a risk to the minor winter cereal crops, mainly wheat and barley, which are expected to be harvested from September.

In the western and southern parts of the country, well below-average seasonal rainfall totals were estimated. The resulting moisture deficits negatively impacted the availability and quality of pasture conditions, mostly affecting the regions of Kunene, Erongo, Hardap and Kharas, and causing a reduction in livestock production. The dry conditions in 2020 in these regions

Namibia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Namibia

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	52	44	65	49.1
Millet	37	9	40	330.1
Wheat	8	6	10	63.9
Others	2	1	5	400.0
Total	99	60	120	100.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

are set against a context of recurrent droughts that these parts of country have experienced in recent years, limiting aquifer recharge rates and increasing water insecurity, which poses a serious risk to agricultural production and domestic water consumption.

Cereal import requirements estimated at average level in 2020/21

Reflecting the recovery in the cereal production in 2020, cereal import requirements for the 2020/21 marketing year (May/April) are estimated at a near-average level of 270 000 tonnes, a decrease of approximately 25 percent compared to the large quantities imported in 2019/20, when domestic cereal production was severely affected by drought conditions.

Import requirements of maize, mostly sourced from South Africa, are estimated at 140 000 tonnes, near the five-year average and 40 percent below the high level in the previous year. The import requirement of wheat is estimated at 105 000 tonnes, slightly above the average level.

Prices of maize meal declined following small uptick triggered by COVID-19 pandemic

Prices of maize increased in March and April, due to an uptick in demand triggered by the implementation of the COVID-19 lockdown measures. Subsequently, prices decreased or remained stable in May and June 2020, reflecting an improved supply situation following the harvest and adequate imports. As of June 2020, prices of maize meal were generally close to or slightly below their year-earlier values.

Prevalence of food insecurity expected to increase in 2020

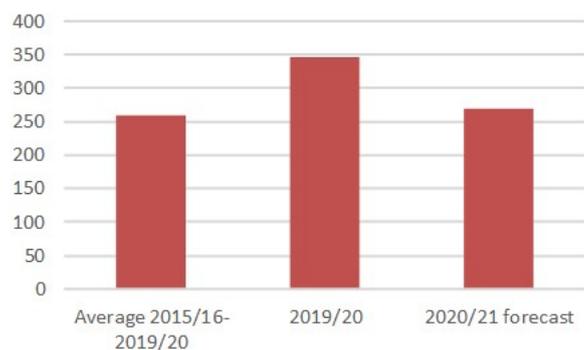
Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the last IPC analysis from 2019 projected that about 354 000 people between April and September 2020 would be in need of food assistance. This number accounts for about 30 percent of the rural population, but is nearly 20 percent below the estimated food insecure population for the October 2019-March 2020 period. The projection for 2020 was based on favourable production prospects of the 2020 cereal crops and consequently expectations that there would be an improvement in access to and availability of staple foods. However these estimates do not capture the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore the number of food insecure is expected to be higher than the current figures. There are particular concerns for urban populations, as job losses and reduced remittances associated with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be concentrated among these households, resulting in a reduction in households' purchasing power and constraining access to food. An updated assessment of the food insecurity situation, incorporating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, is expected to be made available in the coming months.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Namibia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



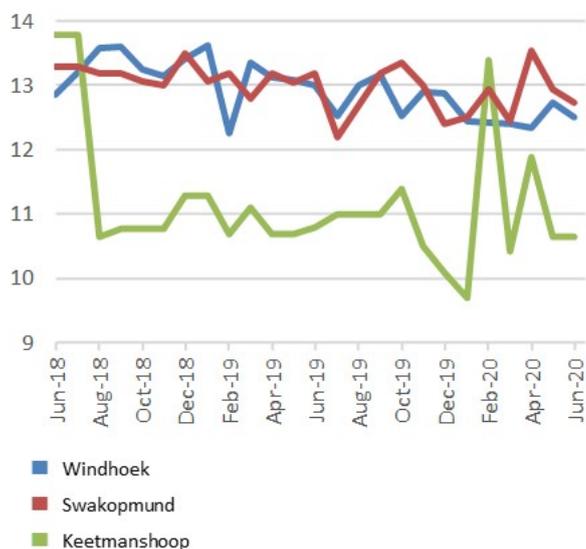
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Namibia

Retail prices of maize meal

Namibia Dollar per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 21-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Generally favourable weather conditions support prospects of near-average cereal harvest in 2020
- In first months of 2020, prices of maize meal stable and lower year on year
- Food insecurity worsened in early 2020, reflecting impact of lower harvest in 2019

Cereal production in 2020 forecast close to five-year average

Harvesting of the 2020 cereal crops, mostly maize and millet, is expected to start in May and production prospects are generally favourable.

Following precipitation deficits at the start of the season, rainfall quantities increased from December 2019 to March 2020, boosting soil moisture levels and benefitting crop growth. At the end of March, remote sensing data indicated favourable vegetation conditions in the main producing areas in the north and northeast, where crops were severely affected by drought in 2019. Reports indicate localized outbreaks of Fall Armyworm and African Migratory Locusts (mainly in parts of Zambezi Region), which might have affected the productivity of cereal crops (millet and maize) and pasture availability.

The western and southern parts of the country, however, continued to suffer from rainfall deficits which have had a negative impact on pasture regeneration and related livestock production. These recent rainfall deficits are set against a context of recurrent droughts that the country has experienced in the previous ten years, limiting aquifer recharge rates and increasing water insecurity that poses a serious risk to agricultural production and domestic water consumption.

Overall, the 2020 national cereal production is expected at a near-average level, between 90 000 and 100 000 tonnes, which would mark a substantial recovery compared to the 2019 drought-affected output.

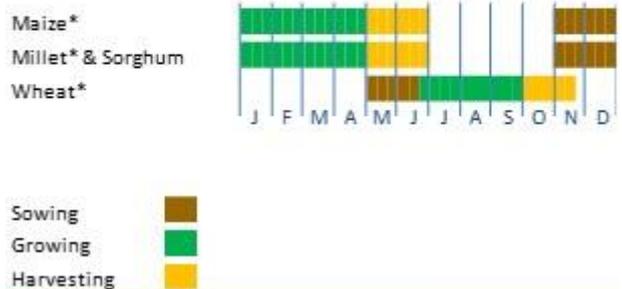
Increased cereal import requirements estimated in 2019/20 (May/April)

Reflecting the significant production decline in 2019, the cereal import requirement for the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April) is

Namibia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Namibia

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	56	59	44	-26.5
Millet	43	84	9	-88.9
Wheat	9	6	6	0.0
Others	3	4	1	-75.0
Total	111	153	60	-60.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

estimated at 350 000 tonnes, an increase of about 40 percent compared to the five-year average.

Import requirements of maize, mostly sourced from South Africa, are estimated at 230 000 tonnes, nearly double the five-year average. As of March 2020, about 225 000 tonnes of maize grain had already been imported from South Africa. Imports of wheat are estimated at 95 000 tonnes, a near-average level.

In first months of 2020, prices of maize meal stable and lower year on year

Prices of maize meal remained generally stable in January and February 2020, following declines in the last quarter of the year, mostly reflecting well-supplied markets due to above-average imports from South Africa. As of February 2020, prices of maize meal were generally close to or slightly below their year-earlier values.

Food insecurity worsened in early 2020

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, released in January 2020, an estimated 430 000 people were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Emergency" between October 2019 and March 2020. This number accounts for about 18 percent of the national population and it is almost 70 percent higher than the estimated food insecure population for the corresponding period in 2018/19. The deterioration in the food insecurity situation was mainly the result of the negative impact of severe dry weather conditions in 2019 on agricultural production, causing a decline in households' food supplies from own production.

Looking further ahead, despite an expected seasonal improvement in food security with the main 2020 harvest, the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic could cause an increase in the prevalence of malnutrition. The effects of the pandemic are expected to be primarily channeled through a reduction in economic activities and associated income losses, while potential breakdowns in food supply chains is an additional concern for food security.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

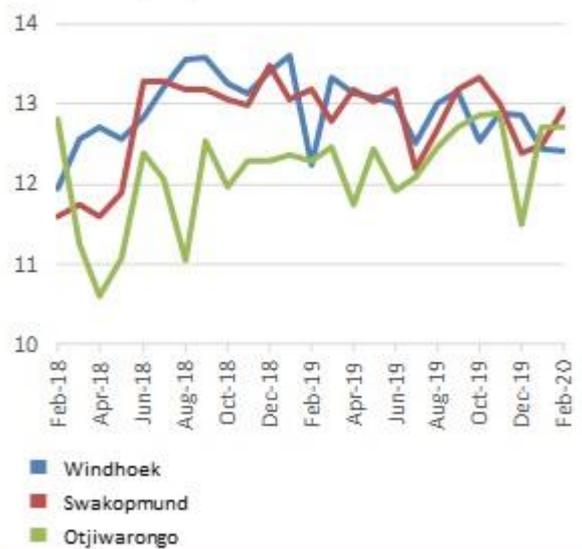
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and following a partial lockdown of the country in early March, the Government declared a nationwide State of Emergency on 28 March 2020, restricting the movement of people until 4 May 2020. The quarantine measures do not apply to agricultural production and associated supply chains, which have been categorized as essential services.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Namibia

Retail prices of maize meal

Namibia Dollar per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 15-October-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Weather forecasts indicate favourable rains during last months of 2019, benefitting planting of 2020 cereal crops
- Cereal production in 2019 estimated well below-average due to extreme rainfall deficits
- Prices of maize meal generally stable in 2019
- Food security conditions of communal farming households worsened in 2019 due to impact of drought conditions on agricultural production

Rains forecast to be favourable during the last months of 2019, benefitting planting of 2020 cereal crops

Land preparation and planting of the 2020 cereal crops, mainly maize and millet, to be harvested in May and June 2020, are expected to start from November. Current weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of average to above-average precipitation between November and December in the main cereal-producing areas of the country, located in the north and northcentral areas. If these weather conditions occur, it could lead to an expansion in the total area planted with 2020 cereal crops and benefit early crop growth.

Dry weather conditions severely affected cereal production in 2019

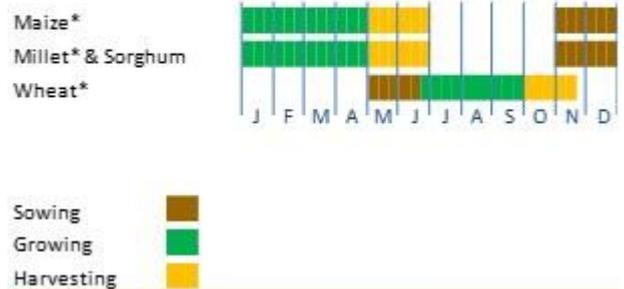
The 2019 cereal crops were harvested in June and aggregate production is estimated at a well below-average level of 60 000 tonnes. Erratic and well below-average rainfall amounts were the main cause of the production decline. The unfavourable weather conditions affected the entire country, but especially the important cereal-producing northern regions of Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto, where cumulative seasonal rainfall volumes were between 60 and 70 percent below the average. As a result of the extreme rainfall deficits, a drought was declared by the Head of State in May 2019.

The poor season and consequently severe water shortages also affected rangeland conditions, resulting in a deterioration of livestock body conditions and an increase in mortality rates. According to recent estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture, over 60 000 livestock have perished in 2019, with northwestern and southern provinces being the most affected.

Namibia

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Namibia

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	56	59	44	-26.5
Millet	43	84	9	-88.9
Wheat	9	6	6	0.0
Others	3	4	1	-75.0
Total	111	153	60	-60.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cereal import requirements estimated at above-average level in 2019/20

Reflecting the steep production decline in 2019, the cereal import requirement for the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April) is estimated to rise to 300 000 tonnes, an increase of about 8 percent compared to the five-year average.

Import requirements of maize, mostly sourced from South Africa, are estimated at 180 000 tonnes, 20 percent higher compared to the five-year average. Imports of wheat are estimated at 95 000 tonnes, 20 percent above the reduced quantity imported in the previous year, but still slightly below the average.

Prices of maize meal generally stable in 2019

Prices of maize meal have been generally stable in 2019, mostly reflecting well-supplied markets by increased imports from South Africa, which have sufficiently compensated the reduced harvest in 2019. As of August 2019, average prices of maize meal were close or slightly below their year-earlier values.

Food security conditions deteriorated in 2019

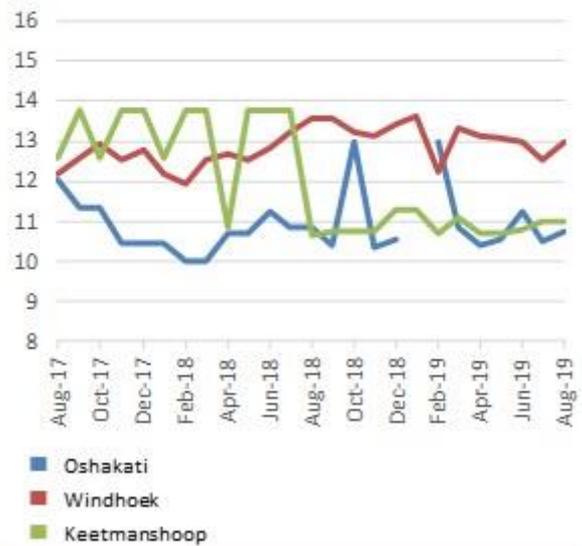
According to earlier reports from the national Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC), about 290 000 people are estimated to be food insecure and in need of food assistance during the October 2019 to March 2020 period. This number represents a 12 percent year-on-year increase. The heightened food insecurity situation is mainly the result of the reduced agricultural output in 2019. Communal farming households located in the Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions are among the most affected, as their food supplies for income generation and own consumption were sharply reduced by the dry weather conditions.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Namibia

Retail prices of maize meal

Namibia Dollar per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 02-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2019 forecast to decline sharply on account of severe rainfall deficits
- Prices of food products higher on yearly basis as of March 2019
- Food security conditions of communal farming households expected to worsen significantly due to impact of drought on agricultural production

Dry weather conditions to drive down cereal production in 2019

Harvesting of the 2019 main season cereal crops will begin in June and a significant decline in cereal production is forecast in 2019. The unfavourable production prospects reflect substantial rainfall deficits experienced since the start of the cropping season in November 2018. In two of the main cereal-producing regions, Omusati and Oshikoto, cumulative rainfall between November 2018 and March 2019 was over two-thirds below the average. Pertinently, in addition to having a temporally erratic distribution that included multiple dekads of no precipitation, the cumulative rainfall was insufficient to satisfy crop water requirements that would have enabled the maize crop to attain near-average yields.

Based on a recently conducted Government crop assessment, the 2019 cereal production is forecast at 72 000 tonnes, 53 percent below the previous year and 35 percent down compared to preceding five-year average.

The unfavourable weather conditions have also adversely impacted grazing resources, particularly pastures in southern and northwestern parts that experienced dry weather conditions also in the previous season. Livestock body conditions throughout most of the country have deteriorated and mortality rates are reported to be high.

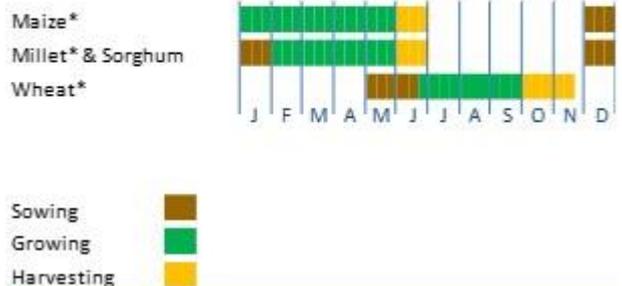
Imports of cereals to rise to bridge larger domestic shortfall

In consideration of the expected decline in cereal production, cereal imports in the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April) are forecast to rise to an above-average level of 300 000 tonnes, about 40 000 tonnes higher than the estimated volume imported in the previous marketing year. A draw down in stocks is also

Namibia

Crop Calendar

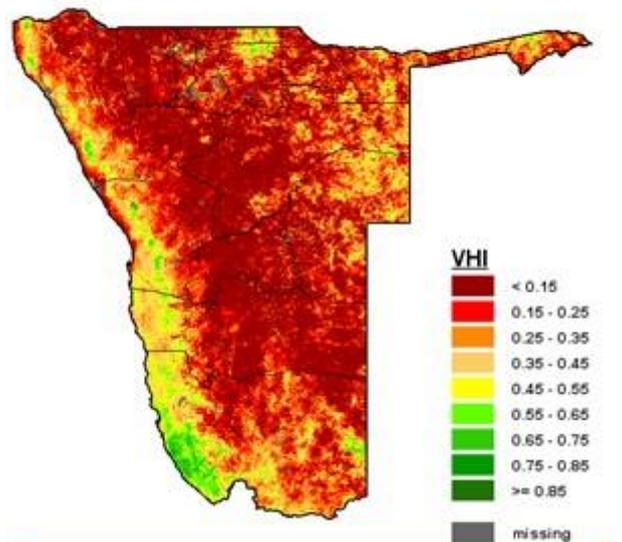
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Namibia - Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

March 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

envisaged to help bridge the domestic deficit.

Prices of maize meal generally higher

As of March 2019, average prices of maize meal were slightly higher on a yearly basis, mostly due to elevated prices in South Africa, the main source of imported cereals, and expectations of a reduced cereal output in 2019. The annual food inflation rate, a sub-component of the national consumer price index, was estimated at 6 percent in March 2019, compared to a rate of 3 percent registered a year earlier.

Food security conditions expected to worsen

In consideration of the expected decrease in agricultural production in 2019, food security conditions are likely to worsen significantly for communal farming households, whose own cereal production is a critical source of food consumption. The most affected areas are foreseen in regions of Hardap, Erongo, Karas, Kunene, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa that experienced drought conditions. The current higher food prices are expected to further impede households' access to food supplies, particularly as households are likely to increase their dependence on market supplies given the low harvest expectations.

Details on the number of food insecure are expected to be available in June/July, following the Government-led vulnerability assessment.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Namibia

Cereal Production

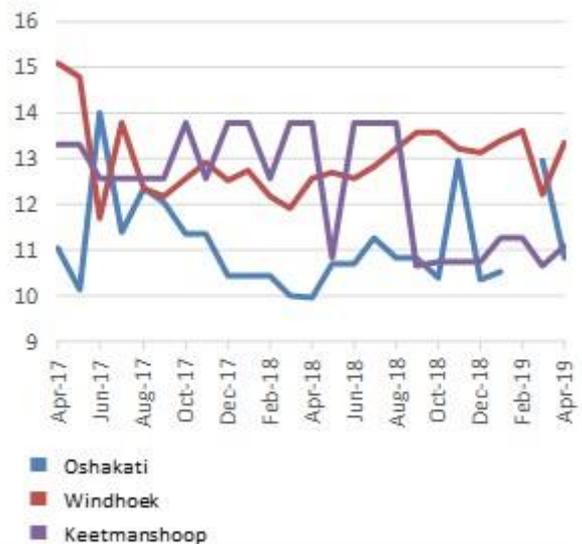
	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	55	59	46	-22.9
Millet	43	84	19	-77.6
Wheat	10	6	6	0.0
Others	3	4	1	-75.0
Total	111	153	72	-53.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Namibia

Retail prices of maize meal

Namibia Dollar per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 06-April-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2018 forecast to fall slightly, due to dry weather conditions, but still exceed average
- Maize meal prices down on yearly basis, mostly reflecting reduced prices in South Africa, country's main source of grains
- Food security conditions stable in most parts of country due to good output in 2017 but expected production decline in 2018 anticipated to aggravate situation in dry weather-affected areas

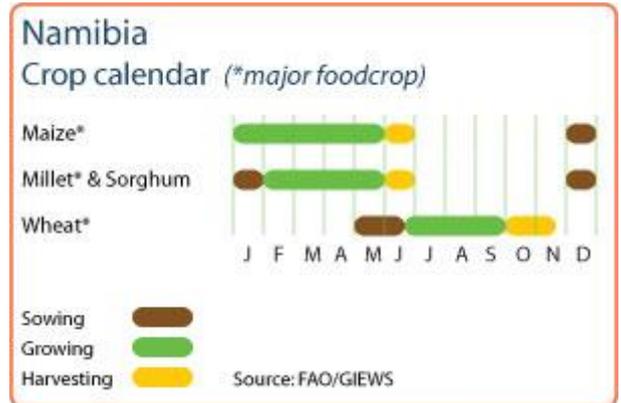
Cereal production in 2018 forecast to fall slightly, but still to exceed average

The 2018 main season cereal crop is expected to be harvested in June and current prospects point to an output of 136 000 tonnes, slightly below 2017's level but still above the previous five-year average. The moderate year-on-year decline would largely reflect the irregular and below-average rainfall that has been observed since the start of the cropping season in October 2017, with more pronounced dry weather conditions in western and southern regions. However, seasonal rains performed slightly better in the main cereal-producing regions of the north and, in consideration of the heavier rainfall since late February, production prospects in these areas are generally satisfactory. In the west, east and south (minor cereal-producing areas), the poor rains are expected to restrain potential cereal yields, while livestock conditions have also been adversely affected on account of poor pasture regrowth and low water supplies.

Although the Fall Armyworm was detected in several regions, the impact on production is reported to be minimal.

Imports fall, reflecting larger national harvest in 2017

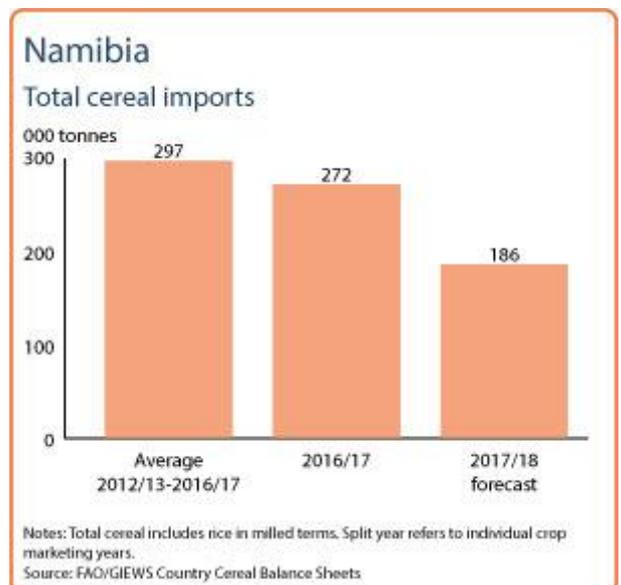
Cereal imports are forecast to fall in the 2017/18 marketing year (May/April) to under 200 000 tonnes, significantly down on last year's volume and the previous five-year average; the bulk of the cereal imports consist of maize. The yearly decline is attributed to the large national output in 2017, which could satisfy an increased proportion (37 percent) of the domestic consumption requirements compared to the average (27 percent).



Namibia
Cereal production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	51	68	58	-15
Millet	31	58	68	17
Wheat	12	11	6	-45
Others	2	3	3	0
Total	97	140	136	-3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Prices of maize meal generally below year-earlier levels

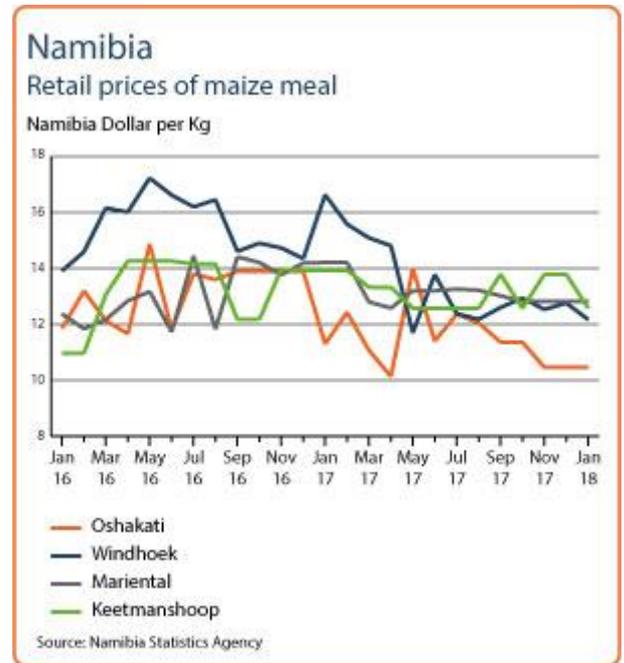
Mirroring trends in South Africa, the main source of imported cereals, prices of maize meal were down from their year-earlier levels as of February 2018. In addition, the annual overall food inflation rate, a sub-component of the national consumer price index, was estimated at 2 percent in February, significantly below the 11.3 percent registered a year earlier.

Stable food security conditions

Current food security conditions are reported to be stable, according to the latest Government assessment conducted in February 2018, with most households still consuming crops from the 2017 harvest; an estimated 214 000 people were assessed to be food insecure in 2017.

In 2018, a small increase in the number of food insecure is anticipated, which would primarily reflect the impact of poor rains this season, notably in the northwest, west and southern regions. The official results from the Government's food security evaluation are expected to be available in June.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.





GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 20-September-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production recovers strongly in 2017 to above-average level, mostly reflecting improved weather conditions
- Maize meal prices decline to lower year-on-year levels, mainly reflecting reduced import costs and improved supply situation
- Food security conditions improve in 2017/18

Cereal production recovers in 2017

Cereal production is forecast at 140 000 tonnes in 2017, 84 percent above the drought-reduced 2016 output and approximately 40 percent higher than the previous five-year average. Most of the year-on-year production gain is accounted for by increases in maize and millet production, while smaller increases have been estimated for sorghum and forecast for winter wheat to be harvested from October. On a geographic basis, large yearly production increases were estimated in the northcentral regions of Oshana and Oshikoto.

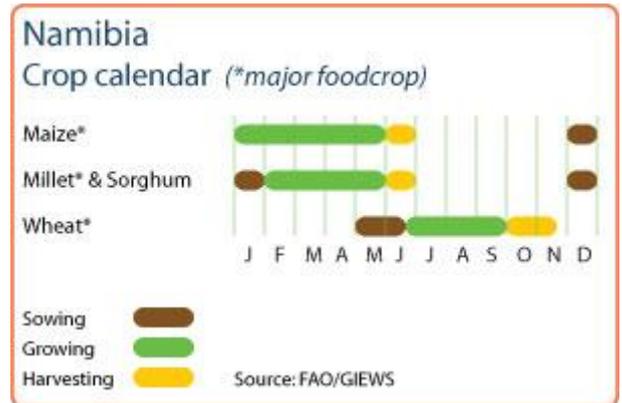
The improved output mostly resulted from beneficial seasonal rains, which, despite a delayed start, particularly favoured dry-land maize producers. In addition, good availability and access to agricultural inputs enabled farmers to fully capture the benefits of the good weather conditions, further supporting the year-on-year production gain.

Outbreaks of Fall Armyworm (an invasive species to the region) were reported in several northern regions, mainly affecting the maize crop. However, the impact on production is reported to be limited.

Land preparation for the 2018 cereal crops will begin in the next months, with plantings expected to commence in November/December. Regional weather forecasts for the 2017/18 rainy season (October-March) indicate an increased chance of below-average rains in the last quarter of 2017, but higher probability of above-average rains from the start of 2018.

Larger domestic output results in cut to 2017/18 import forecast

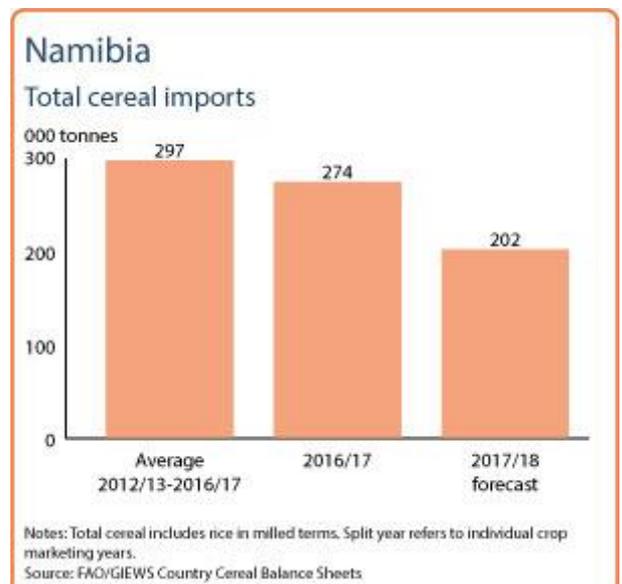
The maize import requirements in the 2017/18 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at just over 200 000 tonnes, significantly down on last year and previous five-year average. The import forecast is mostly comprised of maize, with an expected volume



Namibia
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	55	44	68	55
Millet	30	19	58	205
Wheat	13	11	11	0
Others	3	2	3	50
Total	102	76	140	84

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



of 125 000 tonnes to be imported in 2017/18, principally from South Africa. Approximately 30 000 tonnes of maize have already been imported from South Africa between May and August, representing nearly 25 percent of the expected import quantity.

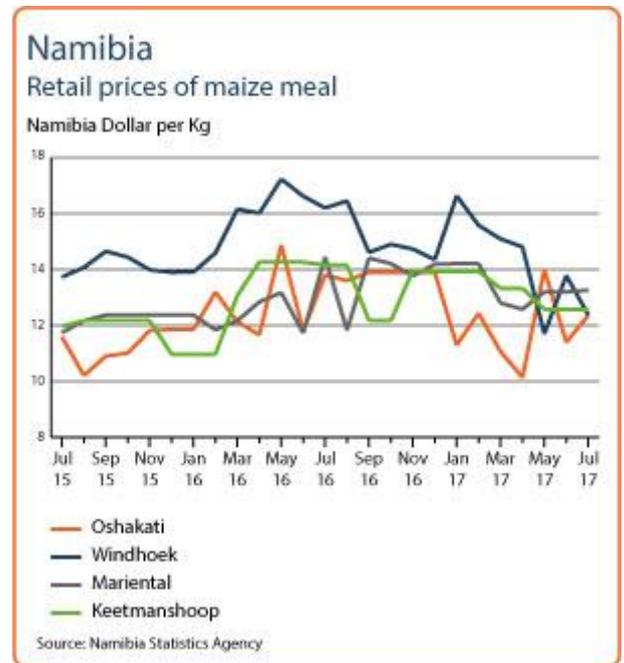
Prices of maize meal generally below year-earlier levels

In general, maize meal prices have fallen since the beginning of 2017, pressured downward by lower grain prices in South Africa, which have reduced import costs, and a larger domestic harvest. As of July, prices of maize meal were close to or below their year-earlier levels except in the northern town of Katima, where prices were up 15 percent on an annual basis. The higher levels in Katima are attributed to increased transportation costs, particularly following the rise in fuel prices earlier in the year.

Food security improved in 2017/18

The estimated number of food insecure people has decreased from about 595 000 in 2016/17 to just over 214 000 people in 2017/18, mainly on account of the improved agricultural production in 2017. Most of food insecure people are concentrated in western and southern regions, which experienced poor rains during the season that negatively affected livestock and crop production.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.





GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 14-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2017 expected to nearly double compared to drought-reduced 2016 output
- High yields reflect beneficial weather and good access to agricultural inputs
- Cereal prices fall, while import requirements in 2017/18 forecast to contract on account of production rebound
- Food security conditions anticipated to improve in 2017/18

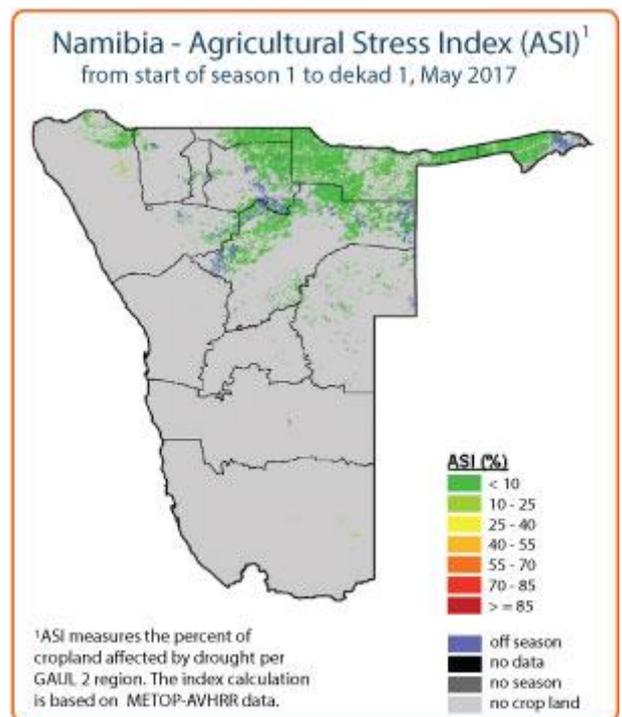
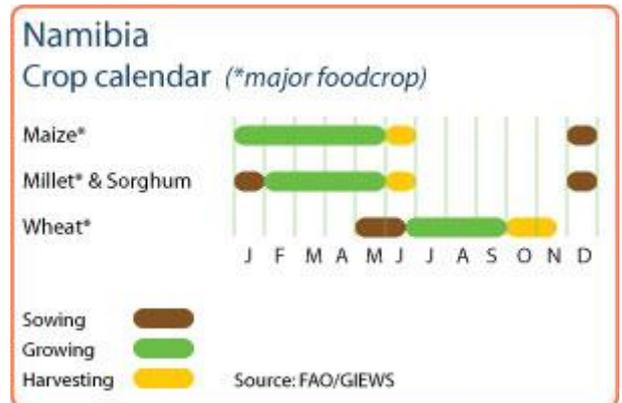
Cereal production in 2017 forecast to rebound strongly

Cereal production is forecast to nearly double in 2017 in comparison to the drought-reduced output of 2016. The bulk of this year's increase reflects significant gains in maize, mostly from the commercial sector, and millet production, while smaller increases have been forecast for the sorghum and wheat harvests. On a geographic basis, large yearly increases are expected in the northcentral regions of Oshana and Oshikoto.

Beneficial seasonal rains, despite a delayed start, are mostly behind this year's steep production upturn, which particularly favoured dry-land maize producers. In addition, good availability and access to agricultural inputs enabled farmers to fully capture the benefits of the favourable weather conditions, further supporting the year-on-year production gain.

Outbreaks of Fall Army Worm (a new invasive species to the region) were also reported in several northern regions, mainly affecting the maize crop. However, the impact on production is reported to be minimal.

The heavy rains have also boosted pasture conditions and helped to replenish water reserves following two consecutive drought-affected rainy seasons. As a result, livestock body conditions have generally improved. By contrast, rains were not as plentiful in the western region of Erongo and resulted in retarded pasture regrowth and sustained poor livestock conditions.



Maize import requirements cut in 2017/18 due to larger expected harvest, while grain prices fall

The maize import requirement in the 2017/18 marketing year (May/April) is forecast at just over 200 000 tonnes, significantly down on last year and previous five-year average levels. The contraction is on account of the rebound in the national cereal output. As in previous years, virtually the entire import volume is expected to be sourced from South Africa.

Reflecting lower grain prices in South Africa, as well as the favourable domestic production prospects, maize meal prices have generally fallen since the start of the year. As of May, prices of maize meal were up to 30 percent below their year-earlier levels. Similarly, prices of millet and wheat (flour) were down on an annual basis.

Food security anticipated to improve in 2017/18

After having deteriorated in 2016/17 due to below-average cereal harvests, poor livestock conditions and higher cereal prices, food security conditions are anticipated to improve in 2017/18, primarily driven by an expected increase in agricultural output. Up until March 2017, the Government supported over 595 000 food insecure persons through the Drought Relief Food Programme.

Namibia

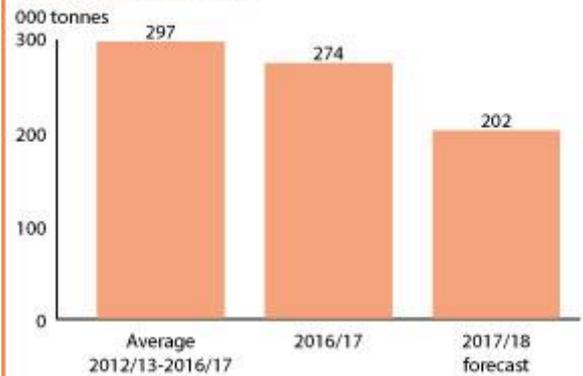
Cereal production

	2012-2016	2016	2017	change
	average			2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	55	44	75	70
Millet	30	19	53	179
Wheat	13	11	11	0
Others	3	2	4	100
Total	102	76	144	89

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Namibia

Total cereal imports

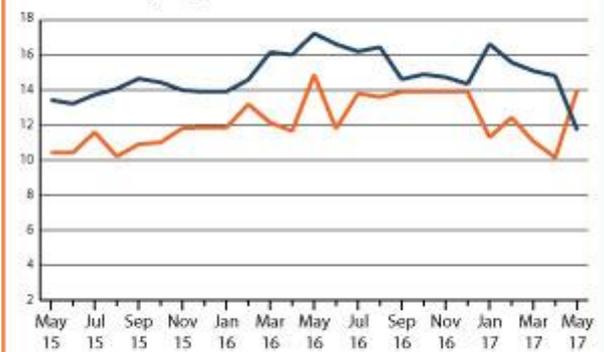


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Namibia

Retail prices of maize meal

Namibia Dollar per Kg



— Oshakati
— Windhoek

Source: Namibia Statistics Agency



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 17-January-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production prospects in 2017 favourable, mostly owing to overall beneficial weather and good access to agricultural inputs
- Cereal prices eased in last quarter of 2016, but remained higher than previous year
- Food security conditions remain stressed due to earlier-than-normal depletion of household stocks; nearly 0.6 million people estimated to be food insecure

Production prospects favourable in 2017

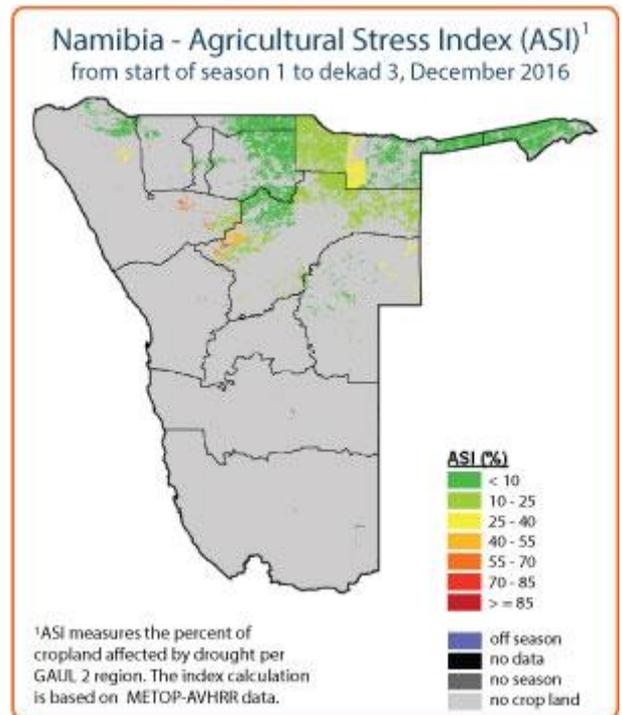
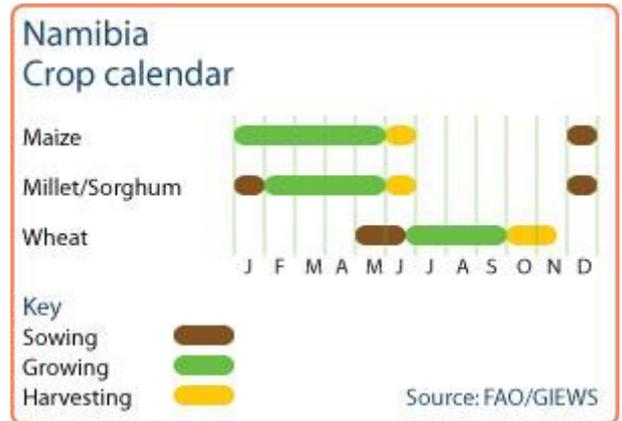
Seasonal rains began in November in northern parts, prompting plantings activities and benefitting early crop establishment. Although cumulative rains in November and December have been near normal in most cropping zones, western areas, including the large cereal-producing region of Omusati, have received below-average precipitation, constraining vegetation conditions. However, there is still time to recover, particularly in consideration of the weather forecasts that indicate an enhanced likelihood of above rainfall through to May in the main cropping zones. Availability and access to agricultural inputs were reportedly good, according to a Government assessment carried out in early November. Communal farmers are benefitting from Government subsidy programmes for inputs and services, with seed and fertilizers subsidized by 50 percent and 60 percent, respectively.

Based on the current conditions and weather forecasts, cereal production is expected to increase to near-average levels in 2017.

Livestock conditions still remained poor, with losses continuing to be reported. However, the recent heavy rains have boosted vegetation conditions, leading to an improvement in pastures, and partially replenishing water reserves following two consecutive drought-affected cropping seasons. As a result, livestock conditions are anticipated to improve in the coming months.

Cereal production increased in 2016, but remained below average

Cereal production in 2016 was estimated to be 18 percent up on the drought-reduced output of 2015. However, the output was still



29 percent below the previous five-year average. The year-on-year increase mainly resulted from a higher millet output and a larger harvest from the commercial irrigated maize crop. In the communal sector, production of maize was estimated to have declined by 16 percent, and is over two-thirds below the average. Severely suppressed seasonal rains, on account of the 2015/16 El Niño episode, was the main driver behind the poor agricultural performance in 2016 in the communal sector, and particularly affected the regions of Oshana and Zambezi in the north.

Maize prices eased on back of lower import costs

The impact of the regional drought and the reduced domestic harvests in 2015 and 2016 maintained higher year-on-year maize prices; November 2016 prices were up to 40 percent higher than their year earlier values. However, lower prices in South Africa, the main source of imports, have contributed to easing inflationary pressure and resulted in more stable maize prices since September. The annual inflation rate, although higher than the previous year, also remained stable in the last quarter of 2016.

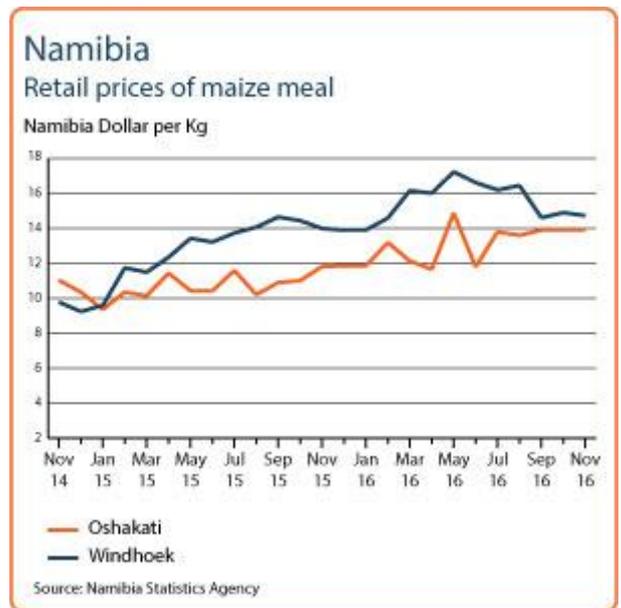
Food security remains stressed

The below average harvest and poor livestock conditions in 2016 were the main drivers of the stressed food security; the drought-affected households reportedly exhausted their food stocks as of August, only two months after the harvest period. Higher food prices are also impinging on food access. To alleviate the situation the Government is supporting an estimated 595 398 food insecure persons through the Drought Relief Food Programme, which is expected to continue until March. With production forecast to increase in 2017, food security conditions are anticipated to improve this year.

Namibia
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	61	38	46	21
Millet	35	15	19	27
Wheat	13	13	13	0
Others	4	2	2	0
Total	113	68	80	18

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets





GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 17-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Weather forecasts point to higher likelihood of normal rains during 2016/17 cropping season, following two consecutive drought-affected seasons
- Cereal production in 2016 estimated to have increased slightly, but still remains well below average
- Cereal prices significantly higher than previous year, but declining South African prices have eased inflationary pressure
- Food security conditions worsened due to earlier-than-normal depletion of household stocks, higher cereal prices and poor agricultural output

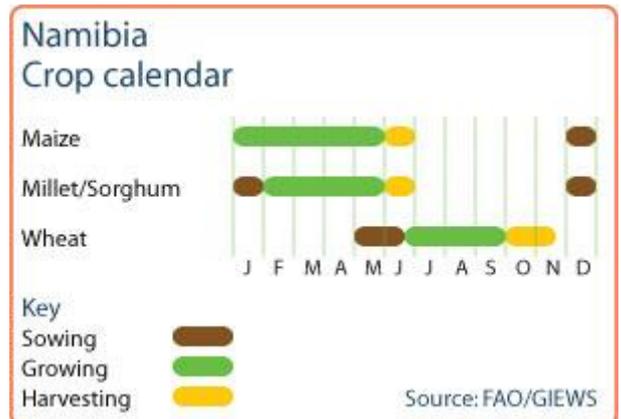
Early outlook points to normal rains for 2016/17 cropping season

Planting of the 2017 cereal crops, mainly maize and millet, is expected to commence in December and continue into January. Weather forecasts currently point to a higher likelihood of normal rainfall across much of the country until March 2017. Following two consecutive agricultural seasons affected by severe dryness, current indications point to a more favourable cropping season in 2016/17.

Cereal production up in 2016, but still well below average

Cereal production in 2016 is estimated to have increased by 18 percent compared to the drought-reduced output of 2015. However, at the current level, the national total cereal output is still 29 percent below the previous five-year average. This year's increase mainly results from a higher millet output and a larger harvest from the irrigated maize crop, derived from the commercial sector. In the communal sector, production of maize is estimated to have declined by 16 percent, and is over two-thirds below the average. Severely suppressed seasonal rains, on account of the 2015/16 El Niño episode, was the main driver behind the poor agricultural performance in 2016 in the communal sector, and particularly affected the regions of Oshana and Zambezi in the north.

Pastures were also negatively affected by the prolonged dryness, adversely impacting on livestock body conditions and resulting in some losses in Kunene and Erongo regions. Reflecting the impact of the drought as well as increased demand from South Africa, sales of cattle increased on a yearly basis during the



Namibia Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	61	38	46	21
Millet	35	15	19	27
Wheat	13	13	13	0
Others	4	2	2	0
Total	113	68	80	18

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



second quarter of 2016. In addition, the recent signing of a beef export agreement between the US Department of Agriculture and Meatco, a Namibian meat corporation, will make it the first African country eligible to export raw beef to the United States of America. The agreement is expected to boost production in the livestock sector.

Drought impact sustains higher prices

The impact of the regional drought and the reduced domestic harvests in 2015 and 2016 has put sustained upward pressure on food prices, resulting in increasing maize meal prices over the last two years; prices in August 2016 were up to 20 percent higher than their year earlier values. However, the recent decline in grain prices in South Africa, the main source of imports that satisfies the bulk of Namibia's consumption requirements, has eased import costs and limited inflationary pressure. Prices of sorghum and millet are also well above their values of the preceding year.

The annual inflation rate increased to 6.8 percent in August, up from the 3.4 percent registered in the corresponding month last year, with the major drivers being food items. The weaker Namibian dollar (NAD) has also applied added pressure to costs of imports from outside of the region (as the NAD is pegged to the South African rand).

Food security conditions worsen in 2016

As a result of a second successive poor agricultural performance in 2016, the number of persons requiring food assistance is estimated at 595 398, up slightly from the previous year's estimate. While the below average harvest has adversely impacted food availability, the high cereal prices are also worsening access and also resulting in a deterioration of terms of trade for livestock-based households that is further exacerbated by the poor livestock conditions. The Government is planning to assist all affected persons.



GIEWS Country Brief Namibia

Reference Date: 06-July-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 is estimated to have increased slightly, but still remains well below average
- Cereal prices significantly higher than previous year, mostly driven by record high levels in South Africa
- Food security conditions worsened due to earlier-than-normal depletion of household stocks, higher cereal prices and poor agricultural output in 2016

Cereal production in 2016 estimated slightly higher than previous year, though still well below average

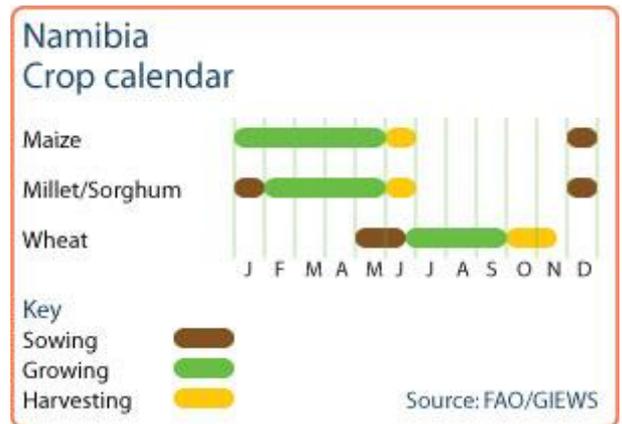
With the harvest complete, 2016 cereal production is estimated to have increased by 10 percent compared to the drought-reduced output of 2015. However, at the current level, total cereal production is still 34 percent below the average of the past five years. The bulk of this year's increase mainly results from a higher millet output, with only a small increase registered for maize, mostly from the commercial sector. Severely suppressed seasonal rains, on account of the 2015/16 El Niño episode, is the main reason behind the poor agricultural performance in 2016.

Although there was a moderate recovery of pastures in some locations as a result of two consecutive poor rainy seasons, livestock conditions are generally poor, with the number of cattle estimated to have decreased by between 5 and 10 percent in 2016.

Regional drought pushes up cereal prices

The impact of the regional drought and the reduced domestic harvests in 2015 and 2016 has put sustained and sharp upward pressure on food prices. With the bulk of the national maize requirement satisfied by imports, mostly from South Africa where maize prices reached record levels earlier this year, maize meal prices have increased on an annual basis by between 18 and 46 percent in May 2016. Sorghum and millet prices are also higher compared to their year-earlier values.

The depreciation of the Namibian Dollar (NAD) has also applied added pressure to costs of imports from outside of the region (as the NAD is pegged to the South African rand).



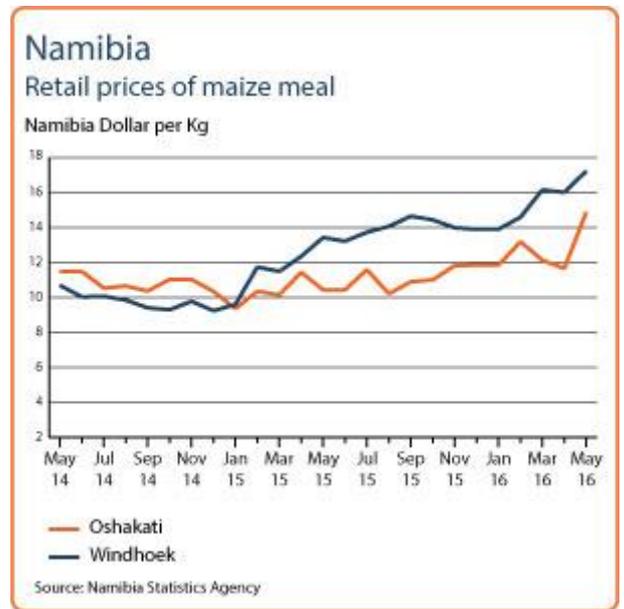
Namibia
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	61	38	39	3
Millet	35	15	22	47
Wheat	13	13	13	0
Others	4	2	1	-50
Total	113	68	75	10

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Food security conditions worsen in 2016

As a result of a second successive poor agricultural performance in 2016, the number of persons at risk of food insecurity has increased by 26 percent to 729 143 persons. While the below average harvest has adversely impacted food availability, the high cereal prices are also worsening access, and also resulting in a deterioration of terms of trade for livestock-based households that is further exacerbated by the poor livestock conditions. Currently, the Government is planning to assist 639 914 persons.

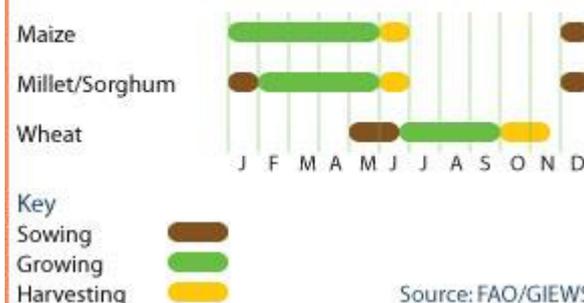


Reference Date: 05-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 expected to remain well below average, despite small year-on-year increase on account of suppressed seasonal rains related to El Niño
- Cereal prices higher than previous year, driven by record high prices in South Africa, sharply reduced 2015 harvest and weaker currency
- Food security conditions weaken, due to earlier-than-normal depletion of household stocks, higher cereal prices and poor agricultural production prospects in 2016

Namibia Crop calendar



Crop production in 2016 to increase slightly, but remains well below average

Harvesting of the 2016 cereal crop is expected to commence from May and current forecasts indicate a moderate increase in production from the previous year's reduced output, assuming average rains for the remainder of the season. However, the 2016 cereal output is still expected to remain well below-average, reflecting suppressed and poorly-distributed (temporally) seasonal rains over most cropped areas, associated with the current El Niño episode. This year's small increase mainly stems from production gains for millet and maize, offsetting an expected decrease for sorghum. Most regions are expecting improved harvests; however, acutely unfavourable conditions in the Zambezi and Oshana regions resulted in reduced plantings and expected lower yields, with production set to decline compared to the 2015 harvest.

Overall, cereal production in 2016 is provisionally forecast at 75 000 tonnes, based on a Government-led assessment in February, putting this year's crop at 33 percent below the five-year average, but up 10 percent from the drought-affected harvest in 2015.

Pastures are reportedly in a slightly better condition than the previous year, although the poor seasonal rains hindered full pasture re-growth and limited water availability, adversely impacting livestock body conditions.

Prices of cereals higher, due largely to regional drought

Food prices increased in 2015 and 2016, mainly as a result of the impact of the regional drought and the low domestic output in 2015. With most of the national maize requirement satisfied by imports, this year's drought drove-up South African (the country's main trading partner) maize prices to record highs, resulting in strong inflationary pressure. In response, Namib Mills, the main national grain miller, announced two separate price increases for their food products in January and February 2016.

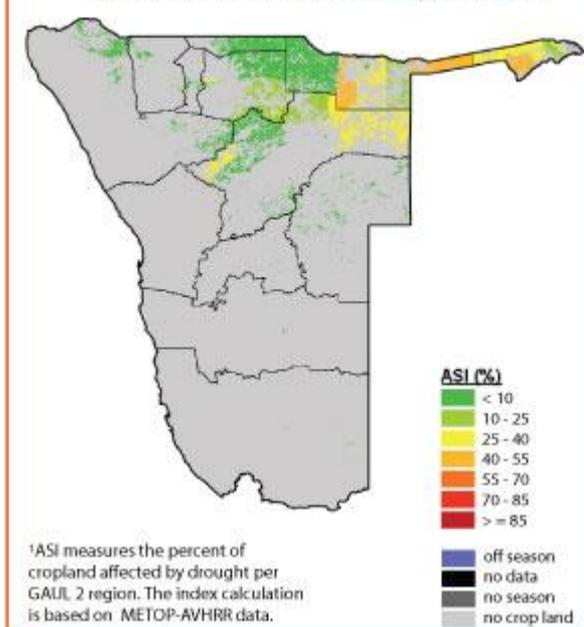
The depreciation of the Namibian dollar (NAD) has also applied added pressure to costs of imports from outside of the region (as the NAD is pegged to the South African rand).

Namibia Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	61	38	39	3
Millet	35	15	22	47
Wheat	13	13	13	0
Others	4	2	1	-50
Total	113	68	75	10

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Namibia - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹ from start of season 1 to dekad 3, March 2016



Food security conditions continue to weaken

Food security conditions have weakened, with most households having already depleted their stocks from last year's harvest and have become dependent on market supplies and the Government's Drought Relief Food Programme, which ended in March 2016. Although the situation is expected to improve temporarily with the new supplies from the 2016 harvest, a second successive well below-average cereal output is expected to continue to constrain the food security situation in 2016/17.



Reference Date: 08-February-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Unfavourable production outlook for 2016 cereal crop, reflecting persistent dry conditions
- Cereal prices increased on account of higher import costs and below-average 2015 harvest
- Reduced cereal production in 2015 and poor livestock conditions resulted in increase in number of people in need of food assistance in 2015/16

Crop conditions in 2016 mostly unfavourable reflecting insufficient rains

Conditions of the 2016 cereal crop, to be harvested from May, are generally unfavourable, reflecting insufficient rains during the 2015/16 cropping season (November/June) that have compounded the impact of the dry conditions of the previous season. Although improved precipitation was recorded in late December 2015 and January 2016, partly alleviating moisture deficits, the delayed onset of seasonal rains and erratic levels thereafter have resulted in below-average vegetation conditions in most cropped areas, indicating an increased likelihood of lower cereal yields for the 2016 crop, particularly in the rainfed communal farmer sector.

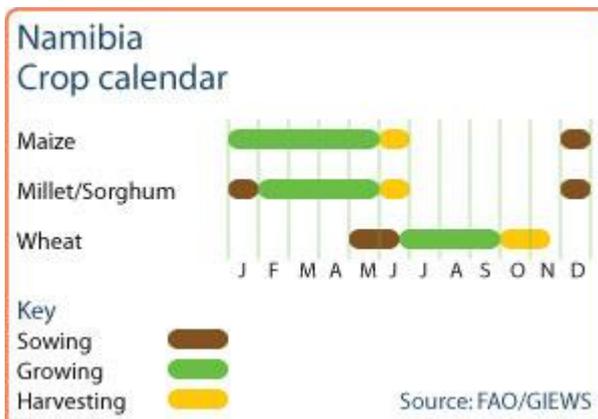
The Government continued to provide subsidized seeds and fertilizers in the 2015/16 season, sufficient to cover an area of 3 hectares per farmer. In addition, subsidies were also provided for ploughing and weeding operations. Despite sufficient input availability, the dry conditions are likely to have resulted in a contraction in plantings; however, more detailed estimates regarding the sown area are expected to be available in April following the Government's second crop assessment. Overall, current conditions point to a second consecutive below-average cereal harvest in 2016.

The poor seasonal rains have also negatively impacted on pasture growth and water availability, resulting in a deterioration of livestock body conditions. Many farmers in northcentral, northwest, central and the southern parts have reported increased livestock mortality rates on account of the dryness. The outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), detected in mid-2015 in north central regions, is now under control, following a large-scale vaccination programme.

Higher import prices contribute to food inflation

Prices of maize generally increased in 2015, largely reflecting the reduced domestic 2015 cereal harvest and higher import costs owing to the record high levels in South Africa, the country's main grain supplier. With nearly 80 percent of the total national maize utilization forecast to be met with imports in the 2015/16 marketing year (May/April), compared to a five-year average of 65 percent, import costs are having a significant influence on domestic price levels.

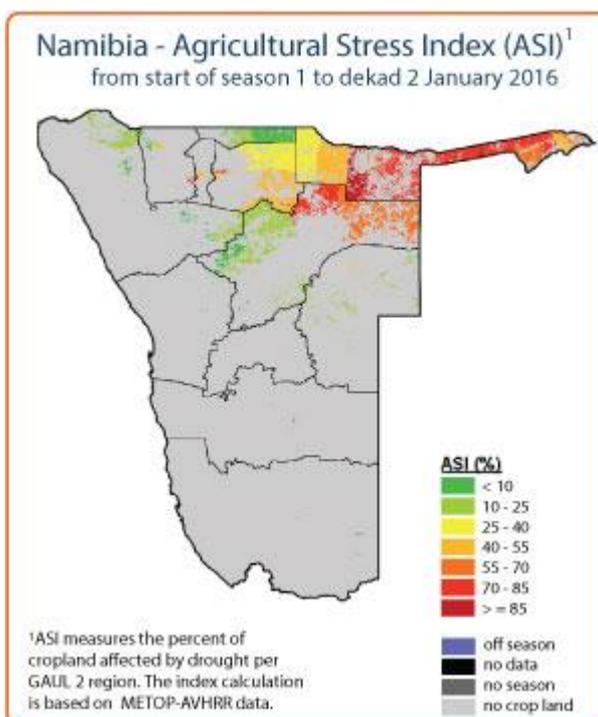
In response to the higher quotations in South Africa, Namib Mills, the main national grain miller, announced price increases in January 2016 on all products, with maize meal increasing by 10 percent, rice by 23 percent and wheat flour by 6 percent.



Namibia Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	64	68	38	-44
Millet	46	37	15	-59
Wheat	14	10	13	30
Others	6	4	2	-50
Total	130	119	68	-43

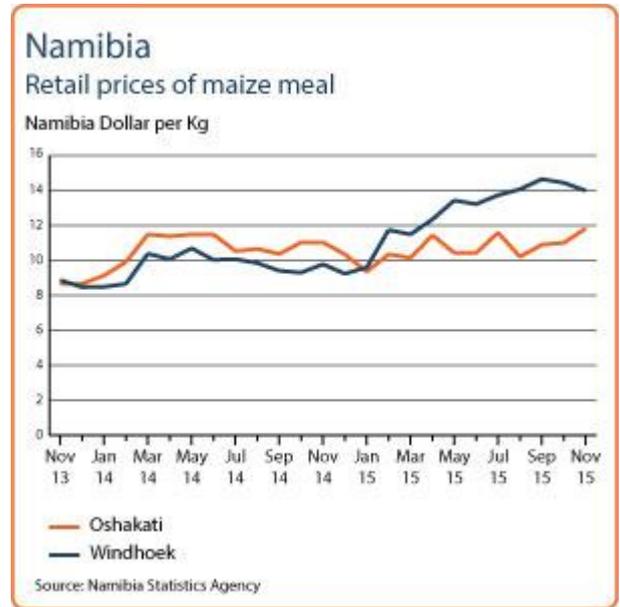
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



The depreciation of the Namibian Dollar (NAD) has also applied added pressure to import costs from outside of the region (as the NAD is pegged to the South Africa Rand).

Food security conditions continue to deteriorate in northern parts

According to a recent assessment carried out by the Government, food security conditions have weakened significantly in northern communal areas. Many households in northern regions are largely dependent on market supplies and the Government’s Drought Relief Food Programme, which was extended until March 2016 to cover all drought-affected households. Based on the Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee’s (NVAC) 2015 evaluation, an estimated 370 316 persons are food insecure in 2015/16, up from approximately 118 000 people in 2014/15.



Reference Date: 12-August-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2015 decreased sharply due to an extended period of dry weather
- Imports of maize forecast to increase in 2015/16 to compensate for the lower domestic output
- Reduced cereal production and poor livestock conditions cause an increase in number of people in need of food assistance in 2015. This follows generally improved conditions in 2014

Sharp drop in 2015 cereal production

The 2015 maize crop, harvested in June, is estimated at 38 000 tonnes, 44 percent lower than the above-average 2014 output. Insufficient rains and high temperatures caused the sharp production decline, particularly impacting rainfed crops in the communal sector, where maize production fell by 73 percent from the above-average level of 2014. The commercial, mostly irrigated, maize crop was less affected by the unfavourable growing conditions, and is estimated to be 46 percent below last year. Approximately 50 percent of dry land commercial farmers are reported to have experienced total crop failure. Production of sorghum and millet decreased by 60 and 65 percent, respectively from the reduced 2014 harvest, while the irrigated winter wheat crop, to be harvested from October, is provisionally forecast at about 13 000 tonnes, 23 percent up on the previous year.

Overall, the 2015 cereal output stands at 68 000 tonnes, a significant 43 percent decline from the near-average 2014 output.

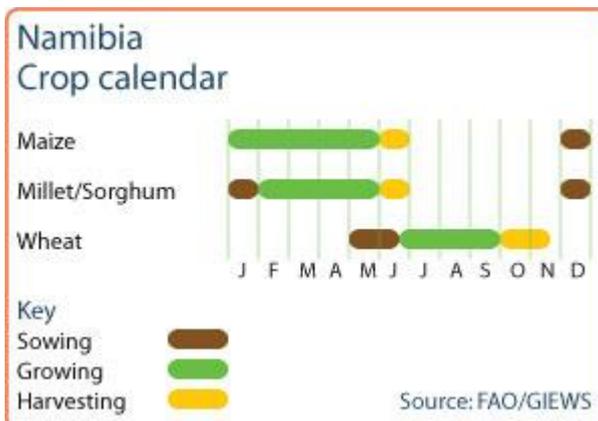
Poor seasonal rains have also negatively impacted pasture and water availability, resulting in a deterioration of livestock body conditions, notably in northwestern areas. Furthermore, a recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD), detected in May in north central regions, has affected destocking and marketing of livestock, a measure normally implemented to mitigate the impact of drought. Measures have been put in place to contain and halt the spread of FMD.

Maize prices move upwards, reflecting poor cereal production

Prices of maize meal in Windhoek have been increasing since the start of 2015, and in June were at near record levels. The reduced domestic 2015 maize output, higher import costs from South Africa and an increase in the import levy for white maize have combined to exert upward pressure on prices this year.

Maize imports forecast to increase in 2015/16

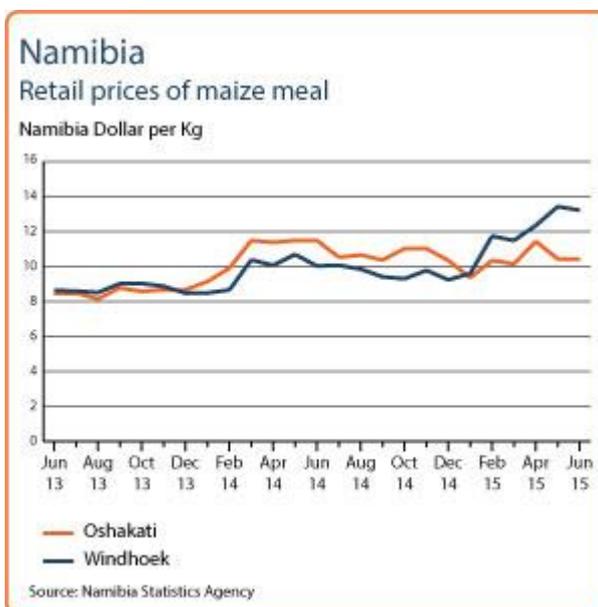
Maize imports for the 2015/16 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at approximately 180 000 tonnes, including yellow maize for feed. At this level, the forecast is about 55 000 tonnes more than the volume imported in 2014/15, largely reflecting the reduced domestic maize harvest. Between April and July 2015, about 50 percent more maize grain was imported compared to the corresponding period in 2014.



Namibia Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	64	68	38	-44
Millet	46	37	15	-59
Wheat	14	10	13	30
Others	6	4	2	-50
Total	130	119	68	-43

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Food security conditions deteriorate in 2015/16

The reduced 2015 cereal output and the deterioration of livestock conditions have caused a sharp increase in the number of food insecure people, estimated at 370 316 in 2015/16, as reported by the Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NVAC). This figure is up from an estimated 118 000 in 2014. The NVAC recommends the provision of assistance to the food insecure population until March 2016, when new supplies from the 2016 harvest are expected to be available.

Reference Date: 11-March-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Generally poor rains since December 2014 have lowered production prospects for 2015 cereal crop
- Imports of maize declined in 2014/15, reflecting a recovery in 2014 cereal output from previous year's drought-reduced level
- Food security conditions expected to be stressed in some areas in 2015, due to anticipated decrease in cereal production. This follows generally improved conditions in 2014

Prolonged period of below-average rains lower 2015 cereal production prospects

Harvesting of the 2015 cereal crops is expected to commence in June and current production prospects are unfavourable. From mid-December onwards large parts of the country, including the main producing regions of Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati, received well below-average rains that have resulted in poor vegetation conditions, lowering cereal production expectations. A Government-led crop assessment was conducted in February to determine the impact of the dry period on the agriculture sector, and the findings are expected to be released in the next month. Based on the current conditions and rainfall forecasts indicating a continuation of normal to below-normal rains between March and May, a below-average cereal production is expected.

Cereal production recovered in 2014

Cereal production in 2014 recovered sharply from the drought-affected output of the previous year. The maize output, which accounts for the bulk of cereal production, was estimated at 68 000 tonnes about 70 percent higher compared to 2013. The second most important cereal, millet, although lower than the average, increased by 48 percent to 37 000 tonnes.

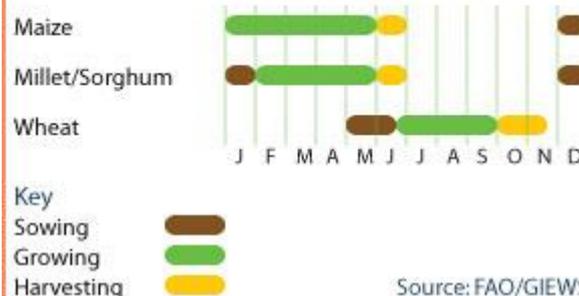
Reduced maize imports in 2014/15

Reflecting the improved 2014 cereal output, imports of maize from South Africa declined in the 2014/15 marketing year (May/April). Between May 2014 and February 2015 about 96 000 tonnes were imported, approximately 42 percent lower than the corresponding period in 2013/14. With two months of the marketing year remaining, imports are forecast to reach about 120 000 tonnes.

Food security expected to deteriorate in 2015/16

Following the severe deterioration in food security in 2013 on account of the reduced domestic production, conditions recovered in 2014 largely reflecting improved food supplies. An estimated 118 000 people, down from about 779 000 people, were estimated to be food-insecure in 2014. However, the expected decrease in cereal production in 2015, and consequently tighter household food supplies, is anticipated to negatively impact on food security in 2015/16. Results from the soon to be released crop assessment will provide more details on the prevailing situation and likely impact on food security.

Namibia Crop calendar



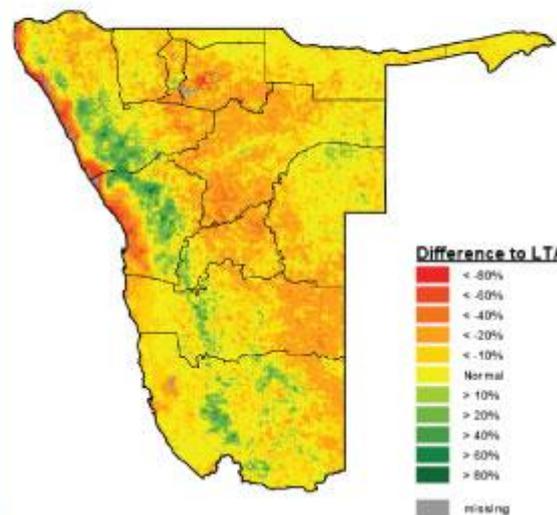
Namibia Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	62	40	68	70
Millet	46	25	37	48
Wheat	15	15	15	0
Others	6	2	3	50
Total	129	82	123	50

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Namibia - NDVI anomaly

Relative to Long Term Average - February 2015



Reference Date: 19-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Expected recovery in cereal production in 2014 following last year's poor crop
- Large volumes of maize imported in the 2013/14 marketing year (May/April) to compensate for the drought-reduced output in 2013
- Food security conditions expected to improve with new harvest, following the sharp deterioration in the previous year, where approximately 464 000 people were in need of assistance

Cereal production expected to recover in 2014

Harvesting of the 2014 coarse grains is about to start. Provisional production estimates, released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in April, indicate an increased output relative to the previous year's drought-reduced harvest. The maize crop, mainly from the commercial sector, is forecast to increase by nearly 70 percent to about 68 000 tonnes compared to 2013. Production in the communal sector also registered positive gains, mainly on account of a rebound in yields as the planted area remained relatively unchanged. The second important cereal, millet, although lower than the average, also increased by 48 percent to 37 000 tonnes.

Despite an overall estimated increase in national production, sporadic rainfall at the end of 2013 and short dry spells in January and early February, caused some water deficits and limited larger production gains, particularly in the northcentral communal farming areas of Oshana and Oshikoto. In addition, an outbreak of American Bollworms caused some damage to cereal crops.

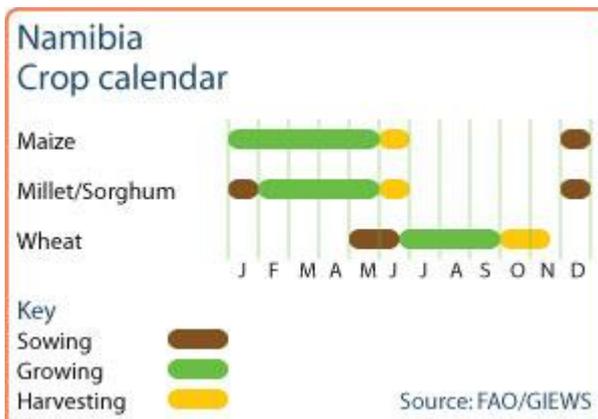
Following the drought in 2013, which induced farmers to significantly increase livestock sales (nationally, the number of cattle marketed rose by 76 percent on an annual basis in the third quarter of 2013), pasture and livestock conditions have improved in most parts of the country this year. However, in the northwestern region of Kuene water deficits have continued to negatively impact on pasture development.

Significant volumes of maize imported from South Africa to bridge larger supply gap in 2013/14

Imports of maize from South Africa doubled to approximately 195 000 tonnes in the just-completed 2013/14 marketing year (May/April). The weather-depressed 2013 harvest, and consequently tighter national supplies, was the main driver behind increased imports. For the current 2014/15 year, total cereal imports are expected to fall, but remain close to the short-term average of 215 000 tonnes, reflecting the expected recovery in production.

Food security expected to improve in 2014

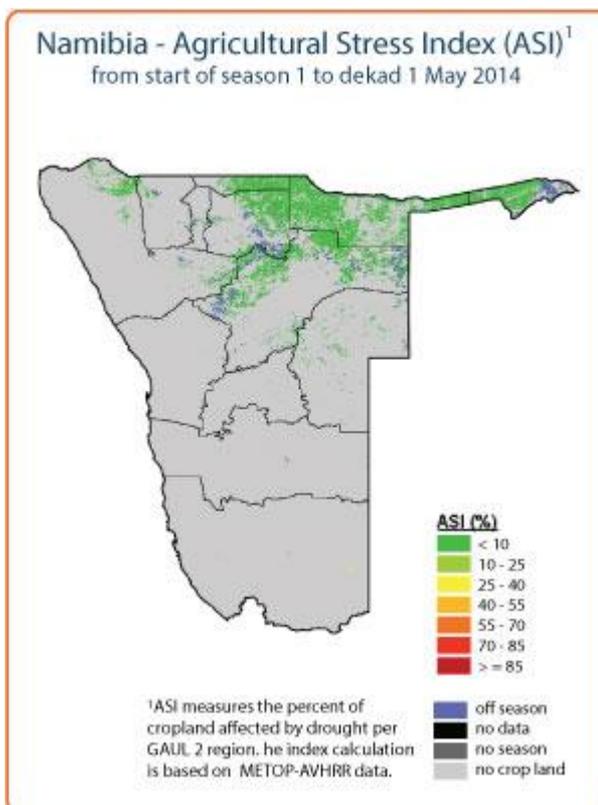
Following the severe deterioration in food security last year, on account of the reduced domestic 2013 production and consequently poor household food stocks, (many households depleted their own production supplies by July 2013), the situation is expected to improve with new supplies from the current harvest. In total, approximately



Namibia Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	62	40	68	70
Millet	46	25	37	48
Wheat	15	15	15	0
Others	6	2	3	50
Total	129	82	123	50

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



780 000 people were estimated to be food-insecure, following the impact of the 2013 drought, and of those the number of people requiring food assistance was estimated to be 463 581 persons. The Government's food distribution programme was concluded in March 2013, a period which normally marks the start of the green harvests.

Reference Date: 27-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2014 is expected to recover from the drought reduced output in the previous year
- Large volumes of maize imports recorded in 2013/14 marketing year (May/April)
- Approximately 464 000 people in need of assistance following the impact of the drought in 2013

Crop prospects favourable so far

Planting of the 2014 cereal crops, for harvest from May/June, was completed at the beginning of the year. Production prospects in 2014 are currently satisfactory, with an expected recovery in cereal production compared to the severely reduced 2013 output. Crop development has been supported by overall favourable rains since the start of the cropping season in October in the main productive zones of the centre and north. Rains have been less abundant in southern regions, and this is expected to negatively impact pasture conditions. The drought conditions in 2013 induced farmers to significantly increase livestock sales; nationally, the number of cattle marketed rose by 76 percent on an annual basis in the third quarter of 2013.

Significant volumes of maize imports satisfy national deficit in 2013/14

The sharp 42 percent drop in domestic cereal production in 2013 resulted in increased import requirements for the 2013/14 marketing year (May/April). Over 130 000 tonnes of maize have been imported from South Africa as of January. At the current level, imports are above the estimated requirement forecast at the beginning of the year, with the additional volumes expected to be used to further augment stocks. With three months remaining of the current marketing year, the import pace is anticipated to decrease.

Poor food security conditions in northern parts

In total, approximately 780 000 people were estimated to be food insecure, following the impact of the 2013 drought. However, the government revised upwards the number of people requiring food assistance by nearly 130 000 to 463 581 persons in late 2013. The northern regions have been worst affected, with the largest number of food insecure assessed to be in northern region of Kavango. Many households employed several coping strategies to mitigate the impact of the drought, including reducing the number of meals and increasing their consumption of wild foods.

In response, the government initiated several short and long-term interventions. An estimated 49 000 tonnes of maize is expected to be distributed to help cover the needs of the food insecure population. In addition, support to the livestock and cropping sectors is being implemented, including the promotion of drought tolerant cereal varieties and subsidizing the leasing of grazing land. Although the country has the capacity to import sufficient quantities of cereals, households' access to market supplies are expected to be negatively impacted due to reduced livestock prices and limited sales of crops.



Namibia Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	62	88	43	-51
Millet	48	56	33	-41
Wheat	14	14	14	0
Others	6	8	6	-25
Total	131	166	96	-42

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 29-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of the 2014 crops expected to start in December
- Sharp decline in cereal production in 2013 following drought conditions
- Deterioration in livestock conditions, as a result of poor pasture and inadequate water supplies
- The Government of Namibia declared a national emergency in May, with approximately 331 000 people in need of assistance

Improved rains forecast for the 2013/14 cropping season

Planting for the 2013/14 cropping season (November-June) is expected to commence at the end of the year. Rains in October were generally below average, however forecasts indicate an increased chance of normal to above normal precipitation from November onwards, with heavier rains predicted between December and February.

Drought conditions result in severe production declines in 2013

Following drought conditions during the 2012/13 cropping season, cereal production declined sharply by 42 percent compared to last season to 96 000 tonnes. Although most of the country's consumption requirements are met through imports, reduced harvests have negatively impacted food availability in the subsistence sector.

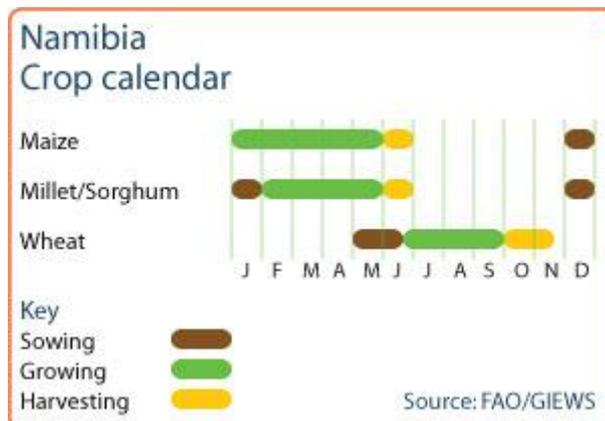
In addition, pasture and water availability for livestock worsened significantly. As a result, livestock conditions deteriorated, resulting in distress sales of livestock at relatively low prices and a fall in milk production. Nationally, the number of cattle marketed more than doubled in the second quarter of 2013 on an annual basis. The quantity sold was the highest level recorded in the preceding ten years. Similarly, marketing of small stock in the second quarter of 2013 recorded a year-on-year increase of 18 percent.

Larger maize imports in 2013/14

The sharp drop in domestic cereal production has resulted in increased import requirements for the 2013/14 marketing year (May/April), estimated at 115 000 tonnes for maize. The weekly maize import rate from South Africa, between May and October 2013, averaged nearly 3 000 tonnes, far in excess of the 500 tonnes per week recorded over the same period in 2012. Currently, about half-way into the 2013/14 marketing year, about 75 000 tonnes of maize were imported, satisfying approximately 65 percent of the country's estimated annual import requirement.

Food security conditions deteriorate

An estimated 780 000 people are food insecure, of whom about 331 000 persons are in need of assistance. The northern regions have been worst affected by the drought, with the largest number of food insecure assessed to be in northern region of Kavango. Many households have employed several coping strategies to mitigate the



Namibia Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	62	88	43	-51
Millet	48	56	33	-41
Wheat	14	14	14	0
Others	6	8	6	-25
Total	131	166	96	-42

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

impact of the drought, including reducing the number of meals and increasing their consumption of wild foods. In response, the government declared a national emergency and initiated several short and long-term interventions. Emergency food aid is being distributed, with an estimated 39 600 tonnes of food (cereals and pulses) required to cover the needs of the food insecure population. Although the country has the capacity to import sufficient quantities of cereals, households' access to market supplies are expected to be negatively impacted due to reduced livestock prices and limited sales of crops.

Reference Date: 27-May-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- In 2013, cereal production forecast to decline significantly following drought conditions
- Poor pasture and inadequate water supplies also affect livestock situation
- The Government of Namibia declared a national emergency in May, with more than 330 000 people estimated to be in need of assistance

Cereal production in 2013 is forecast to decline significantly

Harvesting of the main 2013 cereal crops is underway. Early production forecasts, from an assessment conducted by the Government in February, indicate a severe decline compared to last year and the short-term average, following drought conditions during the 2012/13 cropping season (November-June). The poor rains were more pronounced in southern and western parts of the country. For example, in the northwestern Omusait Region, which contributes approximately 14 percent to the national cereal output, cumulative rains between January and March were approximately one-third of the average. This region was also affected by an outbreak of army worms and is expected to record the sharpest decline in cereal production, about 50 percent below the average.

By contrast, in the northeastern Caprivi Region seasonal rains were more favourable and production is expected to surpass 2012's flood-affected output, but remain below average. Based on the February assessment, the national 2013 cereal output is forecast at 96 000 tonnes, 42 percent lower than 2012's harvest.

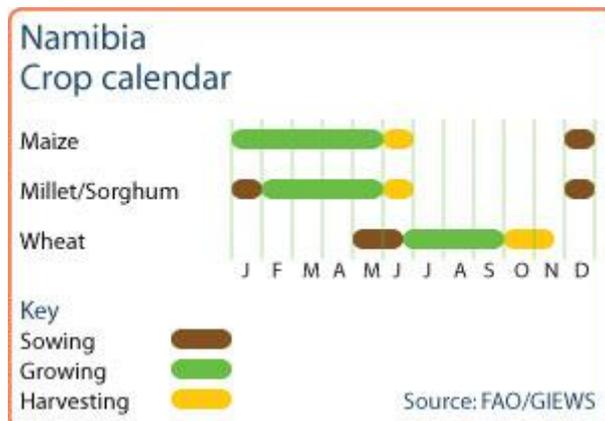
In addition, pasture and water availability for livestock has worsened significantly in parts. As a result, livestock conditions have deteriorated, resulting in distress sales of livestock at relatively low prices. Approximately 4 000 livestock deaths were recorded.

Cereal imports higher in 2012/13 and expected to rise further next year

Namibia imported about 86 000 tonnes of maize from South Africa, its main trading partner, during the 2012/13 marketing season (May/April), about 30 000 tonnes higher than the previous year's level. Given the lower expected domestic supplies for the 2013/14 marketing year, maize imports are forecast to rise to approximately 115 000 tonnes, while a draw down in stocks will also help to bridge the larger domestic supply gap.

Food security tightens due to drought conditions in 2013

Results from a recent Inter-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), conducted in April, found that about 331 000 persons are food insecure, with many households employing coping strategies to mitigate the impact of the drought, including reducing the



Namibia Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	62	88	43	-51
Millet	48	56	33	-41
Wheat	14	14	14	0
Others	6	8	6	-25
Total	131	166	96	-42

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

number of meals consumed. The report also indicates that households' stocks will be severely depleted in 2013/14 due to reduced household production. In response, the Government declared a national emergency and has initiated several short and long-term interventions. Emergency food aid is being distributed, with an estimated 39 600 tonnes of food required to cover the needs of the food insecure population, while recommendations to strengthen the affected households' resilience to drought have been proposed. Although the country has the capacity to import sufficient quantities of cereals, households' access to market supplies are expected to be negatively impacted due to reduced livestock prices and limited sales of crops.

Reference Date: 15-April-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prolonged dry period severely impacts crop development in 2012/13 cropping season
- Cereal production for 2013 estimated to drop by 42 percent compared to 2012s good output
- Livestock condition worsens as a result of poor pasture in some areas
- Food security situation tightening, as households exhaust supplies from own production

Cereal production in 2013 is forecast to decline significantly following severe dry conditions

Harvesting of the main 2013 cereal crops is expected to commence in May/June. Early production forecasts, from an assessment conducted by the Government in February, indicates that the country's output will suffer a severe decline compared to last year and the short-term average, following a prolonged dry period during the 2012/13 cropping season (November-June). The poor rains were more pronounced in southern and western parts. In northwestern Omusait Region for example, which contributes approximately 14 percent to the national cereal output, cumulative rains between January and March were approximately one-third of the average. This region was also affected by an outbreak of army worms and is expected to record the sharpest decline in cereal production, about 50 percent below the average.

By contrast, in the northern Caprivi Region seasonal rains were more favourable and production is expected to surpass 2012s flood-affected output, but remains below average. The national 2013 cereal output is estimated at 96 000 tonnes, 42 percent lower than 2012s harvest. However, the continuation of below normal precipitation in March and beginning of April, could further negatively impact crop development and, therefore, production forecasts may differ from the February assessment.

In addition, pastures have also been negatively impacted by the rainfall deficits, and water availability for livestock has become inadequate in some parts. As a result, livestock conditions are poor necessitating emergency sales of livestock in Otjozondjupa Region, while livestock deaths were also recorded in Omaheke Region.

Cereal imports higher in 2012/13 and expected to rise further next year

Namibia imported about 86 000 tonnes of maize from South Africa, its main trading partner, during the 2012/13 marketing season (May/April), about 30 000 tonnes higher than last year's level. Given the lower expected domestic supplies for the 2013/14 marketing year, maize imports are forecast to rise to approximately 115 000 tonnes, while a draw down in stocks will also help to bridge the larger domestic supply gap.

Food security anticipated to tighten due to poor



Namibia Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	62	88	43	-51
Millet	48	56	33	-41
Wheat	14	14	14	0
Others	6	8	6	-25
Total	131	166	96	-42

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

production prospects in 2013

The February crop and food security assessment found that most households had exhausted supplies from the previous 2012 harvest between August and January, and were now dependent on markets to satisfy consumption requirements. However, harvesting of vegetable crops and green maize from March onwards is expected to improve supplies and ease food security conditions.

Food aid distributions are also supplementing households' stocks in Caprivi Region since February 2013. However, the estimated decrease in cereal production and emergency sales of livestock is expected to tighten the food security conditions later in 2013, as household stocks are anticipated to be depleted earlier than August in some parts.

Reference Date: 16-October-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rainfall forecasts point to favourable conditions for the 2012/13 cropping season
- Above average cereal crop harvested in 2012
- Food prices higher in 2012 compared to last year

Favourable rainfall outlook for the next cropping season

Planting of the 2012/13 cropping season (November-June) crops is expected to start in several weeks time. Rainfall forecasts indicate normal conditions throughout the season in the main cropping areas, but drier conditions are predicted in western parts.

Larger cereal crop estimated in 2011/12

The cereal output from the 2011/12 season (harvested in June) was above average, following beneficial rains across much of the country. Maize production is estimated at about 88 000 tonnes, while millet production rebounded to above average levels following a poor outturn in 2011. At this level, the 2012 cereal production was 42 percent up on 2011.

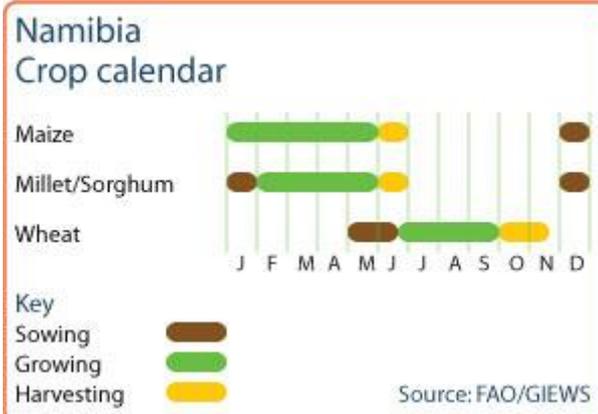
Cereal imports estimated to remain unchanged in 2012/13

The rate of monthly maize imports from South Africa, the country's main trading partner, between May and September 2012 is about 2 300 tonnes, just below the 2011 rate for the same period. Overall, maize and wheat imports are estimated to remain stable in 2012/13 (July/June) marketing year, relative to the previous year's level.

Food inflation remains high heavily impacting on poor households

The food inflation rate declined between March and August 2012, coinciding with main harvest period. However, the year-on-year rates were still at higher levels than the corresponding period in 2011, partly reflecting high grain prices recorded in South Africa during 2012. The higher prices will have a greater impact on low-income households, who spend proportionally more of their income on food items. Furthermore, a dry period during the 2011/12 cropping season in some northern regions, particularly impacting Kunene, stressed food security conditions in some areas, due to combination of poor crop production and livestock conditions. Nationally, approximately 75 000 persons were assessed to be food insecure, though this is still significantly lower than the 243 500 estimated in 2011.

Sales of cattle slowed down in the first and second quarters of 2012, primarily due to export restrictions, following concerns about food and mouth disease and high feed costs in South Africa. Disease control measures were put in place and no new cases were detected since December 2011.



Namibia Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	56	54	88	63
Millet	46	41	55	34
Wheat	14	16	14	-12
Others	6	6	9	50
Total	121	117	166	42

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 26-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Generally good rains received during the 2011/12 cropping season
- Higher import requirements estimated for 2011/12 marketing year (May/April)

Good rains benefit the 2011/12 cereal crops

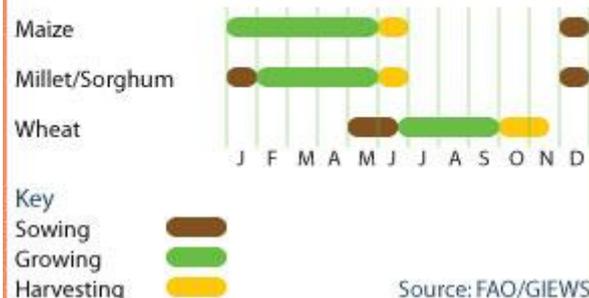
Rains, so far, have been generally above normal throughout the country during the 2011/12 cropping season (November-June), with harvesting expected to begin in May/June. Satisfactory vegetation conditions, based on remotely sensed data, point to a favourable situation for the 2011/12 cereal crop. However, localised heavy downpours in parts of the north, particularly in the flood prone areas of Oshana, Oshikoto and Caprivi regions, resulted in localized flooding that may have caused some damage to cropped lands.

Slow rate of cereal imports during 2011/12 marketing year

In response to lower production in 2011, cereal import requirements in the 2011/12 marketing year (May/April) are estimated at 205 000 tonnes, about 33 percent higher than last year. Normally cereal imports satisfy about 44 percent of the country's requirements. However, despite the higher requirements, actual imports of maize during the period between May 2011 and mid-March 2012 totalled about 54 000 tonnes, representing about half of the estimated import requirements for this cereal. Similarly, wheat imports over the same period satisfy just over half of the national import requirements.

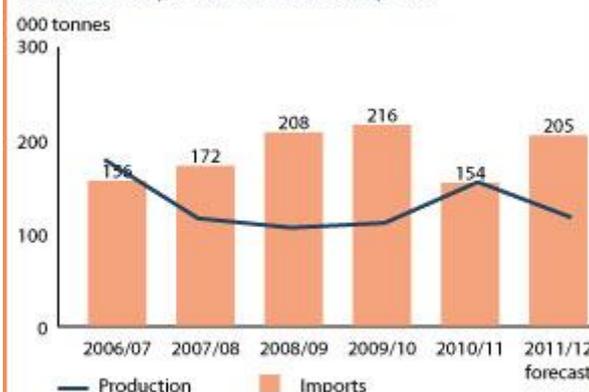
In February 2012, the bread and cereal sub-index of the national CPI increased by about 15 percent compared to a year earlier. The rise reflects, in part, higher prices in South Africa, which supply the bulk of the country's cereal imports.

Namibia Crop calendar



Namibia

Total cereal production and imports



Namibia

Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average			
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	59	72	41	-43
Maize	55	58	54	-7
Wheat	13	16	16	0
Others	65	81	47	-42
Total	133	155	117	-25

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 19-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Generally favourable rains at the start of the 2011/12 cropping season in late 2011
- Last year, large decline in cereal production was observed following floods and a dry spell
- More than 240 thousand persons are food insecure

Good rains in northern areas of the country favour the current cropping season

Land preparation and planting activities for the 2011/12 agricultural season commenced in November/December 2011 and benefited from good rains at the end of the year. However, localised heavy downpours in parts of the north, particularly in Caprivi region, which is prone to flooding, may have hampered agriculture activities in affected areas. Weather forecasts point to an increased probability of above normal to normal rains in the next months over most of the country.

The government has continued its investment in the agriculture sector for the 2011/12 agricultural season through increasing its support towards an expansion of the irrigation system to boost production and lower reliance on imports.

In 2011, large production losses were registered in northern regions

Flooding and prolonged water logging in Kunene, Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto and Oshana regions resulted in significant production declines in some constituencies. The flooding followed an extended period of above average rains between January and April 2011. The north central regions of Oshana and Omusati were worst affected by the flood waters, recording a 63 and 55 percent cereal production losses respectively, compared to the previous year. In addition, the torrential rains led to losses of livestock, particularly goats.

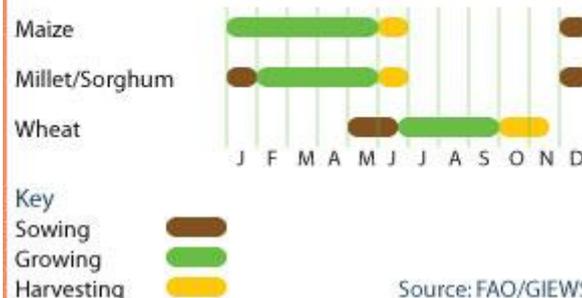
In aggregate, cereal production in 2010/11 is estimated at 117 000 tonnes, 25 percent below the previous year's good harvest.

Higher estimates of cereal import requirements in current marketing year

In response to the lower production levels in 2011, the cereal import requirement in the 2011/12 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at 195 000 tonnes, about 27 percent higher than last year. Actual imports of maize during the period between May and December 2011 however, amounted to 24 600 tonnes, compared to 34 100 tonnes over the same period in 2010, indicating a relative decline in the rate of imports. By contrast, wheat imports reached 19 300 tonnes, up by about 50 percent compared with 2010.

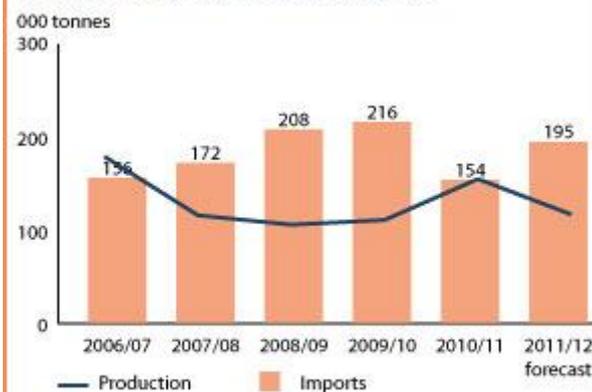
Production short-falls result in larger food insecure population

Namibia Crop calendar



Namibia

Total cereal production and imports



Namibia

Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Millet	59	72	41	-43
Maize	55	58	54	-7
Wheat	13	16	16	0
Others	65	81	47	-42
Total	133	155	117	-25

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

The significant production short-fall recorded in the northern regions raised the level of food insecurity of the affected households. In total, more than 243 000 persons were estimated to be food insecure as a result of flooding, loss of crops and livestock, more than double the level recorded in the previous 2010/11 marketing year.

Reference Date: 10-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Flooding and a dry spell resulted in a large decline in cereal production in 2011
- An estimated 134 219 persons were affected by the floods in northern regions
- Food security of the flood affected people remains difficult, but food assistance is being provided

Heavy rains and flooding caused large production losses in northern regions

Flooding and prolonged water logging in Kunene, Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto and Oshana regions, following an extended period of above average rains between January and April, significantly impacted crop development and resulted in significant production declines in some constituencies. The north central regions of Oshana and Omusati were worst affected by the flood waters, recording a 63 and 55 percent decline, respectively, in cereal production relative to last year. The torrential rains, in addition, led to losses of livestock, particularly goats. Furthermore, the residual stagnate water, following the recession of flood waters, could led to an increase in cases of livestock contracting water-borne diseases. Eastern parts of Caprivi also experienced a dry period during February causing permanent crop wilting in localised areas.

In aggregate, cereal production for the 2010/11 agricultural campaign is estimated at 117 000 tonnes, 25 percent below last year's good harvest. The communal sectors in the north central regions recorded the largest production declines, while, by contrast the commercial sector registered a 1 percent increase.

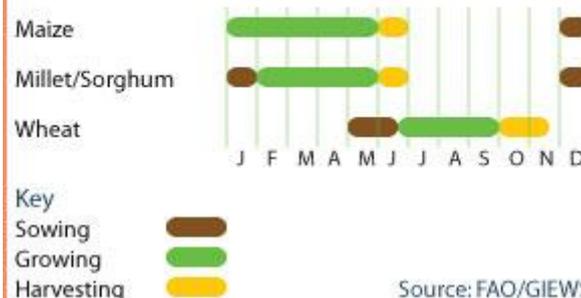
Larger import requirement for current marketing year

Cereal import requirements for the 2011/12 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at 195 000 tonnes, about 27 percent higher than last year's level. Given the limited trade in sorghum and millet, increased imports of maize are anticipated to compensate for the lower domestic supply of these cereals.

Flood affected households receiving assistance

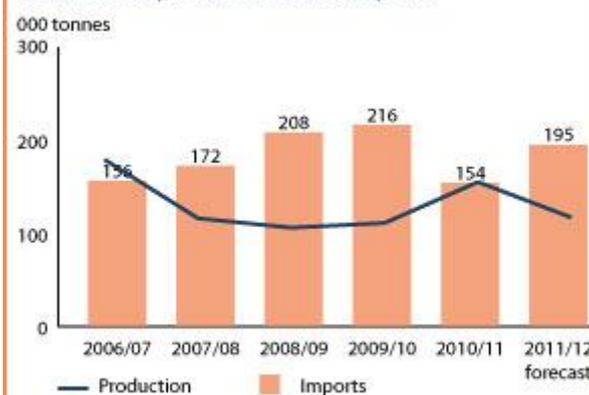
The significant production short-fall recorded in the northern regions has raised the level of food insecurity of the affected households. The government's crop assessment, released in July, indicates that in some areas of Omusati region, households will have exhausted their current production as early as August. On average most households indicated that supplies from the 2011 harvest will be sufficient until September. In total, an estimated 134 219 persons were affected by the flooding, loss of crops and livestock. In the immediate period, 50 000 beneficiaries will receive food assistance. The government, with assistance from international partners, will also distribute subsidized seeds in November/December, in time for the forthcoming 2011/12 season. In addition, measures to treat and vaccinate livestock are being implemented by the government's Directorate of Veterinary Services,

Namibia Crop calendar



Namibia

Total cereal production and imports



Namibia

Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Millet	59	72	41	-43
Maize	55	58	54	-7
Wheat	13	16	16	0
Others	65	81	47	-42
Total	133	155	117	-25

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

with support from international organizations.

Reference Date: 27-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Excessive rains and floods cause crop damage in northern areas
- Reports indicate that 260 000 people were affected by the floods in the northern regions of Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshikoto
- Food security of the flood affected people remains difficult, but food assistance is being provided

Flooding and heavy rains cause crop damage in northern regions

Northern parts of Namibia received excessive rains during the first quarter of 2011, causing flooding in Kunene, Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto and Oshana regions. Estimates indicate that about 56 000 hectares of cropped land have been damaged in the regions of Oshana, Omusati and Kavango, where millet is predominantly grown. Any production short-fall in the communal farming sector is expected to negatively impact on localised food availability, particularly for vulnerable households in the Caprivi region that suffered flood-affected harvests in the previous two years. The finalisation of crop assessment report by the government will provide a clearer overview of the damage to the agriculture sector.

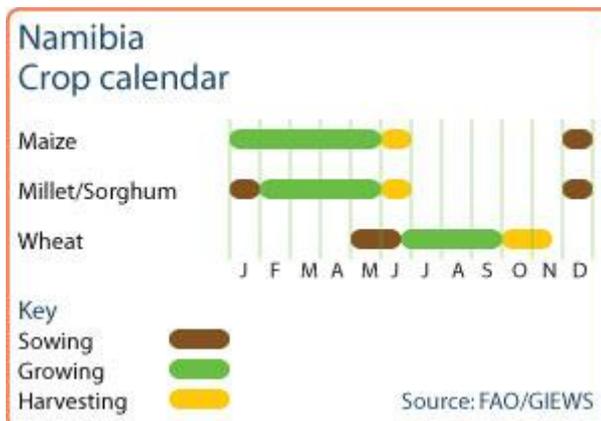
In the 2010/11 agricultural season, the government continued to subsidize seed and fertilizer inputs by 50 percent, to cultivated areas of up to three hectares per household, as well as providing the use of government tractors at a subsidized rate for the northern communal agricultural areas. However, cereal production is now anticipated to be lower than previously anticipated as a result of the torrential rains in northern regions.

Cereal prices decline marginally

The national sub-index for bread and cereal prices was slightly lower in February 2011 compared to December 2010. The overall food price index increased marginally during the same period, with the rise in meat prices as the main contributing factor.

Assistance provided to flood affected households

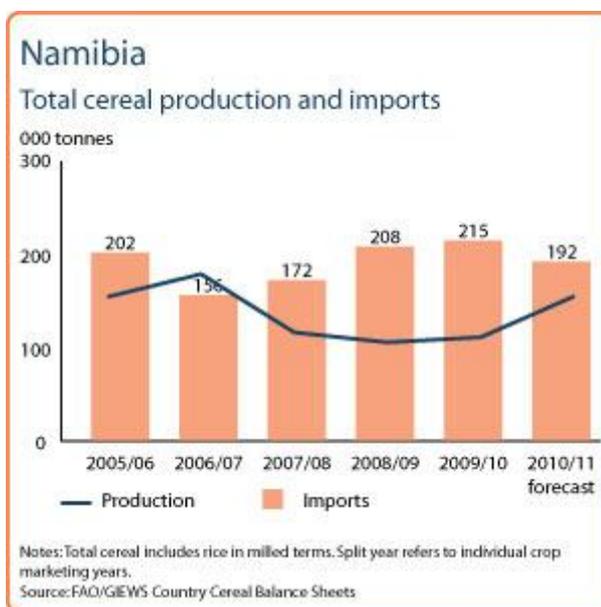
As flood waters recede and previously inaccessible areas are visited, information on the number of people affected will become clearer. Current estimates indicate that in the four regions of Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshikoto alone about 260 000 people were affected by the flood waters. There are over 17 000 people in 'relocation camps' who are being provided with food assistance by the Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction (DDRM). The Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAM VAC) will conduct a detailed assessment to determine the severity and interventions needed to address the current situation.



Namibia Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	59	37	72	95
Maize	56	57	58	2
Wheat	12	12	16	33
Others	6	5	9	80
Total	133	111	155	40

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 17-January-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for 2011 crops uncertain due to late start of the rains in major producing areas
- Substantial increase in 2010 millet harvest, despite irregular rains and localised flooding.
- Food security of northern subsistence farmers remains difficult, government providing assistance at the end of 2010

Late start of rainy season in north central regions

The 2010/11 rainy season started in mid-November, a month later than normal, in north central regions where the bulk of the millet and sorghum crops are grown by communal farmers. By contrast, in the Caprivi and Kavango eastern regions rains began in October, prompting farmers to begin land preparations, with most planting starting in November. Heavy rains towards the end of 2010 and beginning of January has led to some flooding along the Orange River, an area bordering South Africa, and reports indicate localised livestock losses and some crop damage to the small irrigated areas adjacent to the river. For the months January to March, forecasts point to normal to above-normal rains across the country. Input availability for the current season is reported to be satisfactory, there were, however, some delays in the supply of improved maize seed varieties. In Kavango, demand was particularly high, due to the poor harvest in the previous season and unseasonal rains in April 2010 that spoiled grains and consequently reduced the seed quality. The government has continued to subsidize seed and fertilizer inputs by 50 percent, limited to an area of three hectares per household. In addition, for the current season the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has provided the use of government tractors at a subsidized rate, in further efforts to improve productivity in the northern communal agricultural areas.

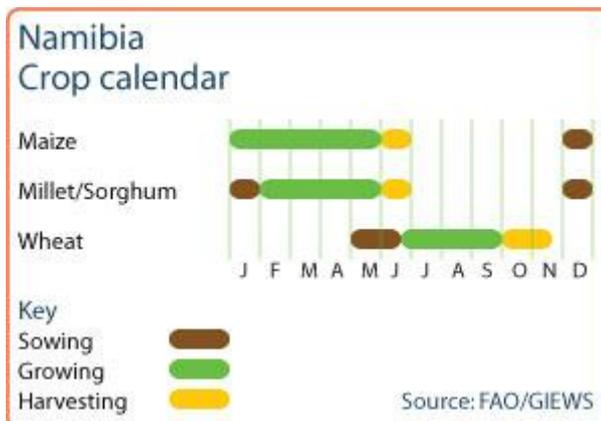
Large increase for 2010 cereal crop

In spite of late and erratic rainfall in some areas during the 2009/10 agricultural season, cereal production in 2010 was about 155 000 tonnes, some 40 percent above the previous season's output. In particular, an improved cereal harvest was reported in the millet-belt comprising of north central regions of Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana, while crop performance was worse in the Caprivi and Kavango regions where plantings were negatively affected by floods for the third consecutive year.

Millet production increased significantly relative to the low level harvested in 2009. Maize production was almost unchanged, as the increase in irrigated areas – which expanded by about 10 percent due to an addition of a new irrigation project (Ndonga Linena) in the Kavango region – was almost offset by poor maize crops in dry-land producing areas in Caprivi and Kavango regions.

Cereal prices increase at the end of 2010

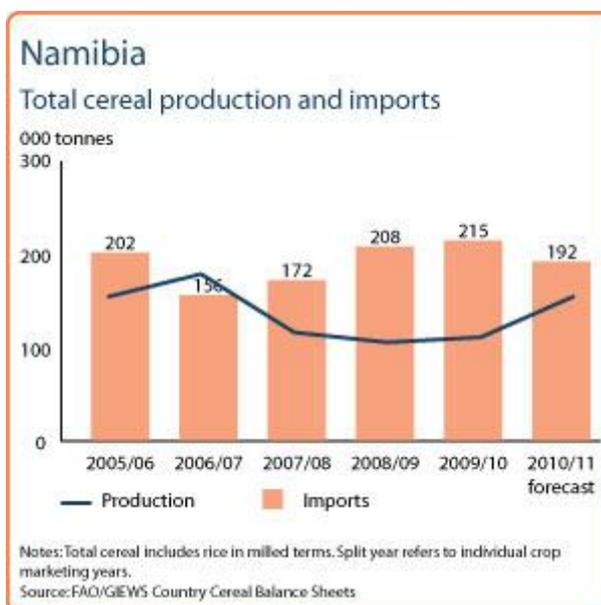
The national sub-index of bread and cereals prices in November 2010 was slightly higher than in October, and some 4.5 percent above levels recorded in October 2009. The rise in recent months is in-line with



Namibia Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	59	37	72	95
Maize	56	57	58	2
Wheat	12	12	16	33
Others	6	5	9	80
Total	133	111	155	40

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



increasing prices of cereals in South Africa, which provides the bulk of cereal imports for the country.

The sale of pearl millet and maize to the National Agronomic Board (NAB) and millers has been functioning as normal this marketing year. However, some farmers have indicated that the price for pearl millet offered by NAB is low in comparison to the prevailing market prices. Producer prices in 2010 have, in general, been about 6 to 8 percent below levels in 2009, in line with producer prices in South Africa, which are used to establish floor prices in Namibia.

Assistance needed for flood affected households

Nationally, the food security situation is satisfactory. However, in areas that were affected by flooding last year, mostly in the low lying areas in Caprivi and Kavango regions that resulted in production short-falls, households have depleted their grain stocks and are now reliant on market purchases. The government recently completed a survey to determine which households are in need of food assistance in Caprivi, Kavango, Karas, Otjozondjupa, Hardap and Omaheke regions, with food aid distributions beginning at the end of 2010.

Reference Date: 21-July-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Improved national grain harvest for 2009/10 agricultural season, despite irregular rains and localised flooding.
- Pasture and livestock conditions improved, but Rift Valley Fever detected in southern areas.
- Food security of northern subsistence farmers remains difficult.

Improved 2009/10 cereal harvest

In spite of late and erratic rainfall in some areas during the 2009/10 agricultural season, cereal production is estimated at about 135 000 tonnes, representing a 22 increase over last season's output, but slightly below the average production of the previous five seasons (2004/05-2008/09). In particular, an improved cereal harvest was reported in the millet-belt comprising of north central regions of Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana, while crop performance was worse in the Caprivi and Kavango regions where plantings were negatively affected by floods for the third consecutive year.

Millet production increased significantly relative to the low level harvested last year. While white maize production is estimated to have declined, as the increase anticipated from irrigated areas - which expanded by about 10 percent due to an addition of a new irrigation project (Ndonga Linena) in the Kavango region - was more than offset by poor maize crops in dry-land producing areas in Caprivi and Kavango regions. Improved availability and lower prices of inputs benefited farmers, with a Government input scheme providing a 50 percent subsidy for the purchase of seed and fertilizers for three hectares of land per farmer.

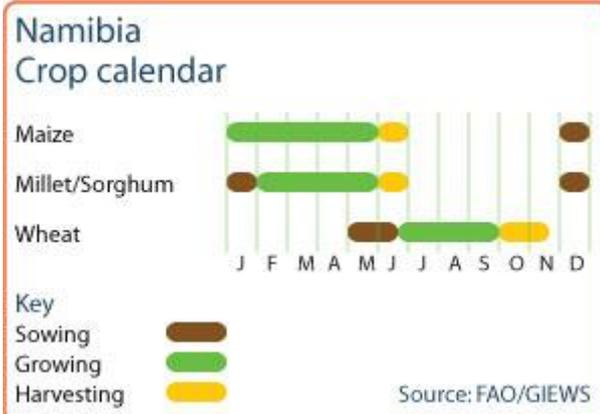
Rift Valley Fever detected in southern Namibia

Despite irregular rainfall this season, pasture and livestock conditions in most regions are better than last year. However, as of early July, 14 herders had been affected by Rift Valley Fever (RVF), with Hardap region suffering the largest number of outbreaks. The current climate conditions do not favour the survival of the vectors, which has contributed to preventing further cases of RVF, in addition to Government policies to combat RVF, including restricting the movement of livestock and the implementation of a vaccine programme.

Cereal prices declined slightly

The national sub-index of bread and cereals prices decreased marginally to 191.5 in May (Dec 2001=100) from April, but is 3.3 percent higher than one year earlier. In an effort to constrain high food prices and improve food access, the Government removed VAT from certain basic food items, such as fresh and dried beans, sunflower cooking oil, lard, bread, bread and cake flour, sugar and fresh milk.

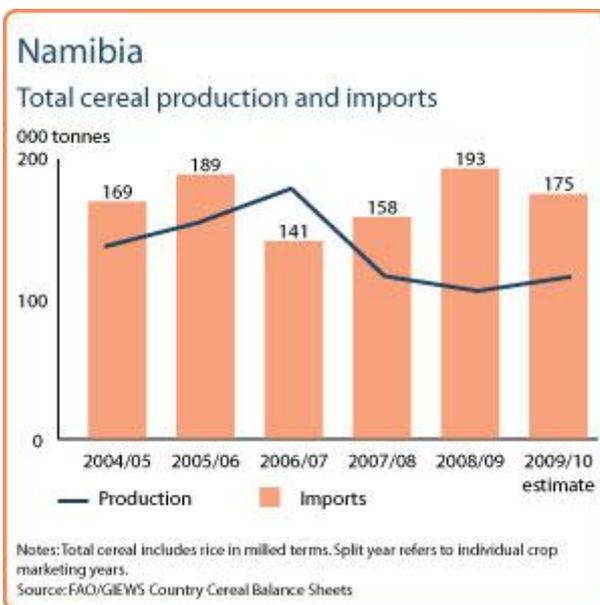
Under the prevailing market structure, farmers who annually produce and market five tonnes or more of maize, wheat and millet must be registered with the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB). Millers are not permitted to import these grains until local production has been



Namibia Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	59	37	61	65
Maize	56	57	53	-7
Wheat	12	12	15	25
Others	6	5	6	20
Total	133	111	135	22

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



completely bought up, with borders closing from the 1st May and then opening a few months later, usually around September. Producer prices for these cereals are negotiated annually between millers and producers. The price is broadly based on a SAFEX (South African Futures Exchange) five-year average (adjusted for inflation) plus a transport differential from South Africa to Windhoek and, for wheat, an element reflecting the exchange rate for the Rand. The measures are intended to promote domestic production and stabilise producer prices. Namibia imports approximately 50-65 percent of its national cereal requirements.

Assistance provided to flood affected population

In spite of an overall increase in grain production this year, access to food in northern region, where approximately 77 percent of acutely malnourished children are located, remains a concern. The Government has provided food aid and other assistance to the population affected by floods in northern regions of Caprivi, Kavango and Oshana.

Reference Date: 14-July-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Improved national grain harvest for 2009/10 agricultural season, despite irregular rains and localised flooding.
- Pasture and livestock conditions improved, but Rift Valley Fever detected.
- Food security of northern subsistence farmers remains difficult.

Improved 2009/10 cereal harvest

In spite of late and erratic rainfall in some areas during the 2009/10 agricultural season, cereal production is estimated at about 135 000 tonnes, representing a 22 increase over the previous season's output. In particular, an improved cereal harvest was reported in the millet-belt comprising of north central regions of Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana, while crop performance was worse in the Caprivi and Kavango regions where plantings were negatively affected by floods for the third consecutive year.

White maize production is estimated to have declined, as the increase anticipated in irrigated areas - which expanded by about 10 percent due to an addition of a new irrigation project (Ndonga Linena) in the Kavango region - was more than offset by poor maize crops in dry-land producing areas in Caprivi and Kavango regions. Improved availability and lower prices of inputs benefited farmers, with a Government input scheme providing a 50 percent subsidy for the purchase of seed and fertilizers for three hectares of land per farmer.

Rift Valley Fever detected in southern Namibia

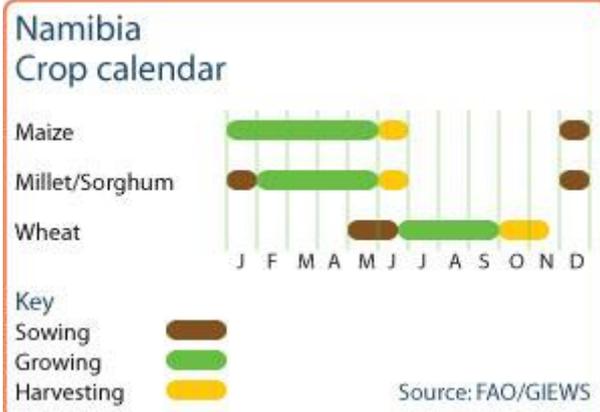
Despite irregular rainfall this season, pasture and livestock conditions in most regions are better than last year. However, as of early July, 14 herders had been affected by Rift Valley Fever (RVF), with Hardap region suffering the largest number of outbreaks. The current climate conditions do not favour the survival of the vectors, which has contributed to preventing further cases of RVF, in addition to Government policies to combat RVF, including restricting the movement of livestock and the implementation of a vaccine programme.

Cereal prices declined slightly

The national sub-index of bread and cereals prices decreased marginally to 191.5 in May (Dec 2001=100) from April, but is 3.3 percent higher than one year earlier. In an effort to constrain high food prices and improve food access, the Government removed VAT from certain basic food items, such as fresh and dried beans, sunflower cooking oil, lard, bread, bread and cake flour, sugar and fresh milk.

Assistance provided to flood affected population

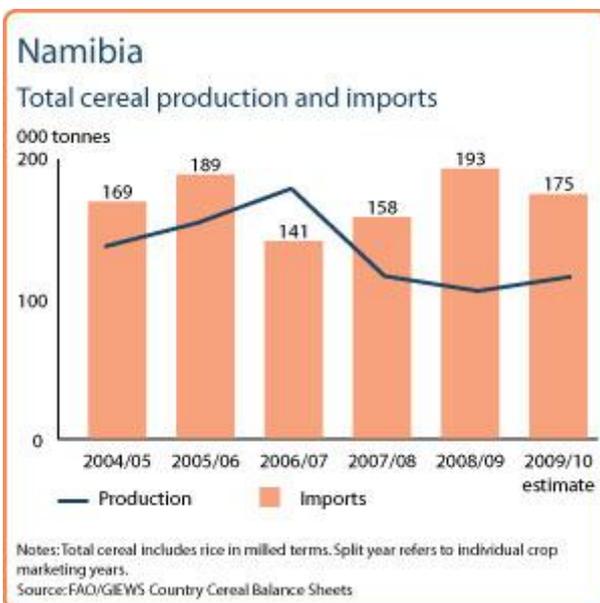
In spite of the improved grain harvest access to food in northern region, where approximately 77 percent of acutely malnourished children are located, remains a concern. The Government has provided food aid and other assistance to the population affected by floods in northern regions of Caprivi, Kavango and Oshana.



Namibia Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	59	37	61	65
Maize	56	57	53	-7
Wheat	12	12	15	25
Others	6	5	6	20
Total	133	111	135	22

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 15-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Large 2010 crops expected in spite of irregular rainfall this year.
- Pasture and livestock conditions improved.
- Food security of northern subsistence farmers remains difficult.

Larger 2010 cereal crop production expected in spite of late and erratic rainfall

In spite of late and erratic rainfall this year in some areas, results of the first Crop Assessment conducted in the first half of February indicate the prospect for an above-average 2010 production, some 16 percent above the previous poor 2009 output. This forecast is preliminary and assumes that normal weather condition would prevail until harvest in June. Significant increases as compared to the previous year are expected for the main subsistence crops of millet and sorghum in the north central regions of Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana, while reduced crops are expected in the Caprivi and in Kavango regions where plantings were negatively affected by floods for the third consecutive years. White maize crop output is expected to fall by some 15 percent, as the increase anticipated in irrigated areas is likely to be more than offset by poor maize crops in dry-land producing areas in Caprivi and Kavango regions. Farmers this year have benefited from the improved availability and lower prices of inputs under the Government input subsidy scheme in which farmers were given a 50 percent subsidy for the purchase of seed and fertilizers for 3 hectares of land per farmer.

Since the first crop forecast was conducted in mid February, satellite-based rainfall data indicate that about normal rainfall was received up to the first dekad of March in most northern producing areas.

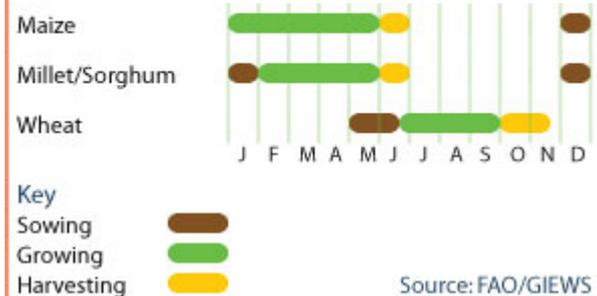
Pastures and livestock conditions improved

Despite the irregular rainfall this season, pasture and livestock conditions in most northern regions have improved in the last year and were reported to be in fair to good in mid-February in most regions. Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle and internal parasites mostly in small stock continue in most northern Regions. Tick infestation among cattle is reported in the eastern part of the Caprivi region.

Overall food inflation rate increase; millet prices in the north rising

The national sub-index of bread and cereals was in February 2010 at 196.0 (Dec 2001=100) 4 percent higher than 12 months earlier, against an increase of 6.3 percent in the overall national Consumer Price Index (CPI). However, in the last three months the bread and cereal sub-index has risen by 2.8 percent against 1.9 in the overall food sub-index, indicating a faster increase in the price of cereals compared to the other foods included in the index. In northern producing areas where production has been reduced in the last three years, the price of pearl millet was in December 2009 (last available) NAD 4.70 per kg as compared to NAD 3.50 a year earlier, a 34 percent increase reflecting the short supply of this domestically produced cereal in the market. The decline in the last 12 months of maize and wheat prices in South Africa,

Namibia Crop calendar

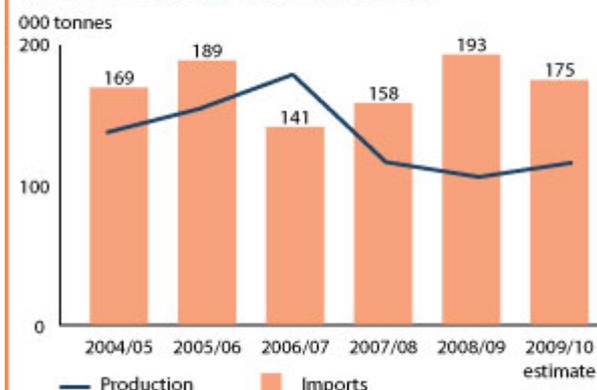


Namibia Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes		percent	
Millet	59	37	61	65
Maize	57	62	53	-15
Wheat	12	12	15	25
Others	6	5	6	20
Total	134	116	135	16

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Namibia Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

from where Namibia imports the bulk of these cereals, has contributed to minimize the effect on consumers of the high prices of domestically produced cereals.

Food security remains difficult in some of northern communal regions

Overall, food security in Namibia communal areas has deteriorated in recent years following the succession of poor harvests. The February 2010 Government assessment mission to the northern areas has reported a tightening of the food security situation as the hunger season had reached its peak. Most households in the Caprivi and Kavango regions had depleted their food supplies from their 2009 harvest and were relying from the market and on drought relief for their daily food needs. In the north central regions the situation was less severe and in these regions, contrary to Caprivi and Kavango, some improvement is expected if current forecasts of larger crops this year materialize.

Reference Date: 21-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for 2010 crops uncertain because of late plantings
- For a third consecutive year foodcrops output was poor in the northern communal areas in 2009
- Pasture and livestock conditions at risk
- Food security of northern subsistence farmers deteriorates

Early prospects for 2010 crop production uncertain

After a normal start of the rains in October, only light and erratic rains were received until the third decade of December seriously delaying land preparation and planting of the millet crop in the northern communal areas where the majority of the Namibian population live. Normally land preparation is done in November and most of the planting in December. Rainfall increased markedly from the third decade of December through the second dekad of January in most of the northern areas allowing planting operation to continue. Availability of seed and fertilizers was adequate and prices of seeds are lower than for the 2009 crop. Government input subsidy scheme under which farmers are given a 50 percent subsidy for the purchase of seed and fertilizers for 3 hectares of land per farmer was in operation.

Given the late start of the rains this year, only good and extended in time, precipitation in the next two months could improve the crop outlook. However, seasonal forecasts prepared by the Namibian Meteorological services indicate below normal rainfall all over Namibia in the January/March 2010 period. If this materializes, crop and livestock pasture conditions would be at risk.

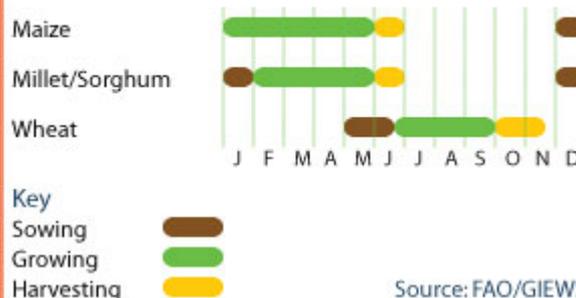
Revised estimates for 2009 indicated a poor crop for third consecutive year

According to official reports, the 2009 cereal production (communal and commercial sectors) harvested in early 2009 was below normal for a third consecutive year, and below the estimate of the FAO/WFP CFSA Mission of June 2009. Production of millet and sorghum in northern communal areas at 42 000 tonnes was only marginally above the poor 2008 harvest in spite of a substantial increase in area planted. Normal rainfall levels during the beginning of the season, was followed by excessive precipitation in February 2009 in the north central regions (Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto, as well as the Caprivi Strip and Kavango). This led to water-logging and consequently to widespread crop losses. The estimate of maize production in the commercial sector is unchanged at about 57 000 tonnes, slightly above the previous year. Cereal import requirement for the 2009/10 marketing year (May/April) are estimated by FAO at some 175 000 tonnes (mostly wheat and maize) somewhat below the exceptionally high level of imports in 2008/09 which led to some accumulation of stocks.

Pastures and livestock conditions at risk

Pasture and livestock condition in northern areas were still fair to good in mid-December reflecting the above average rains in early 2009. Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle and internal parasites mostly in small stock continue in the Caprivi Region while Foot and Mouth

Namibia Crop calendar

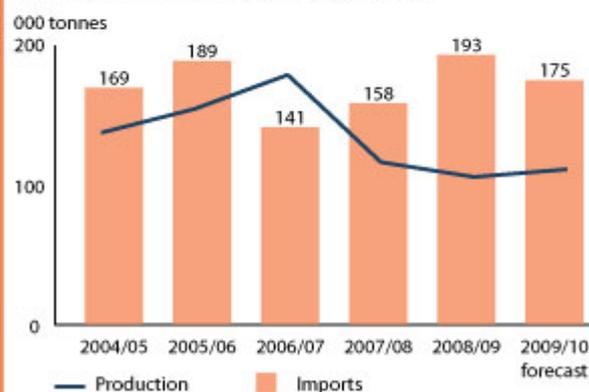


Namibia Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Millet	68	36	37	3
Maize	52	54	57	6
Wheat	11	12	12	0
Others	6	4	5	25
Total	139	106	111	5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Disease (FMD) in Caprivi and Kavango Regions appear to be under control.

Overall food inflation rate falls; but millet prices in the north rising

The national index of bread and cereals was in October 2009 at 196.6 (Dec 2001=100) 5 percent higher than 12 months earlier, against an increase of 7.1 percent in the overall national Consumer Price Index (CPI). However, in northern producing areas where production has been reduced in the last three years, the price of pearl millet was in December 2009 NAD 4.70 per kg as compared to NAD 3.50 a year earlier, a 34 percent increase reflecting the short supply of this domestically produced cereal in the market. The decline in the last 12 months of maize and wheat prices in South Africa, from where Namibia imports the bulk of these cereals, has contributed to minimize the effect on consumers of the high prices of domestically produced cereals.

Food security deteriorates in northern communal areas

Overall, food security in Namibia communal areas has deteriorated in recent years following the succession of poor harvests. A December 2009 Government assessment mission to the northern areas has reported that most households had already depleted their food supplies from their 2009 harvest. The mission observed transitory food insecurity as the lean season was in progress although its extent was less severe than in the previous year because of the impact of government's relief assistance programmes in place this year in areas affected by drought/floods.

Reference Date: 09-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- CFSAM estimates the national aggregate cereal harvest at about 139 000 tonnes, some 31 percent increase over last year's poor harvest but about the same level as the past five year average
- Livestock in communal areas has been affected by the unprecedented outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease and internal parasites in 2009
- Food security of the subsistence farmers in the Northern and East-Central regions worsened by the 2009 floods

Improved harvests despite flooding in northern regions

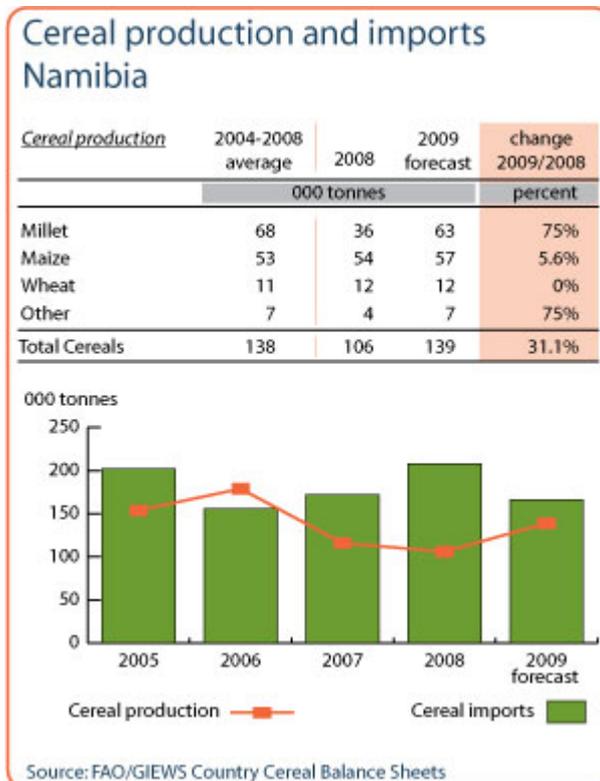
The 2009 cereal production (communal and commercial sectors) was estimated by the joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in June, to have increased by 31 percent from last year to 139 000 tonnes. Normal rainfall levels during the beginning of the season, was followed by excessive precipitation in February 2009 in the north central regions (Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto, as well as the Caprivi Strip and Kavango). This led to water-logging and consequently localised crop losses. Estimates indicate that cereal production in Ohangwena, for example, decreased by 50 percent compared to the average (1998/99-2007/08) and 12 percent compared to last year's low output, as a result of the floods. With an estimated national annual utilization requirement of approximately 290 000 tonnes of cereals, an import requirement of 151 000 tonnes is anticipated during the 2009/10 marketing year (May/April).

Livestock disease causes large losses

Following heavy rains and floods an unprecedented outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle and internal parasites mostly in small stock was recorded in the Northern Communal Areas. The average annual number of LSD cases in Namibia is about 200 and during the first four months of 2009, cases of LSD already reached 6 883. Vaccination interventions by the Directorate of Veterinary Services has reportedly helped to control the spread of LSD, however, there is chance of the disease reoccurring during the start of the rainy season in November/December.

Inflation rate falls; but cereal prices remain high

National bread and cereal inflation decreased to 5.3 percent (year-on-year rate) in July 2009, reflecting increased market supplies following the main harvest. However, in spite this decrease the price of millet has risen steadily over the past two years to 5 NAD per kg in June 2009 in the north-central regional market of Oshakati. The price is double the level recorded a year earlier. However, the declining cereal prices in South Africa, from where Namibia imports the majority of its cereal commodities, will contribute to stabilising cereal and food prices for the remainder of 2009, given that Namibia is a net cereal importing country.



¹ Drought 2006/07; floods 2007/08 & 2008/09

Stable food security, except for flood affected population in the north

Overall, food security in Namibia is considered to be relatively stable. However, successive seasons of severe climatic conditions¹ in the northern and eastern central communal crop producing region has deteriorated the food security situation of approximately 247 000 people. Nationally, food availability has improved following the main harvest; however, the affected households will have difficulty maintaining normal food consumption patterns from September onwards, when households' food stocks are expected to be depleted. These households are likely to require food assistance until the subsequent harvest in April 2010. The lower cereal prices will, however, contribute to improving food access for the market dependent households.