



NAMIBIA

CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION REPORT

09 JULY 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

Below average harvests on coarse grain production are expected in the northern communal crop producing regions, following the recent floods and heavy rains.... Crop production prospects in the northern communal crop producing regions indicates a below average production in these regions with Ohangwena region topping the list on the reduced production this year.

Despite a recent main harvest that improved the household food security, such improvement is only short-lived as many households are likely to face food insecurity by end of September... Most interviewed households indicated that, since their food reserves were weakened by 2006/2007 droughts and now floods for the past two seasons, the current harvest is only enough until end of September.

Cases of internal parasite in goats were widely reported in most parts of the north central regions and many farmers are reported to have lost their goats due to this problem. Since the outbreak of this problem in May, the situation is said to be stable and farmers are requesting the veterinary authority to intervene in order to normalise the situation. Furthermore, cases of African swine fever were reported in Omusati region, particularly areas in the northern part of the region. This disease is reported to have killed a lot of pigs in the region since its detection last March and the situation is said to have not yet improved.

Lack of formal market for livestock in the Caprivi region as a result of the closure of the Meat-co abattoir, following an outbreak of FMD in 2007, is reported to have caused significant income losses to the livestock farmers... Farmers are unable to sell their cattle through the formal market and thus, requesting the government to restore the formal market for livestock that will enable them to sell their livestock at better prices.

The country's aggregate coarse grain production is forecasted at 111,100 tonnes. This consists of 56,900 tonnes of white maize, 37,300 tonnes of pearl millet, 4,700 tonnes of sorghum and 12,200 tonnes of wheat. This represent a slight increase in output of **8 percent** compared to last year's poor harvest in which much of the improvements are mainly from the commercial areas.

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

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OVERVIEW

During May/June 2009, the National Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU) conducted a Crop and Household Food Security Assessment in the six communal crop producing regions¹ of the country. The main purpose of this mission was to assess and estimate the 2008/2009 crop production in the communal crop-growing regions of Namibia and provide early warning report on geographic locations of agronomic anomalies, the effects of floods, droughts, and other significant events. The mission was conducted in collaboration with the Emergency Management Unit (EMU), Regional Councils and extension staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Much of the information in this report was obtained during the crop assessment mission conducted in the **Caprivi, Kavango, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions** by the crop assessment team, as from the 11-22nd May and 15-19th June 2009.

Based on the findings of the assessment on the abovementioned regions as well as information from the commercial sector, through the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), the country's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, pearl millet, sorghum and wheat) for this season is estimated at **111,100 tonnes**. This consists of 56,900 tonnes of white maize, 37,300 tonnes of pearl millet, 4,700 tonnes of sorghum and 12,200 tonnes of wheat. This represent a slight increase in output of **8 percent** compared to last year's poor harvest.

Although this season showed a slight increase in production of last year's harvest, much of the improvements are mainly from the commercial areas where cereal crop production increased by 5% of last season and 50% above 10-year average. Contrary to this, cereal crop production estimates in the communal crop producing regions showed a reduced production this season. Poor harvest in the North Central Regions came as a result of floods and heavy rains received during the second part of the season. In the Caprivi Region, flood water (as a result of swelling water level from the river) since the beginning of the season, is the main cause of this year's poor harvest. Moreover, poor harvest in the Kavango region is also attributed to floods that affected crop fields along the Kavango River.

On a general note, most interviewed farmers in all the visited regions express their concern about the high price of the new fertilizer package of Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) which is costing N\$345 per 50kg bag despite a 50% subsidy by the government. In contrast to last season, the subsidised fertilizers (though different package of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) were sold for N\$50 per 50kg bag. Only very few farmers bought the MAP fertilizers in the Regions and the majority of farmers are requesting that, for the next cropping seasons Government should repackage the fertilizers into smaller quantities for example one kilogram, five kilograms and so forth in order to enable them to afford the fertilizers or else provide further subsidy.

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

Food Security Situation

Following a recent main crop harvest which started this May, the household food security situation improved in most part of the communal producing regions. However, such improvement is only short-lived because of poor harvest this season as well as the weakened food reserves for the past two seasons. Most interviewed farmers indicated that, their food reserves were weakened by 2006/2007 droughts as well as floods for the past two seasons and as a result, the current harvest is expected to last until end of September. In contrast, harvest of the previous cropping season was estimated to last until end of August, indicating that, in general, this season's harvest went up a bit by one fold.

In the Caprivi region, the majority of the interviewed farmers indicated that their current harvest is only going to last until end of August. Thereafter most households are expected to be dependent on the market for food access or else will be food insecure. Although it is a normal practice in this region to sell most part of the harvest (mainly maize) to the millers in order to obtain cash, this would affect the household food access and subsequently threaten the household food security. Given the current low crop production for the region, crop farmers are therefore cautioned to avoid selling most parts of their harvest and retain if possible enough stock that will take them through to the next harvest, thus ensuring household food security.

Most interviewed farmers in the Kavango Region indicated that this year's harvest is expected to sustain them until end of October thereafter; most households are likely to be dependent on the market for food access. For the past two successive seasons, this Region experienced chronic food insecurity at household level in areas where households are dependent on crop and or livestock farming for their livelihood.

In the north central regions, most of the interviewed farmers indicated that, the current harvest in general, is expected to last at most end of September, thereafter many household are likely to be dependent on the market for food supply. Since Ohangwena region was the hardest hit by this year's floods, some households are feared to deplete their little harvest much earlier than generally expected. Besides, some farmers in this region did not harvest anything and consequently they are likely to be much more vulnerable to food insecurity.

PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

Pasture Conditions

In the southern part of the country, pasture is reported to range between fair and good while good pasture conditions were reported in the Central, Eastern and Western part of the country. Moreover, good pasture conditions were further reported in Caprivi and Kavango regions (except flood plain areas of Caprivi and along the river in Kavango where the conditions are fair). Good pasture conditions came as a result of good rains received in these Regions since the beginning of the season as compared to poorly distributed and heavy rains last year.

However, good to fair pasture conditions were widely reported in most parts of the north central regions and most farmers interviewed indicated that the grazing did not establish properly due to floods and heavy rains experienced this season. In Omusati region, most constituencies reported fair pasture condition, except the Eastern part of the constituency where grazing are reported to be in good condition. In the Ohangwena Region, only the Eastern part of the region reported good pasture conditions while the rest of the parts reported fair grazing condition. Furthermore, fair grazing conditions were further reported in most parts of the Oshana and the Western part of Oshikoto Regions, except the extreme Southern part of the Oshana and the Eastern part of Oshikoto where good grazing conditions were reported.

Livestock Conditions

In general, livestock are reported to be in good condition within all the visited regions, except goats that showed fair body condition due to problem of internal parasites. The assessment team have also noted that the Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) is currently under control for both Caprivi and Kavango region. No new cases of FMD reported for the past three months in the Caprivi region, indicating that the situation has been normalised. Meanwhile, all control measures are still in force and at the same time, Katima Mulilo Meat-co abattoir remained closed.

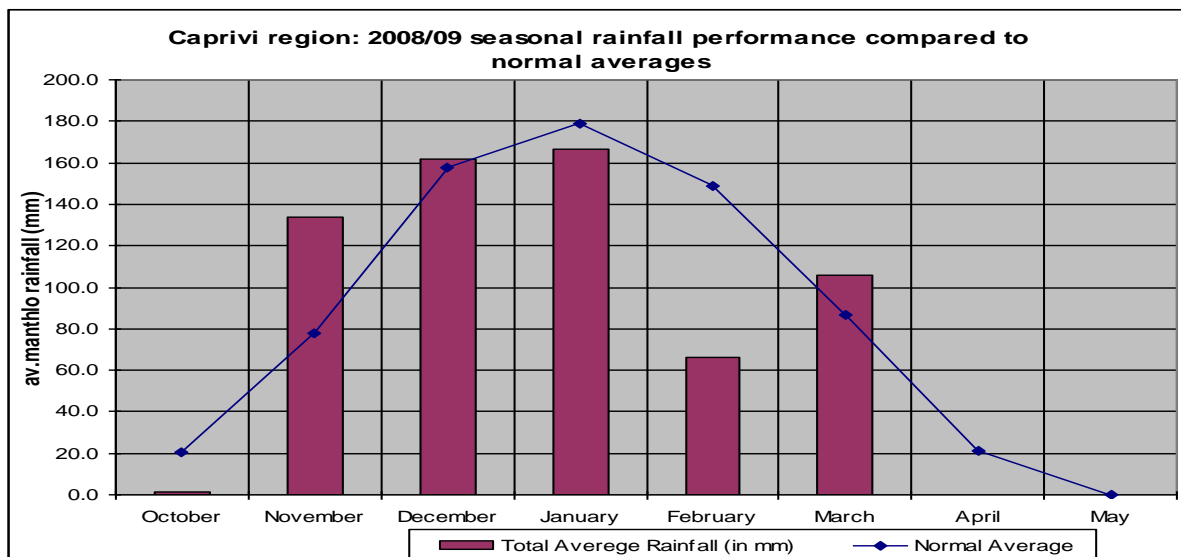
Cases of internal parasite in goats were widely reported in most parts of the North Central Regions and many farmers are reported to have lost their goats due to this problem. Since the outbreak of this problem in May, the situation is said to be stable and farmers are requesting the Veterinary Authority to intervene in order to normalise the situation. Furthermore, cases of African swine fever were reported in Omusati region, particularly areas in the northern part of the Region. This disease is reported to have killed a lot of pigs in the Region since its detection in March this year and the situation is said to have not yet improved.

Furthermore, Lumpy skin disease outbreak was reported in all visited Northern Regions during the rainfall period, but the situation have since normalised, following vaccination intervention by the Directorate of Veterinary Services. Moreover cases of Three Days Stiff Sickness were also reported in cattle in the North Central Regions during the rainfall period. As the name imply, this sickness is not life threatening and cattle recovered on their own within three days.

REGIONAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK SITUATION

Caprivi region

Most parts of the green belt of the region were flooded and as a result cereal crop production for this region has dropped by at least 13% of the normal production. Although, the Region received almost normal rainfall this season as presented in the graph below, the flooding is mainly caused by the river overflowing. The flood affected areas included, Lisikili community, Bukalo, the lake, Sikanjabuku, Muyako, Masokotwane, Ibbu, Chobe, Mutikitila, Ioma, Mahundu, Ngoma, Chinchimani and Southern part of Linyanti Constituency. These areas can expect poor harvest of up to 50% below their normal production. Elsewhere in the region, particularly upper land crop fields in Kongola and Sibinda (except Kanono area) Constituencies, better to good harvest can be expected following good and average rainfall received this season.



Although pasture and livestock are currently in good condition, following good rains this season, farmers are concerned about the problem of high concentration of livestock which is posing a threat to the grazing areas. This problem is mainly because of the closure of the local Meat-Co abattoir. Meanwhile, farmers are currently allowed to market or slaughter their livestock among themselves, but most of them are not happy with the low prices they are receiving through informal market as compared to the local abattoir when it was open. Although the abattoir remained closed and disease surveillance measures from the veterinary authority are still in force, no new cases of FMD for the past three months reported in the Region.

Constituencies

Katima Urban

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

Katima Rural

On average over 90% of the crop fields were ploughed, following good rains received in the first part of the season. However, most of the fields were flooded by water from the nearby rivers in the second part of the season, causing a significant reduction in maize, millet and sorghum harvest with their respective reductions of 20%, 10% and 65% of last year's harvest. Moreover, flood water caused nutrients leaching, difficult in weeding, stunted growth and eventually killing of the crops. Additionally, crop destructions by wild animals such as Elephants and Hippopotamus in Ngoma, Bukalo and the surrounding villages, has also contributed significantly to the reduction of crop harvest.

The household food Security is said to have improved slightly because of the current harvest which according to most interviewed farmers is expected to last only until end of August. Cases of lumpy skin disease were reported, especially around Muhinda, Ndozi and the surrounding villages. Grazing areas were observed to be in good condition, but according to most interviewed farmers, pasture may deteriorate much earlier due to rising number of livestock in the area. However, farmers expressed their unhappiness about lack of formal market for their livestock resulted from the closure of the Meat-Co abattoir, following the outbreak of FMD in 2007.

Kongola

Following a good start of the rain season, most farmers were able to cultivate at most 100% of their crop fields. The majority of interviewed farmers indicated that, good maize harvest of at least 260% of last season's harvest can be expected. However, a decline of millet and sorghum harvest of up to 70% of last year due to quelea birds and reduced planted areas, were reported. Most households are currently dependent on the current harvest and the majority of the interviewed farmers indicated the possibility of reaching the next harvest. Cases of Lumpy-skin disease in cattle were reported almost throughout the constituency. Farmers are also

unhappy about lack of formal market for their livestock, following the closure of the Meat-Co abattoir in the year 2007.

Linyanti

On average, more than 80% of the fields were cultivated, but most of these fields were destroyed by flood water from Linyanti River, during the month of February. However, some farmers are reported to have moved to the upper land in an effort to open up new fields. Therefore, most interviewed farmers in the upper land showed that they had received a better maize harvest of about 6% than last season. Conversely, pear millet and sorghum showed a reduced harvest of 14% and 17% respectively. Generally, poor harvests are mainly due to poor germinations, quelea birds, grasshoppers and buffalos, just in addition to floods.

Farmers have also expressed their dissatisfaction about the poor germination of maize seeds that were sold to them through Likwama Farmers Association. Since the area experienced poor harvest for the past two seasons, food reserves were weakened and most interviewed farmers indicated that, the current harvest will only sustain them up to the end of August.

Sibinda

The majority of farmers in this constituency were only able to cultivate about 73% of their crop fields. The remaining parts could not be covered due to poor rainfall distributions in the first part and floods and heavy rains in the second part of the season. Consequently, maize and sorghum harvests have declined to 19% and 39% respectively. Most interviewed farmers with crop fields along the river indicated that since last August, their fields were flooded by a swelling water level of Linyanti River.

To make the matter even worse, elephants are reported to have caused significant damage to maize during March/April this season, where the affected farmers are reported to have harvested their immature maize to avoid complete crop losses. Most interviewed farmers indicated that, the current harvest is only expected to last until end of August after which most household are likely to face food shortages. Pasture is currently reported to range between good in the inland to fair in the flood prone areas. The majority of interviewed farmers are complaining about the growing number of livestock that came as a result of the closure of the local Meat-Co abattoir and livestock that were moved from the flooded areas as the main threat to pasture condition.

Kabbe

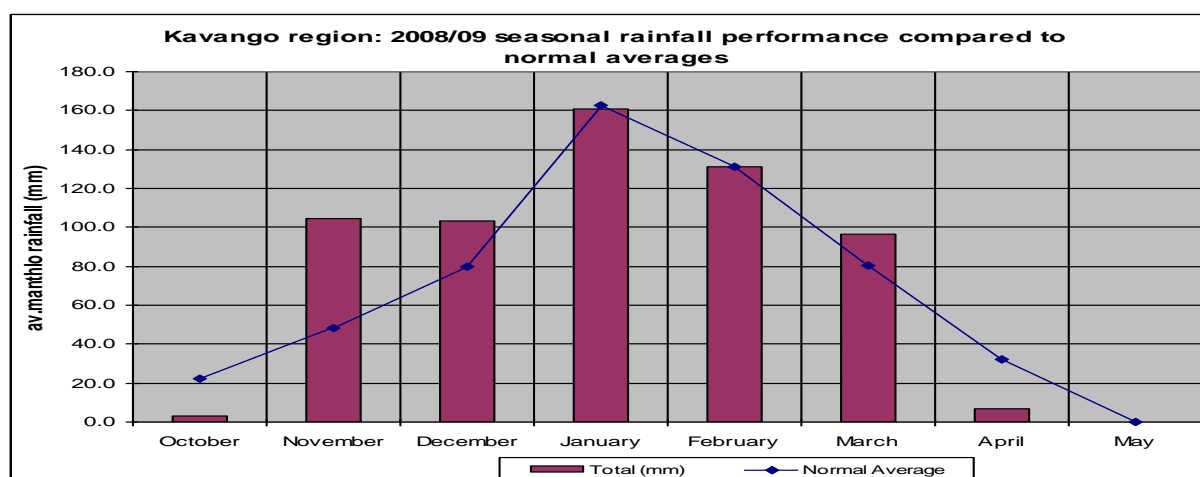
Due to good showers received this season (especially from the beginning of the season up to February) than the previous one, most interviewed farmers indicated to have extended their normal field sizes by more than 12%. However, much of these efforts went in vain and the then expected good harvests were shattered by the occurrences of floods and heavy rains in the second part of the season. Therefore, most of the respondents indicated that maize harvest losses of up to 40% of

last year can be expected. Harvest losses for pearl millet and sorghum are estimated at 36% and 100% respectively. Moreover, cases of elephants, baboons and quelea birds were reported and are described to have caused a significant damage to crops.

On the livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease and foot rot in cattle were widely reported. The Lumpy skin disease is reported to have been spread by the two main vectors; namely ticks and flies that are currently common in the area.

Kavango Region

In general, crop harvest prospects for this Region indicated poor harvests of at least 2% below last season and 37 percent lower than normal average production. Despite average rainfall received during the course of this season as shown by the graph below, most crop fields along the river where the majority of the farmers live were negatively affected by flood waters from Kavango River leading to poor crop production this season. Production of pearl millet and sorghum this season, showed poor harvests with their respective reduction of 8% and 6% lower than last season. The poor harvest is as a result of among other things floods, quelea birds and to some extent damage by wild animals. Maize production on the other hand, showed a slight improvement of about 13% above last season's harvest. Moreover, most crop farmers in the inland can expect good crop harvest of 20% above last season. Furthermore, harvest of non-cereal crops is also reported to have increased by at least 35% of last season.



Pasture and livestock were observed to be in good condition. Due to the weakened household food reserve, the current harvest on average is expected to only sustain the households until end of August; thereafter many households are likely to become market dependants or else will face some forms of food insecurity.

Constituencies

Rundu Urban

Despite shortages of improved seeds experienced at the beginning of the season, most farmers were able to use uncertified seeds from the open market together with their own traditional seed varieties. At the time of this assessment, more than 95% of the fields were cultivated. Therefore, it was reported that most farmers can expect an increase in millet production of about 25% of last season's harvest.

The majority of the interviewed farmers indicated that, better to good harvest is mainly for those farmers who planted early, otherwise the late planted crops especially along the river were affected by water. No major livestock diseases were reported in the area and the grazing are said to be in good condition.

Rundu Rural East

In spite of the good start of the rain season, most farmers were able to extend their normal field sizes by 10%. This was made possible by the availability of enough private tractor services which is supplementing draft animal power in ploughing activities. However, due to excessive amount of rainfall that affected most crop fields especially along the river side, maize and sorghum harvest is reported to have remained the same as that of last season. Pearl millet harvest on the other hand has decrease by an average of 38% compared to the previous season. Poor harvests were further reported on cowpeas because of excessive soil moisture which only encourage vegetative growth with little flowering.

Floods did not only cause stunted growth in crops, but also make it difficult for the farmers to weed the fields. However, early planted crops and the inland fields are expected to obtain a comparative better harvest than last season. No major livestock diseases were reported in the area and the grazing are said to have established sufficiently and expected to sustain the livestock to the next growing season.

Rundu Rural West

Most farmers use draught animal power for ploughing their fields, since there are few private tractors available in the area. Although the rainfall started early in November, some farmers described this season as characterised by dry spells and irregular rains in the first part as well as quelea

birds in the second part of the season. These altogether, resulted in low production of pearl millet by 33% and almost 60% below last year's for sorghum. However, maize on the other hand showed an increase of about 68% of last year's harvest.

For the past two seasons crop production has been low due to unfavourable crop growing conditions and this has weakened the food reserves to most households. Therefore the current harvest is expected to last until end of December thereafter many households are likely to face food insecurity.

Ndiyona

Part of this constituency especially areas along the river was flooded by the swelling of Kavango river water level during mid-February to March period. As a result, many farmers found it difficult to plough and weed their crop fields. Therefore, it is estimated that, farmers along the river side were only able to plough up to 60% of the field sizes. The majority of farmers' uses own local seeds from the previous seasons. This season's pearl millet and sorghum production is reported to have declined by roughly 20% and 15%, respectively.

Apart from the floods, quelea birds are also reported to have caused some significant damages to pearl millet in this area.

Kapako

Despite good rains received since the beginning of this season, most farmers interviewed were only able to cultivate at most 80% of their fields. Farmers singled out lack of enough draft animals and ploughing equipments, few tractors and insufficient improved seeds as the main contributing factors to low crop production received. Therefore, overall cereal crop production is estimated to have declined by almost 10% of last season's poor harvest. Some of the interviewed farmers complained about poor quality millet seeds sold to them by the local coop. This according to them germinated poorly and yield poor quality grains.

The household food security currently is reported to have improved, following harvest in May, but is expected to worsen by end of August due to insufficient harvests for the past three successive seasons. On livestock health, most parts of this Constituency reported internal parasites in goats

which are still a problem and Lumpy Skin disease during the rainfall period but this have since been contained.

Kahenge

The 2008/2009 rain season started on time and as a result most farmers in this area were able to cultivate at least 95% of their fields. Although, crop production this season has shown some positive signs of recovery where it was reported that on average, farmers can expect at least four times more than last season's harvest for pearl millet, such improvement is estimated to only last until end of September due to a weakened food reserve for the past two seasons.

With regards to livestock health, some farmers reported cases of internal parasites in goats especially villages along the river. Moreover, farmers in the inland reported Black quarter and Lumpy Skin disease in cattle during the rainfall period. However, the situation is reported to have been brought under control.

Mashare

Most interviewed farmers are complaining about dry spells which occurred during December/January period. It was reported that many of the farmers lost their crops to dry spells and have replanted their crop fields from mid- January with a bit of success. During the second part of the season, heavy rains and floods came and affected crops fields especially those along the river whereby making it difficult for the farmers to effectively control the weeds. Therefore, reduced harvests for pearl millet, maize and sorghum are estimated at 40%, 30% and 20% respectively as compared to last season.

Furthermore, it was reported that planted areas were reduced by 20% of the normal field sizes due to lack of enough private tractors and draught animal power in the area. On livestock health, no major livestock diseases reported at the time of this assessment and the grazing areas are in condition.

Mukwe

On average, planted areas for pearl millet, maize and sorghum are estimated at 80%, 10% and 23%,

respectively. Usage of draught animal power remained the main mode of ploughing, as there is only one tractor operating in the area. Furthermore, majority of farmers planted local varieties that they have reserved from previous season and none utilised fertilisers. Crop pests reported included hippos and elephants causing damage to crops.

Nevertheless, cereal crop productions, according to most interviewed farmers have increased as follows: pearl millet 14%, sorghum 15% and maize 5%. In addition, this season's harvest for Bambara nuts and Ground nuts are above than previous seasons, while for pumpkins and cowpeas are currently lower. On average, the current harvest is expected to sustain households until end of December. On the animal health, no major livestock diseases were reported at the time of this assessment.

Mpungu

Good and favourable rains were reported in this constituency during the course of the season. In response to the good rains farmers were able to cultivate at least 80% of their fields. The remaining part could not be covered due to problems of inadequate draft animals and limited access to tractor services. Other contributing factors reported included weeds which were growing at a fast pace due to good rains received. Furthermore, it was reported that participation on the weeding subsidy services by both farmers and weeding groups is relatively low. Moreover, the weeding groups are not happy with the payment process which was described to be taking too long and they want to be paid immediately or within the reasonable space of time. Nevertheless, cereal crop production is reported to have made a slight increase with pearl millet as a major one grown in this area showed 15%, maize 20% and sorghum 5%.

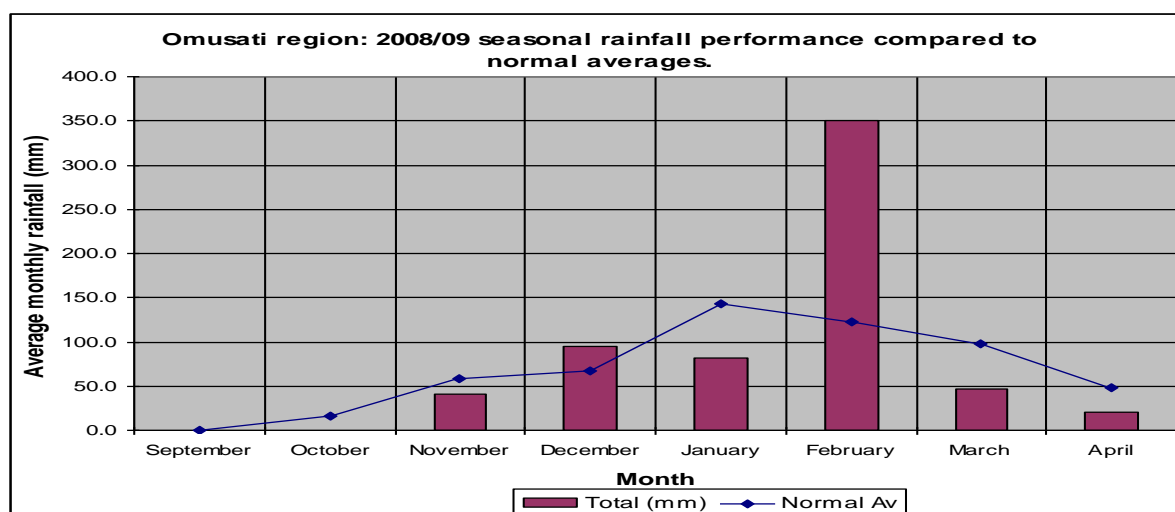
Although there has been slight improvement on household food security, following this season's harvest, it is estimated that, the current harvest is likely to sustain the households until end of September. Internal parasites in goats have been reported in the villages such as Mpungu, Mungomba, Sirikunga, Kata, Gava, Sikaro sompo and surrounding villages.

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

Below average harvests are expected in these regions following floods and heavy rains during the second part of the season. Production prospects on coarse grain (mainly pearl millet and sorghum) for the 2008/2009 crop season indicated that the regions are expecting a below average production with Ohangwena being the worst hit by 50% followed by Omusati with 46%, Oshana and Oshikoto both 41% lower than the normal production. However, this season's harvest when compared to last year is much better, except for Ohangwena region which was severely affected by the floods. Moreover, quelled birds are reported to have caused a significant damage to the late planted crops, thereby reducing the harvest.

Omusati region

During the last two weeks of February and early March, part of this Region especially areas in the northern part, suffered major crop damage by floods and torrential rainfall as summarised in the graph below. Many crop fields were flooded thereby destroying what could have been an above average crop prospect forecasted during February Crop Assessment Mission. The most affected constituencies included Anamulenge, Outapi, Okalongo, Etayi, Elim and Ogongo constituency. Therefore, in general, crop production in these constituencies is expected to be almost the same as last season. Last season's harvest was low due to heavy rains and floods. However, crop productions elsewhere in the region especially the western part are much better than last season and expected to be at least 70% higher than the normal production of the region.



On the livestock health, all constituencies reported internal parasites in goats and Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle. Moreover, cases of African Swine Fever were reported in the Region where dozen of pigs are reported to have died as a result of this problem. The veterinary authority advised the farmers to stop selling or slaughter their pigs until the situation is normalized.

Constituencies

Outapi

Despite the efforts by farmers to cultivate almost 100% of their fields in response to the good start of the season, such efforts went in vain as most part of the constituency were flooded in the second part of the season, destroying what could have been an above average harvest. Therefore, most interviewed farmers indicated that significant losses of up to 96% of last season for pearl millet can be expected. Moreover, further reductions of at least 16% on sorghum were reported. Cowpeas were also severely affected by aphids, as an addition to excessive soil moisture which have only encourage vegetative growth with little flowerings.

On animal health African Swine Fever was reported in the area and is estimated to have killed a large number of pigs. Cases of internal parasites in goats are also reported in most parts of the constituency. Pastures were unable to establish properly due to floods and heavy rains that washed away the grass. Farmers are however expected to soon move their livestock to the cattle posts for better grazing conditions.

Anamulenge

This season's flood had little impacts on crop production as compared to last season. This is because most farmers in this area planted early and their crops were almost at flowering stage when floods occurred. Therefore compared to last season, an increase in harvests for both pearl millet and sorghum by about 30% and 40 percent respectively can be expected. Moreover, pumpkin harvests are also reported to be higher than last season. However, legumes showed poor harvests because of excessive moisture in the soil.

African swine fever was reported in this area and has killed most of the pigs in this area. Cases of internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the area.

Etayi

This is one of the constituencies that were affected by flood during February and mach period. Initially, crop production presented good prospects, but due to flood and heavy rains received, the expected harvest for pearl millet is now estimated at about 22% above last season. Moreover, sorghum production in this area indicated a significant improvement of last season's harvest where most

farmers interviewed indicated to expect more than five times of last season's harvest.

Overall household food security situation is said to have improved with the current harvest, but due to a weaken food reserve, the current harvest is expected to only last until end of September thereafter many households are likely to experience food insecurity. The grazing condition in the eastern part of the constituency is reported to be poor and dominated by herbal species that are not edible by livestock. Moreover, farmers have also indicated problem of internal parasites in goats which is weakening the body condition of these animals.

Oshikuku

This constituency was among those that were less affected by the flood. Therefore, in response to the prevailing good crop growing conditions, farmers on average were able to cover at least 90% of their crop field, using mainly drought animal power and private tractors.

Although there has been a shortage of improved seeds earlier this season, most farmers were able to use their own traditional seed varieties retained from the previous seasons. Nevertheless, most interviewed farmers indicated that a comparative better crop harvests of up to 60% for millet and almost 100% of last season for sorghum can be expected. However, due to a weaken food reserves for the past two seasons, this improvement to the household food security will be short lived and is expected to last until end of September, thereafter most households are likely to face food insecurity.

Okalongo

Although most farmers made efforts to cultivate at least 90% of their fields, such efforts were counteracted by floods and heavy rains. Therefore, the harvest which most farmers initially thought could be a good one was reduced drastically to almost the same as last season. However, there are few pockets in the constituency where a comparative good harvest of up to twice of last year's harvest can be expected.

With the current harvest, the households' situation has improved, but due to a weakened food stock for the past two seasons, the current harvest is expected to last only until end of August thereafter, the majority of households are likely to be food insecure. On the livestock health, this Constituency experiences an outbreak of African Swine Fever

with a prevalence rate over 60% and is reported to have swiped a large number of pigs in the area. Farmers were advised to stop selling or slaughtering their pigs by the Veterinary Authority until the situation normalizes. Moreover, cases of Lumpy skin disease and three days stiff sickness in cattle especially during the rain season and internal parasites mainly in goats were also reported in the area. With the exception of internal parasites in goats which remained as a challenge, the situation with regards to the abovementioned problems is reported to be under control.

Elim

In response to a good start of the season, most interviewed farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their fields. Subsequently, this season's harvest for pearl millet increased by at least 5% of last season, while sorghum increased by over 100%.

Livestock and pasture are currently in good condition, but pastures are expected to deteriorate much earlier due to high number of livestock in the area. Nevertheless, most farmers are expected to move their livestock to the cattle posts for better grazing. The household food security situation in general is satisfactory, following a recent harvest this May, but due to a weakened food reserves for the past two seasons is expected to deteriorate by end of August.

Ogongo

Most farmers were able to cultivate at least 80% of their fields, following good rains received, which later on become too heavy and unfavourable to crop growth during late February and early March period. Heavy rains and flood waters did not only damage crops, but also caused extensive damage to properties such as grain storage (granaries) and other assets in some households.

It is estimated that, on average farmers that were affected by flood can expect a reduced harvest of over 60% of last season's harvest. However, fields that were less or not affected by floods can expect a better harvest of at most two times of last season's harvest. Grazing areas are in fair condition and are expected to deteriorate much earlier before the next growing season due to flood that is reported to have washed away the grass.

Otamanzi

Most farmers responded well to good showers received this season and the majority of them were able to cultivate almost full sizes of their fields. However, farmers expressed their disappointment about the ploughing and weeding subsidy services which are not working effectively in the area. It was reported that all tractor owners who registered to participate in the ploughing subsidy services withdrew, citing late payments and strict conditions attached to the subsidies. Furthermore, weeding subsidy services were also not used, since the groups that usually do this works refused to partake complaining the total amount of money received is very little compared to a hectare that was covered.

Most interviewed farmers indicated that a reduced harvest on pearl millet of about 27% can be expected due to damages by quelea birds that are reported in the area. Sorghum on the other hand showed a slight increase of about 4% of last season. On livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease in cattle and internal parasites in goats were reported.

Okahao

Over 90% of the fields were cultivated following the good start of the season. However, too much rainfall in the second part of the season causes some severe damage to crop production. The average normal sizes in this area Field sizes within are estimated at about 3 hectares. By February, most farmers around villages of Outota and Etunda were affected by the flood. Majority of farmers planted their local seed varieties and applied kraal manure.

However, inability to finish cultivating and weed the crops was also echoed by many due to water-logging conditions in the fields. Therefore, this season's production of pearl millet is said to have declined by 11 %, while sorghum on the other hand increased by 6%. In contrast with last season non-cereal crops, harvests are also reported to be below, due to excessive soil moisture.

Tsandi

Some parts of this constituency namely; Onaniki, Olukulo, Ondukuta and Okalonga were severely affected by flood water and most crop fields in these areas were damaged. Before flood occurred in February, most farmers were able to cultivate almost all parts of their fields were pearl millet is a major crop in this regard. Furthermore, most of the farmers interviewed indicated to have used own traditionally retained seeds from the previous seasons.

The pests and diseases reported this season that affected crop and livestock production include: lumpy Skin disease in cattle, internal parasites in goats and quelea birds on crops.

Despite the aforementioned setbacks, pearl millet production rose by 105%, while for sorghum increased slightly by 10%. Conversely, non-cereal crops production is below than that of last season due to excessive moisture in the soil which is reported to have stimulated vegetative growth and little flowering in cow peas.

Onesi

Most of the interviewed farmers express their concern about the tractor ploughing subsidy scheme for not working in their area. This Constituency is reported to be experiencing severe shortages of private tractors as there is only one known private tractor in the whole constituency which did not participated in the ploughing subsidy scheme this season. Under the circumstance, farmers have to rely heavily on the draft animal power this season and most farmers were only able to cover up to about 75% of their fields.

Nevertheless, this constituency was less affected by floods this season and therefore crop production in this area is reported to have increase to at least

150% for pearl millet and 38% in sorghum. On the livestock health, cases of Lumpy skin disease in cattle were reported as well as internal parasites in goats which is said to have cause many deaths in goats.

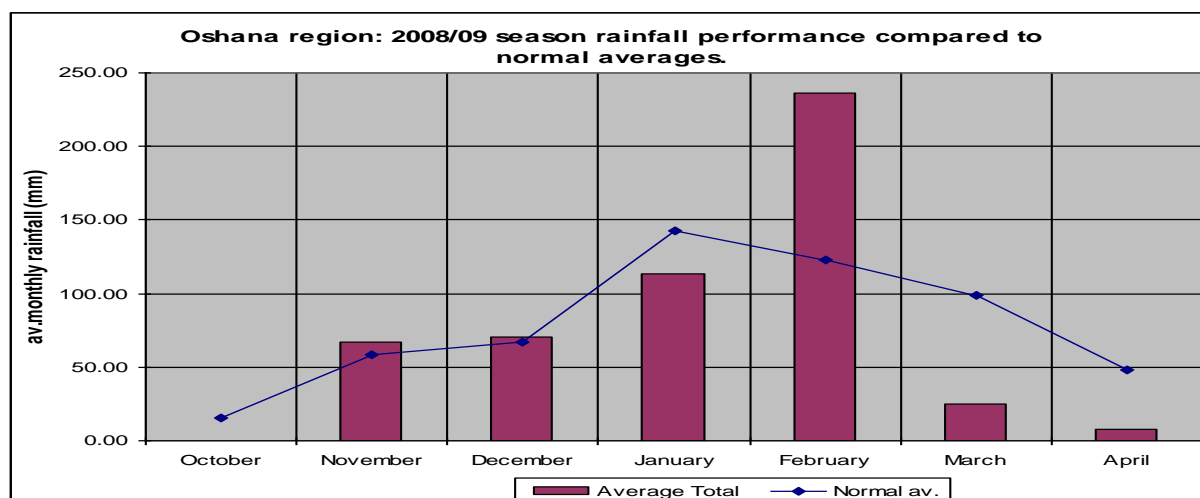
Ruacana

With a good rainfall distribution for most parts of the constituency most farmers were able to extend their normal field size by about 30%. Therefore, most of the interviewed farmers indicated that compared to last season, an increase in production of about 10% for pearl millet and 13% for sorghum can be expected.

Most parts of this constituency are geographically located on the high ground and as such no flood cases reported in the area. Cases of quelea birds were widely reported in this area, causing damages especially to the late planted crops. Most of the interviewed farmers indicated that, the current harvests will sustain them to the next harvest. Pasture and livestock are in good condition. Cases on Lumpy Skin disease in cattle were reported during the rainfall period, but the situation is said to have improved.

Oshana Region

Following a good start of the 2008/09 rain season, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their crop fields. Apart from heavy rains and floods during February/ March period (as summarised in the graph below), no major crop anomalies reported during the course of this season. On average, cereal crop production prospects this season are estimated at 60% above last year's poor harvest.



The current household food security is reported to be satisfactory, following a recent harvest. However, due to the weakened food reserve for the past two seasons, the current harvest is feared to run down much earlier and is expected to only last until end of September after which the majority of households are likely to be dependent on the market for food access or face some forms of food insecurity. Cases of internal parasite are widely reported in almost all parts of the region with a prevalence rate of over 90%.

Constituencies

Ongwediva

Before floods and heavy rains reached this Constituency, most farmers have already finished ploughing almost the full sizes of their crop fields. However, during the episodes of floods and heavy rains, many farmers found it difficult to weed their fields properly because of too much water. Nevertheless, most interviewed farmers indicated that, this season's harvest is much better by far than last year. Hence, at least 70% of the respondents indicated that pearl millet harvest of at least six times than last season can be expected. However, sorghum and non-cereal harvests such as legumes and squashes are reported to be poor because of too much water.

Cases of Three Days Stiff sickness and Lumpy Skin disease in cattle have been reported during the rainfall period, but the situations have since been improved. Furthermore, internal parasites in goats is still a major problem to many farmers in this area

Oshakati East

Most farmers in this constituency were able to cultivate at most 100% of their fields. Harvest prospects indicated that, only farmers whose fields are on a relative high ground and planted early during December were able to obtain a comparative better harvest than last season. Even the flood affected farmers described this season's harvest to be much better than last season.

Last season's harvest came as a result of late start of the season, damage by Army worms which later on followed by floods. Therefore, over 60% of the respondents are expecting an increased harvest of at least 100% of last season. However, due to a weakened food reserve for the past two seasons, such harvest is expected to last until end of August, thereafter the majority of households are likely to face food insecurity. Internal parasites were widely reported in the Constituency and most interviewed farmers indicated that they have lost some of their goats as a result of this problem.

Oshakati West

Following the good start of the rains this season, over 90% of the fields on average were cultivated. Despite the various impediments such as the late arrival of the improved seeds, floods and heavy rains surfaced during the course of the season, most farmers interviewed indicated that this year's crop harvest is much better than last season. Therefore, it is estimated that, an increase of over 200% for both pearl millet and sorghum can be expected.

On livestock health, cases of internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the area. Other than this, no major diseases were reported at the time of this assessment.

Okatana

Despite, farmers' efforts to cultivate at least 95% of their fields, some parts of this constituency were severely affected by floods and heavy rains during February/ March period. This includes; Omusheshe, Omayanga and Uupumako villages. Therefore most interviewed farmers indicated that, reduction in crop production of up to 30% for pearl millet and 13% on sorghum can be expected.

Excessive soil moisture did not only make it difficult for the farmers to control weeds, but also resulted in nutrients leaching and stunted growth to crops.

Ompundja

On average, about 72% of the fields were cultivated and the remaining parts could not be covered because of too much rain waters, making it difficult to cultivate. During the flood period, farmers with flooded crop fields found it difficult to effectively control the weeds. Therefore, most interviewed farmers indicated that, this season's cereal harvest (mainly pearl millet and sorghum) is relatively poor than last season and is estimated at over 40% below last season. Non-cereal harvest is also reported to

be low in this constituency because of too much water.

Floods and heavy rains did not only cause damage to crops and properties, but also affected pasture establishment in the area. As parts of the preventative measures, some farmers are expected to move their livestock (mainly cattle) to the cattle posts for better grazing. Like other Constituencies in the region, cases of internal parasite were commonly reported in the area and most interviewed farmers are requesting the Directorate of Veterinary Services to make appropriate medicines available at the local Agricultural Development Centre, for their easy access.

Uukwiyu

Most interviewed farmers indicated that, this Constituency was as well affected by floods and heavy rains. Fortunately, most farmers were almost finished ploughed and planted their fields when floods occurred. Initially, harvest prospects were good but later on reduced as a result of floods and heavy rains events. Therefore, most interviewed farmers indicated that a reduction in millet production of up to 18% of last year can be expected. Moreover, harvests for sorghum were reduced up to 25% of last season. Poor harvests were further reported in cowpeas and Bambara nuts because of excessive soil moisture which is reported to have only caused vegetative growth and very little flowering. The household food security situation is said to have improved, following the current harvest, but such improvement is expect to last until end of August were the majority of households are likely to face food insecurity.

Cases of Lumpy skin disease were reported in cattle while internal parasites were reported in goats and donkeys. Most farmers are reported to have lost their livestock to internal parasites. Grazing is currently in good condition.

Okatyali

Flood water runs down through this area since its located on the downstream of Etosha pan were water drains away from the inland. Flood waters and heavy rains made it difficult for the farmers to finish ploughing their crop fields, resulting in a decrease in area planted by 25%. Parallel to that a reduction of last season's poor harvests in millet production of over 40% and 15% for sorghum were reported.

Although, there have been some improvements in household food security following the current harvest, most interviewed farmers indicated that,

such improvement is only short-live since the food reserves were weakening for the past two season as a result of poor harvest. On livestock health, internal parasite in goats and donkeys were reported and many farmers are said to have lost some of their animals as a result of this problem. Furthermore, Lumpy Skin disease was reported in cattle during the rainfall period, but the situation has since been improved.

Ondangwa

Although, this season was characterised by floods and heavy rains in the second part of the season as it was the case last year, most interviewed farmers indicated that harvests are much better than last year. It was therefore reported that, most farmers in this area can expect up to 150% above last year's poor harvest. Furthermore, sorghum growers can expect about 100% of last season's harvest.

Although, better harvest this season is expected to improve the current household food security, such improvement is only short-lived because of lack of or insufficient food stocks for the past two seasons. Hence the current harvest is expected to sustain the households until end of September.

Uuvudhiya

Most parts of this constituency were flooded and inaccessible during February-April period. In the process, most crop fields were damaged by heavy rains and floods especially areas around Uuvudhiya and Eengombe villages were mostly affected. Therefore on average, production for pearl millet is said to have declined by 38% below normal, while sorghum on the other hand indicates an increase of 134% above last year's harvest.

The major crop pests reported this season is mainly quelea birds that are reported to attack the late planted crops. On livestock, internal parasites in goats and sheep as well as Lumpy-skin disease were reported. In general, livestock are currently in good condition and pasture is said to have established properly and expected to sustain the livestock to the next growing season. Regarding household the household food security situation, most respondents indicated that the current harvest will only sustain them till end of September.

Okaku

On average, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of the crop fields following the good start of the rain season. Most of the crop field showed good harvest prospect during the early part of the season. However, as the season progresses, the situation have changed due to damage by floods

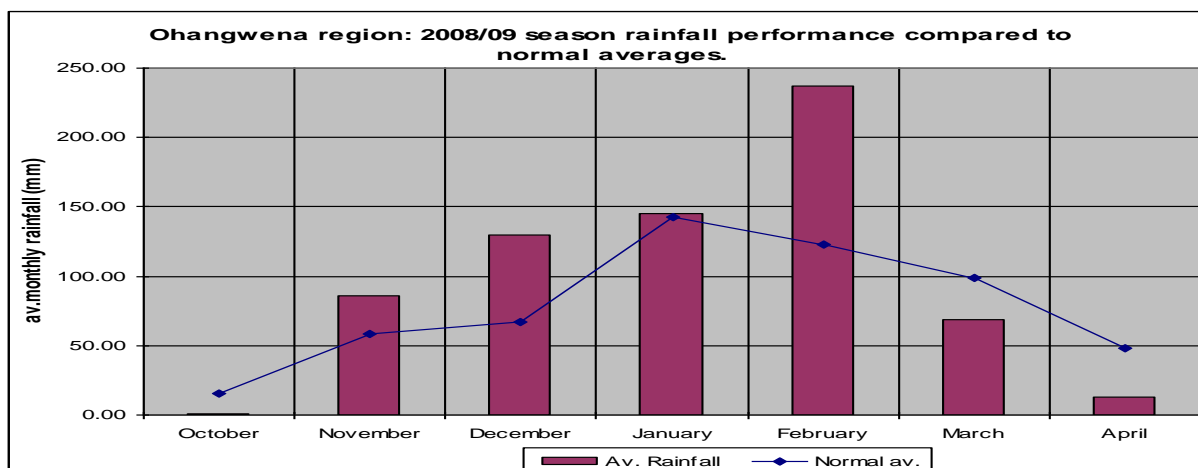
and heavy rains. Therefore most farmers interviewed indicated that harvest losses for both millet and sorghum are estimated at 35% and 60% respectively of last season's harvest.

Household food security is currently satisfactory, following the recent harvest, but expected to deteriorate by September, because of a weakened food

reserves for the past two successive seasons. Grazing is reported to be in good condition and many farmers reported problems of internal parasite in goats which is reported to have killed dozens of goats.

Ohangwena Region

The Region received good rains at the beginning of the season, but became pretty bad in the second half of the season during the last two weeks of February and early March as shown in the graph below. The western part of the Region where majority of its population lives were severely affected by flood and this included; Ondobe, western part of Omulonga, Oshikango, Engela, Ohangwena, Ongenga and Endola constituency. These areas can expect poor harvest of about 40% below the poor harvest last season. Last season's overall production in this region was about 48 percent below the past six-year average. Nevertheless, most farmers in the eastern part of the region are expecting better to good harvest of at least 50% above last season. Production for non-cereal crops is also reported to have decreased especially for legumes due to excessive soil moisture.



The region reported lumpy skin disease and three days stiff sickness in cattle during the rainfall period. Furthermore, cases of internal parasites in goats were reported in which the majority of farmers are reported to have lost their goats and the situation is reported to be stable

Constituencies

Ohangwena

Majority of the farmers were able to cover almost 100% of their fields during ploughing, but such efforts went in vain when floods and heavy rains occurred during February/ March period. Therefore, pearl millet harvest is down by almost 40% of last season's harvest. Moreover, harvests for sorghum

and non-cereal crops are also very low and estimated at more than 60% of last season's harvest.

Grazing was also affected by flood and is reported to be in fair condition and expected to deteriorate much earlier before the start of the next growing season. Cases of internal parasites in goats were commonly reported in most parts of the

Constituency and farmers were advised by the Veterinary Authority to buy appropriate medicine at the nearby pharmacy in order to treat their animals.

Eenhana

Most farmers in this area were able to cover almost 90% of their crop fields following good rains received at the beginning of the season up to the first two weeks of February this season. Although most crops have germinated successfully, their growth and development were hampered by the impacts of floods and heavy rains during the last two weeks of February and early March. Subsequently, crop harvests were reduced significantly with sorghum topping the list of nearly 100% followed by pearl millet with over 70% of last season's harvest.

Although, there has been some form of improvements in household food security, as a result of a recent major harvest- such improvements are expected to prevail until end of August thereafter, the majority of household are likely to face food insecurity. Furthermore, grazing was also affected by floods and is currently in a fair condition. Farmers are however expected to move their livestock to the cattle posts for a better grazing.

Oshikango

Despite farmer's efforts to cultivate almost 100% of their crop fields, the resulting harvest is reported to be low due to heavy rains and floods that occurred during the second part of the season. About 67% of the interviewed farmers are expecting a very poor harvest of at most 60% below last season. Harvest of non-cereal crops were also reported to be low due to too much water.

The household food security is currently satisfactory, though not significant, but most respondents indicated that such improvement is short lived and will only last until the end of August. Cases of Lumpy Skin disease in cattle were reported during the rainfall period. Furthermore, internal parasites in goats are the main concern in most parts of the constituency and some farmers are reported to have lost their goats to this problem.

Endola

Although, most farmers were able to cultivate at least 90% of their fields, about 50% of the crop fields (low ground) have suffered the impacts of floods and heavy rains. Therefore, it was reported that the affected farmers can expect a reduced harvest on pearl millet of over 145% below last

season's poor harvest. However, crop fields that are geographically located on a relative high ground, can expect better to good harvest of up to four times of last year's harvest.

Generally, the household food security is currently satisfactory, following a recent main harvest. However, due to a weakened on-farm food stock, for the past two seasons, this improvement is expected to prevail until end of August

Ongenga

The second part of the season was characterized by torrential rains and floods that led to crop fields being waterlogged. Many farmers were able to cover almost 100% of their crop fields which were then flooded during the last two weeks of February and early March. With regards to crop harvest prospects, the situation resemble Endola constituency. For that reason, Low-lying crop fields can expect a reduced harvest of up to 70% on pearl millet and sorghum can expect a reduced harvest of up to 30% of last year's poor harvest. However, relatively high ground fields which were less or not affected by flood can expect good pearl millet and sorghum harvests of more than six times of last season's harvest. Harvests of non-cereals crops are reported to be lower in comparison to previous season.

Cases of internal parasites in goats were widely reported in the area. As a result, most goats are reported to be in fair condition, despite good grazing conditions existing in the area.

Engela

Majority of farmers used draught-animal power for land preparations. Although many farmers registered to participate in the ploughing subsidy services, supposedly rendered by the private tractor owners, it was reported that some tractors were withdrawn from this service by their owners, apparently due to late payments of the subsidy by the line Ministry.

Nonetheless, most interviewed farmers indicated to have managed finish ploughing their crop fields. Farmers whose crop fields are located on a relative high ground can expect better to good millet harvest of up to 50% above last season. Sorghum on the other hand showed a decreased production of about 18% below last year's harvest. Although, crop harvest in this constituency is generally good, it should be noted however that, isolated cases of poor harvest do exist especially the low-lying crop fields.

Omulonga

Most crop fields in the western part of this constituency were flooded as from the last two weeks of February and early March. As a result, many farmers were unable to complete weeding activities. Flood water did not only cause nutrients leaching, but have also resulted in stunting growth and wilting of crops. Therefore, crop harvest in this part of the constituency is estimated to have dropped by at least 60% of last year's harvest. However, the eastern part of the constituency can expect better harvest of up to 20% above last season.

Cases of Lump Skin disease in cattle were reported in various part of the constituency during the rainfall period and the situation has since been normalized. Moreover, problems of internal parasites in goats have been reported and the situation is said to have not yet improved. Grazing was observed to be in good condition and is expected to sustain the livestock to the next growing season.

Ondobe

Although the majority of farmers were able to cultivate at least 80% of their crop fields, most parts of this constituency were flooded during February/March period leading to crops and grain storages damage. Nevertheless, most interviewed farmers indicated that, unlike the last season's floods that came at the critical stage of crop development, vegetative stage that is, this season, flood came at the time where most of the crops has already passed that stage and affected mainly the late planted ones.

Therefore, by and large, crop harvest, pearl millet in particular, in this area is much better than last season and most farmers interviewed are expecting at least 40% above last season's harvest. However, there are some farmers especially those that have late planted their crops, can expect poor harvests that are even below than last year's due to flood and quelleda birds' damage.

Epembe

Despite chronic absence of private tractors in the area, mostly all farmers uses draft animal to cultivate their crop fields. Therefore farmers were able to cover almost 100% of their crop fields using draft animal power. Overall crop production this season is good and most pearl millet growers can expect a 5% increase of last season's harvest. However, traditionally many farmers plant sorghum late and this season germination thereof were very poor and so is the harvest. Similarly, non-cereal crops such

as Cowpeas, Bambara nuts and Pumpkins could not thrive under excessive soil moisture condition.

Household food security is reported to have improved, following recent major harvest in May. However, due to a weakened on-farm food stock for the past two successive seasons, the situation is expected to deteriorate by end of September. Pasture is reported to be fair and most interviewed farmers indicated that, grass did not establish properly due to excessive soil moisture, which only encourage herbal growth that are not eaten by livestock.

Omundaungilo

The western parts of this constituency were to some extent affected by heavy rains during the last two weeks of February and early March. This included Oshihepo and Kavela villages where most farmers in these villages reported to have lost some of their crops to heavy rains. Nevertheless, on average over 90% of the fields were cultivated using mainly draft animal power.

Generally, according to farmers, this season's harvest is much better than last year. Therefore, most farmers on average can expect an increase in millet production of up to 10% above than last year. Sorghum has also indicated an increase of at least 20% of last season's harvest. However, non-cereal crops (pumpkins, melons and Bambara nuts) showed poor harvest this season, due to too much water in the soil.

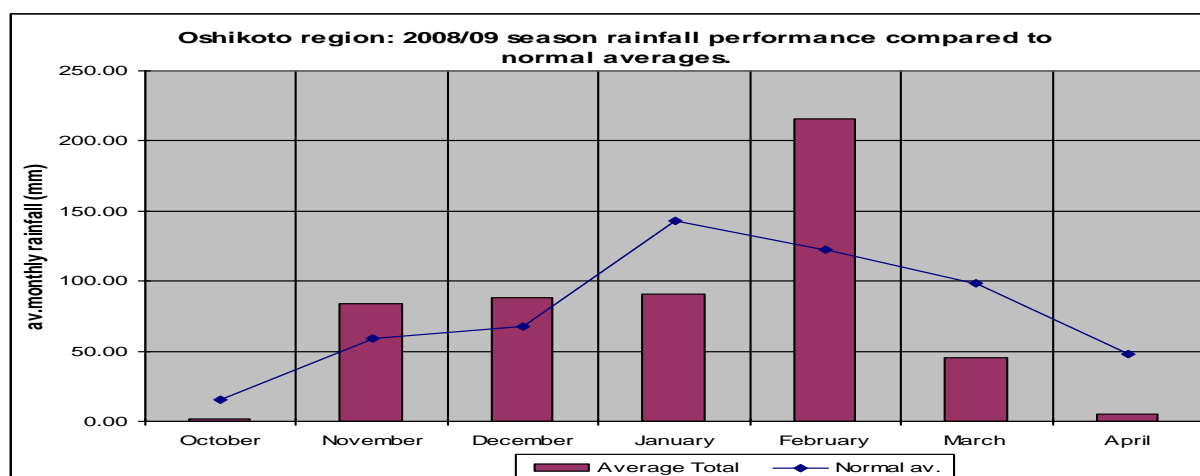
Okongo

Due to good crop growing conditions prevailed during the course of the season many farmers can expect good to a bumper harvest in this area. In terms of crop harvests, this constituency has never been affected by flood both previous and current season. Therefore, an increase in millet production by at least 30% of last season can be expected. Moreover, non-cereal crop especially pumpkin have also shown an increase of about 10% above last year's harvest.

On livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin disease in cattle were reported during the rainfall period. No major crop pests were reported during the course of the season. Both pasture and livestock are reported to be in good condition.

Oshikoto region

The western parts of this constituency, especially areas that are bordering with Oshana Region were severely affected by flood during February/ March period (rainfall summary see the graph below). In order of the severity effect, this include; Olukonda, Omuntele, Oniipa and the western part of Onayena constituency. Therefore crop harvest in these constituencies are estimated to have declined to at least 20% below last year's poor harvest and as such, the current harvest is estimated to sustain the household up to end of August. The eastern parts of the region were less affected by flood and can expect a good cereal harvest of more than 60% above than last season. Some farmers on the eastern part of the region reported a bumper harvest on cereal crop produced in the area.



Cases of Lumpy Skin disease and Three Days Stiff sickness in cattle were reported in various parts of the Region, but the situation is said have improved. Moreover, farmers are complaining about problem of internal parasites in goats which are reported to be threatening the health of the small stock.

Constituencies

Olukonda

This constituency was severely affected by floods and heavy rains during February/March period. At the beginning of the season, rainfalls have been favourable and the majority of farmers were able to cover at least 95% of their crop fields. However, most crops fields are reported to have been flooded and as a result, overall cereal crop production has been reduced significantly to at least 30% below last year's poor harvest. Moreover, harvest for non-cereal crop has also been reduced significantly due to floods and torrential rains.

On the household food security, most households are currently relying on their little harvest and most of them indicated that, such harvest is expect to

sustain them till September. In addition, Prices of staple food (maize flours) are reported to have been on the rise since last year. For instance, 50kg bag of maize meal is currently costing around N\$250 in the local retailer shops, compared to the corresponding period where it was costing N\$200 last year.

Oniipa

On average, more than 95% of crop fields were cultivated, following the good start of the season. However, due to high amount of rainfall received in the constituency, many crop fields were flooded causing damage to crops and properties. Under the circumstance, crop production especially in low-lying crop fields is generally low compared to last

season with Millet and sorghum declining by 32% and 17%, respectively.

Apart from floods and heavy rains, cases of Lumpy Skin disease in cattle were reported. Furthermore, internal parasites reported affecting goats is still the main concern with most farmers and many goats are reported to have died as a result of this problem. On the household food security, most households are currently dependent on the few crop harvest which is expected to last until end of September.

Onayena

The western part of this constituency is more or less the same as Oniipa constituency in terms of the planted areas and expected harvest. Most crops fields in this part of the constituency were affected by heavy rains and as a result crop production is somewhat below last season.

However, the eastern part of the constituency and crop fields that are geographically located on a relative high ground can expect a better to good harvest as compared to last season. Most farmers interviewed in these areas indicated that, an increase of over 45% of last year's harvest can be expected in pearl millet, while sorghum can expect at least 30% higher than last season. A diverse range of animal diseases were reported in this Constituency and these include Lumpy Skin disease in cattle, internal parasites in goats, and Newcastle disease in chickens.

Omuntele

Above normal rains were received in most parts of constituency and as a result, many crop fields were flooded this season. Luckily, most farmers were almost finished ploughing their crop fields before floods and heavy rains occurred and most crops were already in advance stage of growth. The most flood affected crops were mainly the late planted ones that were still at a tender stage of development. Therefore, most farmers indicated that this year's harvest is much better by far than last season. Most interviewed farmers indicated that, compared to last season, on average, millet and sorghum production have increased by 31% and 45% respectively. On the other hand, harvest for non-cereal crops such as: cowpeas, Bambara nuts and melons were affected by excessive soil moisture and are reported to be below this season.

On crop pests, birds were a major problem during planting. In addition, cases of mice destroying crops during germinations were also reported. In Onanke village, reports of elephants destroying matured pearl millet were also encountered this

season. Residents with crop fields bordering with Etosha National Game Reserve have been sharing their produce with elephants due to the ailing fence for this game park. Farmers are however proposing to the government, in particular, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to repair the fence in order to prevent elephants from sneaking out of the fence and destroy farmers' crops.

Onyaanya

Following the good start of the rain season, the majority of farmers were able to cultivate almost 100% of their fields. The southern part of this constituency was affected by heavy rains that have resulted in water logging and stunted growth in crops. This included Onyati, Omulilo and Ondjokwe villages where pearl millet production is said to have gone down by at least 30% of last year's harvest. Elsewhere in the constituency, the majority of farmers are expecting a good pearl millet harvest, following the prevailed good crop growing conditions during the course of the season. Sorghum production showed a tremendous improvement of more than 500% of last season's harvest.

The grazing conditions are currently good, but feared to deteriorate much earlier before the beginning of the next growing season due to the apparent overstocking.

Okankolo

The majority of farmers in this area use mainly draught animal power to plough their crop fields. Unfortunately, despite the availability of government ploughing subsidy vouchers, none of the private tractor owners rendered that service to the community. Most of the interviewed farmers indicated that pearl millet was planted on at least 94% of their fields. It was also reported that many crop farmers can expect better to good harvest of up to 50% above last year's harvest for both millet and sorghum

With regards to crop pests, cases of locust were reported during the rain season, and is reported to have caused some damages to crops but disappeared on their own. However, farmers are in fear that the locusts may come back next season since; no attempts were made to interrupt a completion of their life cycle process. On livestock health, cases of Lumpy Skin disease and coughing in cattle were reported during the rainfall period, but the situation is said to have improved. Moreover, cases of internal parasites in goats were also reported widely in the area and many farmers are reported to have lost some of their goats due to this problem.

Omuthiya

Most farmers were able to cover almost 100% of their crop fields this season. Although, this constituency was not affected by flood, as it was the case with others in the Region, the majority of interviewed farmers are complaining about excessive soil moisture which has affected crops growth negatively. It is however reported that many farmers are expecting poor harvest this season compared to last year. Over 60% of the interviewed farmers indicated that, due to the impacts of floods and quillea birds, pearl millet harvest this season was reduced by 25% of last year's harvest. Sorghum on the other hand showed an increase of over 180% of last year's harvest. Moreover, harvests for non-cereal crops are much higher in this area, unlike most part of the region where they are reported to be low.

On the livestock health, cases of Dystocia (difficulties in giving birth) were reported in cows. In an effort to safeguard the lives of the affected animals, these cases were reported to the local Veterinary Office where prompt responses were made. At the time of this assessment, no other livestock diseases were reported in the area, and grazing condition is well established and expected to prevail until the next rain season.

Eenghodi

Good rains have been received in almost all parts of this constituency throughout the course of the season. As a result, over 97% of the normal average fields sizes were cultivated. Although some farmers complained about excessive moisture in the soil and that the rainfall has ended absurdly, this did not cause much significant impact to the overall good

crop production expected in this area. It was reported that some farmers have recorded a bumper harvest this season. Therefore most interviewed farmers indicated that pearl millet production is estimated at over 100% of last season's harvest, while sorghum production is estimated at over 3000% of last season's harvest.

Cases of Lumpy Skin disease in cattle were reported during the rainfall period and the situation has since been improved. Moreover internal parasites in goats are widely reported in almost all parts of this constituency, where most farmers are reported to have lost some of their goats to this problem.

Guinas

Despite the shortages or lack of tractors in the area, most farmers use draft animals power to plough their crop fields. Most farmers were able to cultivate at least 95% of their fields using mainly draught animal powers. The remaining part could not be covered due to heavy rains. It was reported that too much rains and quillea birds made some significant impacts on the overall crop production in the area. Nevertheless, most of the interviewed farmers indicated that, a slight increase of up to 10% of last season's harvest can be expected. Furthermore, isolated cases of bumper harvest were also reported in the area.

On the livestock health, cases of internal parasites were reported in goats in most parts of the constituency. Furthermore, some farmers have reported Gall sickness in cattle. Pasture and livestock are currently in good condition.

National Cereal production Situation for 2008/2009 Crop season

The country's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, sorghum, pearl millet and wheat) is forecasted at 111,100 tonnes as presented in the table below. This consists of 56,900 tonnes of white maize, 37,300 tonnes of pearl millet, 4,700 tonnes of sorghum and 12,200 tonnes of wheat².

This represents a slight increase in output of **5 percent above** last year (2007/08) poor harvest. The slight increase is mainly as a result of improvement in production from the commercial areas which account for over **5 percent above** last season's harvest and **50 percent higher** than a 10-year average. However, cereal productions in communal crop producing regions are poor due to severe floods and heavy rains that were reported in these regions. Caprivi and Ohangwena regions were the hardest-hit by floods and heavy rains with their respective reduced production of 2 percent and 12 percent lower than last season.

Namibia: Total Cereal Production trend ('000' tonnes) and 2008/2009 compared to the 10-year average (1998/1999 to 2007/2008)

Namibia: Total Cereal Production ('000 tonnes)- 2008/2009 compared to 1998/1999 to 2007/2008 average														
Region/Sector	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	10-year average	2008/09 as % of average	2008/2009 as percentage of 2007/2008
Caprivi	9.0	16.1	11.3	8.4	9.1	10.0	9.0	13.0	8.2	9.0	9.1	10.2	-13	-2
Kavango	6.9	11.7	6.4	3.2	10.0	9.5	9.2	9.8	4.1	5.1	4.5	7.5	-37	-2
Omusati	22.0	12.4	35.1	17.0	14.1	22.6	21.7	28.1	13.2	9.1	11.1	19.5	-46	18
Ohangwena	22.3	15.1	18.0	10.5	11.3	26.5	19.0	38.2	14.0	10.4	9.1	18.4	-50	-12
Oshana	11.6	14.0	18.0	6.5	8.1	9.6	8.3	13.1	6.1	5.5	6.1	10.1	-41	8
Oshikoto	36.1	18.4	17.1	9.0	11.1	23.1	21.0	25.1	10.1	8.9	11.0	18.1	-41	19
Commercial	14.0	15.0	41.1	30.1	34.1	37.1	67.0	52.1	61.1	58.2	61.4	41.0	50	5
Namibia	121.5	102.2	147.0	84.0	95.2	137.4	154.4	179.0	116.4	106.1	111.1	124.2	-11	5

The area planted to the country's coarse grain production is presented in the table below. As indicated in the table below, the area planted to cereal crop (white maize, pearl millet, sorghum and wheat) for Namibia this season is estimated at **308,000 hectares**. This represents an increase of about **35 percent above** last season and **17% below** the 10-year average. The 17% below the 10-year average came as a result of floods and heavy rains in Caprivi and the north central regions during the second part of the season. It was however noted that, some farmers in these regions were unable to cover the remaining part of their crop fields due to floods and or heavy rains.

² This is a provisionally estimate, since wheat is a winter crop and production thereof is ongoing

Namibia: Total Planted Area trend and 2008/2009 compared to a 10-year average (1998/1999 to 2007/2008)

Namibia: Total Area ('000 hectares) - 2008/2009 compared to 1998/1999 to 2007/2008 average														
Region/Sector	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	10-year average	2008/09 as % of average	2008/2009 as percentage of 2007/2008
Caprivi	33.1	27.1	37.0	36.1	22.0	15.2	14.1	20.0	22.0	18.4	19.0	24.3	-22	3
Kavango	24.0	22.3	42.1	14.1	17.3	20.1	13.0	16.0	12.2	14.5	18.4	19.4	-5	26
Omusati	161.1	169.1	160.4	74.2	73.0	78.1	76.1	69.1	61.2	50.0	76.1	97.0	-22	52
Oshana	133.1	138.0	130.0	75.0	62.3	85.1	83.4	87.3	60.0	50.0	81.1	90.3	-10	62
Oshikoto	92.0	92.0	97.5	41.0	44.1	26.4	25.1	32.1	24.0	34.1	37.0	51.0	-27	9
Oshikoto	97.1	124.4	134.1	54.0	58.2	64.0	61.1	56.5	48.1	45.0	61.3	74.1	-17	36
Commercial	15.0	16.0	10.2	9.1	13.1	15.1	14.2	15.4	13.0	15.1	15.1	14.0	12	0
Namibia	554.4	588.1	611.0	301.4	289.4	303.2	286.1	295.4	239.3	227.0	308.0	369.5	-17	35

Cereal Supply/Demand Situation for 2008/09 and 2009/10 Marketing year

Marketing year: 01 May 2008 – 30 April 2009: The cereal supply/demand situation in Namibia for the just ended marketing year 2008/2009 (May/April) is presented in the balance sheet below. The balance sheet shows that the marketing year ended with an estimated after trade cereal surplus of 39,600 tonnes at national level. However, the balance sheet does not account for commercial imports made by various retailer outlets in the form of maize meal and wheat flour which could have significantly changed the cereal balance.

Namibia: Cereal Supply/Demand Balance 1 May 2007 - 30 April 2008 ('000 tonnes)				
	Wheat	Maize	Millet/Sorghum	Total
Domestic Availability	26.6	73.3	64.9	164.8
Opening stocks	14.4	19.7	25.0	59.1
Production	12.2	53.6	39.9	105.7
Total Utilization	72.8	155.7	86.3	314.8
Food use	62.2	142.3	50.3	254.8
Losses and other uses	0.6	3.4	6.0	10.0
Closing stocks	10.0	10.0	30.0	50.0
Shortfall	-46.2	-82.4	-21.4	-150.0
Commercial imports received	64.2	128.6	0.0	192.8
Exports shipped	0.0	3.2	0.0	3.2
After trade Deficit/Surplus	18.0	43.0	-21.4	39.6

Marketing year: 01 May 2009 – 30 April 2010: The forecast of the cereal supply/demand situation in Namibia for the marketing year 2009/2010 (May/April) is presented in table below.

Namibia: Cereal Supply/Demand Forecast 1 May 2009 - 30 April 2010 ('000 tonnes)				
	Wheat	Maize	Millet/Sorghum	Total
Domestic Availability	37.0	67.2	57.0	161.2
Opening stocks (01 April 2009)	24.7	10.3	15.0	50.0
Forecasted Production	12.3	56.9	42.0	111.2
Total Utilization	74.0	158.9	87.5	320.4
Food use	63.4	145.1	51.2	259.7
Losses and other uses	0.6	3.8	6.3	10.7
Closing stocks (01 May 2009)	10.0	10.0	30.0	50.0
Shortfall	-37.0	-91.7	-30.5	-159.2
Commercial imports expected	50.6	107.0	1.7	159.3
After trade Deficit/Surplus	18.0	43.3	-32.2	28.7

The balance sheet shows that an after trade surplus of 28, 700 tonnes of cereal is forecasted. This consists of 18, 000 tonnes of wheat, 43, 300 tonnes of white maize and a deficit of 32,200 tonnes of millet/sorghum. Under the normal circumstances, the cereal deficit will be covered through commercial imports in the form of either grains or meals.

As usual, most imports are from South Africa whose crop production is well advanced. In the meantime, South Africa is reported to expect a good crop production this season in which maize surplus of over 1.6 million tonnes and about 630 tonnes of wheat are estimated. The good harvest came as a result of favourable crop growing conditions prevailed during the course of the season in that country.

Possible Strategies and Options for Assistance

Needless to mention that Namibia is a food secure country in terms of food availability especially through imports, but access to food is a major constrain to most households. In particular, households that are dependent on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods with no other means of incomes may find it difficult to access food and make it through to the next harvest period. This is in light of the current 2008/2009 harvest which is expected to last only until end of September and the fact that, the past three successive seasons have not been good to the majority of farmers in the communal crop producing regions where more than 60% of the country's population lives. Therefore based on the aforementioned predicaments, the assessment team proposed the following strategies (but not limited to) as possible interventions for assistance to the flood affected Regions.

- First and foremost, the impacts of poor crop production for the past three consecutive seasons, combined with soaring staple food prices are likely to hit most the vulnerable households, whom in the following hunger season are likely to intensifying their coping strategies to meet their food needs up to the next harvest period. It is thus, suggested that food aids especially to the most vulnerable groups affected by food deficits this year should be considered until such a time that, the affected people are able to regain their normal livelihoods. However, where food aid option is chosen,

care must be taken to avoid creating a dependency syndrome among various communities.

- With regards to the prevailing problem of internal parasites in goats and other problems related to animal health, it is recommended that the Directorate of Veterinary Services should work hand in hand with the Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services to ensure that, appropriate veterinary medicines for the current ailments are within the reach of farmers by making them available at all the local Agricultural Development Centres in all the affected regions.
- Lack of market for livestock in the Caprivi region as a result of the closure of the Meat-Co abattoir, following an outbreak of FMD in 2007, has caused significant income losses to the livestock producers. Although the Veterinary Authority have now gave a go-ahead to the farmers to slaughter/ sell their animals within their own communities, many farmers are not happy with the price they are receiving through informal market which according to them is very low compared to the Meat-Co prices. Therefore, farmers in this region are requesting the government to restore the formal market for their livestock for a better price.
- To increase crop production for the next upcoming cropping season (i.e.2009/10), it is important to ensure timely availability of basic inputs such as seeds of good quality and fertilizers.
 - a) **Fertilizer:** It has also come to light during the assessment that fertilizers were still unaffordable despite government subsidy. In particular the Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) fertilizers stock that were send to the regions, most of its stock could not sell due to high price of N\$345/ 50kg bag. In order to enable farmers to afford this fertilizer it is advisable to repackage this fertilizer in smaller units such as per one kilogram, etc or provide further subsidy, whichever is the best economic option.
 - b) **Improved Seeds:** Farmers in the North Central Regions are complaining about the poor quality of grains for the pearl millet that resulted from the seeds that were sold to them during December last year. It was reported that the seeds germinated poorly and grains formed were tiny and of poor quality. Moreover, in the Caprivi region, farmers are complaining about poor germinations of the white maize seeds that were sold to them through Likwama Farmers' Cooperative. In light of this problems experienced during the season, it is however recommended that good quality seeds should be made available on time for the next cropping season.
- Provision of timely support in the form of subsidies is recommended with agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizers, draft animals, tractors, ploughing and weeding services, credit facilities to help revive crop production for the upcoming season.
- The food-for-work programme can target households without access to land for cultivation and livestock in order to provide them with a temporary safety net and at the same time prevent continued land degradation. These activities in addition could be broadened to include less labour intensive activities such as gardening, fruit tree planting, and animal husbandry and can be extended to include the rest of the country. The production activities would improve access to micronutrient rich fruits which could greatly benefit the rural poor and HIV-infected people.