



Regional Food Security Update



SADC Food Security Quarterly Update

March 2017

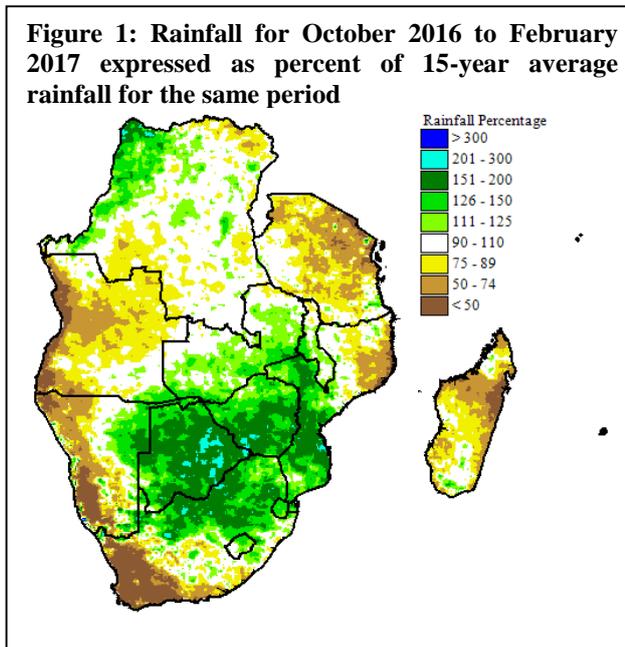
SUMMARY

- ◆ **Well above normal rainfall experienced in most central and south-eastern parts of the SADC Region. The heavy rains caused flooding in some parts of the Region such as in Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe.**
- ◆ **Below normal rainfall experienced in parts of Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania and Madagascar.**
- ◆ **First round crop production estimates for Malawi show an increase in the production of most crops including the staple food, maize. Maize production is estimated at 3.2 million tonnes, up by 36% from 2.4 million tonnes last season.**
- ◆ **First round crop production estimates for South Africa show an increase in the production of most crops including maize. Maize production is estimated at 13.9 million tonnes, up by 79% from 7.8 million tonnes last season.**
- ◆ **Fall armyworm outbreak affect crops including maize, the staple food, in DRC, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Efforts to control the pest compromised by heavy rains experienced in some of these areas. However, the impact of the pest attack is expected not to be very significant**
- ◆ **The region is on high alert following the spread of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in 12 West and Central African countries.**

I. PROGRESS OF THE 2016/17 RAINFALL SEASON

Well above normal rainfall received in most parts of the Region since the onset of the 2016/17 rainfall season...

Since the start of the 2016/17 rainfall season in October 2016, the central and south-eastern parts of the region received well above average rainfall (Figure 1, green colours). These areas included Botswana, northern half of South Africa, northern parts of Lesotho, Swaziland, southern and central Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and south-eastern parts of Zambia. In many of these areas, the rainfall was one and a half to two times the normal amount of rainfall typically received in these areas. After a slightly late and erratic onset in some central and southern areas in November, rainfall improved in December, January and February with over 200% of normal rainfall recorded in most of these areas. The high rains resulted in significant increases in dam levels, which will positively impact on irrigation potential in many areas. The high rains also led to good soil moisture conditions conducive for crop development. Some countries, like Malawi and South Africa, have already published preliminary production estimates indicating a bumper harvest close to the highest on record. The high rainfall also however led to flooding, waterlogging, and leaching of soil nutrients in some areas. The high rains were also accompanied with below average temperatures for extended periods, which has extended the time crops take to reach maturity.



In contrast to the high rains received in the central areas of the Region, western and north-eastern parts of the region, as well as Madagascar, have received well below average rainfall (brown colours, Figure 1). Areas affected include Tanzania, western Namibia, western Angola, parts of northern Mozambique and northern half of Madagascar, particularly eastern Madagascar. The poor rains, combined with high temperatures, negatively affected crop conditions in many of these areas, and are likely to reduce harvests in the affected areas.

The region is on high alert following the spread of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in 12 West and Central African countries and the detection and confirmation of the H5N8, another strain of HPAI in both wild and domestic birds, along the shores of Lake Victoria, in Uganda. According to the WHO, 'human infection with the A(H5N8) virus cannot be excluded, although, based on the limited information obtained to date, the likelihood is low'. For now, the H5N8 HPAI outbreak appears to be restricted to Uganda, where the disease has been reported in several sub-counties, and an estimated 371 wild birds and 5,368 domestic birds have died

II. 2016/17 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

The harvest outcome prospects for the current season are mixed with those areas with normal to above normal rainfall expecting increases in crop production and vice versa...

The improved rainfall performance experienced in some parts of the Region is likely to improve the harvest outcomes in these areas. First round agricultural estimates figures released by Malawi and South Africa already attest to that. However, in the few areas that have been experiencing below normal rainfall the agricultural production performance may not be satisfactory. These areas include western Angola, parts of north-western Namibia, much of Tanzania, parts of northern Mozambique, eastern and southern Madagascar, and eastern South Africa. Crop production is likely to be affected in many of these areas, as dry conditions have been experienced through much of the current season.

The good rains in most areas have also facilitated significant improvements in pasture conditions and drinking water availability for livestock. This is likely to result in improvement in livestock conditions in these areas. The dry conditions experienced last season resulted in livestock deaths in some areas in the Region.

An outbreak of fall armyworm, a new pest in the region, has been reported in DRC, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Regionally, around 330,000 hectares of staple crops (especially maize) have been affected. The remaining SADC mainland countries remain at high risk. The high rains also affected operations to combat the armyworm attack as the chemicals are washed away. The fall armyworm attack will negatively affect crop production although increases are still expected in the production of most of the crops.

All Member States, except Lesotho, Madagascar and Mauritius, have reported cases of tomato leaf miner (*Tuta Absoluta*) pest which, if not controlled may lead to acute shortages and high prices of tomatoes in the region.

III. 2017/18 REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

The regional food security situation is expected to improve this season compared to last season...

The regional food security situation during the 2017/18 marketing year is expected to improve compared the previous season. This is due to the significant increases in agricultural production expected in some of the Member States within the Region. South Africa, which normally averages slightly more than 40% of maize produced in the region, has already released their first round crop estimates figures which show an increase in production of most of the crops. Maize production in South Africa for instance, is expected to increase by about 79% from 7.8 million tonnes last season to 13.9 million tonnes this season. Malawi, one of the countries that was hit hard by the drought last season, has released the first round agricultural production figures which

are showing significant increases in the production of most of the crops including maize.

IV. MEMBER STATES REVIEWS

ANGOLA: The Ministry of Agriculture distributed various types of inputs and equipment to assist farmers recover from the previous drought...

The Ministry of Agriculture conducted missions to evaluate the effects of the drought experienced in 2016 and the impacts of the assistance provided to affected populations. A total of 1 232.9 tonnes of various seeds, 5 250 tonnes of fertilizers, animal-drawn ploughs and chain pumps were distributed among the affected households in the provinces of Huila, Namibe, Cunene, Benguela, Kwanza Sul and Cuando Cubango.

During the 2016/17 agricultural season, the Ministry of Agriculture distributed the following inputs and equipment: 2 995 tonnes of maize seed; 234 tonnes of sorghum and millet seed; 7 672 tonnes of various types of fertilizer (NPK, Ammonium Sulphate and Urea) and 2 975 of Ploughs. This was done to boost agriculture production in the affected areas this season.

BOTSWANA: Heavy rains received in many parts of the country expected to increase agricultural production this season...

Many parts of the country received above normal rains this season which are expected to improve agricultural production this season. The good rains are also expected to improve pasture and water availability for animals.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Normal to above normal rains experienced in the north western parts of the country...

According to the satellite images received so far, the north western parts of the country have received normal to above normal rainfall while the rest of the country received normal to below normal rainfall. The below normal rains are likely to affect agricultural production in the affected areas if the situation does not improve.

LESOTHO: Agricultural production this season is expected to be better than last season...

Since the onset of rains around November 2016, the rainfall performance has been normal to above normal in most parts of the country and the rainfall performance is much better than last season. Planting of various crops started around September/October in the mountains and October/November in the lowlands. Most of the crops are now in the maturity stage. Production prospects are above average to be confirmed after the release of the agricultural production estimates in May/June 2017.

The pasture and water availability for animal conditions are much better this season compared last season. This is likely to result in increases in livestock production this season compared to last season.

Food stocks are stable and sufficient to run through to the next harvest. As a result of this, food prices are also stable. This is as a result of food imports and humanitarian interventions currently underway in country.

MADAGASCAR: Well below average rainfall experienced in most parts of the country likely to affect agricultural production this season...

Below normal rains experienced in most parts of the country is likely to negatively impact on agricultural production in the country this season. If the situation does not improve, food imports may be required to offset the food deficit the country is likely to face this season.

Food production may have been compromised by tropical cyclones which have devastated the country, especially tropical cyclone Enawo that caused floods in Ambohitralanana and Ambalabe areas in north-eastern parts of the country. Reports indicate that Cyclone Enawo led 51 deaths; 21 disappearances; 238 injuries to people; 328 972 homeless people; 37 988 houses destroyed; and added 78,895 displaced people to the previous displaced population of 153 561.

MALAWI: The country is expecting an increase in production of the most of the crops including in the staple food maize...

The heavy rains that have been experienced in the country this season resulted in flooding in some areas such as in Lilongwe and Salima districts. Despite the excessive and low rainfall experienced in some parts of the country, generally the rainfall performance is much better compared to last season. As a result of this, production of most crops is expected to increase. Table 1 shows a comparison of this year's preliminary crop production estimates and last year's final production estimates figures. The country's main staple food, maize, is expected to increase by 36% from 2.4 million tonnes last season to 3.3 million tonnes this season.

Table 1: Crop production estimates (1st round)

Field Crops			
	Third Round 2015/16	First Round 2016/17	% Change against Third round 2015/16
Crops	Prodn(mt)	Prodn(mt)	
Maize	2,369,493	3,220,712	35.9
Rice	83,711	118,328	41.4
Cassava	4,996,843	5,157,932	3.2
S/Potato	4,463,710	5,695,360	27.6
Potato	1,043,338	1,105,660	6.0
Wheat	797	746	(6.4)
Millet	19,510	42,643	118.6
Sorghum	58,192	104,341	79.3

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Water Development

Capture fisheries fish production is expected to increase by 27% from 145.1 thousand MT in 2015/16 agricultural season to 157.3 thousand tonnes in 2016/17 agricultural season. The increase is attributed to improved offshore deep water fishing technologies. During the same period, aquaculture fish production is expected to increase by 47% from 5.2 thousand tonnes to 7.6 thousand tonnes. This is attributed to high productivity in cage culture and general improvement in pond management.

MAURITIUS: The country imports over 60 000 tonnes rice every year...

The country's main staple food is rice. Most of this rice is imported. Over 60 000 tonnes of rice are imported every year. The government is working hard to increase domestic production of rice as one way of reducing reliance on imports.

MOZAMBIQUE: About 113,000 households affected by cyclone Dineo which hit the coast of Inhambane province in the southern part of the country...

Cyclone Dineo which hit the coast of Inhambane province in south of Mozambique during the night of 15th February 2017 affected about 112 513 households with 7 deaths and 101 people injured. The cyclone also caused damage to buildings and infrastructure in the affected areas. The most affected districts included Massinga, Morrumbene, Maxixe and Inhambane. About 29 173 hectares of several crops were damaged in the affected areas. Over 135 000 fruit trees (cashew nut and cocoa trees) were lost. These fruit trees represent an important source of income for the population in the affected districts.

The Government estimates an overall funding requirement of about US\$ 16.5 million to address the damages caused by DINEO cyclone out of which US\$ 6.7 million are needed immediately. This support is needed to rebuild the infrastructure, agriculture production and humanitarian assistance.

Out of a total of 112 513 households (composed of around 550 691 individuals) affected by the cyclone, the government has identified and prioritized 7 651 vulnerable households in urgent need of lifesaving shelter and other non-food items (NFIs)

The affected population require immediate assistance with food and timely distribution of seeds so that the current crop season is not completely wasted.

NAMIBIA: Agricultural production is expected to be better than last season despite the dry spells experienced in some parts of the country...

This season's planting rains in Namibia started in late November, a month and half later than normally expected. However the rainfall performance has generally been better than last season. Most of the farmers planted with the onset of the planting rains in late November to early December 2016. Although the rainfall performance this season has generally been good, there are isolated cases in the north and central regions which experienced prolonged dry spells from December 2016 to February 2017. In the northern parts of the country, heavy rains resulted in flooding and current reports indicate that a number of people have been displaced from their homes and some schools closed, with some 27 schools closed in Omusati region alone.

In some parts of the country an outbreak of fall army worm was reported but this is not expected to have significant impact on expected crop production. The crop production estimation exercise is yet to be conducted which will shed more light regarding the harvest outcome this season.

The pasture and drinking water availability for livestock have significantly improved this season and range from good to very good. This may result in improvement in

livestock production.

Food stocks are currently readily available in the local markets. Government is giving out drought relief foods to the vulnerable people affected by last season's drought as from August 2016 till end of March 2017. Food stocks are expected to improve significantly at harvest, following the good agricultural production expected this season.

SEYCHELLES: Seychelles depends on imported rice for staple food...

Seychelles depends on imported rice for staple food. The country's weather conditions have little impact with respect to availability of staple food. Rather it is the availability of resources to import the staple food, prices of the staple food and purchasing power of the people that really matters.

However, the country has been affected by tomato leaf miner (*Tuta Absoluta*), which has devastated tomato production in the country. A hurricane also affected the country and assessment of damage done is on-going.

SOUTH AFRICA: Maize production is expected to increase by 79% compared to last season. Most crops are expected to record an increase in production except soybeans...

The heavy rains that have been experienced in the country this season resulted in flooding in some areas. Despite the excessive rainfall experienced in some parts of the country, the rainfall performance is much better compared to last season. As a result of this, production of most crops is expected to increase. The first round agricultural estimates

Table 2: 2016/17 crop production estimates

Crop	2016	2017	% Change
	Final round	First round	
Maize	7 778 500	13 918 450	79%
<i>White maize</i>	3 408 500	8 312 950	144%
<i>Yellow maize</i>	4 370 000	5 605 500	28%
Sorghum	70 500	140 950	100%
Dry beans	35 445	64 345	82%
G/nuts	17 680	88 175	399%
Soybeans	1 070 495	742 000	-31%
Wheat	1 909 540	n/a	

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

figures were released on 28 February 2017. The figures show a general improvement in expected crop production compared to last season. The expected commercial maize crop production is put at 13.9 million tonnes, which represents a 79% increase compared to the 7.8 million tonnes harvested in the previous season. All crops except soybeans are expected to record huge increases in production compared to last season (Table 2), which was severely affected by drought. These figures do not include winter crop production whose figures, including those of wheat, are expected to be released on 25th April 2017.

SWAZILAND: Agricultural production this year is expected to be much better than last season...

The rains in Swaziland started on time around October. Generally the rains have been normal to above normal in many parts of the country. The rains have also been higher compared to last season. The country experienced drought last season which

negatively affected crop and livestock production with livestock deaths reported in some areas. Many farmers started planting with the onset of the rains in October 2016. Most of the crops are at maturity stage. Swaziland was not spared from the fall armyworm attack. The national agricultural estimates figures have not yet been released but it is anticipated that they will be higher compared to last season.

Pasture and drinking water for livestock are readily available, a great improvement over last season when some livestock died due to lack of pasture and drinking water as a result of the drought. Livestock is in a good state in most parts of the country.

TANZANIA: Prolonged dry spells experienced in the country threaten the expected harvest outcome of most of the crops this season...

Tanzania, one of the two countries in the Region which recorded a cereal surplus last season has been hit by below normal rainfall this season. This will negatively affect the food availability situation in the country in the upcoming 2017/18 marketing season. However, it is important to bear in mind that some parts of the country have a bi-modal weather pattern which allows for two growing seasons in one agricultural year. The onset of the second season seems to be relatively better than the first season which could help improve the food production prospects in the country.

ZAMBIA: Zambia was the first country to report about the outbreak of fall army worm in the Region which threatened expected agricultural production this season...

Zambia was the first country to report about the outbreak of fall army worm in the Region which threatens agricultural production in many parts of the country. However, the Government was quick in deploying resources to deal with the pest attack. The situation now appears to be under control. Overall agricultural production this year is expected to increase from last season, which was also a good year for the country. The upcoming agricultural production estimation exercise will provide a clearer picture of the agricultural performance this season.

ZIMBABWE: Heavy rains from Tropical Cyclone Dineo resulted in floods across Zimbabwe leading to loss of lives and property ...

Heavy rains from Tropical Cyclone Dineo resulted in floods across Zimbabwe. Current reports indicate the floods claimed the lives of 246 people; left almost 2 000 people and damaged 2 579 homesteads and 74 schools.

Various interventions are under way led by the Cabinet Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management with the support of national and international partners. However, significant gaps exist in all sectors, including Shelter and Non-Food Items; Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and Education. The Government has officially appealed to all partners to support its emergency relief operations.