



**SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis  
(RVAA) Synthesis Report**

**2011**

***State of Food Insecurity and Vulnerability in the Southern Africa  
Development Community***

**Compiled from the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee Reports presented at  
the 2011 RVAA Annual Dissemination Forum**

**7-8 July 2011**

**Airport Grand Hotel  
Johannesburg, South Africa**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
FANR	Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICP	SADC International Cooperating Partners
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MoF	Ministry of Finance
NHDS	National Health and Demographic Survey
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
NVAC	National Vulnerability Assessment Committee
MT	Metric Ton
NVAC	National Vulnerability Assessment Committee
PIP	Public Investment Programme
RHVP	Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme
RVAA	Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
RVAC	Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee
SACU	Southern Africa Customs Union
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SARCOF	Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum
SFP	School Feeding Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAA	Vulnerability assessment and analysis
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Overview of the 2010/11 season**

The SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme which comprises the multi-agency Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) and the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) reported that the Region had normal to above normal rainfall in most parts during the 2010/11 season. The good rainfall pattern contributed to increases in crop production in many Member States. All countries in the Region experienced an increase in cereal production except Lesotho, South Africa and Tanzania. Despite the increases in cereal production in most of the Member States, as a region, SADC recorded a cereal deficit of about 0.4 million metric tonnes. The increases in cereal production in some of the countries were not enough to offset the national cereal demand resulting in national cereal deficits. Only Malawi and Zambia registered cereal surpluses at national levels. Some of the countries such as Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi also produced significant quantities of non cereal crops such as roots and tubers, bananas, plantains and pulses.

The population of food insecure households continue to decline in the region although lack of data from some of the countries such as Tanzania, this year renders the this comparison weak. The Region continues to experience high rates of stunting in a number of countries such as Malawi, Tanzania, Lesotho and Mozambique. Lack of access to food and non-food items for the very poor and poor households remain persistent indicating chronic vulnerability which is linked to poverty.

### **Policy recommendations**

Based on the findings of the vulnerability assessments, a number of recommendations are made for consideration by Member States, International Cooperating Partners and civil society organizations as summarised below.

- Continued emphasis is required on increased social protection and safety nets programmes
- Enhance infrastructure development for improved market access e.g. transport, storage and communication
- Continue supporting agriculture input and output subsidy programmes
- SADC Member States should facilitate inter-country trade of food crops, livestock and fishery products from surplus areas to deficit areas
- Member States should be encouraged to implement medium to long term interventions and development programmes to address chronic vulnerability issues and high levels of poverty
- Cooperating partners and traders should be encouraged to procure food locally in the Region instead of importing from outside the Region.
- Member States should scale up and prioritize food and nutrition security programmes.
- Member States are encouraged to draw a link between food security and climate change so as to devise and implement adaptation and mitigation measures as appropriate.
- Member States to promote smallholder irrigation technologies e.g. harvesting technologies and drip irrigation to minimize dependence on only rain fed agriculture.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme (RVAA) which comprises the multi-agency Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) and the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) have since 2002 been conducting a series of vulnerability assessments in the Region. The assessments mainly use the livelihood-based approaches which among other things assess the various sources of food, income and expenditure patterns to determine vulnerability. Amongst others, the assessments include overviews of the macroeconomic conditions, seasonal rainfall patterns, current and projected food security situation, vulnerability levels, health, nutrition, water and sanitation status and their relationship to food security in the various countries in the Region.

The SADC RVAA programme organizes annual regional information dissemination forums for Member States to share information related to food security and vulnerability situation in their countries. The main objective of the regional Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) Dissemination Forums is to allow NVACs highlight the findings of their food security and vulnerability assessments, by indicating population groups and areas vulnerable to food insecurity, as well as underlying causes and other multi-sectoral issues impacting on food security. The 2011 Dissemination Forum took place between 5-7 July in South Africa at Airport Grand Hotel in Johannesburg. It was attended by NVACs from all the Member States except Malawi, Namibia, Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar.

This report provides an overview of the food security and livelihoods situation in the Region for the 2011/12 marketing season as discussed during the Forum.

### **1.2 Specific objectives of the 2011 RVAA Dissemination Forum**

The main objectives of the 2011 Dissemination Forum were:

- a. To share and discuss findings of the vulnerability assessments results for the 2011/12 consumption year
- b. To share and discuss some of the best practices in VAA related matters in the Region
- c. To prepare an overview of food insecurity and vulnerability in SADC

### **1.3 Approaches and methods**

The NVACs used a range of approaches to undertake the 2011 assessment including qualitative and quantitative methods such as household surveys, key informant interviews using such tools as the livelihoods analytical framework and others. The design of the assessment methodologies, geographical coverage and depth of analysis by the NVACs was largely dependent on the technical capacity within the NVACs; external technical support sourced; and financial resource and time available to carry out the assessments.

The NVACs also used secondary data during the assessments which included information from previous years' assessment reports, population figures from the National Statistics

Offices, baseline livelihood data from NVACs, crop estimates reports by government and reports from various development partners and NGOs in the countries.

## **2.0 SOCIAL ECONOMIC CONTEXT**

### **2.1 Regional social economic context**

According to the Africa Economic Outlook forecast of 2011, the Regions' real GDP growth ranged between 3.4% to 8.1%. Inflation rates were forecasted to range from 3.6% to 11.7%. A number of countries in the Region recorded increases in food crops production during the 2010/11 season resulting in relatively stable cereal prices. Despite the increased food production, levels of malnutrition, especially stunting continue to be a cause for concern as it remains high in countries such as Malawi, Swaziland Tanzania, Lesotho and Mozambique. Access to safe water and improved sanitation also remains a challenge.

### **2.2 Country social economic highlights**

#### **2.1.1 Angola**

The country's economy grew by 3.4% in 2010 from negative 0.6% in 2009. During 2011 the economy is expected to grow by 7.5% buoyed by high global oil prices and resumption of the government Public Investment Programme (PIP). Inflation in 2011 is expected to decrease from 13.7% in 2010 to 11.7% in 2011. Access to safe water and improved sanitation was still low compared to other SADC countries and stand at 53% and 31% respectively.

The National Survey of 2007 found that 8.2% of the under five children had acute malnutrition (weight/height), 4.3% were severely malnourished (height/age) while 29.2% had chronic malnutrition (weight/age) and 12.2% were severely malnourished. The report further said that 15.6% were under weight and 6.6% were severely malnourished while 7.4% had less than 120cm (MUAC) with 2.2% in high risk of death.

#### **2.1.2 Botswana**

The 2010 economic outlook for the country indicates that the country's economy grew by 6.4% in 2010 and is expected to increase to 6.9% in 2011. Inflation rate as of June 2011 was 7.1% compared to 7.7% in June 2010. The GDP per capita is currently at P23, 245 per annum and unemployment rate is estimated at 17.6% of the population. The country's malnutrition level is currently pegged at 4%.

#### **2.1.3 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

The country's economy grew by 3.8% in 2010 from 1.9% in 2009. It is expected however that real GDP growth during the 2011 season will be slowed down due to loss of expected investment. DRC's economy largely depends on agriculture which accounts for 38.2% of the GDP, mining and quarrying (12.2%), whole sale and retailing trade (22.4%), construction (8.3%) and others.

#### **2.1.4 Lesotho**

The real GDP for the country fell from 4.4% in 2008 to 1.1% in 2009 as the manufacturing and mining sectors shrunk but the economy grew by 3.8% in 2010. The situation in 2011 is different as growth of the economy is expected to be slowed down due to loss of expected investment. The country's GDP is composed of agriculture (7.1%) industry (34.6%), and services (58%). The per capita GDP is currently set at \$1700. Inflation rate has decreased to 3.6% in 2011 from 5.1% in 2010.

According to the 2007 National Nutrition Survey (NNS), 42% of the under-five children are stunted while 13.8% are under weight. The HIV prevalence is currently at 23% which is high compared to other SADC countries. About 83% of the population have access to clean water while 47% have access to improved sanitation. During the 2010/11 season the country experienced livestock diseases outbreaks such as red water, black quarter, sheep scrub etc which affected the condition and quality of wool and mohair.

#### **2.1.5 Malawi**

The country's economy heavily depends on agriculture and the high crop production achieved during the past four marketing seasons has helped the economy to grow. However, there has been a declining trend in the real GDP growth rates for the past three years. For example in 2008, the economy grew by 9.8%, while in 2009 the economy grew by 7.0% and by 6.5% in 2010. The declining tobacco prices, high fuel prices and shortage of fuel in the country are expected to further slow down the real GDP growth to 6.4% in 2011. Inflation rates have remained relatively stable and in single digits over the past four marketing seasons as a result of the improved food situation. HIV prevalence has declined to 10.6% in 2011 from 15.2% in 2005.

#### **2.1.6 Mozambique**

The country's economy continues to perform well compared to other SADC countries. For example the economy grew by 8.1% in 2010 compared to 7.3% in 2008. However just as the other countries the economic growth slowed down in 2009 to 6.8%. Inflation rate in 2011 is expected to decline to single digits.

#### **2.1.8 South Africa**

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices increased by 4.8 % during the first quarter of 2011 compared to the 4.5 % of the fourth quarter in 2010. Economic activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing industries reflected negative growth of 2.6 percent partly due to negative contribution by field crops (StatsSA GDP quarterly report, 2011). The unemployment rate was reported at 24% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010 and 25% in the first quarter of 2011 (QLFS, May 2011). Estimated HIV/AIDS prevalence increased from 10.9% in 2008 to 29.4% in 2009 (DOH country HIV/AIDS progress report, 2010). The 2011 Africa Economic Outlook indicates that inflation fell to 3.5% by the end of 2010 but is expected to increase to 5.3% in 2011.

#### **2.1.9 Swaziland**

The country's economy moderately recovered during 2010 due to the rebound of global demand for sugar and textiles. However the falling receipts from SACU (Southern Africa Customs Union) coupled with lower internal revenues will affect the real GDP growth during the 2011. Inflation rate was at 4.5% in 2010 down from 7.5% in 2009. As of June 2011, inflation rate was estimated at 7.2% and is expected to grow to 7.7% by December. Fuel and food shortfalls are expected to impact on the domestic prices levels.

#### **2.1.10 Tanzania**

The country's real GDP growth was estimated at 6.8% in 2010 and is expected to grow by 6.9% in 2011. The drivers of growth include exports, private consumption, gross fixed capital, tourism revenue, foreign investment and aid. Inflation rate increased from 10.3% in 2008 to 12.1% in 2009 and decreased to 8.5% in 2010. Inflation is expected to drop further to 6.9% by the end of December 2011.

### **2.1.11 Zambia**

The real GDP grew by 8.2% in 2010 compared to 6.3% and 5.8% in 2009 and 2008 respectively. It is expected that the economy will grow by 7.8% in 2011 mainly driven by rapid expansion of mining output and exports. The agriculture sector continues to perform well and its contribution to reduced levels of malnutrition is noted. For example stunting levels have reduced from 47% in 2001 to 34% in 2010 while proportion of underweight children has also reduced from 28% to 19% during the same period.

### **2.1.12 Zimbabwe**

The country registered positive real GDP growth of 5.7% and 8.1% in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The introduction of multi-currency and other economic policies resulted in some economic stabilisation. For example supply of goods (foods and non-food items) and services improved significantly; capacity utilization in most sectors of the economy improved; inflation dropped from hyperinflation levels to below 5% on the year on year basis in 2009 and 2010. Provision of social services (water, sanitation, health and education) has tremendously improved between 2009 and 2011. Social infrastructure repairs and maintenance resumed in 2009 and is continuing to improve in 2011.

### 3.0 SUMMARY OF CURRENT YEAR HAZARDS AND SHOCKS

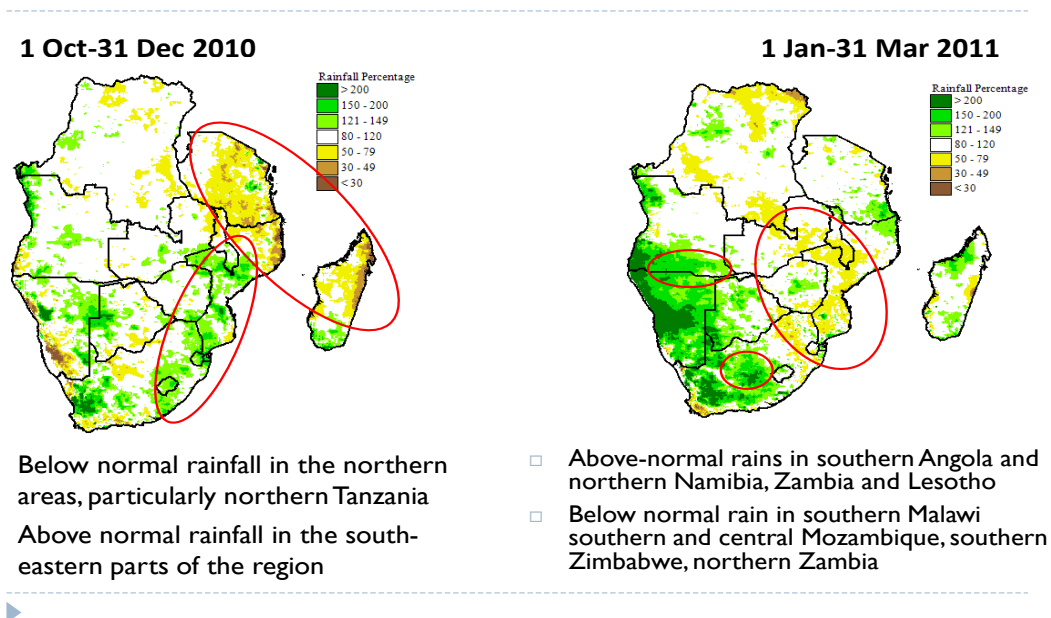
The Region experienced a number hazards and shocks that had a negative impact on the household food security and vulnerability during the 2010/11 season. The most common hazards and shocks included excessive rainfall; late onset and early cessation of rainfall; prolonged dry spells; crop and livestock diseases; high prevalence rates of HIV and AIDS; flooding as well as chronic vulnerability to food insecurity; increases in prices of food and non food items; and poor market infrastructure amongst others.

#### 3.1 Rainfall

Overall, rainfall during the 2010/11 season was normal to above normal in most parts of the Region. However the rainfall distribution varied both in time and space. Many parts of the southern areas of the Region experienced late onset of the rainfall season. The northern areas experienced below normal rainfall, south eastern areas received above normal rainfall as shown in (figure 1).

Prolonged dry spells hit the eastern and central parts of the Region during the second half of the season especially in areas such as southern Malawi, parts of south and central Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, northern Zambia, Swaziland and central South Africa resulting in yield losses. During the same period, there were excessive rains in Angola, Lesotho, South Africa and Northern Namibia resulting in significant flooding, yields reduction due to leaching, water logging and infrastructure damage (figure 1).

**Fig 1. Overview of the 2010/11 Rainfall Season**



### **3.2 Livestock diseases**

Overall, production of meat increased by 3% from 5.16 million tonnes in 2009 to 5.34 million tonnes in 2010 while production of milk and eggs also increased by 2.3% and 3.2% from 4.75 million tonnes and 0.61 million tonnes to 4.86 million tonnes and 0.63 million tonnes respectively over the same period. Despite the increase in production, outbreak of livestock diseases and parasites such as foot and mouth diseases, red water, new castle and sheep scrub were experienced some countries such as Zambia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana and Namibia. Apart from reducing productivity, the diseases and pests affected the quality and prices of livestock products such as meat and mohair.

### **3.3 HIV and AIDS**

The Region's HIV and AIDS prevalence remains higher than the other regions of the world. However prevalence rates are stabilising or declining in many countries except South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. HIV and AIDS are contributing to the high mortality rates in women and children and high expenditures in the health sectors. The high HIV and AIDS prevalence is exacerbating poverty levels in the region because it reduces the productive capacity of countries through a reduction in the labor force due to illness and death, thereby slowing down economic development.

### **3.4 Access to income**

The Region reported increased levels of unemployment and reduced casual labour opportunities as well as low wages which were not keeping up with the high levels of cost of living. In some countries shortage and high cost of labour were recorded especially in the commercial sector in Zimbabwe. Commodity price decreases of cash crops such as tobacco (e.g. Malawi) and poor market infrastructure affected access to income by many people in the Region.

### **3.5 Human and animal conflict**

Wildlife and human conflicts were reported in Tanzania, Botswana and Angola. The increased levels of human and animal conflicts resulted in many households becoming vulnerable.

### **3.6 Commodity prices**

Generally, the Region experienced relatively stable food prices. Prices of maize grain, the region's major staple were stable due to favourable harvest and regional surpluses in the previous year. In the next few months, it is likely that the cereal surpluses that have been repeated in some countries in the Region will help to continue to stabilise prices of cereal at their current levels especially in countries such as Zambia and Malawi. It should be recognised however, that regional production disparities and transportation cost will influence price variations in the local markets. It is also expected that rising prices of fuel will also contribute to the increase in prices of food commodities.

### **3.7 Climate change**

The Region has become highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change which have affected the normal weather patterns. Climate change related hazards such as floods and dry spells are occurring at increasing frequency and many of these hazards were reported in many countries including Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Angola, Namibia and Botswana. Droughts and floods adversely affected food and livestock production in the Region thereby increasing vulnerability amongst households.

### **3.8 Other shocks**

Civil unrest in some parts of the Region especially eastern and central parts of DRC continues to make many households vulnerable to food insecurity.

## 4.0 FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY SITUATION

### 4.1 Regional overview

#### 4.1.1 Food production, availability and requirement

About half of the countries in the Region experienced increases in cereal production while the other half experienced decreases in the 2010/11 agricultural season. The countries that experienced increases include Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zambia while Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania (5% drop) recorded decreases. Table 1 shows a comparison of cereal production between 2005/06 and 2010/11 agricultural seasons.

**Table 1. SADC cereal production 2005-2011**

Member States*	Production ('000 Tonnes) by Harvesting Year							2010 vs 2011
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase/decrease
Angola	886	671	734	738	1053	1178	676	-43%
Botswana	24	36	29	37	42	55	73	33%
Lesotho	120	136	78	88	86	137	73	-47%
Malawi	1336	2755	3616	2976	3834	3572	4121	15%
Mauritius	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Mozambique	1899	2098	2168	2284	2526	2785	2912	5%
Namibia	154	179	116	116	116	135	117	-13%
South Africa	13615	9222	9292	15550	14855	15122	13122	-13%
Swaziland	67	67	47	64	71	75	85	13%
Tanzania	5015	5189	5448	5622	5265	7095	6787	-4%
Zambia	1065	1597	1537	1452	2182	3078	3346	9%
Zimbabwe	754	1663	1200	660	1561	1534	1701	11%
<b>SADC</b>	<b>24937</b>	<b>23615</b>	<b>24267</b>	<b>29589</b>	<b>31593</b>	<b>34768</b>	<b>33013</b>	<b>-5%</b>

\*Exclude DRC, Madagascar and Seychelles which have not yet established National Early Warning Units

Source: Member States and SADC Secretariat

Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi have also produced significant quantities of non cereals crops such as roots and tubers, bananas, plantains and pulses. Even though Tanzania has a cereal deficit, the country has a food surplus when roots and tubers are taken into account. Overall, the SADC Region experienced a 5% drop in cereal production in the 2010/11 compared to the previous agricultural season.

Compared to demand, about half of the Region recorded cereal surpluses while the other half recorded cereal deficits. Overall, the Region has recorded a cereal deficit of about 5.0 million metric tonnes (not including Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles) in 2011/12 marketing year compared to 2.2 million tonnes cereal surplus recorded in the previous year. Cereal surpluses were only recorded in two countries namely Malawi and Zambia during the 2011/12 marketing year compared to four countries (Malawi, Zambia, South Africa and Tanzania) in the previous season.

Table 2 shows cereal surplus/deficits by country during the 2011/12 marketing year and also compares cereal production during 2009/10 and 2010/11 agricultural seasons.

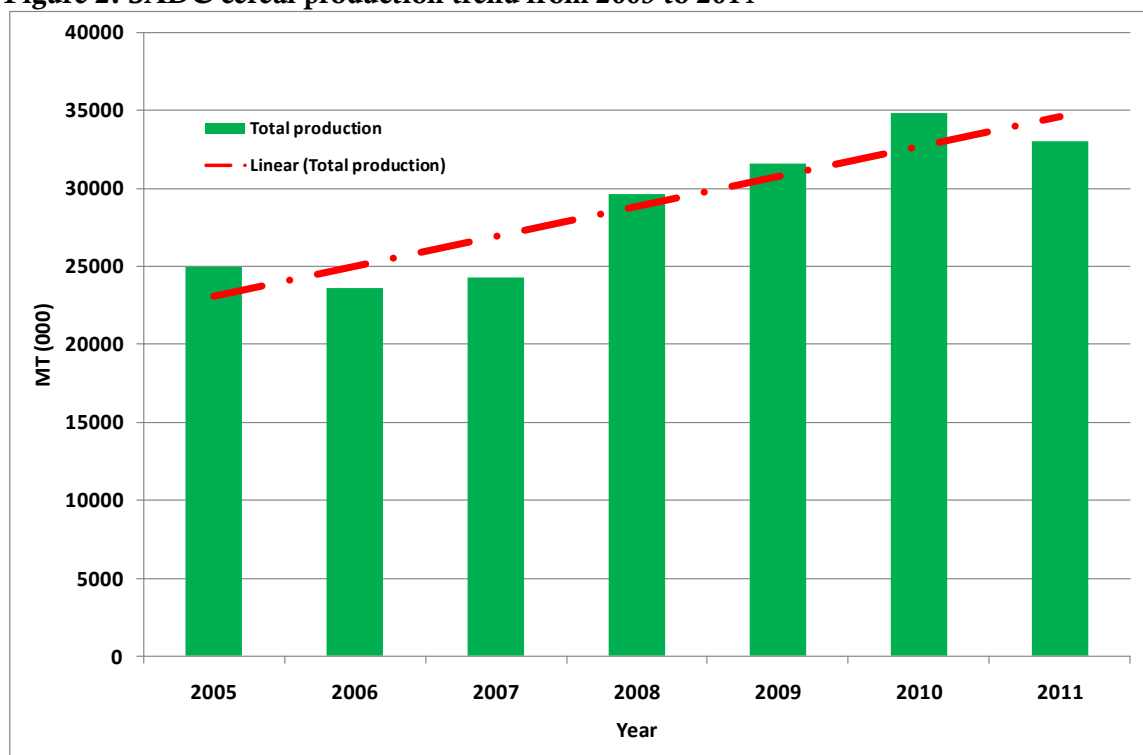
**Table 2: Comparison of cereal surpluses/deficits by country**

Country	2011/12 Cereal Requirements ('000 tons)	2011/12 Cereal Availability ('000 tons)	2011/12 Cereal Surplus/Deficit ('000 tons)
Angola	2 282	676	-1 606
Botswana	429	73	-356
Lesotho	378	73	-305
Malawi	2 704	4 121	1 417
Mozambique	3 768	2 912	-856
Namibia	333	141	-191
South Africa	16 644	13 122	-3 522
Swaziland	159	89	-70
Tanzania	7 200	6 787	-413
Zambia	2 549	4 286	1 737
Zimbabwe	2 535	1 701	-834
<b>SADC</b>	<b>38 981</b>	<b>33 981</b>	<b>-4 999</b>

Source: SADC Member States

Despite the drop in cereal production in the 2010/11 agricultural season, the Region continued to experience a rising trend in cereal production as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: SADC cereal production trend from 2005 to 2011**



Source: SADC Member States

Production of livestock products such as meat, milk and eggs increased during 2010/11 agricultural season even though the Region still remains a net importer of these products (Table 3).

**Table 3: Production of livestock products in SADC from 2006 to 2010**

Livestock Product	2006 (million tonnes)	2007 (million tonnes)	2008 (million tonnes)	2009 (million tonnes)	2010 (million tonnes)	2009 vs 2010 % change
Beef	1.25	1.28	1.33	1.39	1.45	4.3
Mutton	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.17	6.3
Goat Meat	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.17	6.3
Pork	1.32	1.35	1.4	1.41	1.42	0.7
Poultry	1.83	1.88	1.95	2.04	2.13	4.4
Milk	4.44	4.55	4.65	4.75	4.86	2.3
Eggs	0.56	0.57	0.59	0.61	0.63	3.2
Wool*	2,400	2,460	2,525	2,600	2,700	3.8
Mohair*	400	410	420	430	440	2.3
Game Meat**	700	720	750	750	750	0

Source: SADC Member States

The latest figures available on fish production were for 2009. The figures show a rising trend in fish production in the 2007 to 2009 period (Not including Angola, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar and Zimbabwe) as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Annual fish production (000 tonnes) in SADC Member States from 2000 to 2009**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Angola	89.9	86.4	81.4	70.4	87.6	80.6	91.3			
Botswana	4.7	4.7	3.8	3.0	4.3	4.9	4.6	0.2	0.2	0.2
DRC	61.6	70.4	66.9	64.3	66.4	67.5	71.7			
Lesotho							0.1			
Madagascar	28.6	30.7	33.6	32.5	32.3	36.9	36.6			
Malawi	1.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.8	2.7	71.3		80.0
Mauritius	95.9	120.7	179.6	164.1	188.3	230.6	244.6			
Mozambique	30.4	34.7	32.1	34.7	40.5	50.8	98.6	97.7	128.5	154.6
Namibia	735.7	551.4	542.9	469.3	468.9	484.2	463.8	367.9	355.8	385.3
Seychelles	135.9	162.8	195.3	269.9	257.6	285.0	302.7	230.0	279.0	242.0
South Africa	477.4	482.3	471.7	496.9	447.8	479.2	368.2	337.4	425.3	393.9
Swaziland	8.1	5.7	5.2	9.0	10.0	7.2	5.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tanzania	143.0	157.8	151.8	164.2	161.9	158.6	341.1	327.8	325.5	335.7
Zambia	22.8	24.0	24.5	25.8	28.9	30.0				
Zimbabwe	16.2	11.4	8.8	7.8	10.8	8.7	7.6			
SADC	1851.8	1743.6	1797.7	1812.5	1806.2	1925.0	2038.6	1432.3	1514.3	1591.7

Source: SADC Member States

## **4.2 Results of VAA Assessments**

### **4.2.1 Methodologies used in VAA for 2010/2011**

Most of the Member States used the Household Economy Approach (HEA) to assess the number of food insecure household. The HEA uses livelihoods based analysis to determine the number of households who are food insecure. This approach acknowledges that food security is not just about cereal production nor own crop production but there are a wide range of foods including non cereal crops, livestock, fish etc and that there are other sources of foods and means of accessing food other than own production including purchases, gifts, barter etc. In other words, the approach looks at food security in a holistic manner

Most of the countries with National Vulnerability Committees (NVACs) have baseline information which shows the amount of kilocalories they are able obtain from the different food sources at their disposal. The minimum food energy requirement for a household to survive and be active is 2100 kcal per person per day. Normally households are expected to meet at least 90% of the minimum energy requirement; otherwise they would not be able to survive. Every year the NVACs identify areas where there have been hazards/shocks or events e.g. floods, droughts, food price increases etc that are likely to negatively affect the ability of households to meet the minimum energy requirement. Vulnerability assessments are conducted in the identified areas to find out whether households will be able to meet their minimum energy requirements or not. Those households that are unable to meet this minimum threshold after taking into account all their sources of food including some coping strategies are considered to be food insecure. Some of the Member States have advanced a bit to add a minimum cost of processing the food into a ready to eat product to the cost of meeting the minimum energy requirement to come up with what is known as survival threshold. Households that are unable to meet this threshold are said to be facing a survival deficit.

It is important to note that not in every case do households face a survival or food deficit when a hazard or shock occurs. Households try to respond by resorting to normal coping mechanisms such as sale of livestock etc. In case this is not enough to meet the missing food energy requirement, households may decide to reduce or completely forgo non essential expenditures. In the worst case scenario, households will be forced to switch or forgo essential expenditure e.g. school fees, fertilizer purchase etc in order to the save money to buy food. If households are no longer able to afford essential items such as school fees, agricultural inputs, health care etc, then they are said to be facing a livelihoods protection deficit.

In a nutshell the approach takes into account different types of food/income and their sources; and ability of households to cope (resilience) when faced with a shock or hazard. Households are said to be facing a food a deficit if they fail to make up for the initial shortfall after exhausting all their normal coping strategies.

The remaining Member States used other approaches such as household sample surveys and the integrated phase classification (IPC) to determine the number of food insecure population. Regardless of the approach adopted by a Member State, the sections below summarise the results of the 2010/11 VAA across the Region.

### **4.2.2 Trends in food insecure population**

The total number of food insecure population in the Region (excluding Angola, DRC, South Africa, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles) for the 2011/12 marketing year is

estimated at 2.9 million, representing a drop of about 35% from the previous season. This is partly attributed to lack of data for Tanzania as most of the Member States actually recorded increases over the same period. Compared to 2010/11 marketing season, the number of food insecure households has increased in Lesotho by 157%, in Namibia by 129%, in Zambia by 39% and in Zimbabwe by 8% (not including urban areas). Only Malawi and Swaziland recorded decreases in the number of food insecure population during the period. The persistent high numbers of food insecure population in some of the Member States are a manifestation of chronic vulnerability and high levels of poverty.

**Table 5: Food Insecure Population from 2003/04 to 2011/12**

Country	Trends in food insecure population in the Region								
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Botswana*									10 400
Lesotho	270 000	948 300	541 000	245 700	553 000	353 000	450 000	200 000	514 000
Malawi	400 000	1 340 000	5 055 000	833 000	63 200	673 498	147 492	1 061 000	201 854
Mozambique	659 000	659 000	801 655	240 000	520 000	302 664	281 300	350 000	350 000
Namibia	-	-	-	-	-	-	224 795	106 297	243 474
Swaziland	217 000	600 400	634 400	465 900	345 000	238 600	262 000	160 989	88 511
Tanzania	844 333	686 356	848 019	995 433	581 974	780 416	240 544	1 217 767	
Zambia	60 000	39 300	1 232 700	380 537	440 866	444 624	110 000	53 629	74 804
Zimbabwe	5 422 600	2 300 000	2 884 800	1 392 500	4 100 000	5 100 000	1 400 000	1 287 937	1 390 000
<b>SADC**</b>	<b>7 872 933</b>	<b>6 573 356</b>	<b>11 997 574</b>	<b>4 553 070</b>	<b>6 604 040</b>	<b>7 892 802</b>	<b>3 116 131</b>	<b>4 437 619</b>	<b>2 862 643</b>
South Africa***	13 604 500	13 131 200	10 997 600	9 553 000	6 967 800	6 610 200	7 840 700	12 075 800	
DRC****									4 300 000

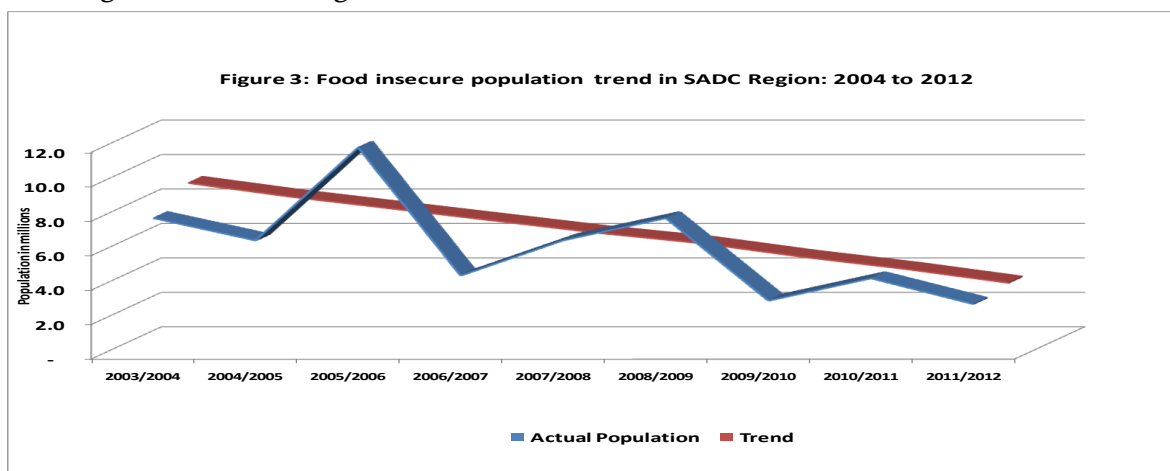
Source: \*Figure from one livelihood zone only

Source: \*\*SADC FANR Directorate - Member States Vulnerability Assessment Committees

Source: \*\*\*Stats SA, GHS

Source: \*\*\*\*DRC IPC Group

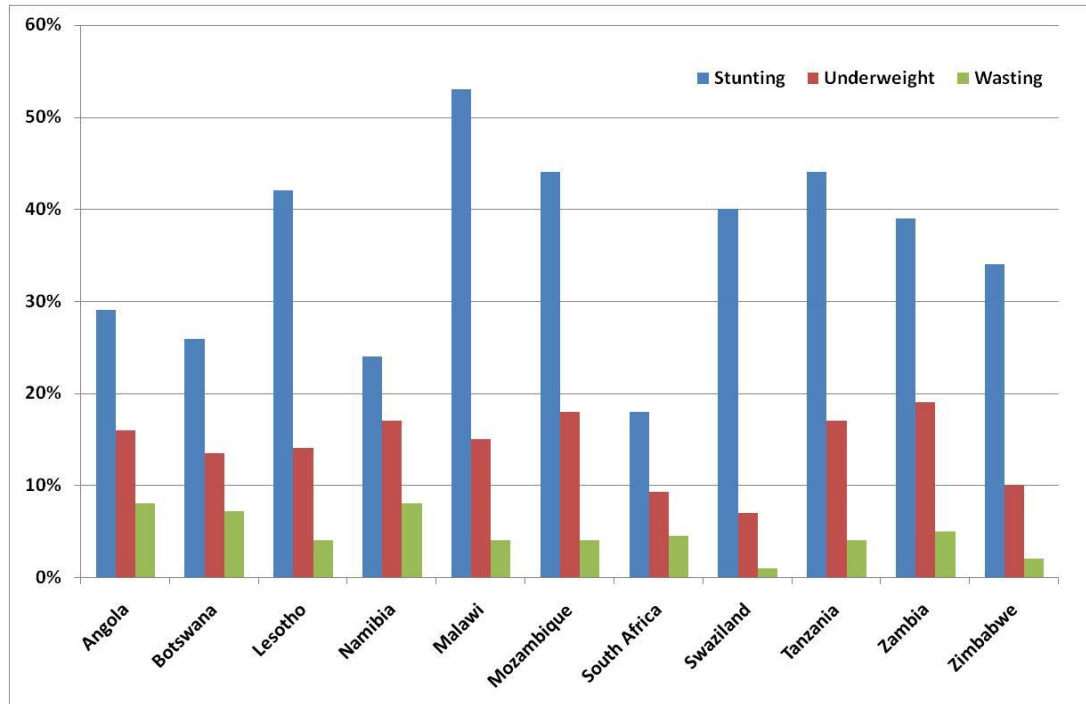
Generally there seems to be a declining trend in the number of food insecure population in the Region as shown in figure 3.



### 4.2.3 Prevalence of malnutrition

Demographic health surveys from countries in the Region show that prevalence of malnutrition in the Member States remains high. Figure 4 shows that countries such as Malawi, Zambia, Swaziland Tanzania, Lesotho and Mozambique continue to have high levels of stunting in the Region.

**Figure 4 Malnutrition situation on Southern Africa**



Source: Member States Demographic Health Surveys

### 4.2.4 Regional food prices

At global levels, prices of wheat, maize and rice continue to rise. However, in Southern Africa comparatively stable prices prevail following normal seasonal rainfall patterns and good crop yields. The surpluses in some countries in the region are expected to help maintain stable prices of cereal especially in Zambia and Malawi over the next few months. Regional production disparities and transportation cost are likely to influence price variations in the local markets.

## 4.3 Country highlights

### 4.3.1 Angola

The country did not carry out the VAA during the 2010/11 season and therefore does not have a figure on food insecure populations for the current season. However, cereal production for the country in the 2010/11 agricultural season dropped by 43% from 1.178 million tonnes last year to 0.676 million tonnes this year. Assuming no carryover stocks of cereals from last season, the country is estimated to have a cereal deficit of about 1.606 million tonnes. The country also received excessive rainfall during the second half of the

season which caused flooding and water logging in some parts resulting in yield loss, infrastructure damage and loss of lives.

#### **4.2.2 Botswana**

The country produced 73,000 metric tonnes of cereals which is only 36% of the total requirement for the country. However this figure represents an increase in cereal production of 204% and 33% compared to 2005 and 2010 cereal production respectively. These figures show that although Botswana has made tremendous improvement in cereal production over the years, it is still not enough to satisfy domestic requirement and has to rely on imports especially from South Africa. The increased cereal production has been attributed to improved rainfall in some parts of the country. About 10,400 households (assessment done in only one livelihood zone) are estimated to be food insecure during the 2011/12 marketing seasons, the majority of which are from the very poor category who are always below the minimum livelihood protection threshold. A total of P822, 000 will be required for interventions during the marketing season.

#### **4.2.3 Lesotho**

The country had late onset of rains which started in late October but received excessive rains in December and January which swept away many fields, affected proper growth of crops and also dwarfed casual labour opportunities (poor households access up to 40% of their income from casual labour activities). Cereal production especially maize, sorghum and wheat was seriously affected. The total cereal production was 73,000 metric tonnes in 2010/11 agricultural season compared to 137,000 metric tonnes in 2009/10 agricultural season, down by 47%. Maize production was estimated at 51,506 metric tonnes, representing a 60% drop from 2009/10 season. Production of sorghum and wheat dropped by 80% and 19% respectively compared to 2009/10 season. As a consequence of this, the number of food insecure households has more than doubled to 547,000 people in 2011/12 compared to 200,000 in 2010/11 marketing season respectively, representing an increase of about 157%.

#### **4.2.5 Mozambique**

Preliminary assessments indicate that the country produced about 2.9 million metric tonnes of cereals in 2010/11 season from 2.8 million tons in 2009/10 representing an increase in production of 4.6%. The food situation has also improved with the increased production of pulses and cassava. For example the country produced about 438,000 metric tonnes of pulses (4% increase from last season) and 10.1 million metric tons of cassava (3.7% increase from last season). The country also produced over 9,522 metric tonnes of fish during the 2010/11 season. However, it is estimated that during the 2011/12 marketing season, about 350,000 people will require food assistance.

#### **4.2.6 South Africa**

The country produced 13.1 million metric tonnes of cereals during 2010/11 season compared to 15.1 million metric tonnes in 2009/10 season, representing a drop in cereal production of 4% (Table 2).

Projections for the current 2011/12 marketing season indicate that the country produced 10.9 million metric tonnes of maize which is 15.1% less than the 12.8 million metric tonnes produces in the previous season. The closing stocks for maize during the 2010/11 marketing season were 2.5 million metric tonnes compared to 1.3 million metric tonnes for 2011/12 marketing season. This shows that the country maize surplus during the 2011/12 is less than

the surplus recorded during the 2010/11 marketing season. Overall, the country has an estimated overall cereal deficit of about 3.5 million metric tonnes.

#### **4.2.7 Swaziland**

The country's cereal production increased by 13% to 85,000 metric tonnes in 2010/11 agricultural season compared to 75,000 metric tonnes in 2009/10 agricultural season. Overall cereal requirement during the 2011/12 marketing season in the country is estimated at 159,000 metric tonnes against total cereal availability of 87,000 metric tons. This leaves a cereal deficit of about 70,000 metric tonnes which will be met through imports from other countries in the Region. Planned cereal imports for the 2011/12 marketing season are estimated at 77.5 metric tonnes comprising 73.5 and 4.0 metric tonnes for commercial and food aid purposes respectively. The number of food insecure population dropped significantly by 45% to 88,511 people in 2011/12 marketing season compared to 160,989 people in 2010/11 marketing season.

#### **4.2.8 Tanzania**

The estimated cereal production for the country in 2010/11 agricultural season is estimated at 6.8 million metric tonnes against a national cereal requirement of 7.2 million metric tonnes, resulting in the country facing a cereal deficit of about 400,000 metric tonnes in the 2011/12 marketing year. However, when non cereal food crops are taken into account, the country has a food surplus of about 1.3 million metric tonnes from a total food production of 12.8 million metric tonnes against the annual food requirement of 11.5 million metric tonnes. The cereal deficit therefore is more than offset by high production of non-cereal food crops such as pulses, roots and tubers. The country has not yet conducted their vulnerability assessment to determine the number of food insecure population in the 2011/12 marketing year.

#### **4.2.9 Zambia**

Production of major crops such as maize, cotton and tobacco increased in the 2010/11 agricultural season compared to the 2009/10 agricultural season. Area planted with these major crops increased amongst small and medium scale farmers with maize recording an increase of 11% from 1.2 million hectares in 2009/10 to 1.3 million hectares in 2010/11. The country produced 3.3 million metric tonnes of cereals in 2010/11 agricultural season compared to 3.1 million metric tonnes in 2009/10 agricultural season. Despite the increase in food production, the population of food insecure households increased to 75,000 during the 2011/12 marketing season from 54,000 during the 2010/11 marketing season. Although the rainfall performance during the 2010/11 season was normal to above normal in most parts of the country, some districts such as Kazungula, Sinazongwe, Siavonga, Lundazi, Chama, Kaputa, Luangwa, Kafue, Lusaka and Isoka experienced dry spells while districts such as Lukulu, Kaoma, Kalabo, Shangombo, Senanga, Mongu, Chavuma and Zambezi experienced floods. Dry spells and floods affected crop yields and hence increasing the number of food insecure population.

#### **4.2.10 Zimbabwe**

The Second Round Crop and Livestock Report (April 2011) indicates that the country shall have a total cereal production of 1.6 million metric tons in 2010/11 season compared to 1.5 million metric tonnes in 2009/10 season, up by 11%. The total cereal production compared to estimated national cereal requirement of 1.7 million metric tonnes leaves a deficit of about 834,000 metric tonnes. Maize production was estimated at 1.5 million metric tons in 2010/11 from 1.3 million metric tons in 2009/10. Production of small grains such as

sorghum, pearl millet, and millet declined by 19.5% in 2010/11 compared to 2009/10 season. The population of food insecure population increased by 8% to 1.39 million in 2011/12 marketing season (not including 0.42 million in urban areas) from 1.29 during the 2010/11 marketing season.

## **5.0 OVERVIEW OF COPING STRATEGIES**

According to the vulnerability assessments conducted in the Member States, food insecure households are employing a number of strategies and responses to mitigate the impacts of their vulnerability situation including the following.

### **5.1 Reduction in number of meals**

Households are reducing the number of meals per day from three times to two times and one meal per day. Some households are reducing the amount of food intake per meal to ensure everyone in the household has a share. In some instances households are forgoing daily meals and also eating wild plants and fruits. If there are no interventions to assist these populations, it is expected that the situation will worsen as the season progresses toward the lean period (November to January) of the year.

### **5.2 Increase in reliance on social support networks**

The VAA revealed an increase in the reliance on remittances from relatives and friends by food insecure households. A large number of vulnerable households are also participating in cash transfers projects, humanitarian food support, public works programmes and school feeding in a number of countries such as Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho and others. Malawi and Zambia are also implementing input subsidy programmes which are targeting the vulnerable and food insecure households to access subsidized farm inputs such as seed and fertilizer.

### **5.3 Foregoing essential expenditure**

Food insecure households are in some cases switching expenditure from other basic commodities to buy staple food such as maize. For example food insecure households are forgoing expenditures for clothing, school fees in some cases to buy maize and other cereals for food. In some cases food insecure households are being forced to buy poor quality food products just to ensure that their households have adequate food.

### **5.4 Increased search for casual labour opportunities**

The decreased food production in the region has forced some vulnerable people especially men to leave their homes in search of casual labor opportunities in order to find money for buying food. The increased search for casual labor opportunities leaves less time for the households to focus on their farming activities.

### **5.5 Increased sale of assets**

Countries like Lesotho and Zambia reported that households are selling household assets such as livestock and other household items in order to buy food. In Lesotho for example,

food insecure households are selling their livestock at relatively cheaper prices and some are also battering their livestock for staple food.

### **5.6 Increased rural to urban migration**

Because of food insecurity and poor employment prospects in the rural areas, there have been increased levels of rural urban migration especially by men and young women. Decreased casual labor opportunities in rural areas are forcing many people to migrate to urban centers to increase their chances of getting employed as casual laborers. For instance, the excessive rainfall in Lesotho has reduced the casual labor opportunities in the rural areas forcing vulnerable households especially men to migrate to urban centers.

## **6.0 MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Key conclusions**

The Regional seasonal rainfall performance was generally favourable for crop production in many areas but in some areas prolonged dry spells, water-logging and flooding were experienced thereby having a negative impact on crop production. As a result of the variations in rainfall performance, cereal production also varied across the Region with about half of the Member States recording increases while the other half recorded decreases during the 2010/11 agricultural season compared to the 2009/10 agricultural season. This translated into a 4% drop in cereal production at Regional level.

All countries in the Region except Malawi and Zambia recorded cereal deficits in the 2011/12 marketing season. This means that in some of the countries, the increase in cereal production was not enough to meet the national cereal requirement. Overall, this resulted in a cereal deficit of about 5 million metric tonnes at Regional level.

High rates of malnutrition especially stunting, persists in many parts of the Region in countries such as Malawi, Tanzania, Lesotho and Mozambique despite some improvements in crop production experienced in some of these countries in the recent years .

Lack of access to food and essential non-food items for the very poor and poor due to among other things, poor rainfall distribution, prevalence of livestock diseases, few labour opportunities and declining real wages and other effects of climate change remain persistent across the Region and rendered a number of people vulnerable. The chronic nature of some the causes of vulnerability are an indication of not just seasonal variabilities but deep rooted poverty.

### **6.2 Policy recommendations**

Based on the foregoing analysis, the SADC VAA dissemination Forum made the following recommendations for consideration by governments, international cooperating partners and civil society organization in order to address the food insecurity and vulnerability situation in the Region.

1. Continued emphasis is required on increased social protection and safety nets programmes to cushion those that are unable to meet the required minimum livelihoods.
2. Enhance infrastructure development for improved market access e.g. transport, storage and communication to improve rural incomes.
3. Continued support to agriculture input and output subsidy programmes to maintain and improve crop production.
4. SADC Member States should facilitate inter-country trade in food crops, livestock, and fishery products from surplus areas to deficit areas.
5. Member States are encouraged to implement medium to long term interventions to address chronic vulnerability issues and high levels of poverty as a larger part of the vulnerability among the population is directly related to poverty and declining resilience to shocks.

6. Cooperating partners and traders should be encouraged to procure food locally in the Region instead of importing from outside the Region.
7. Member States are urged to scale up and prioritize food and nutrition security programmes.
8. Member States are encouraged to draw a link between food security and climate change so as to devise and implement adaptation and mitigation measures as appropriate.
9. Member States are asked to promote smallholder irrigation technologies such as water harvesting technologies and drip irrigation as opposed to dependence on only rain fed agriculture.

## 7.0 ANNEXES

### 7.1 Programme



## 2011 REGIONAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS (RVAA) DISSEMINATION FOURM TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

7 – 8 JULY 2011

AIRPORT GRAND HOTEL – JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

### PROGRAMME

#### WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- 1) National Vulnerability Assessment (NVAC) Committees Presentations and discussions
- 2) Drafting of the overview of the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability in SADC
- 3) Presentation of some best practices in VAA related matters.

All Sessions to be chaired by Representative of Namibia

#### Day 1: 7 July 2011

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	RVAA PMU
09:00 – 09:30	Updates from the RVAA PMU - Technical working group - Other	RVAA PMU
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation of rainfall seasonal overview by SADC - progress of rainfall and agricultural season (20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)	RVAA PMU

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
10:00 – 10:40	Presentation by OXFAM on use of VAA. Experiences from Malawi and Zimbabwe (30 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)	Botswana

	<i>discussions)</i>	
<b>10:40 – 11:00</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	<b>All</b>
11:00 - 11:30	Presentation by OXFAM on EMMA (Emergency Marketing and Analysis Tool) <i>(20 minutes presentation , 10 minutes discussion)</i>	Botswana
11:30 – 12:00	Presentation by NamVAC urban assessment experience <i>(20 Minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)</i>	Lesotho
12:00 – 12:30	Presentation by FAO GIEWS Price analysis tools and applications <i>(20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)</i>	Lesotho
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) South Africa. Crops assessment/forecasting experiences <i>(20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)</i>	RVAA PMU
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>All</b>
14:00 – 14:40	Malawi VAA report	Zimbabwe
14:40 – 15:20	U/R Tanzania VAA report	Swaziland
15:20 – 16:00	South Africa VAA report	Botswana
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	<b>All</b>
16:30 – 17:00	Lesotho VAA report	Namibia

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
	<b>Day 2: 8 July 2011</b> Session: NVAC Presentations Continued (30 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion)	
08:30 – 09:10	Namibia VAA report	Malawi
09:10 – 09:50	Zambia VAA report	U/R Tanzania
09:50 – 10:30	Botswana VAA report	South Africa
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	<b>All</b>
11:00 – 11:40	Swaziland VAA report	Zambia
11:40 – 12:20	Zimbabwe VAA report	RVAA PMU
12:20 – 13:00	DRC VAA report	Mozambique
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	All
14:00 – 14:40	Mozambique VAA report	RVAA PMU
14:40 – 15:20	Mozambique VAA report	RVAA PMU
15:20 – 16:00	Plenary – discussion of issues to include in regional synthesis report	RVAA PMU
	<b><i>END OF WORKSHOP</i></b>	

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