



# Food Security Early Warning System

FOOD SECURITY UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2007

## SADC REGIONAL SUMMARY

- ❑ Seasonal rainfall performance so far has been characterized by above-normal rains in the northern half of the region while poor, erratic rains have affected the southern half.
- ❑ Heavy rains received in the northern half of the region in January and February have resulted in widespread flooding and destruction of crops in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.
- ❑ Meanwhile in the southern half of the region, poor, erratic rainfall in November and December followed by prolonged dry spells in January and February have led to expectations of poor crop production especially in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.
- ❑ Current forecasts indicate higher cereal production prospects compared to last season for Angola, Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania with the rest indicating either similar or decreased production levels compared to last season. (Table 1) Forecasts for the DRC and Madagascar are not available.
- ❑ The overall food security situation for the 2007/08 marketing year is likely to be less satisfactory compared to the 2006/07 year as overall cereal production may be lower than last season, especially given that South Africa, which normally produces half of the regional maize, is expected to increase its output only marginally from last season's maize output of 6.94 million tonnes.
- ❑ The 2006/07 marketing year's food security situation has remained stable in the region as a result of good harvest in 2006 for most Member States. However, humanitarian assistance may be required to assist those affected by recent floods especially in Madagascar, Mozambique and Zambia.

SADC Food Security Update No.1.07  
2007

Released: Gaborone, 16th March

### **ANGOLA: Excessive rains may adversely affect crop output...**

Current information indicates good rains received in most parts of the country. However excessive rainfall leading to flooding has been reported in several parts of the country including Benguela, Huambo, Malange and Moxico provinces. Reports indicate that at least 71 people died due to floods in mid-January, while several people were displaced from their homes and crops were swept away.

Although no production estimates have been received from the Angolan National Early Warning Unit, current indications are for a better food production this year compared to 2006 harvest. This is mostly due to better rains in most parts of the country compared to last season but also due to a reported improved access to farm inputs such as implements, seed and fertilizers by small holder farmers. As a result, the food security situation is expected to improve during the 2007/08 marketing year compared to 2006/07 marketing year that ends in March 2007.

Contact:

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AIMS),  
FANR DIRECTORATE,  
SADC SECRETARIAT,  
P/BAG 0095,  
GABORONE,  
BOTSWANA

TEL: 267 3951863  
FAX: 267 3972848  
E-mail: registry@ sadc.int  
Website: www.sadc.int

**BOTSWANA: Increased cereal imports expected as a result of poor expected production...**

The rainfall season started late with only a few areas receiving significant rains towards the end of December 2006. Many areas in the south and east have so far not received sufficient rains even to plant crops. January and February have been characterized by extremely dry conditions with high temperatures. As a result of the poor rainfall situation, the area planted by December 2006 was only 19,731 hectares, which is 76.7% below the area planted by December 2005. Other problems faced by communal farmers include high tractor charges, poor state of drought power and shortages of labour.

Early forecast from the NEWU indicate a 26% decrease in cereal production from 36,300 tonnes last season to 26,687 tonnes this season. Production of maize alone sees a significant decrease of about 80% from 10,467 tonnes last season to only 2,116 tonnes this season. The more drought-tolerant sorghum/millet crops are expected to decline by only 5% from 25,833 tonnes to 24,561 tonnes. As a result of the expected decrease in production, the food deficit/import requirement for the 2007/08 marketing year will be higher than 312,000 tonnes cereal deficit for the current (2006/07) marketing year.

The 2006/07 food security situation has remained satisfactory as the country has covered much of its cereal deficits through imports.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Floods displace some 20,000 people...**

Satellite rainfall estimates indicate that good rainfall has been received across much of the country. However, excessive rains have been reported especially in eastern parts of the country where some 20,000 people were reportedly displaced due to floods.

**LESOTHO: Poor rains lead to a 20% reduction in planted area...**

The country has received erratic and poor rains in January and February which have adversely affected the maize crop. Summer crops especially in southern low lands and the Senqu river valley are reported in very poor conditions due to lengthy dry spells and high temperature. Mostly due to poor rainfall situation in the country, area planted has been reduced to about 80% of that planted last season. Current forecast is for a lower cereal production than the 126,000 tonnes produced last season.

The food security situation is likely to be worse off in the 2007/08 marketing year compared to the 2006/07 as a result of the expected poor domestic production. The country may have to budget for an increased importation of food during the 2007/08 marketing market to cover the expected increase in cereal deficit. It is expected that the country will request for an independent Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission from FAO and WFP to verify the situation for possible appeal to donors for humanitarian support.

Meanwhile the food security situation has remained tight during the 2006/07 marketing year due to another poor cereal harvest in 2006.

**MADAGASCAR: Floods displace people, damage crop and infrastructure...**

Reports from Madagascar indicate that approximately 33,000 people were temporarily displaced from their homes due to floods in several parts of the country, including the capital Antananarivo where over 6,500 were affected. In addition, floods have destroyed an approximately 90,000 hectares of agricultural land as well as causing damages to roads and schools.

**MALAWI: Preliminary forecasts indicate a 20% increase in maize production ...**

The overall rainfall performance has been excellent in most parts of the country although heavy rains leading to flash floods were experienced in late December and early January. Pockets of below normal rains were also recorded in parts of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Thyolo, Zomba, Ntcheu and Nkhata Bay districts. In spite of this, however, the entire country has generally experienced good rainfall during the 2006/07 season. Crops are in good condition in most parts of the country with maize ranging from flowering to maturity stages.

Preliminary forecasts from the NEWU indicate one of the highest maize harvests in decades at 3.15 million tones, which is about 20 percent higher than last year's much improved harvest of 2.61 million tones. Should this harvest materialize, the country can expect a higher maize surplus in the 2007/08 marketing year than the 502,000 tonnes surplus realized during the 2006/07 marketing year. Preliminary forecasts also indicate improvement in production of rice and sorghum/millet of about 18 % and 12 % respectively. Consequently, the food security situation is likely to be more stable during 2007/08 marketing than has been the case in 2006/07.

The food security situation for the 2006/07 marketing year has remained satisfactory due to improved crop harvest in 2006.

**MOZAMBIQUE: *Early forecast point to a reduced cereal production in the 2006/07 season...***

Current reports indicate that the rainfall season has been characterized by poor erratic rains in the southern and parts of central provinces since the end of December. A prolonged dry spell in the southern and central provinces developed into a moderate drought resulting in widespread crop failure and repeated re-plantings. The first season crop in the south is reportedly a write-off but a better crop is expected from the second season crop, although shortages of seed and possible continuation of the dry spells may compromise this. Meanwhile in the north, and part of central provinces, flooding occurred in Tete, Zambezia, Manica, Sofara and Nampula provinces. More than 320,000 people have been affected by the floods, which have also led to deaths of at least 29 people. In addition to floods in the Zambezi basin, Cyclone Favio has destroyed homes of some 130,000 people in the districts of Vilanculos, Inhassorot, Govuro and Masinga.

The combined effect of flooding, Cyclone Flavio and dry spells in different parts of the country seem to have compromised food production in the country. Although no assessment results have been received from NEWU, indications are for a poor cereal production this season compared to the 2005/06 crop season. Consequently, a higher cereal deficit may be expected during the 2007/08 marketing year compared to the 2006/07 marketing year. The Government of Mozambique is urged to quickly assesses the situation and make contingency plans for possible increased imports of food.

As for the current food security, the situation has generally remained stable as a result of good harvest in the 2005/06 crop season, although emergency humanitarian intervention is required to assist those affected by floods.

**NAMIBIA: *Poor crop production expected...***

The 2006/07 agricultural season has generally been poor, characterized by erratic start to the season, intermittent dry spells up to the month of February 2007 especially in some of the most populated regions of the country such as Kavango, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto. On the other hand, above normal rains leading to flooding has affected eastern Caprivi. The combined effect of these is that cereal production is expected to drop this season compared to 2006 harvest. Current NEWU forecast indicate an overall cereal production of 119,300 tonnes, which 34% down on the revised 2006 total cereal harvest of 181,100 tonnes.

Based on the current forecast, the food security situation in the country is expected to be tight as the expected decrease in production will lead to a higher cereal deficit/import requirement for the 2007/08 marketing compared to the 2006/07 year. The country may have to substantially increase its budget for food imports for the 2007/08 marketing year.

The 2006/07 marketing year's overall food security situation has been stable as a result of a good harvest in 2006.

**SOUTH AFRICA: *First forecasts indicate a 17% increase in commercial maize production...***

Forecast from the First Crop Estimate Committee in February 2007 shows a maize production forecast of about 7.76 million tonnes from the commercial sector, which is 17.2% higher than the 6.62 million tonnes harvested in 2006. Forecasts for sorghum are shown as 155,000 tonnes or 61.8% higher than the final estimate of 2006 harvest of 96,000 tonnes. It should, however, be pointed out that the percentage increases in maize production over last season are more a sign of the poor production last year than a significant increase in expected production this season. The current forecast of commercial maize is much lower than the 11.52 harvested in 2005. There is also a possibility that the final production figures may be lower than this due to the continued dry spell in most parts of the maize growing areas of Free State and Mpumalanga, in spite of the increased use of irrigation.

Current reports indicate that the country has some maize for export but high prices have deterred importers from neighbouring countries.

**SWAZILAND: *Early indications are for a very poor harvest ...***

Although no official forecast has been made, current indications point to an even lower cereal production compared to another poor production of 67,130 tonnes achieved last season. Despite a promising start to the season, the rainfall season has turned out to be one of the worse in years. Unusually dry spells have been experienced especially from December and mid-January which have adversely affected crops at their most critical development stage, resulting in widespread crop failure. The rains that came at the end of January and beginning of February were insufficient and too late to revive the crops. Production has been further negatively affected by cyclone and hailstorm that destroyed the already weak crops as well as houses especially in Lowveld and Highveld regions.

As a result of the expected poor production, the food security situation for the 2007/08 marketing year is expected to be much tighter than was the case during the 2006/07 marketing year. The cereal deficit/import requirement is expected to be higher than the 2006/07 year's deficit of 92,000 tonnes. The Government has already requested FAO and WFP to field in a Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to verify the situation for possible appeal to donors for humanitarian and other assistance.

The food security situation during the 2006/07 marketing year has remained tight as a result of the poor cereal harvest in 2006.

**TANZANIA: *Favourable rains may lead to bumper harvest in the country...***

The rainfall situation has generally been favourable for crops in both unimodal and bimodal rainfall areas, and current expectations are for a good harvest this season. Latest reports indicate a good harvest of the 'vuli' crop in most areas except for the bimodal rainfall areas of Lake Victoria basin where excessive soil moisture impeded crop development. Crops over unimodal rainfall areas are reportedly between advanced vegetative and ripening stages and are in good condition. However, heavy downpours have caused excessive soil moisture over some parts of Mtwara, Mbeya and Singida regions with flash floods destroying several hectares of crops. Crop damage due to hailstorms was also reported in Mbulu district in Arusha province.

The food security situation for the 2007/08 marketing year is expected to be much better than the current marketing year which ends in May for Tanzania as a result of the expected good harvest. If the current good rains continue the country is likely to have surplus maize for export during the 2007/08 marketing year.

**ZAMBIA: *Excessive rains and floods may compromise cereal production ...***

The country experienced a delayed onset of the rains. However, normal to above normal rains have been received since late December which greatly improved the moisture content of the soils. Unfortunately, the above normal rains have also led to some 21 of the 73 districts in the country swamped with floods especially those along the Zambezi basin. The floods have affected large areas of agricultural land.

Although no official forecast are available, indications are for an average cereal production which may be slightly lower than last season when the country produced some 1.6 million tonnes of cereals. Condition may, however, favour increased production in non-cereal crops such as cassava and sweet potatoes.

The current food security situation remains stable as a result of good harvest last year.

**ZIMBABWE: *Poor crop production expected as a result of poor rains...***

The performance of the rains has generally been poor and erratic in the country. The rains have been fair to good in the northern parts of the country while the southern and south eastern parts have not received significant rains since the end of December. January and February have been characterized by poor erratic rains and high temperature resulting in water stressed maize at the critical tasseling and cob-formation stages. As a result, poor crop yields are expected in most parts of the country.

Although no official crop forecasts are available from the NEWU, current indications based on the rainfall situation and other factors such as input use point to a tight 2007/08 food security situation than last year. Food deficit/import requirements for the 2007/08 marketing year are expected to be higher than 609,000 tonnes estimated during the 2006/07 marketing year. Current reports indicate that the Government has already requested for FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to verify the situation for possible appeals for donor assistance.

The food security situation has remained tight throughout the 2006/07 consumption year as a result of the poor cereal production during the 2005/06 crop season, although the Government has managed to cover a substantial amount of the deficit.

---

Table 1: Preliminary 2007 Production Forecast Compared to Final 2006 Harvest Estimate  
( ' 000 Tonnes)

Country*	Maize		Wheat		Rice		Sorgh/Millet		Total Cereal	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Botswana	10	2	0	0	0	0	26	25	36	27
Malawi	2611	3146	2	3	59	69	81	91	2754	3309
South Africa	6618	7757	2122	n/a	0	0	96	155	8836	n/a

\* Only countries that have submitted to FANR their preliminary forecasts for 2007 harvest

The following Balance Sheets are for the 2006/07 Marketing Year, which in some Member States, ends on 31 March 2007.

**Table 2: SADC  
MAIZE BALANCE SHEET  
MARKETING YEAR (Vary by Country) 2006/2007  
Thousands of Metric Tons**

	Ang	Bot	Les	Mal	Mau	Moz	Nam	RSA	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	SADC
<b>A. Domestic Availability</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2686</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>10769</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3420</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>1758</b>	<b>22451</b>
<b>A.1 Opening Stocks</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3834</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>4103</b>
Formal/SGR	4	2	6	16	1	0	4	3834	1	6	20	50	3944
On Farm	6	0	0	30	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
Other	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	1	41	0	3	73
<b>A.2 Gross Harvest</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2611</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6935</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>3373</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>1705</b>	<b>18345</b>
<b>B. Gross Domestic Requirements</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>2123</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1476</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>8800</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>3819</b>	<b>1313</b>	<b>1892</b>	<b>20858</b>
<b>C. Desired SGR Carryover Stocks</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1563</b>
<b>D. Domestic Shortfall/Surplus</b>	<b>-211</b>	<b>-141</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-92</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>-44</b>	<b>-543</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>-384</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>E. Commodity Cross Substitution</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>F. Imports</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>F.1 Received</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>255</b>
Commercial	53	110	10	28	30	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	251
Food Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
<b>F.2 Expected</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>315</b>
Commercial	0	45	132	72	5	0	38	0	2	0	0	0	294
Food Aid	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
<b>G. Exports</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Committments Shipped	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Committments Not Yet Shipped	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>H. Import Gap</b>	<b>-158</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-183</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-364</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>I. Forecasted Closing Stock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2543</b>
<b>J. Current Stock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5940</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6005</b>

**Table 3: SADC  
ALL CEREALS BALANCE SHEET  
MARKETING YEAR (Vary by Countr2006/2007  
Thousands of Metric Tons**

	Ang	Bot	Les	Mal	Mau	Moz	Nam	RSA	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	SADC
<b>A. Domestic Availability</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>2833</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2265</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>14722</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>5300</b>	<b>1618</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>30057</b>
<b>A.1 Opening Stocks</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5567</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>6153</b>
Formal/SGR	13	7	47	16	4	90	34	5567	11	6	21	72	5887
On Farm	11	0	0	31	0	77	0	0	5	1	1	0	126
Other	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	1	103	0	4	140
<b>A.2 Gross Harvest</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2754</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2098</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>9156</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5189</b>	<b>1597</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>23904</b>
<b>B. Gross Domestic Requirements</b>	<b>1490</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>2396</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>2479</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>12788</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>6072</b>	<b>1545</b>	<b>2461</b>	<b>30579</b>
<b>C. Desired SGR Carryover Stocks</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1559</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>2363</b>
<b>D. Domestic Shortfall/Surplus</b>	<b>-818</b>	<b>-312</b>	<b>-242</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>-203</b>	<b>-373</b>	<b>-91</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>-92</b>	<b>-916</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-609</b>	<b>-2885</b>
<b>E. Commodity Cross Substitution</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>878</b>
<b>F. Imports</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1090</b>
<b>F.1 Received</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>
Commercial	91	226	11	38	160	0	0	0	65	0	0	0	591
Food Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
<b>F.2 Expected</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>490</b>
Commercial	0	65	210	75	33	0	82	0	2	0	0	0	468
Food Aid	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
<b>G. Exports</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Committments Shipped	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Committments Not Yet Shippe	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>H. Import Gap</b>	<b>-727</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-373</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-609</b>	<b>-921</b>
<b>I. Forecasted Closing Stock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1934</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1442</b>
<b>J. Current Stock</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7920</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8128</b>