

## **SUMMARY**

Rainfall has increased significantly during this period as compared to mid-September to mid-October in most southern and central areas of the country, providing a good start to the agricultural season. In this period rains are typically important in the southern and central areas for land preparation and the planting of the first season crops.

The farmed area in the southern and central areas of the country in the current year is less than that observed in the same period of last year, according to the National Early Warning System from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SNAP/MADER). This is because flooding has negatively influenced the area cultivated this year.

The needs for seed and agricultural tools are nearly satisfied in the current year. But the needs for groundnut seeds are not yet satisfied in Gaza Province. The Root and Tuber Research Program of INIA will distribute 3 million sweet potato plants to peasant farmers in November, with the objective of supplying improved cultivars and enriching human diet with Vitamin A.

Animals are enjoying good pasture and water conditions in the country. However, reports from the National Directorate of Livestock (DINAP) indicate an outbreak of foot rot disease among cattle in Maputo, Tete, and Nampula Provinces. DINAP outlined measures for avoiding the spread of the disease.

Food availability is good in the country since the stocks meet the human needs for consumption in October. However, shortages of dry beans, cowpeas, groundnuts, and cassava were reported in some markets in Maputo, Maxixe, Nampula and Quelimane Cities due to last year's flooding. Food access also remains good.

Maize prices in September followed their seasonal pattern. As compared to September 1999, the retail price of maize was higher in the Southern and lower in Provinces in the northern and central parts of the country.

The food insecure population increased from 160,000 to 163,000 people in November due to flooding observed in the low-lying areas along the Maputo River. Food aid and food-for-work programs are being implemented in Govuro, Buzi, and Machanga Districts (Sofala Province) and Tambara Districts (Manica Province).

A multidisciplinary team composed of FEWS NET, the Government and WFP will conduct a food economy baseline study in the critical areas of the Limpopo Basin. This work—which will take place from November 8 to 17--will assist in developing contingency plans and potential response plan if there is flooding this year.

Additionally, FEWS NET, USAID, and the Department of Water in Chokwe, Xai-Xai, Chibuto, and Mabalane Districts in Gaza Province will conduct a rapid rural appraisal from the 8th to The 17th of November. The objective of this study is to gather more information for use in planning a Village Flood Watch Program.

## 1. Food Security Outlook

Nationwide food security situation remains fairly good due to the fact that food reserves (e.g., 705,000 MT of maize, 88,000 MT of rice, and 38,000 MT of wheat) exceed human consumption requirements (e.g., 129,000 MT of maize; 26,000 MT of rice; and 19,000 MT of wheat) in the current month. However, the number of food insecure people increased by 3000 (from 160,000 to 163,000 people) due to the recent flooding observed in Maputo Basin, in Matutuine District.

Extremely and highly vulnerable districts need assistance such as free food, seed distribution and food-for-work interventions in order to ensure food security for approximately 163,000 people. A mission composed of the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) and WFP will conduct a field trip in the extremely and highly food insecure districts of the country to determine the level and types of interventions needed.

## 2. National Overview

### 2.1 Rainfall

Ten-day (dekadal) reports from the National Institute of Meteorology (INAM) indicate below-normal precipitation during the first and second dekads of October over most of Mozambique. Light showers were observed in Tete, Chimoio and Beira Cities in the central region of the country. The country experienced wet conditions during the last ten days of October (Table 1). Pemba, Cuamba, Chimoio, Beira and Maputo Cities had above-normal rains.

### 2.2 Agricultural Prospects and Conditions

As Mozambique's main rainy season begins, farmers are busy preparing land and planting the first-season crops of maize, cowpeas, groundnuts and cassava. In Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane Provinces, planting of these staples foods will continue through December depending upon the availability of seeds and the rainfall levels and distribution. In the central region of the country, land preparation and planting began in November and will continue until January. It should be pointed out that the farmed area as of October 2000 is less than that in October 1999 according to SNAP/MADER. This is because in the current year production has been negatively influenced by the poor resources of farmers, particularly in those areas affected by the floods that occurred earlier this year.

|               |             | 1st dek Oct |      | 2nd dek Oct |      | 3rd dek Oct |      | Cumulative |      | Percent Difference:<br>Cumulative OR-NR |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|------------|------|---|
|               |             | RO          | RN   | RO          | RN   | RO          | RN   | RO         | RN   |   |
| <b>South</b>  | Vilanculo   | 0.0         | 1.7  | 1.3         | 1.7  | 2.5         | 14.4 | 3.8        | 17.8 | -78.7                                   |
|               | Inhambane   | 0.6         | 5.7  | 0.0         | 8.4  | 2.5         | 13.1 | 3.1        | 27.2 | -88.6                                   |
|               | Xai-Xai     | 0.1         | 12.4 | 1.2         | 24.6 | 23.4        | 22.4 | 24.7       | 59.4 | -58.4                                   |
|               | Maputo Obs. | 2.0         | 14.5 | 1.1         | 18.7 | 57.3        | 12.8 | 60.4       | 46.0 | 31.3                                    |
| <b>Center</b> | Tete        | 0.0         | 1.1  | 4.7         | 13.1 | 3.8         | 0.4  | 8.5        | 14.6 | -41.8                                   |
|               | Chimoio     | 0.0         | 6.6  | 4.7         | 6.6  | 45.3        | 14.2 | 50.0       | 27.4 | 82.5                                    |
|               | Beira       | 0.0         | 4.4  | 14.3        | 9.0  | 143.5       | 15.2 | 157.8      | 28.6 | 451.7                                   |
| <b>North</b>  | Pemba       | 0.0         | 3.5  | 0.0         | 2.6  | 26.5        | 4.1  | 26.5       | 10.2 | 159.8                                   |
|               | Lichinga    | 9.0         | 2.1  | 0.0         | 7.7  | nd          | 7.8  | 16.7       | 17.6 | -5.1                                    |
|               | Cuamba      | 6.8         | 0.6  | 0.0         | 7.9  | 90.6        | 6.0  | 97.4       | 14.5 | 571.7                                   |
|               | Nampula     | 0.0         | 8.5  | 0.0         | 2.4  | 4.9         | 16.8 | 4.9        | 27.7 | -82.3                                   |

*Source: INAM*      *RO= Rainfall Observed*      *RN= Rainfall Normal*  
*nd= no data*

Seed and tools needs are nearly satisfied in the current year, following distributions by MADER. However, it was reported by the National Early Warning System (SNAP) of the National Department of Agriculture that there is a shortage of groundnut seeds in Gaza Province. However, FAO is distributing free groundnut seeds there.

The Root and Tuber Research Program from the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) will distribute 3 million improved sweet potato plants free-of-charge to peasant farmers in November. The objectives of this program are to supply good plant materials to 101,000 farmers and to improve human nutrition (especially Vitamin A availability).

### **2.3 Livestock and pasture conditions**

Currently there are still good pasture and water conditions due to the rainfall registered in several districts in the southern regions of the country during September.

There is an outbreak of foot disease among livestock mainly in Maputo, Tete and Nampula Provinces. The Veterinary officers in these provinces, as determined by the Epidemiological Unity of Veterinary of National Directorate of Livestock at Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (UEV/DINAP) has recommended two specific actions. First, the UEV suggests that movement of the animals in the affected areas be strictly controlled. Second, they recommend that a targeted vaccination be implemented to cover the risky areas.

Rabies vaccination has begun in the current month in Maputo, Gaza, Tete and Nampula Provinces to avoid the spread of this cattle disease in these provinces. The vaccination program is being carried out by the Epidemiological Veterinary Unit (UEV)/DINAP.

## **3. Food Availability and Access**

Food availability and access generally remains good in most areas in the country. However, the Food Market Information System (SIMA) reported diminishing quantities of cowpeas, dry beans, groundnuts and cassava in some markets in Maputo, Maxixe, Nampula and Quelimane Cities, due to the floods in the last production year.

Reacting to the Current Vulnerability Report, the Government (INGC) and WFP plan to conduct a follow-up food and seed needs assessment in November in extremely, highly and moderately food insecure districts in order to determine required interventions. This fieldwork will be conducted in Manica, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza, and Maputo Provinces, with the team spending five days in each province.

## **4. Maize Market Conditions and Prices**

The markets of deficit areas in the southern region of the country are still well supplied from the surplus of the central region. For instance, SIMA reported that white maize grain in several markets of Maputo Province is originating mainly from Changara District (Tete Province in the central region of the country), a distance of about 1000 km.

Since September the retail prices of white maize grain have been rising all over the country (Table 2). This is a seasonal trend that should be expected at this period of the year. In Lichinga and Chimoio, the retail price of maize is stable due to the build-up of farmer-held stocks as a result of the surplus production of the last two years and the relative inability of farmers to find outlets for their maize.

Comparisons between retail prices of white maize grain in September 1999 and September 2000 are mixed. Retail white maize prices declined in the central and northern regions of the

country and rose in the southern region. The reasons for these tendencies are a) the Central and Northern provinces had two good production years, leaving maize still in the hands of the farmers; and b) the southern provinces were extensively affected by the floods, so vast maize areas were washed away by the floods.

## 5. Vulnerable Population

The intersectoral Vulnerability Assessment Group revealed that last month approximately 160,000

people were food insecure. This number has risen because farm households numbering three thousand people lost their second season crops in Matutuine District due to inundation from the Maputo River in low lying field areas. The inundation observed in November in Matutuine was created by the water discharges from a dam in South Africa. According to the District Director of Agriculture in Matutuine, the immediate effect of the inundation is a food shortage for about 3,000 people living in Chiau, Nguenha, and Santaca villages of Matutuine District.

A report from WFP indicates that food-for-work programs are being implemented in some districts of the central region in Govuro, Buzi and Machanga (Sofala Province), and Tambara (Manica Province). The WFP is also distributing free food and seeds.

At the moment there is an outbreak of cholera in Maputo and Gaza Province due to the start of the wet season. The Department of Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health and Red Cross is conducting close monitoring of the outbreak.

A multidisciplinary team and consisting of FEWS NET, SNAP/MADER, MOH and WFP—sponsored by FEWS NET—will conduct a food economy baseline assessment in critical areas of the Limpopo Basin to prepare contingency plans and potential response plans in the event of further flooding.

Rapid rural appraisal work will be also conducted from the 8<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> November by FEWS NET, USAID and Department of Water of the Ministry of Housing and Works in Chokwe, Xai-Xai, Chibuto, and Mabalane districts in Gaza Province. The objectives of this study are:

1. to start work on the Village Flood Watch which will be run by FEWS NET
2. to establish core information to be used in planning a Village Flood Watch program.

The Village Flood Watch is a new program that will encompass six key areas: contingency planning, flood risk modeling, village information and preparedness, provincial level of liaison and coordination, decentralized communication networks, and integrated national information systems to support improved decision-making.

**Table 2: Retail White Maize Grain Prices (MZMT/Kg) and % Changes: Sep. 1999, Oct and Sep. 2000 .**

| Regions  |          | Oct 1999 | Sep 2000 | Oct 2000 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Southern | Maputo   | 2409     | 2552     | 2586     |
|          | Xai-Xai  | 1869     | 1949     | 2248     |
|          | Maxixe   | 1338     | 1701     | 2026     |
| Central  | Beira    | 1617     | 1430     | 1537     |
|          | Chimoio  | 1714     | 1371     | 1371     |
|          | Tete     | 1403     | 850      | 884      |
| Northern | Nampula  | 1290     | 1035     | 1049     |
|          | Pemba    | 1068     | 935      | 1219     |
|          | Lichinga | 1673     | 1143     | 1143     |

**Source: MADER/SIMA**