

## Highlights

The food security status in areas that obtained a good harvest from the 1999/2000 production season is still satisfactory. Domestic food movements from surplus areas continue to provide access to food in deficit areas.

A precarious food security status is evident among the 1.3 million people from poor households in previously identified highly food insecure areas in central, southeast Lake Victoria, and northern Tanzania.

Over 50 percent of 20,000 MT of maize released by the government of Tanzania in September was distributed and sold in October to 1.3 million highly food insecure people in 11 regions at highly subsidized prices. Sales are expected to continue through November.

Various donor agencies are waiting for the approval in Rome of the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) before responding to the appeal by the government for food aid and emergency seeds for 1.3 million people previously identified to be highly food insecure.

Prices of food staples in most markets were stable or registered gradual increases in October compared to prices in September and previous periods, a price pattern considered normal at this time of the year.

At the end of October, cereals held by the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) and monitored large commercial traders stood at 159,000 MT, comprised of 135,000 MT of maize, 19,000 MT of wheat grain and wheat flour and 5,000 MT of rice. This amount, equivalent to three months of national consumption, is considered adequate for now.

Prolonged, drier than normal conditions are inducing livestock to migrate and concentrate in a few areas where there is water in key livestock areas, consequently causing overgrazing and threatening the food security status of pastoralists.

The late on-set of the short rains (*vuli*) season in October in the bimodal areas resulted in less crop planting than usual. Further delays of start of the season could result in a shortened cropping season and much lower crop production. Delays of rainfall will also affect calving rates, milk production and weight gains of livestock.

Adequate and timely availability of seeds in November and December for those able to buy and free distributions to the poor households in drought-affected areas are necessary to ensure recovery in the next season from a poor 1999/2000 production season.

Inadequate availability of basal fertilizers in this season could adversely affect cereal crop production as well as the tobacco crop.



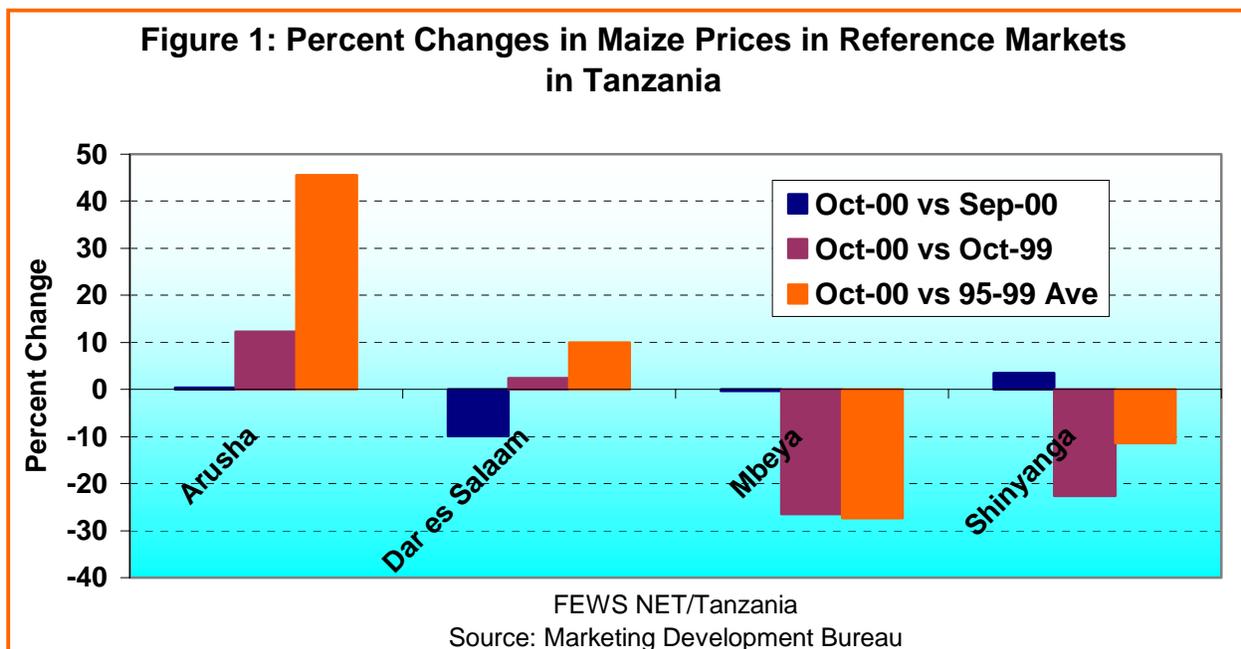
# 1. Current Food Security Situation

## 1.1. Food Availability and Flows

Food availability is satisfactory in areas, which obtained a good harvest from the 1999/2000 production season. Movement of domestic food from surplus to deficit areas continued smoothly in October largely facilitated by dry weather conditions. The movement, mostly conducted by small-scale private traders, is providing access to food in various rural and urban markets. Even in highly food-insecure areas, food staples and other foodstuffs are available in markets, often at affordable prices to households who are still able to buy.

A critical factor limiting food access for poor households in highly food insecure areas is their purchasing power. This has reduced the effective demand for food and other goods in the market. In these areas — central, southeast Lake Victoria, and northern Tanzania — there has been prolonged food insecurity attributed by consecutive drought conditions in previous four production seasons. Harvests of food and cash crops declined severely. Livestock productivity has also been reduced due to diminishing pasture and grazing areas. Lack of sufficient home-produced food has compelled households to get their supplies from markets. A decrease in cash crop and livestock production also reduced their household income, decreased their purchasing power, and consequently increased their poverty.

The four consecutive drought seasons (1997-2000) have even reduced food availability among economically better off households, forcing them to spend more of their incomes and savings to purchase food from markets. They have not had any opportunity to re-build their reserves and stocks. These poor conditions among the better-off have also curtailed employment opportunities poorer households who, apart from depleting their meager incomes and over stretching other coping mechanisms, cannot find alternative sources of food and income from the better-off households. Therefore, while stable prices of food staples provide access to food to households able to buy, stable prices do not provide the needed relief to poor households in practical terms.



**1.2. Food Access and Market Conditions**

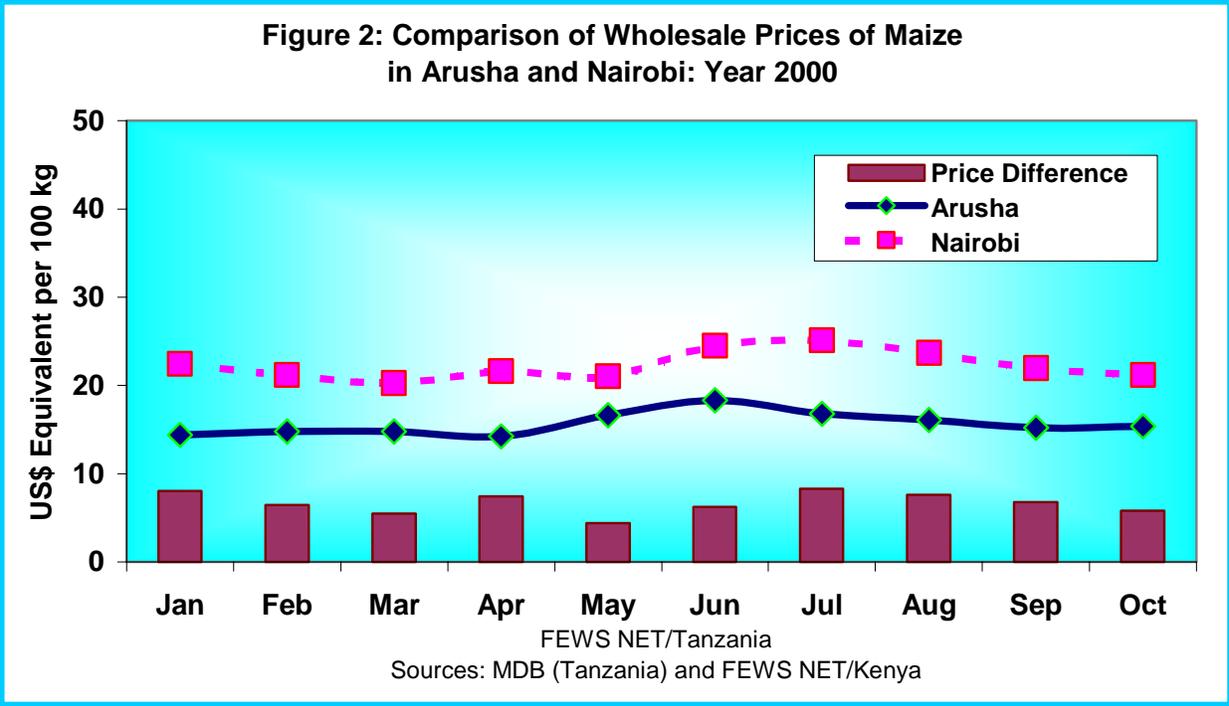
In general, October prices of staples were stable compared to September this year but revealed mixed trends when compared to October 1999 and 1995-99 (five-year) averages. Analysis of maize prices in reference markets in Figure 1 illustrates that nominal maize prices in Dar es Salaam increased by 2 percent and 10 percent over October 1999 and the five-year average, respectively. In Arusha, prices of maize increased significantly by 12 percent and 46 percent, respectively, compared to October last year and the five-year average.

Whereas an increase in the price of maize in October in Dar es Salaam could be described as normal at this time of the year, sharp increases in Arusha and other northern Tanzania markets could be attributed to increased demand of maize in Kenya following recent below-average harvests. Unofficial reports from the area indicated increased informal cross-border exports of maize and beans along the Kenya/Tanzania border. Similarly, a joint vulnerability assessment mission in this area in August observed food flows from inside Tanzania towards the Kenya/Tanzania border.

Weak purchasing power in Tanzania and stronger effective demand of maize in Kenyan markets is also maize and beans from Tanzania. A comparative analysis of prices of maize between Arusha and Nairobi presented in Figure 2 indicates a price differential of US\$6-8 per 100 kg bag of maize between the two markets. In October this year, a bag of maize sold for the equivalent of US\$15 in Arusha but fetched the equivalent of US\$21 in Nairobi. This difference in prices presumably provides a gross profit and could automatically trigger the flow of maize from Tanzania even under risky trading conditions.

**1.3. Monitored Stocks**

The Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) continued to purchase maize from surplus areas in October, particularly from the southern highlands. For the 2000/01 market year, the SGR has purchased about 47,000 MT of maize since the exercise started in August 15. This is equivalent to 67 percent of the planned purchase of 70,000 MT in the current market year. At the end of October, SGR stocks were 88,000 MT, distributed in the warehouses as indicated in Table 1.



**Table 1: Monitored Stock Position in Tanzania**

Warehouse	Amount (MT)
Arusha	4,568
Dar es Salaam	15,341
Dodoma	22,090
Makambako (Iringa Region)	13,996
Shinyanga	3,701
Songea (Ruvuma Region)	16,581
Sumbawanga (Rukwa Region)	11,718
Sub-Total	87,995
Commercial (Private)	47,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>134,995</b>

Source of Data: Food Security Department, Dar es Salaam

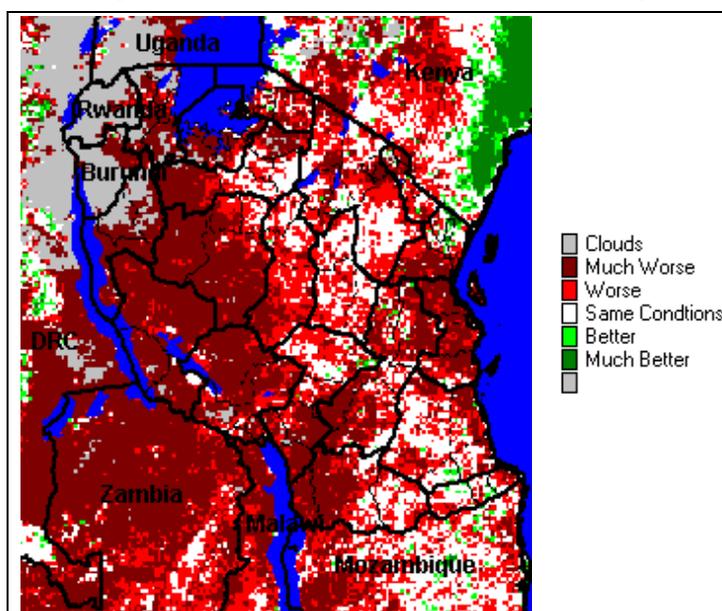
Commercial stocks monitored by the Food Security Department show that at the end of October, commercial private traders held among them stocks of 71,000 MT of cereals comprising of 47,000 of maize, 19,000 MT of wheat grain and wheat flour and 5,000 MT of rice. Maize stocks were composed of 22,000 MT from local purchases and 25,000 MT of imports from South Africa by one trader. The Food Security Department assumed that these imports are in response to a suspension of import duties on maize by the government in early September. The suspension of import duties on maize ends in December but by end of October, there were no confirmed reports of more imports on the way or expressed intent to import more maize.

#### 1.4. Pasture and Water Conditions

The late onset of the *vuli* season this year, which has prolonged drier than normal conditions, is raising increasing concerns for livestock productivity in key livestock regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mara and Mwanza. The negligible rain received in October in these areas could not provide sufficient moisture to replenish pasture and recharge drying water points. This has consequently induced livestock migrations and concentrations in areas where there is water in Monduli, Ngorongoro and Simanjiro Districts in Arusha Region, Same District in Kilimanjaro Region and Handeni District in Tanga Region.

Figure 3, based on the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), provides evidence of declining of vegetation conditions over these areas as illustrated by dekadal imagery of October 21-31 (10-day period) compared to the long-term average for the same dekad.

**Figure 3: October 21-31, 2000 Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Compared to Average**



FEWS NET/Tanzania  
Source: NASA

## 2. Responses to Food Insecurity Populations

In October, about 57 percent of 20,000 MT maize released by the government of Tanzania in September was distributed and sold to 1.3 million people in 11 food insecure regions (Table 2) at highly subsidized prices. The sales cover two months, October and November. (It is expected that the WFP EMOP, which is awaiting approval from the Head Office in Rome will begin in December.) This maize is sold to the target population at a price of TZS 50 (US\$0.06) per

**Table 2: Distribution of Government Maize to Food Insecure Regions as of End of October**

Region	Allocation (MT)	Distributed (MT)	Balance (MT)
Arusha	3,995	2,715	1,280
Dodoma	2,950	152	2,798
Iringa	670	670	0
Kilimanjaro	1,846	1,419	427
Mara	110	41	69
Morogoro	422	366	56
Mwanza	1,169	1,169	0
Shinyanga	2,509	1,683	826
Singida	2,721	880	1,841
Tabora	1,890	978	912
Tanga	850	845	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,132</b>	<b>10,918</b>	<b>8,214</b>

Source of Data: Food Security Department, Dar es Salaam

kilogram. Money accruing is supposed to cover part of distribution costs of this maize. In October, market prices of maize in food insecure areas ranged from TZS 84-129 per kilogram, which translates in a decrease in prices of 44-61 percent.

Targeted households are allowed to buy only 12 kilograms per month, times the number of people in the household using WFP full ration of 400 grams per person per day. Government authorities in the targeted areas are conducting and monitoring distribution and sales. Part of the monitoring exercise is to determine whether the targeted poor food

insecure households can afford to buy maize. This will enable decisions to be considered about alternative distribution methods, particularly free food distributions. However, previous assessments and informal information from the food insecure areas suggest that the majority of poor and food insecure people have already depleted their incomes and are not likely to benefit from low prices of maize. Thus, free food distributions remain the only alternative and fair option.

Donors are waiting for approval of the WFP EMOP to respond to the appeal by the government for food aid and emergency seeds to 1.3 million people previously identified to be highly food insecure. Sweden has committed US\$ 2 million (food aid, seeds and distribution costs). Interests to support the EMOP have also been expressed by the African Development Bank (US\$ 500,000), Canada (Can\$ 500,000), Department for International Development (DFID) (funds for seeds, food aid and training), and USAID (about 10,000 MT food aid).

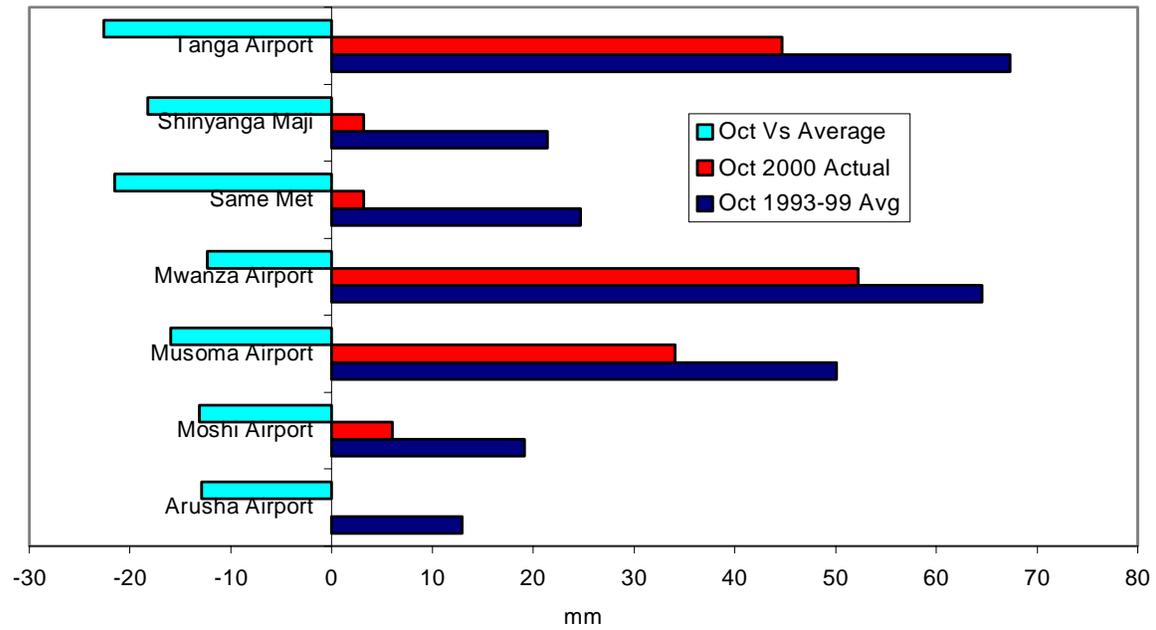
### 3. Future Prospects of Food Security in the Country

#### 3.1. Agro-Climatic Conditions

Ideally, October marks the onset of the short rainy (*vuli*) season in the bimodal rainfall Lake Victoria, northern and northern coastal areas. This year, there is a delayed start of the season as the bimodal rainfall stations recorded very little rainfall in October in. Figure 4 illustrates zero rainfall at Arusha Airport and below average rainfall at other stations.

Satellite estimated rainfall (RFE) imagery in Figure 5 depicts below-average precipitation in all bimodal rainfall areas. There has not been sufficient soil moisture and less crop planting than usual has been reported. Further delays of start of the season, could result in a shortened cropping season and big drops in crop production unless rains extend beyond the normal end of season in December.

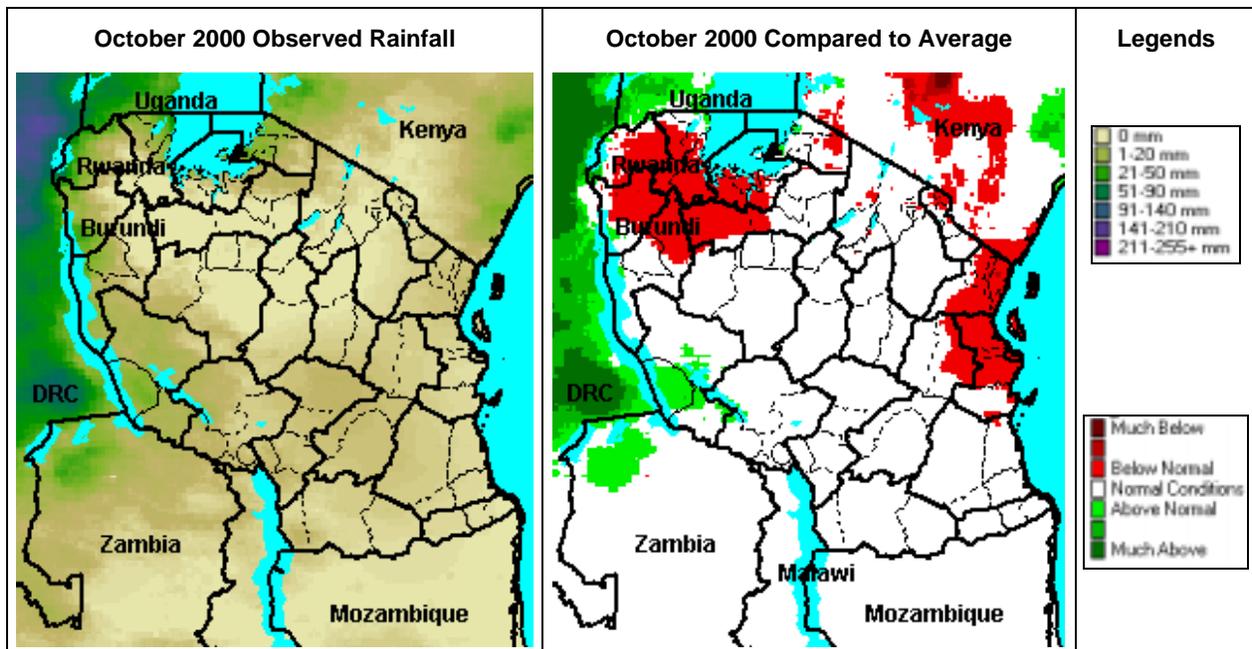
**Figure 4: Rainfall Records On Selected Stations in Short Rains (Vuli) Areas**



Source: FEWS NET/Tanzania

Source of Data: Food Security Department, Dar es Salaam

**Figure 5: METEOSAT Rainfall Estimates, Difference from Average**



FEWS NET/Tanzania

Source: NOAA

### **3.2. Production Inputs**

Higher prices of production inputs particularly of seeds and fertilizers and the absence of credit for farmers compel a majority of poor smallholder farmers to use seeds saved from the previous season and often skip applying fertilizers. However, the failure of crop production from the 1999/2000 season in central, lake and northern Tanzania resulted in reduced quantity and quality of seeds from home production. Consequently, farmers in these areas will have to meet their seeds requirements from other sources.

Previous food security assessments identified about 2.8 million people in 11 regions (Arusha, Dodoma, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mara, Morogoro, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Singida, Tabora and Tanga) to have been affected by drought conditions during the 1999/2000 production season. This led to a poor crop production that also affected seed supplies for the coming season. Out of 2.8 million drought-affected populations, 1.3 million people (46 percent) were assessed to be highly food insecure and poor. It was recommended that these people be eligible for relief interventions of food and seeds. The other 1.5 million people (54 percent) will need good access to seed suppliers. To enhance recovery next season following a poor 1999/2000-production season, distribution of free seeds to the poor households and timely marketing of adequate supplies to those who are able to buy would be necessary. Planting materials should be supplied during November and December to enable farmers take advantage of rainy days for planting.

Reports from the Input Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in central and southern Highlands regions mentioned low availability of fertilizers. In particular, there is an acute shortage of NPK fertilizers for cereals and tobacco production due to still weak private sector interest. The estimated national demand for NPK is over 20,000 MT but the available supply is less than 4,000 MT. Tobacco nurseries in major tobacco growing areas in Tabora, Singida, Iringa and Ruvuma Regions are starting operations without fertilizers. The availability of other types of fertilizers was also reported to be scarce.

Effective medium and long term strategies for input availabilities should include to encourage establishment of rural based cooperative societies or saving and credit schemes to enable farmers to obtain credit to make minimum investments in farming, particularly in seeds and fertilizers. These savings and credits schemes should go hand in hand with a review of the input-supply system in the country to provide a conducive environment to the private sector to increase services to farmers.