



NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

**AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE MARKET
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

AGRONOMY MARKET DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION

PEARL MILLET (MAHANGU) **PRELIMINARY
PRODUCTION FORECAST REPORT**

HARVESTING/MARKETING SEASON: 2021/2022



Last Updated: 17 May 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Pearl millet (Mahangu) is one of the most important cereal crops in Namibia making a huge contribution to the overall food security. Mahangu is planted immediately on the first onset of the rainy season mainly in Northern Central areas, Zambezi, Kavango and Otjozondjupa region. Farmers in the NCA produce mahangu for subsistence purpose and sell the surplus grain in the formal and informal markets.

The marketing of locally produced mahangu grains is managed through the Mahangu Marketing Mechanisms/ Agreement signed between organised producers and millers. The marketing of mahangu officially starts from 01 June and ends when all the grains are taken up by the National Strategic Food Reserves and by millers, as outlined in the marketing mechanism agreement. A period of import restriction is also observed through the open border and close border period in order to effectively and efficiently implement the marketing mechanisms for mahangu.

During 2020 marketing season, a total of 4,139 tons was marketed as from 01 July to 31 March 2021. A total of 3,306 tons is expected to be marketed during the 2021 marketing season, with a slight decrease of 833 tons (20%) as compared to the 2020 marketing season but this might change as more producers are expected to register. However, the production of pearl millet is estimated to be lower as a result of delayed rainfall as well as the dry-spell that was experienced in some production area. Some areas also experienced crop damaged due pests such as mice/rats and locust outbreak.

Therefore, this report also presents the forecasted tonnage and hectares planted in different production regions of the country for the 2021 marketing season.

2. METHODOLOGY

The pearl millet preliminary data collection was conducted using data collection forms that were handled by Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES) staff members at the respective Agriculture Development Centres (ADCs) in the pearl millet producing regions as from the 1st February to 30th March 2021. Radio announcements were made through various national language radio stations, calling for farmers who intend to market their pearl millet grain in the formal market during the upcoming 2021 marketing season, to register with the NAB. DAPEES then communicated the recorded data to NAB for capturing and compilation.

Data collected was entered and analysed in Microsoft excel, using both graphical and tabulation analysis. Selective field verification will be conducted before the start of the 2021 marketing season.

3. EXPECTED PRODUCTION FORECAST

3.1 Expected tonnage to be harvested and marketed in 2021

Figure 1 below shows that, the bulk of mahangu to be marketed is expected from the Zambezi region which represent 55% (1,802 tons), while 16% (544 tons) is expected from Oshikoto region and 11 % (363 tons) is expected from Omusati region.

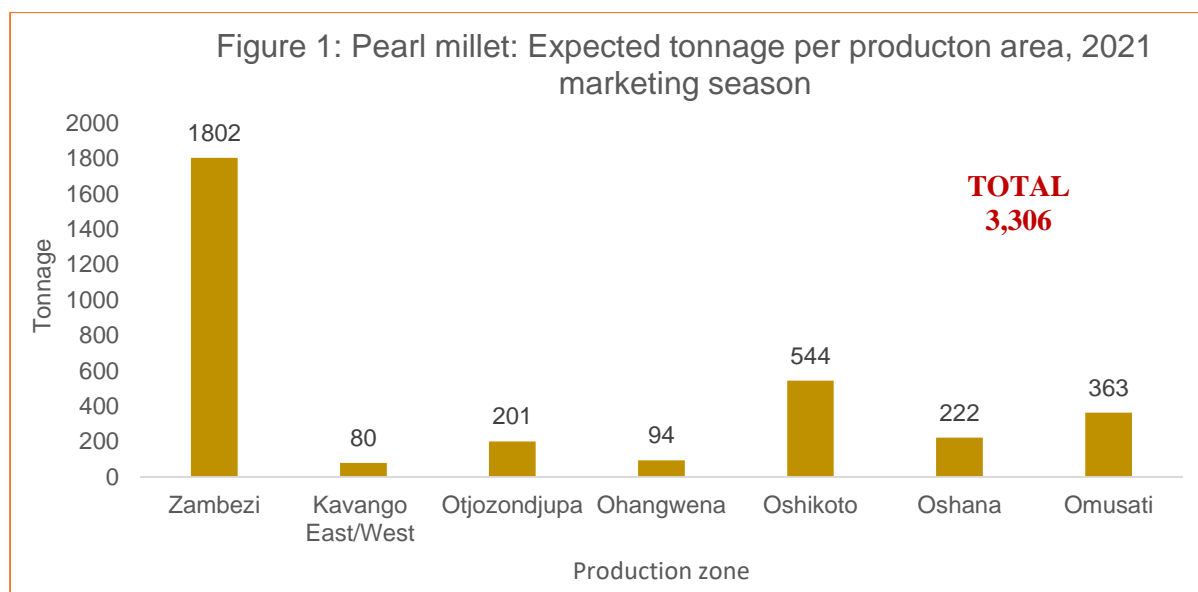


Figure 1: Expected tonnage per production area, 2021 marketing season

3.2 Hectares planted in 2020/2021 production season

Figure 2 below shows the total hectares expected to be harvested in 2021 season per production area. This figure indicates that, a total of 6,962 hectares was planted for pearl millet during the surplus producer's registration.

The highest hectares planted registered at 44% (3,078 ha) are for Zambezi region, followed by Oshikoto at 24%(1,661) whilst the region with the lowest hectare planted registered is Otjozondjupa region.

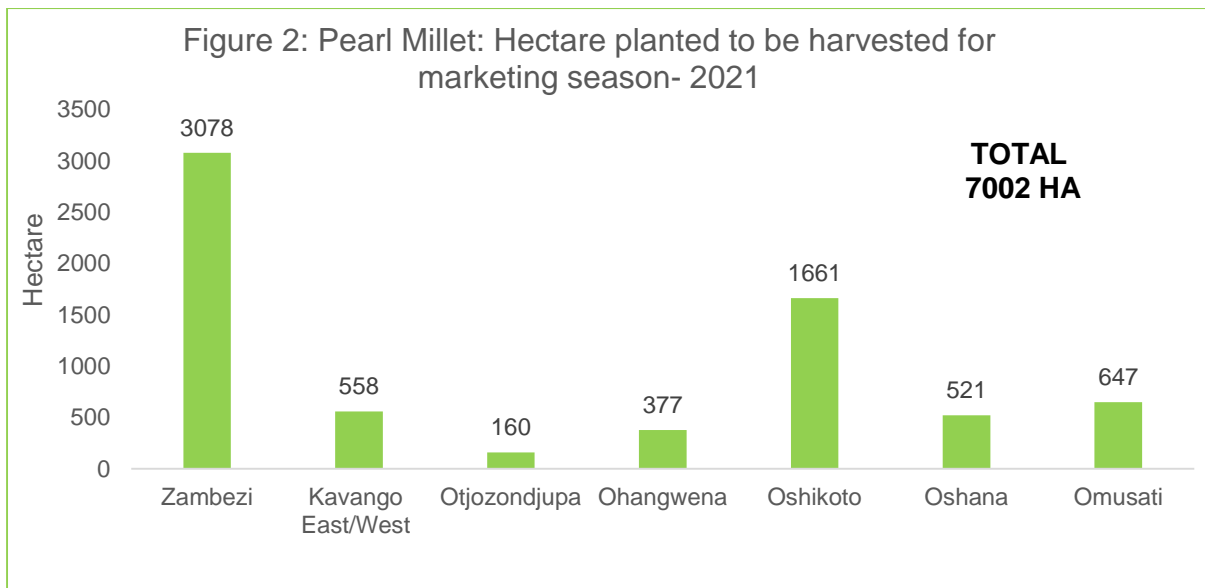


Figure 2: Total hectares planted per regions for 2021

4. TONNAGE HARVESTED AND EXPECTED (2020 VERSUS 2021)

Figure 3 below shows that, in terms of the tonnage from pearl millet production, a total of 3,306 tons is expected to be harvested during 2021 season, and this indicates a decrease of 833 tons less than the tonnage harvested during 2020 (4,139 tons) marketing season.

Production to be marketed from the Zambezi and Oshana regions have estimated an increase (499 tons and 57 tons respectively), when compared to the tonnage harvested and marketed during 2020 marketing season. The total quantities estimated for 2021 marketing season decreased by 20%.

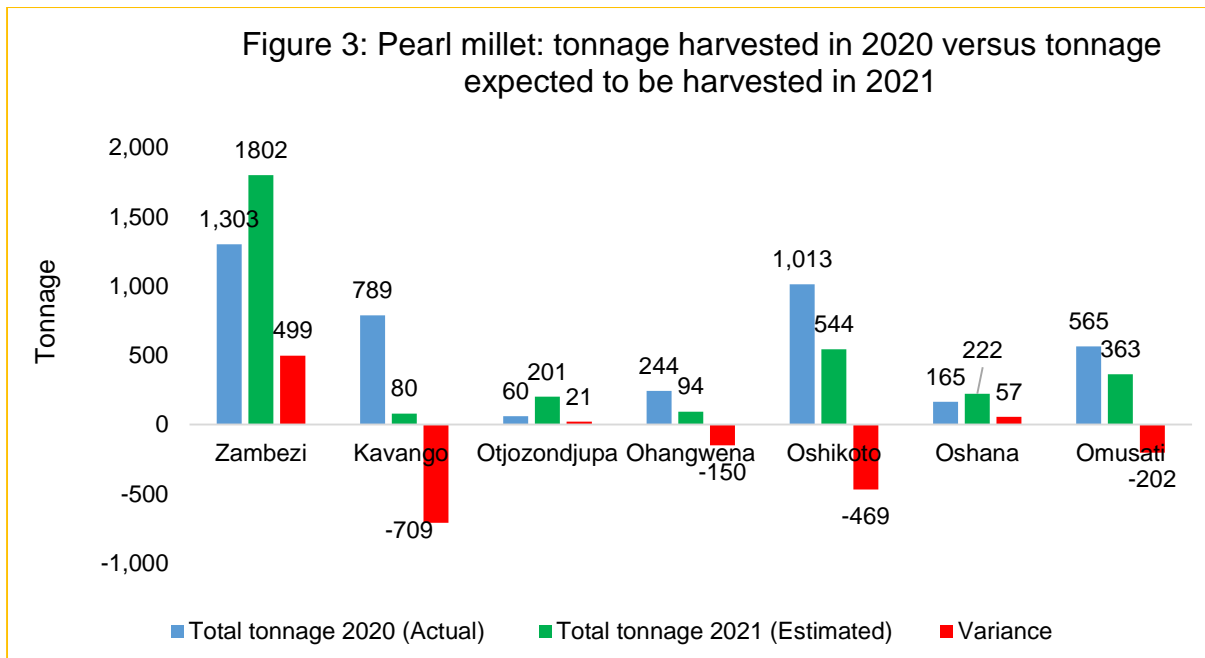


Figure 3: Actual tons harvested in 2020 versus tons expected to be harvested in 2021.

Figure 4 below shows that the total tonnage harvested in 2020 was 4,139 tons, while the total tonnage projected to be marketed during 2021 season is 3,306 tons.

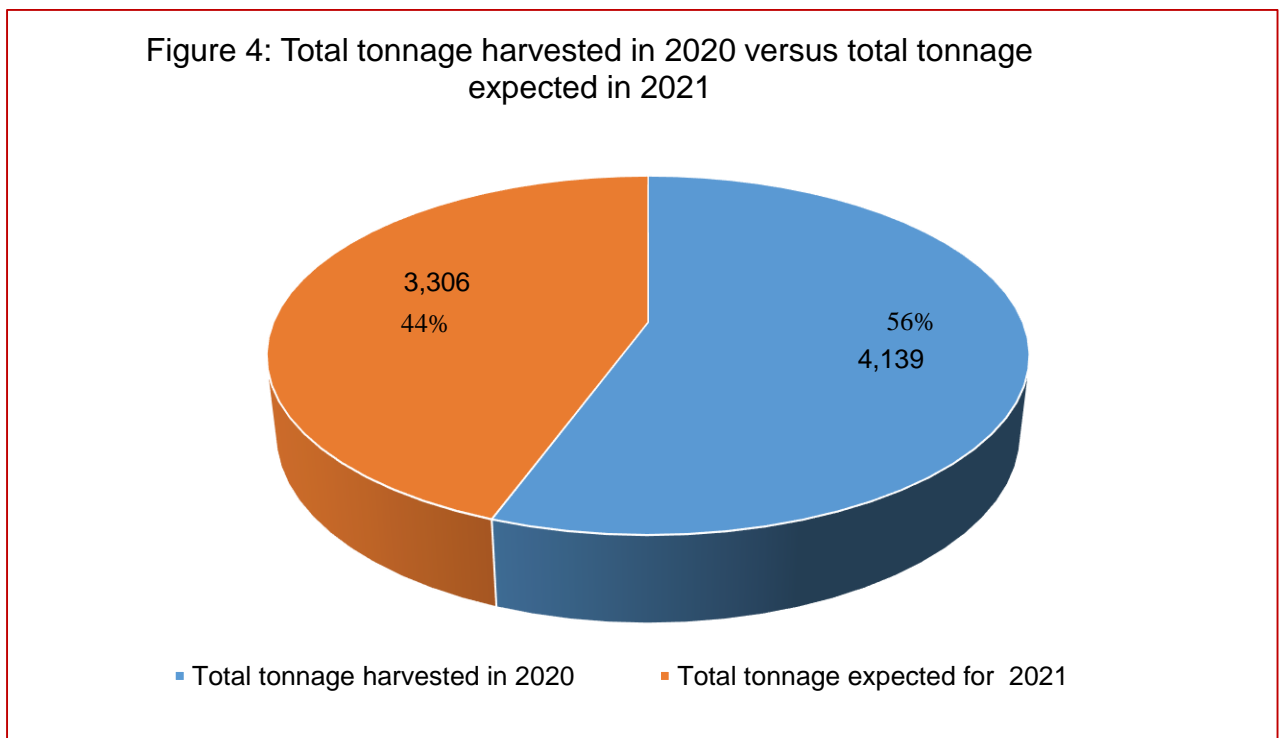


Figure 4: Total tonnage harvested in 2020 versus total tonnage expected in 2021

5. DOMESTIC SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

Figure 5 below shows the total production tonnage expected for 2021 versus the annual historical domestic demand by commercial millers. This figure indicates that there will be a shortage of locally produced pearl millet grain in the 2021 of about 1,538 tons.

The tonnage presented in figure 5 are based on the data collected during the planting season and the tonnage could change drastically depending on the actual harvest marketed in 2021 season. The marketing season for 2020 lasted until 31 March 2021 even when the border opened for imports on the 02 February 2021, and thus the 2021 season is expected to come to an end by November 2021.

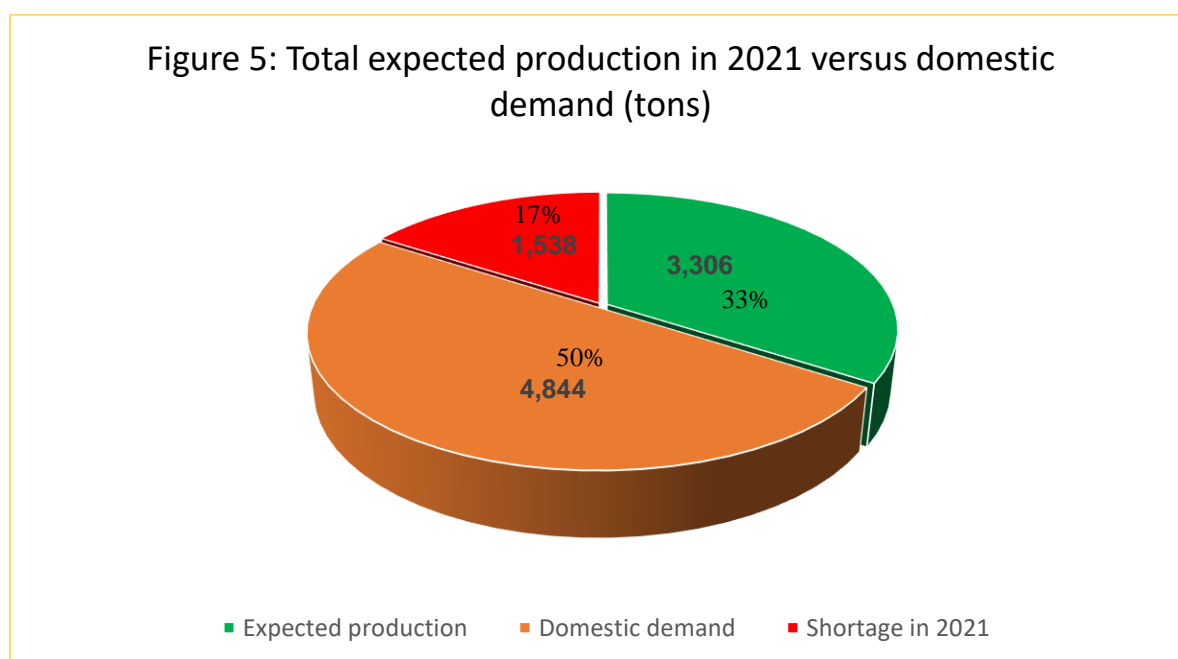


Figure 5: Pearl millet total expected production versus domestic demand

6. NUMBER OF REGISTERED PRODUCERS 2021

Figure 6 shows the number of producers who have planted mahangu and registered to market their grains in the formal market in 2021. Zambezi region registered the highest surplus producers at 55% (710 farmers).

Omusati region registered 16% (212) producers and Oshikoto region 13 %. Kavango East and West registered the lowest number of surplus producers. The NAB has extended the registration period to 30 May 2021 to allow more farmers to register their grains for marketing.

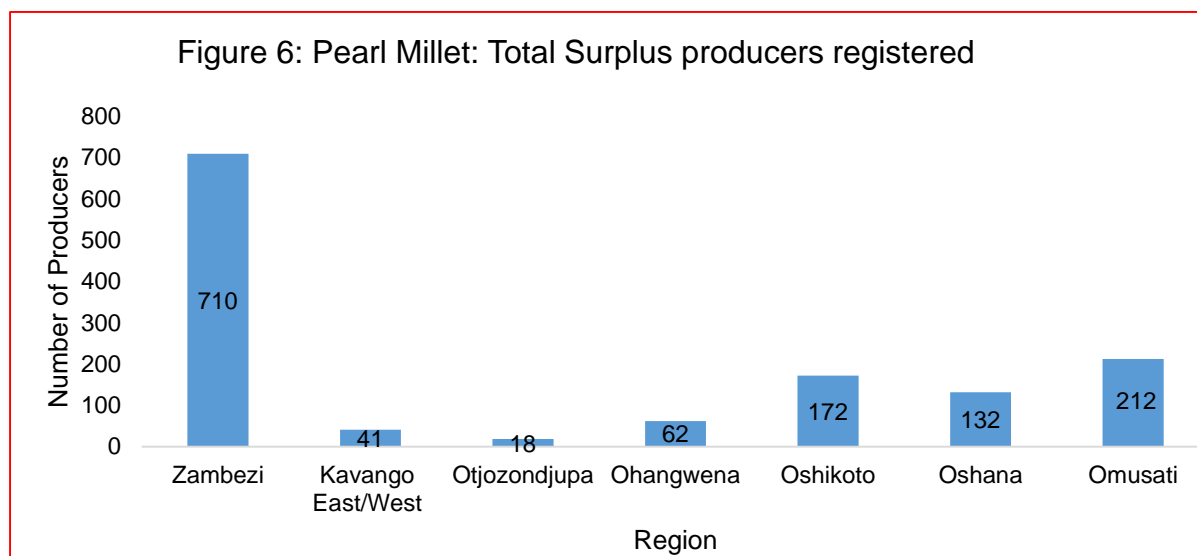


Figure 6: Total number of surplus mahangu producers.

7. NATIONAL CROPS PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

As shown in table 1, the preliminary pearl millet production estimated for 2021 harvesting season is 81, 400 tons which is about 10% lower than last season’s harvest of 90,800 tons. This includes the projected tonnage expected to be marketed during 2021 marketing season.

According to farmers, the reduction in yield is due to the delayed onset of the rainfall season and poor rainfall received during the first half of the season as well as the prolonged dry spells experienced between end of January and Mid-March this season.

Table 1: Pearl millet production statistics and 2020/2021 forecast

	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021
Tons, “000”	41.1	55.9	24.7	44.1	15.3	19.4	57.6	83.5	9.3	90.8	81.4

Sources: Agro Business Information Services Unit of the Directorate of Planning and Business Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The mahangu production forecast report for 2021 indicates that, a total of 3,306 tons is expected to be marketed during the 2021 marketing season. This will be a decrease of 833 tons, when compared to 4,139 tons marketed last year, 2020. The reduction in tonnage resulted from poor rainfall received in some production areas, and also poor turnout of farmers at some ADCs, to register the tonnage to be marketed.

In terms of national production forecast for pearl millet production which includes the volumes to be marketed, an estimated 81, 400 tons is expected to be harvested in 2020/2021 and only a mere 4% is expected to be taken up for commercial purpose, 96% is use for subsistence purpose.

Despite the NAB radio announcements on surplus pearl millet producers' registration, in all the mahangu producing regions, the campaign had little impact in Kavango East and West region. Only 2 ADCs out of 11 ADCs have registered a total of 41 producers who expect to sell their grain, and only about 80 tons is expected to be marketed, compare to 789 tons that was marketed in the same region, during the 2020 marketing season. The registration period for surplus mahangu producers has been extended to 30 May 2021, before the marketing season start on the 1 June 2021.

THE END