



AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

AGRONOMY MARKET DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION

WHITE MAIZE GRAIN MARKET REPORT

MARKETING SEASON 2020 – 2021



1. INTRODUCTION

White maize is one of the staple food crops produced in Namibia and is grown almost exclusively for human consumption. Namibia produces white maize both under rainfed and irrigation. White maize is mainly cultivated from October to December each year and harvested from April to October each year. In Namibia, white maize is produced in Zambezi, Kavango, North Central, Karst (Maize triangle), Central and South production zones.

White maize is already a gazetted controlled crop in Namibia, and the marketing of locally produced white maize grain is managed through the White Maize Marketing Agreement signed between organised producers and millers. White maize is traditionally harvested from April to October each year, however the marketing season officially commences from 01 May each year and last until such time when all the locally available marketable maize has been sold and partially milled.

Hence, for 2020 marketing season, the close border period was implemented as from 01 June 2020 and import restrictions were lifted as from 19 October 2020. However small quantities of local white maize were delivered to the market until 31 March 2021.

Out of the 64,039 tons that was projected to be marketed during 2020 season, 66,642 tons was marketed, mainly as from 01 May until 31 March 2021. When compared to the tonnage of white maize grain that was marketed during 2019 season of 28,887 tons, the tonnage marketed during 2020 was higher by 37,755 tons (57%) more, due to the good rains received in most parts of the country.

Therefore, this report presents information related to white maize grain local production marketed during the marketing period i.e. 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. This data was collected from the monthly returns submitted to the NAB by registered millers.

2. PRODUCTION MARKETED

2.1 Monthly production volumes marketed per production area.

Figure 1 below shows that the highest volume of white maize delivered to the market per month during the reporting period was from the Karst area and Central. The biggest volumes marketed during the reporting period took place in June 2020, which was 15,460 tons. Most of the white maize grain sold during the open border period from 19 October 2020 were from the North Central production area. There was no white maize planted at Hardap (South) production area, due to water shortage, as the Hardap dam did not have sufficient water.

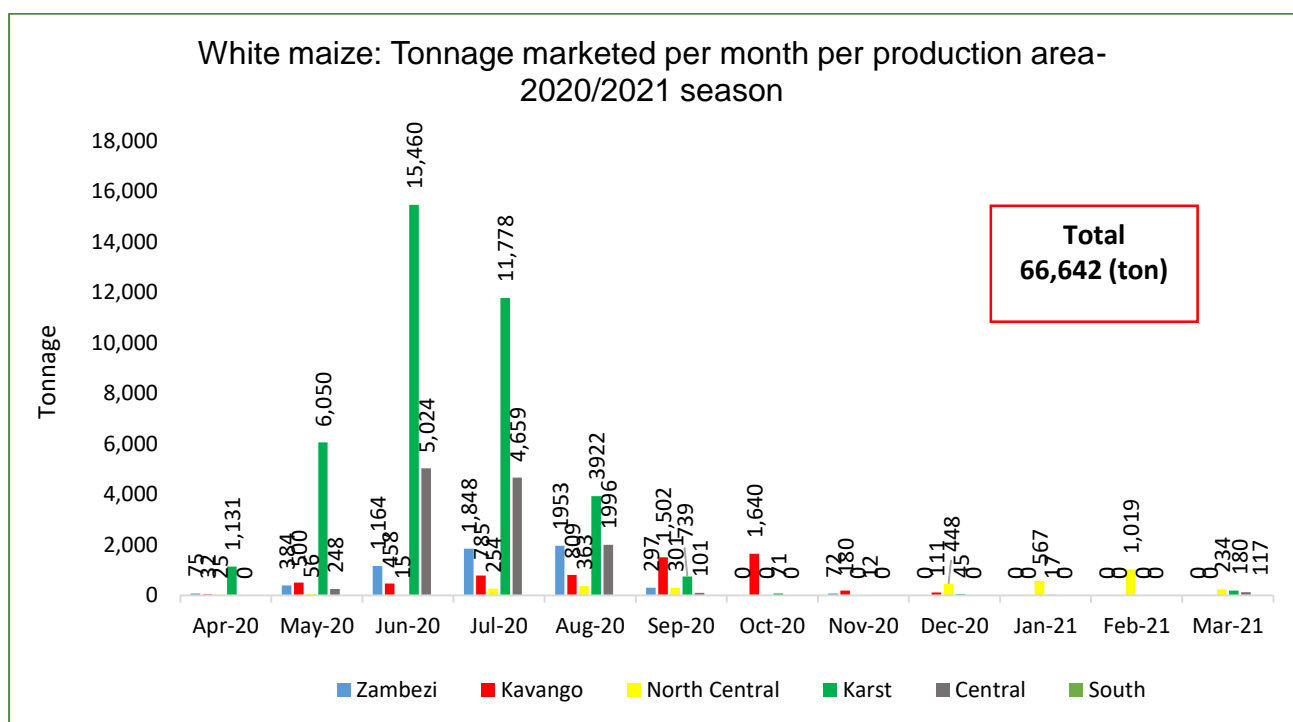


Figure 1: Monthly tonnage marketed per production area.



Figure 2 indicates that the high volume of white maize was marketed during June (33%), July (29%) and August (14%) 2020, which is also the close border period, whilst the low volume of white maize was marketed in May (11%), October (3%), November (0.4%) and December (1%) 2020.

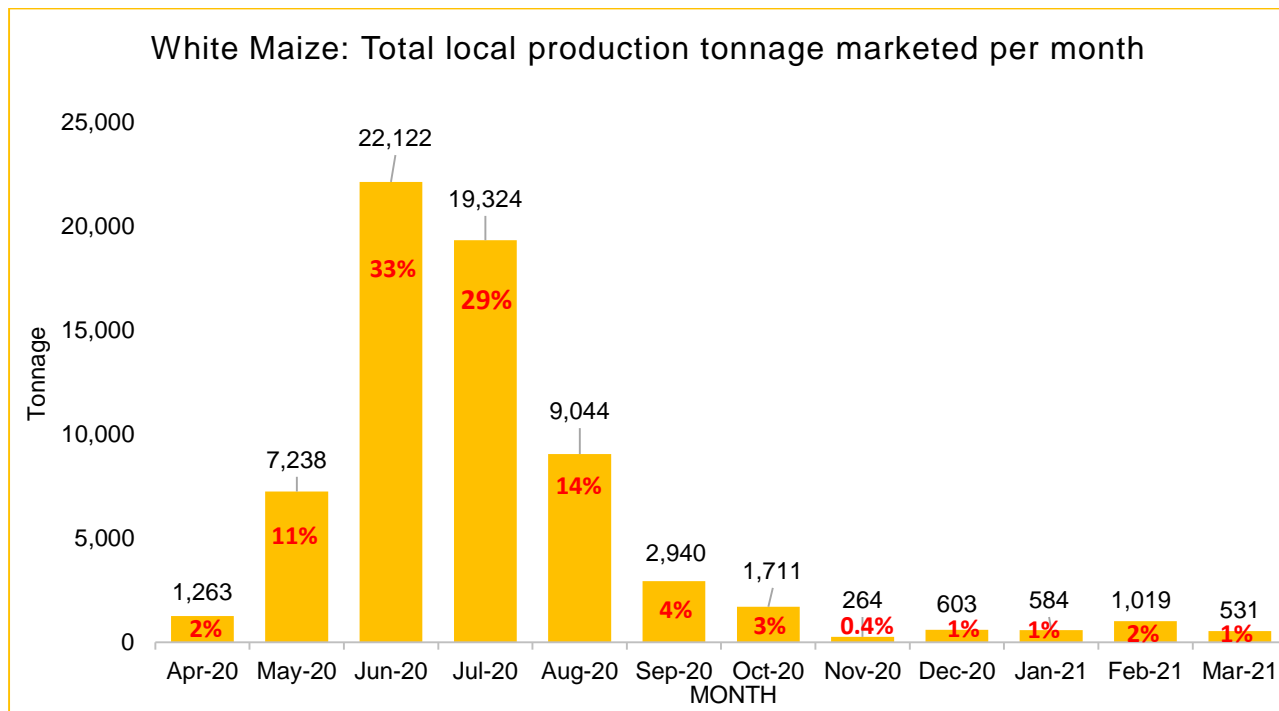


Figure 2: Total tonnage marketed monthly.



2.2 Tonnage projected versus marketed per production area.

According to figure 3 below, the lowest level of accuracy between projected and marketed tonnage was recorded in Kavango (52%), while the highest was recorded in Central (92%). The actual harvest in Kavango region was low due to late planting of white maize since production inputs were received late.

Late planting refers to any maize planted after Mid-January, since maize is a summer crop and requires warm temperatures, with sufficient sunlight. Furthermore, figure 4 below shows that the national accuracy level was 104% (66,642 ton), with 4% (2,603 ton) margin of error, and total projected was 64,039 tons.

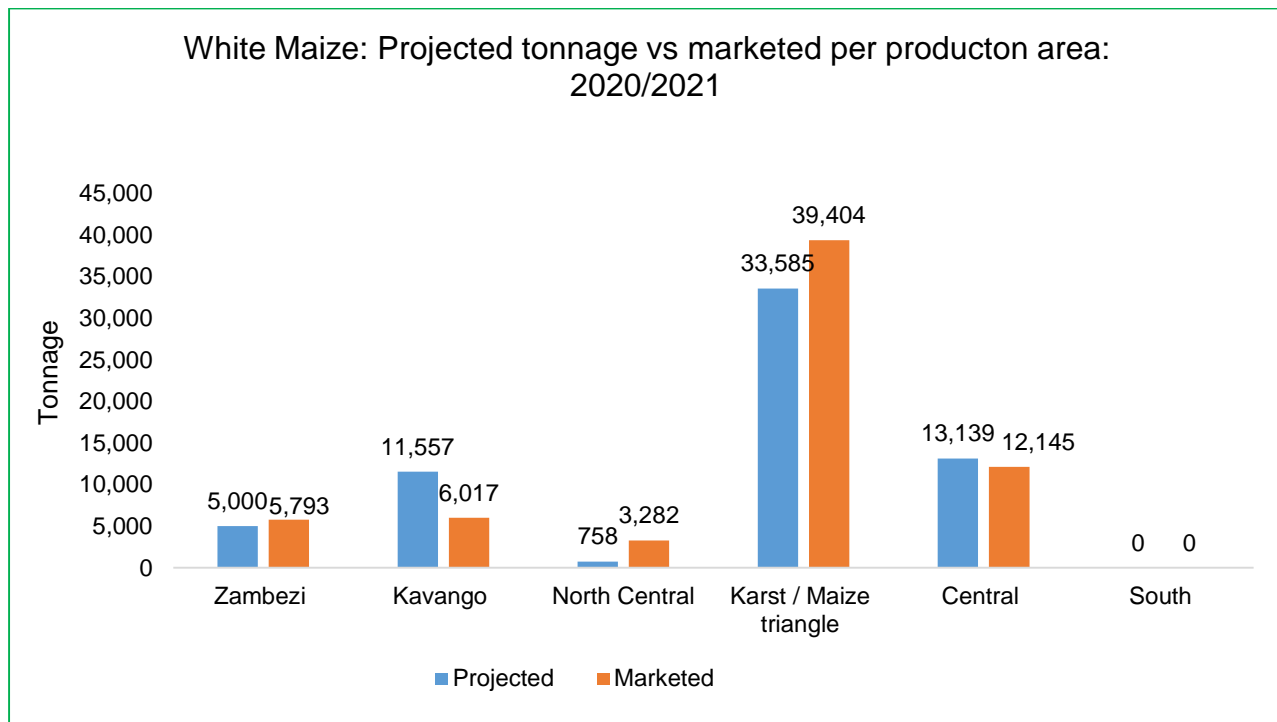


Figure 3: Tonnage projected versus marketed per production area

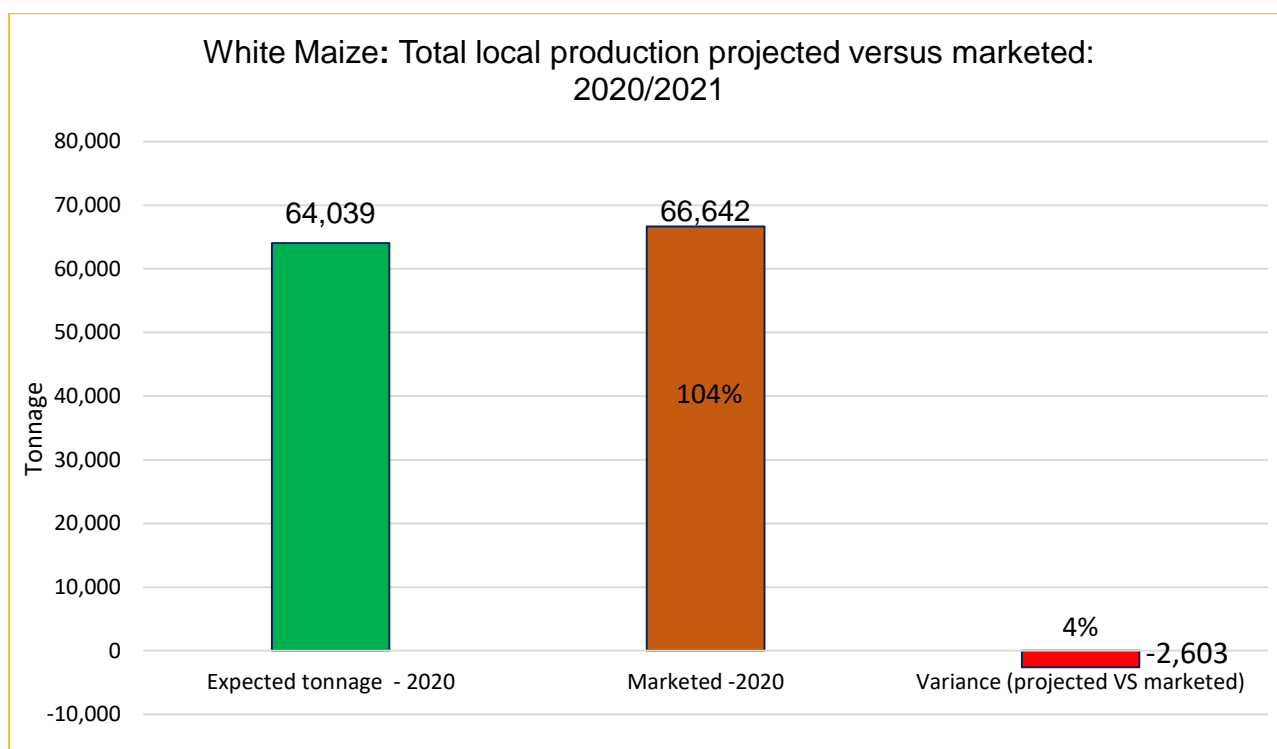


Figure 4: Total tonnage projected versus marketed, and the variance thereof.

2.3 Tonnage marketed: irrigation versus rainfed

Figure 5 below shows that the highest tonnage from irrigation and rainfed white maize production marketed was from the Karst (maize triangle) area, 13,791 tons and 25,613 tons respectively. Central production area was second in terms of both irrigated and rainfed white maize production.

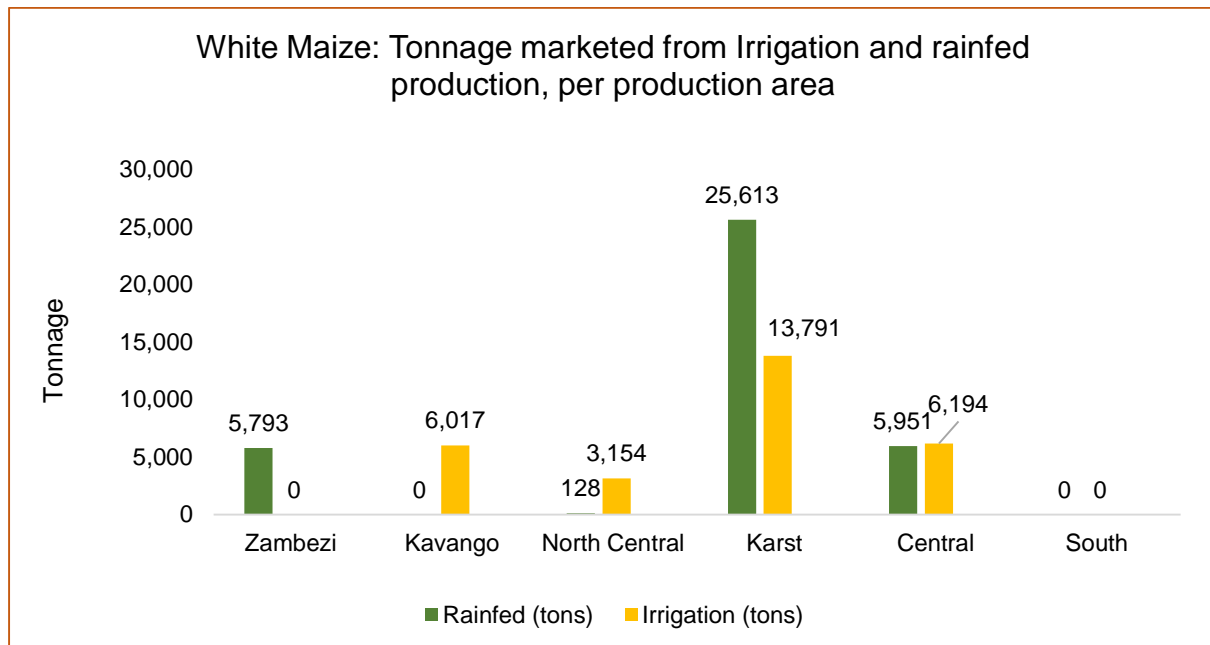


Figure 5: Actual tonnage irrigation versus rainfed per production area.

Figure 6 indicates that in total, 29,157 tons (44 %) of the white maize marketed was from irrigation and 37,485 tons (56%) from rainfed production.

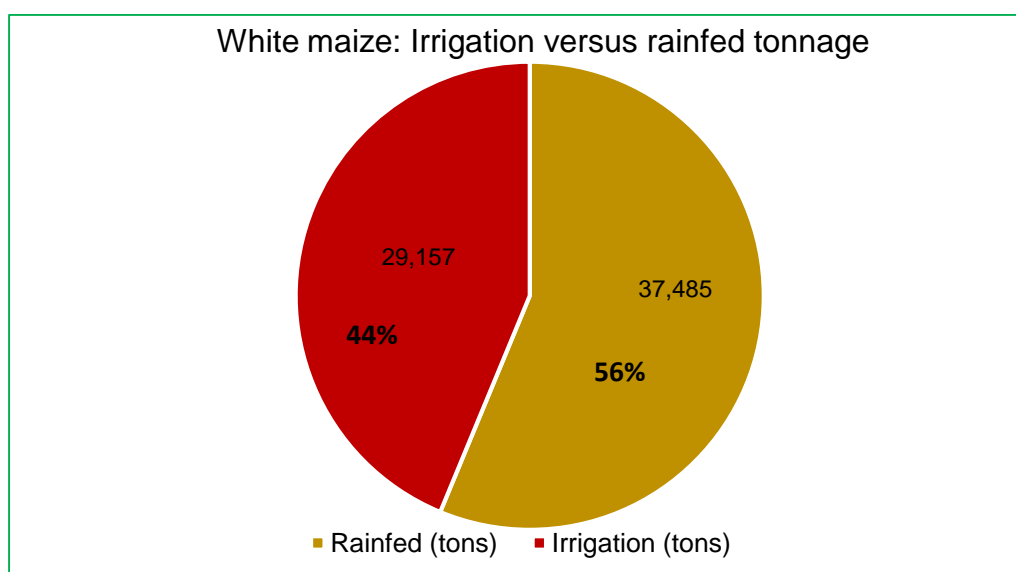


Figure 6: Actual tonnage, irrigation versus rainfed.

3. HECTARES UNDER IRRIGATION AND RAINFED PRODUCTION

Figure 7 below shows that the Karst area planted the biggest ha of white maize under rainfed conditions (6,729 ha), followed by Zambezi (6,250 ha) and Central area (2,050 ha). In terms of irrigation, Kavango (1,410 ha) recorded the biggest hectares planted, followed by Karst (1,161ha), and lowest was Central (634 ha).

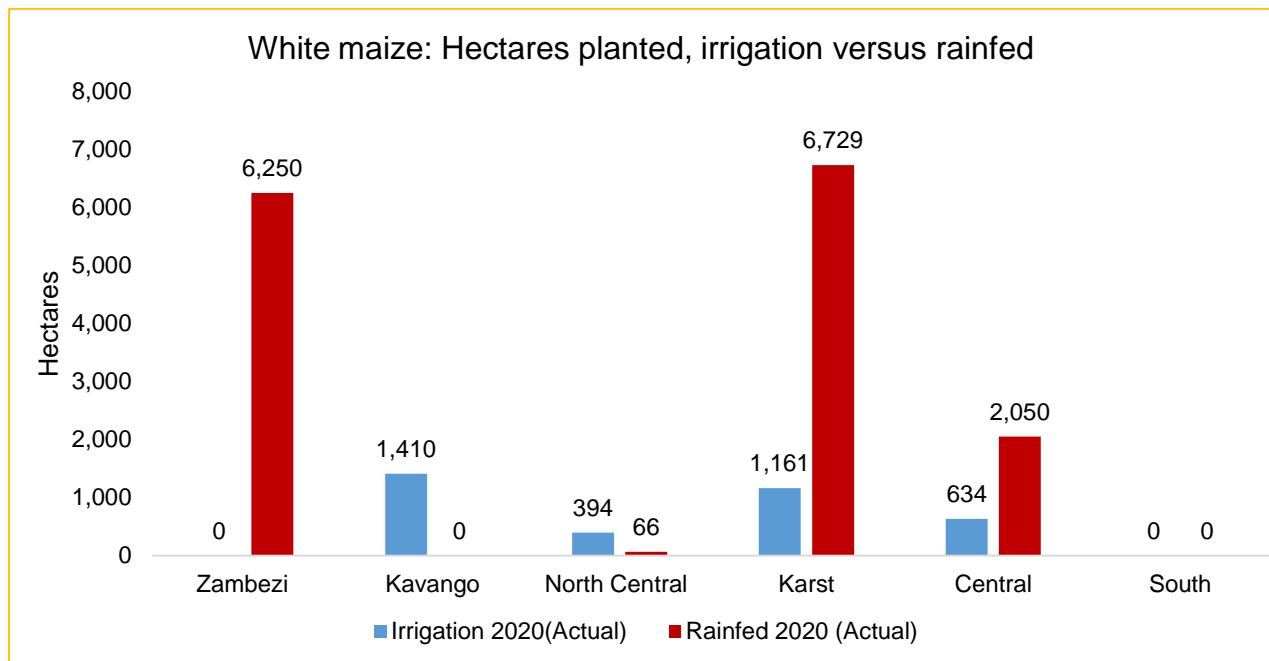


Figure 7: Actual hectares, irrigation versus rainfed per production area.

Furthermore, figure 8 shows that irrigation contributed 19% (3,599 ha) of the hectares harvested, while rainfed production accounted for 81% (15,095 ha).

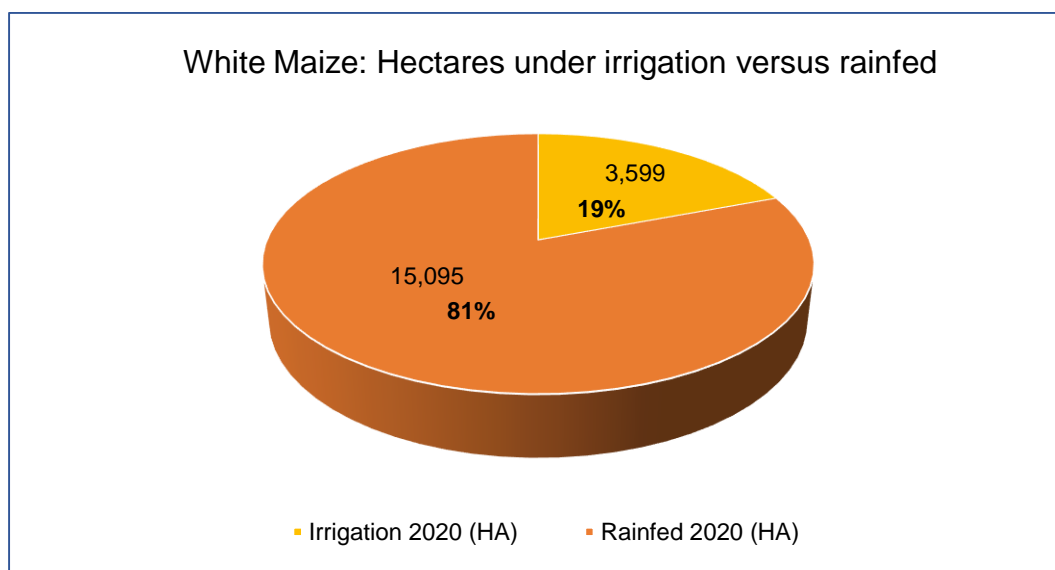


Figure 8: Actual hectares for irrigation versus rainfed.

4. AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE

According to figure 9 below, in terms of irrigation the highest average yield per ha was recorded in Karst area (12 ton/ha) and Central (10 ton/ha) areas, while the highest average yield per ha under rainfed production was recorded in Karst area (4 ton/ha).

Kavango recorded the lowest average yield per ha under irrigation (4ton/ha), while Zambezi recorded the lowest average yield per ha (1 ton/ha) in terms of rainfed production.

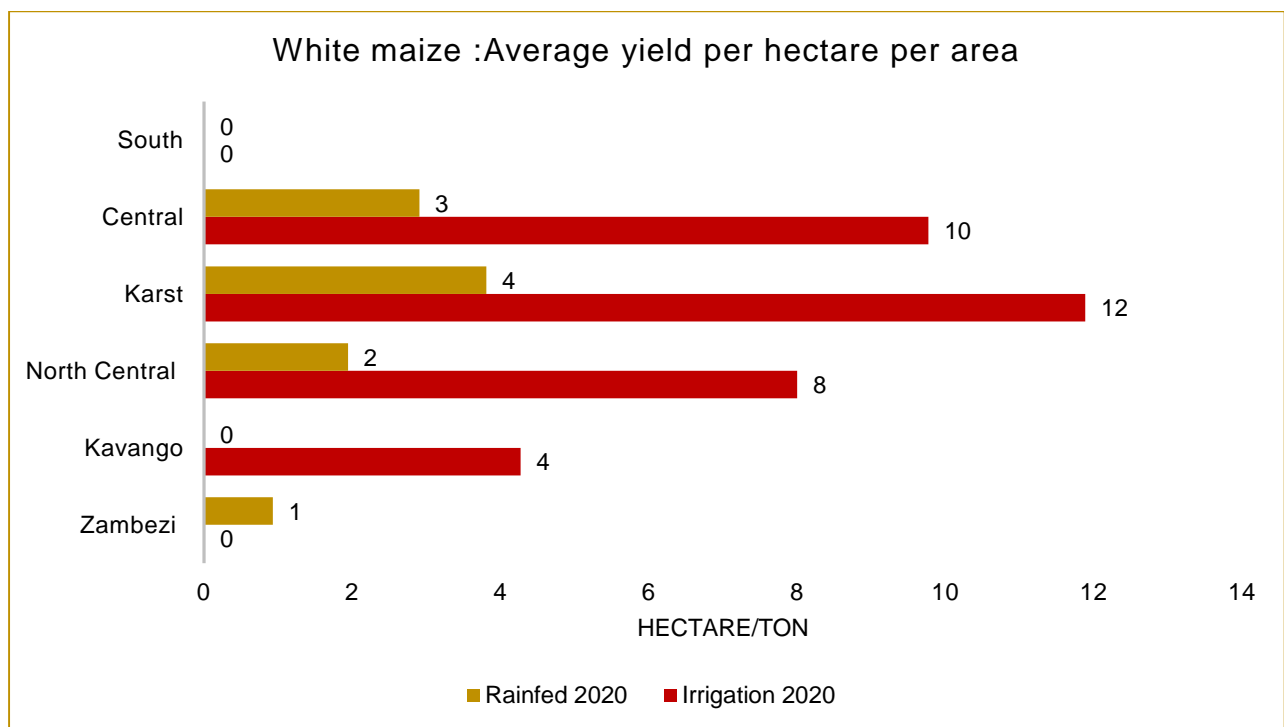


Figure 9: Average yield per ha per production area.



4. WHITE MAIZE DOMESTIC DEMAND AND FLOOR PRICE TREND.

4.1 White maize total import, production marketed and domestic demand

Figure 10 show that the biggest local production volumes marketed was recorded in 2012/2013 season (72, 438 tons) and lowest was in 2019/2020 season (28,887 tons). In terms of imports, the biggest volumes recorded was in 2019/2020 (171,031 tons) and lowest in 2017/2019 (50,483 tons). Namibia's demand for white maize grain stood at 179,838 tons during the reporting period.

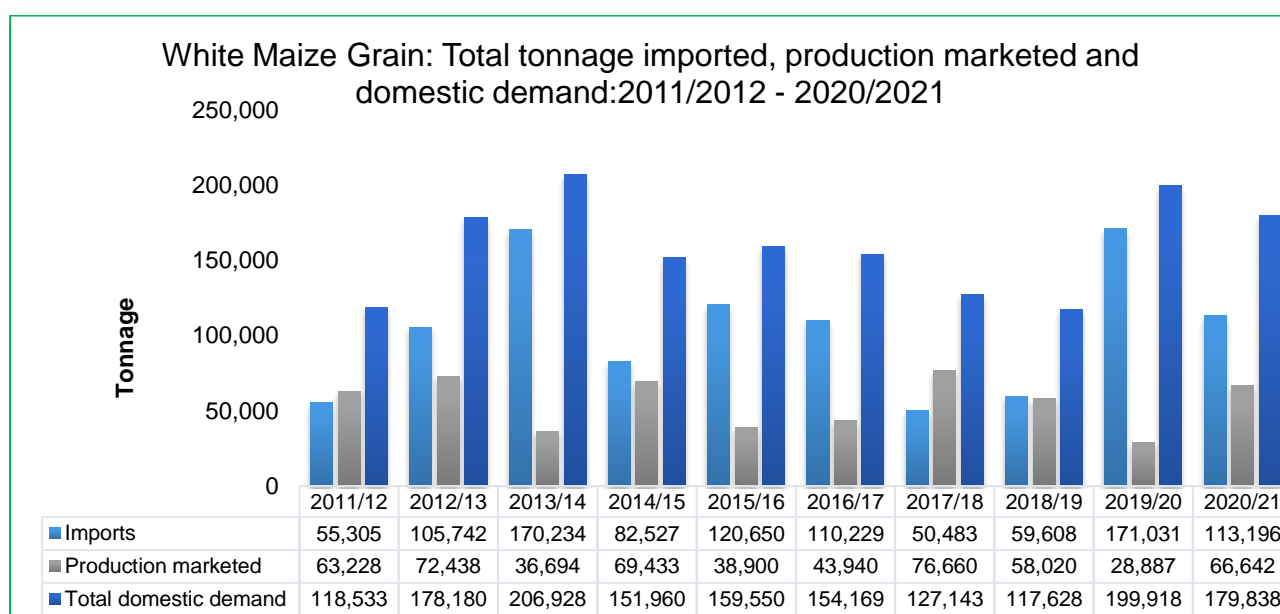


Figure 10: White maize total import, local production marketed and domestic demand.

4.2 White maize domestic price per ton 2010-2021

Figure 11 shows that the white maize domestic floor price (mill door) increased from N\$4,824 in 2019/2020 to N\$5,077 per ton in 2020/2021 marketing season.

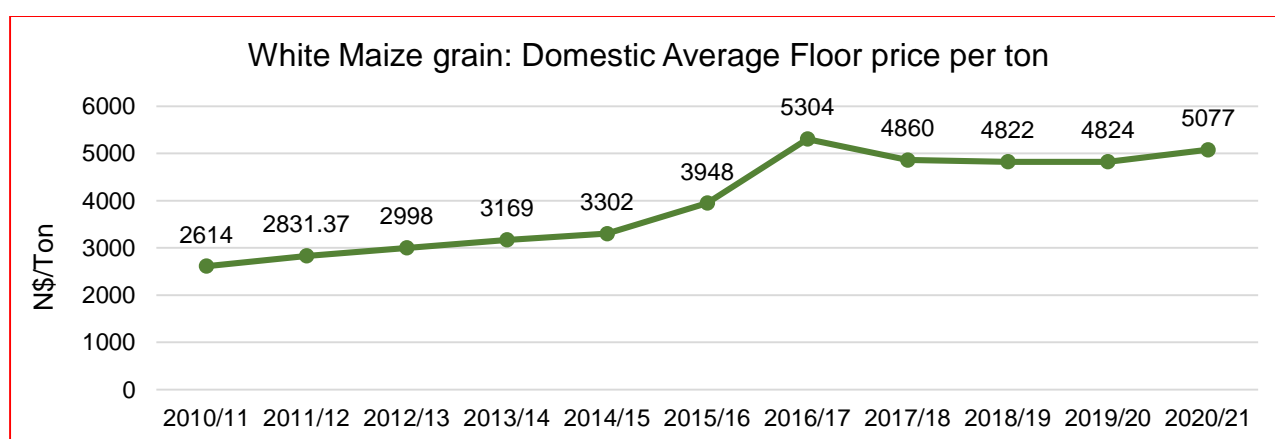


Figure 11: domestic floor price for white maize: 2010 -2021 marketing season

5. CONCLUSIONS

Significant growth in white maize local production marketed was recorded in 2020 marketing season, which recorded a 57% increase, when compared to the previous year. Although, the total local tonnage of 64,039 tons was projected to be marketed to millers/silos during 2020 marketing season, 66,642 tons (104%) was marketed during the period 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, and thus the margin of error was only 2,603 tons (4%). The Kavango production area recorded the highest margin of error due to poor yield, attributed to late planting.

Due to the good rain received in 2020, 56 % of the total tonnage marketed was harvested from the rainfed production whilst 44 % came from the irrigation production. The Karst Area (Maize Triangle) continues to dominate the local maize production, accounting for 59% of total production followed by the Central production area with 18%.

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