



**NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD**

AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

AGRONOMY MARKET DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION

GRAIN MARKETING PROGRESS REPORT

01 APRIL 2021 TO 30 July 2021



Last Updated: 17 August 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Namibia currently produces three staple grain crops only and these are white maize, wheat, and pearl millet (mahangu). These grain crops are currently gazetted as controlled agronomic crops, in line with the Agronomic Industry Act, (Act 20 of 1992).

Due to the good rainfall received during the 2020/2021 planting season, a good harvest of white maize, pearl millet, and wheat is expected during the 2021/2022 harvesting season. Despite the good harvest expected, Namibia remains a net import of grains, mainly white maize and wheat. White maize is annually imported from South Africa, while wheat is mainly imported from Russian Federation and South Africa. The import for pearl millet has been extremely small since 2020 and is predominately imported from India.

Therefore, this report gives an overview of the volumes or tonnage of white maize, wheat, and pearl millet grains imported and purchased locally during the period 01 April to 30 July 2021.



2. MONTHLY GRAIN TRADE STATISTICS

2.1 White maize tonnage

Namibia produces white maize both under rainfed and irrigation. White maize is currently produced in Zambezi, Kavango, North Central, Karst (Maize triangle), Central and South production areas.

An estimated total tonnage of **82,735 tons** is expected to be marketed during the 2021 marketing season. The marketing season for white maize commenced on 1 May and this year the border closed for the importation of white maize grain from 14 May 2021 and is expected to last until such time when the local harvest has been marketed and partially milled.

Figures 1 show that the biggest portion of white maize grain was imported in April 2021 (15 585 tons) and the lowest imports were in May 2021 and this is attributed to the closure of the border for importation as of 14 May 2021. On the other hand, the bulk of the white maize grain was purchased locally in June 2021 (25 116 tons) and the lowest was in April 2021.

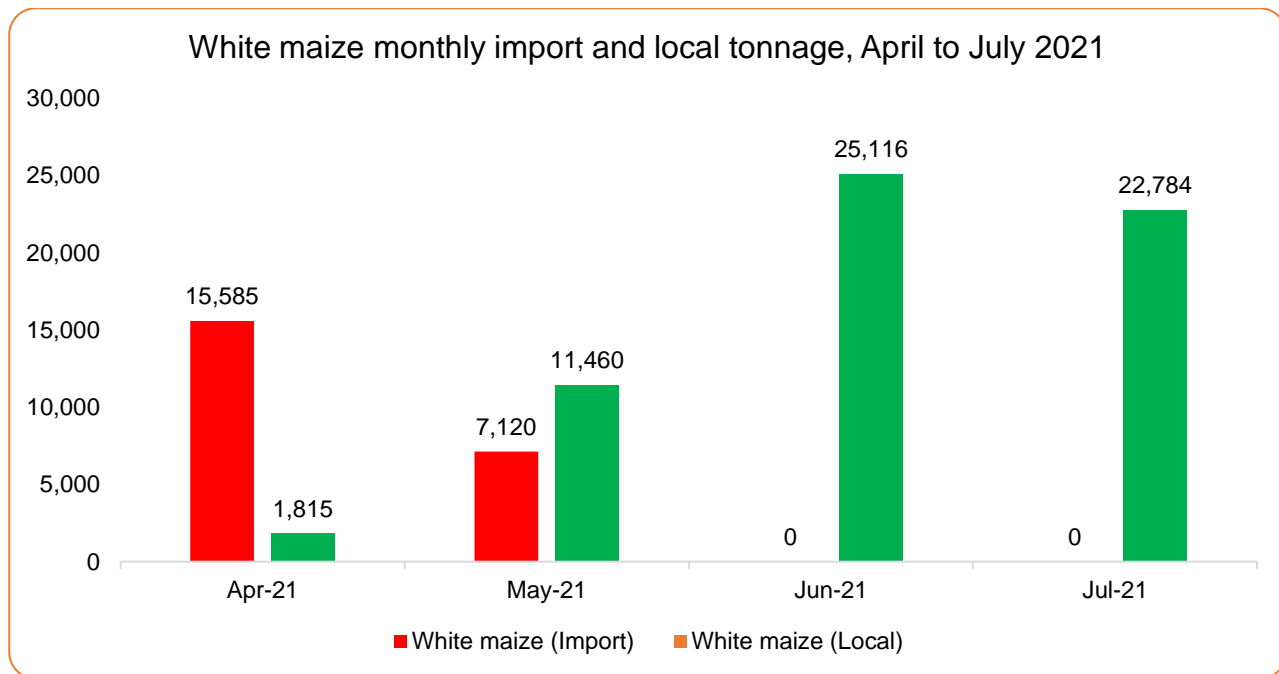


Figure 1, White maize grain imports and local purchases - April to July 2021

2.2 Wheat tonnage

The marketing of wheat officially starts from 01 October to 31 January each year. To satisfy the gap between production (supply) and demand, 100% of the wheat traded during the reporting period was imported.

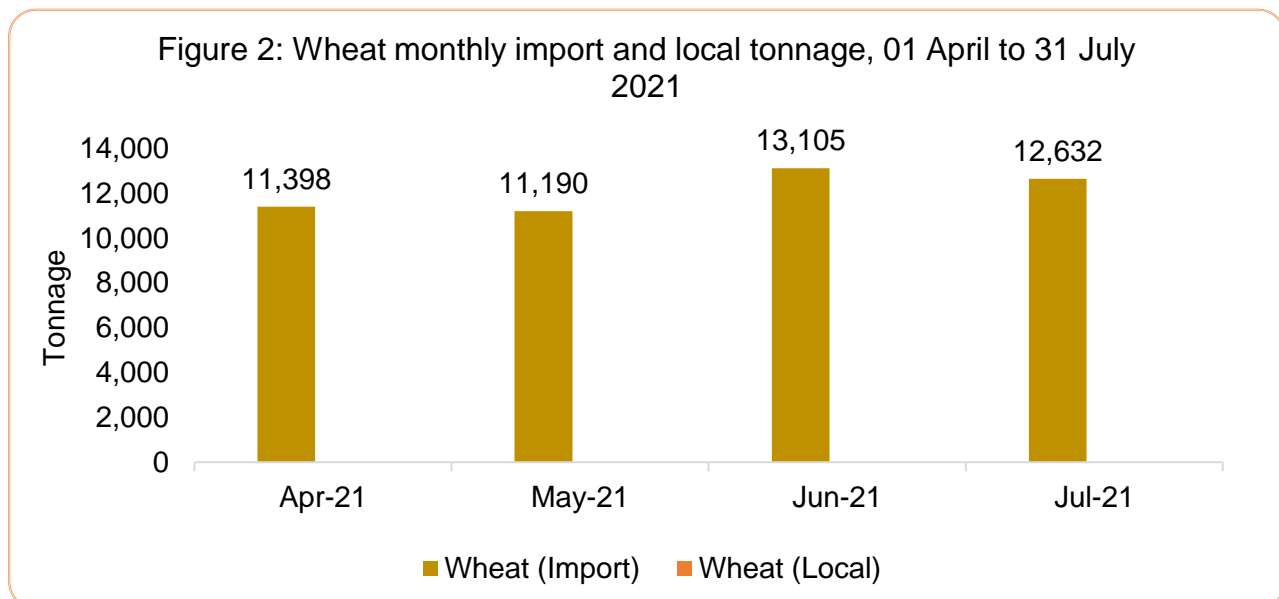


Figure 2, monthly wheat grain imports and local purchases - April to July 2021

2.3 Pearl millet tonnage

Mahangu is one of the most important cereal crops in Namibia making a huge contribution to overall food security. The crop is cultivated in the North Central Area (NCA) and Zambezi region.

This season the production of pearl millet in the North Central Areas (NCA) and Zambezi region was affected by erratic rainfall and pest outbreak, resulting in low harvest marketed than expected.

The marketing of locally produced grain started from 01 June 2021, and during the reporting period the bulk of pearl millet was locally purchased mainly in July 2021 (360 tons) and very few volumes were imported in April 2021 (5 tons) before the closure of the border for importation.

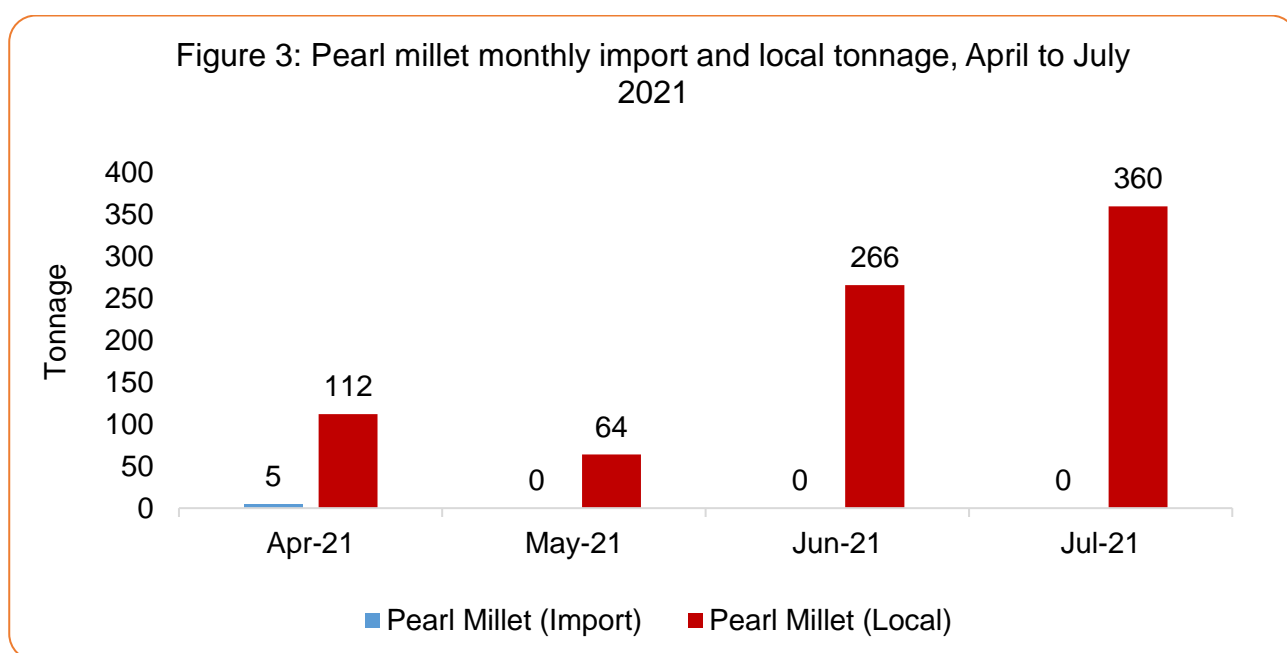


Figure 3, Pearl Millet: monthly grain imports and local purchases – April to July 2021

3. AGGREGATED GRAIN TRADE STATISTICS

3.1 Total tonnage imported and locally purchased

According to figure 4, the total domestic demand for white maize by millers and silos for the reporting period stood at 83,880 tons, of which 73% (61 175 tons) was local purchase and 27% (22 705 tons) was imported. In terms of pearl millet, the local production marketed stood at 802 tons, representing 99% of total demand.

Furthermore, 48,325 tons of wheat were imported on a 100% basis during the reporting period, since local production is only expected from October 2021.

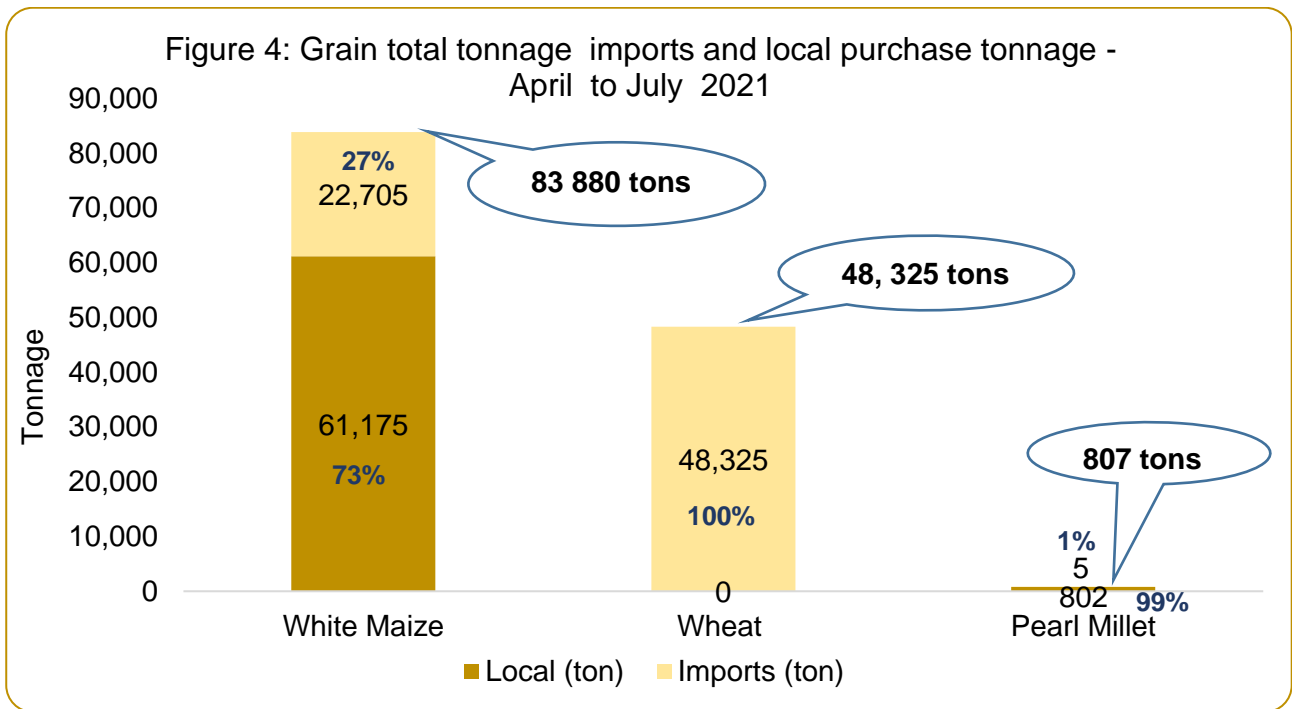


Figure 4, total imports and local purchases of grain for the period 01 April to July 2021

4. AGRONOMY PERFORMANCE 2021 VERSUS 2020

According to figure 5, the total grain (white maize, wheat & pearl millet) traded from April to July 2021 is slightly higher than the same period in 2020, with a difference of 2,837 tons. This could be related to delayed harvesting in 2021, caused by late planting, though it could also point to reduced domestic demand for grain products.

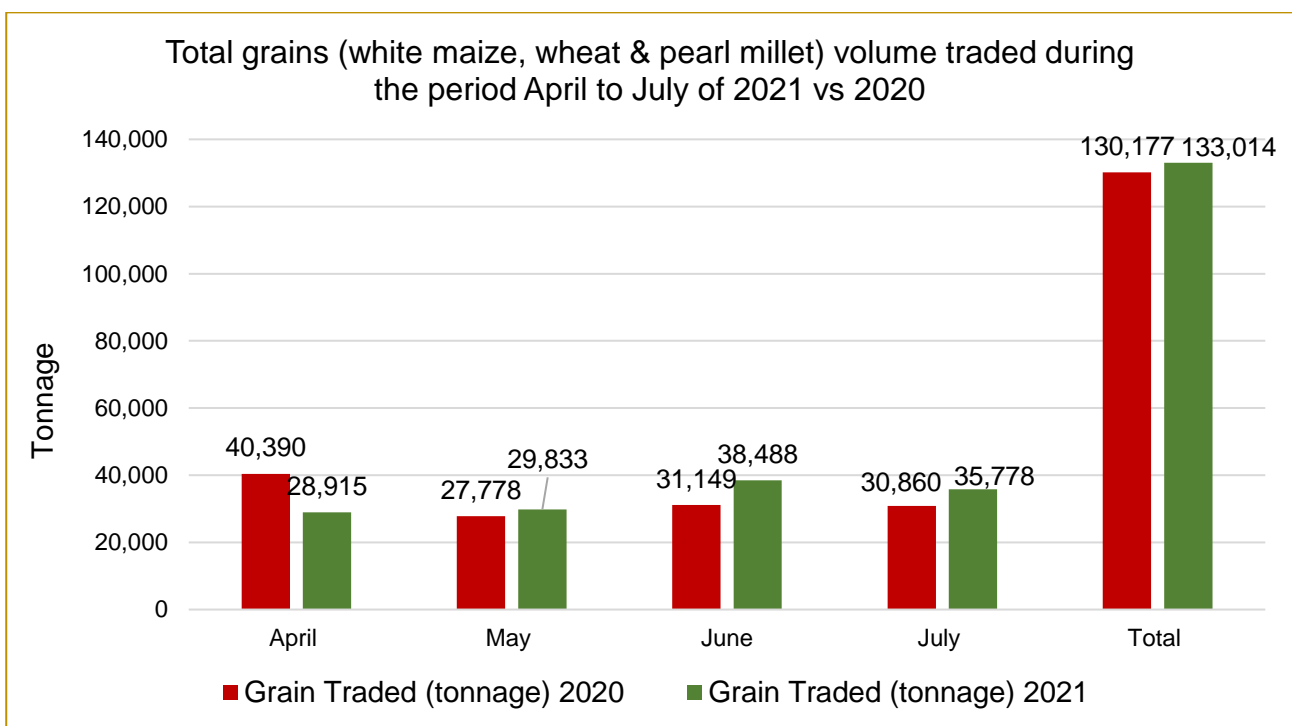


Figure 5, Total grain volume traded during the period April to July 2021 versus 2020

Figure 6 shows that the monthly tonnage of wheat and pearl millet traded from April to July 2021 versus 2020 varies significantly, while for white maize there is insignificant variation.

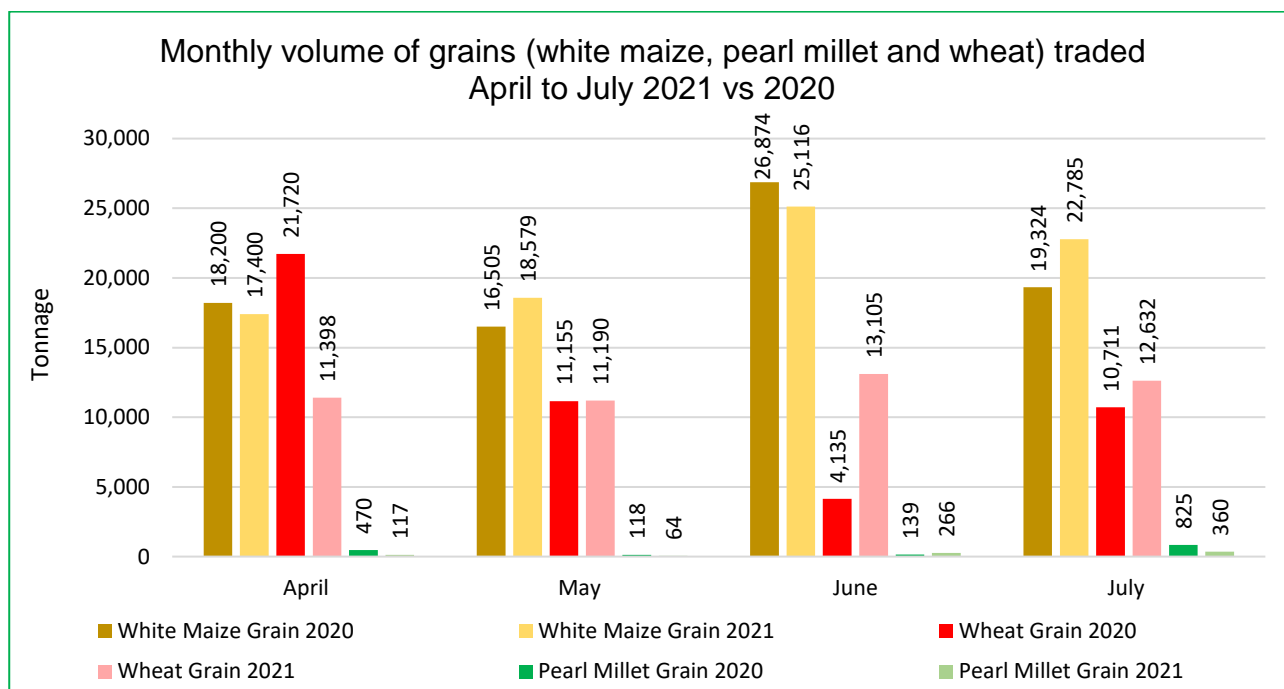


Figure 6, Monthly volume traded per grain type for the period April to July 2021 versus 2020

5. GRAIN SELF SUFFICIENCY ANALYSIS

The total demand for white maize during the first quarter of 2021 stood at 83 880 tons, of which 61 175 tons were produced in the country and 22 705 tons imported, making Namibia self-sufficient rate in white maize production at 73%. The self-sufficient rate for mahangu was 99% due to the low volume of imports during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, the national self-sufficiency for grains stood at 47%, with pearl millet constituting the biggest portion of self-sufficiency (99%), followed by white maize (73% and zero for wheat which is a winter crop harvested only as from October each year.

Table 1: Total grain imports and local purchases proportion - April to July 2021

	Local (ton)	Imports (ton)	Total	Local %	Import %
White Maize	61,175	22,705	83,880	73%	27%
Wheat	0	48,325	48,326	0.0%	100.0%
Pearl Millet	802	5	807	99%	1%
Total	61,978	71,035	133,013	47%	53%

6. TOTAL LOCAL VOLUME EXPECTED VERSU MARKETED

6.1 White maize: Total tonnage marketed per month per production area

Figure 7 shows that the biggest portion of the white maize marketed during the reporting period was from the Karst area (29 644 tons), followed by the Central area (18 982 tons) and the lowest tonnage was marketed in the Kavango (2 575 tons). Figure 8 shows that only 74% of the estimated harvest has been marketed as of 31 July 2021, the remaining 26% is yet to be marketed.

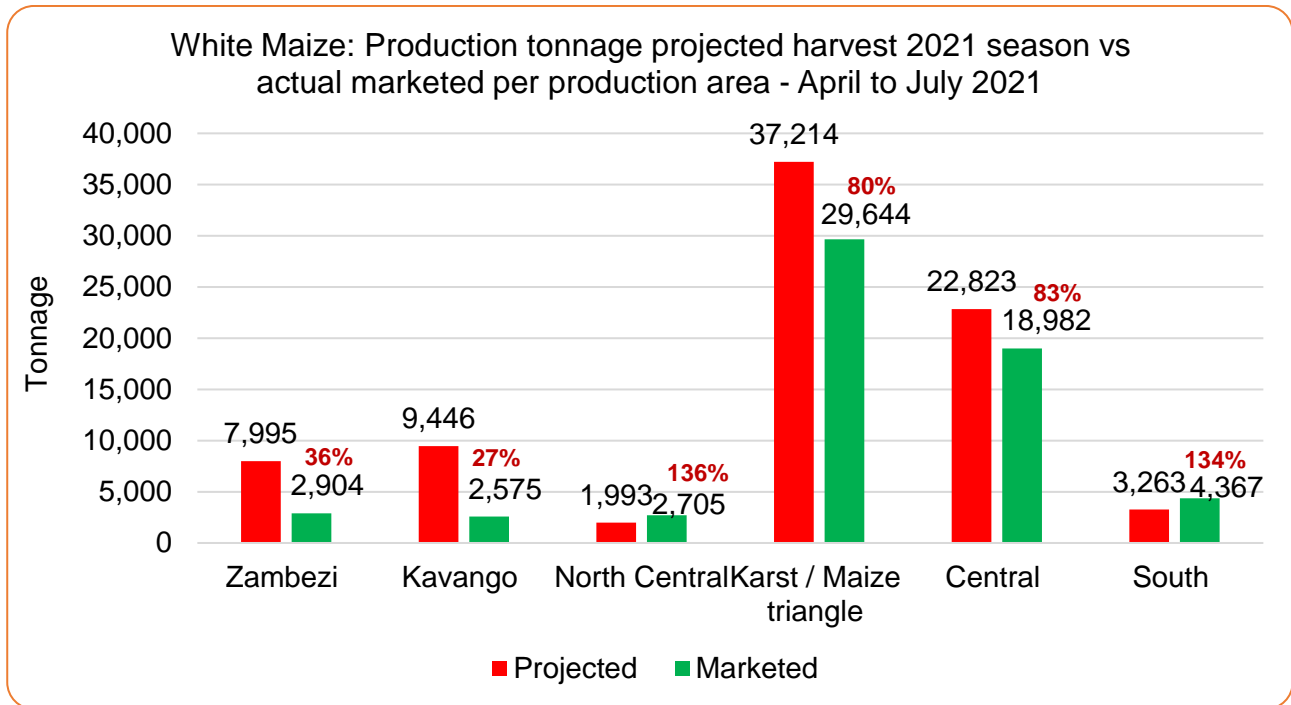


Figure 7, White maize: total tonnage expected vs marketed per month per production area.

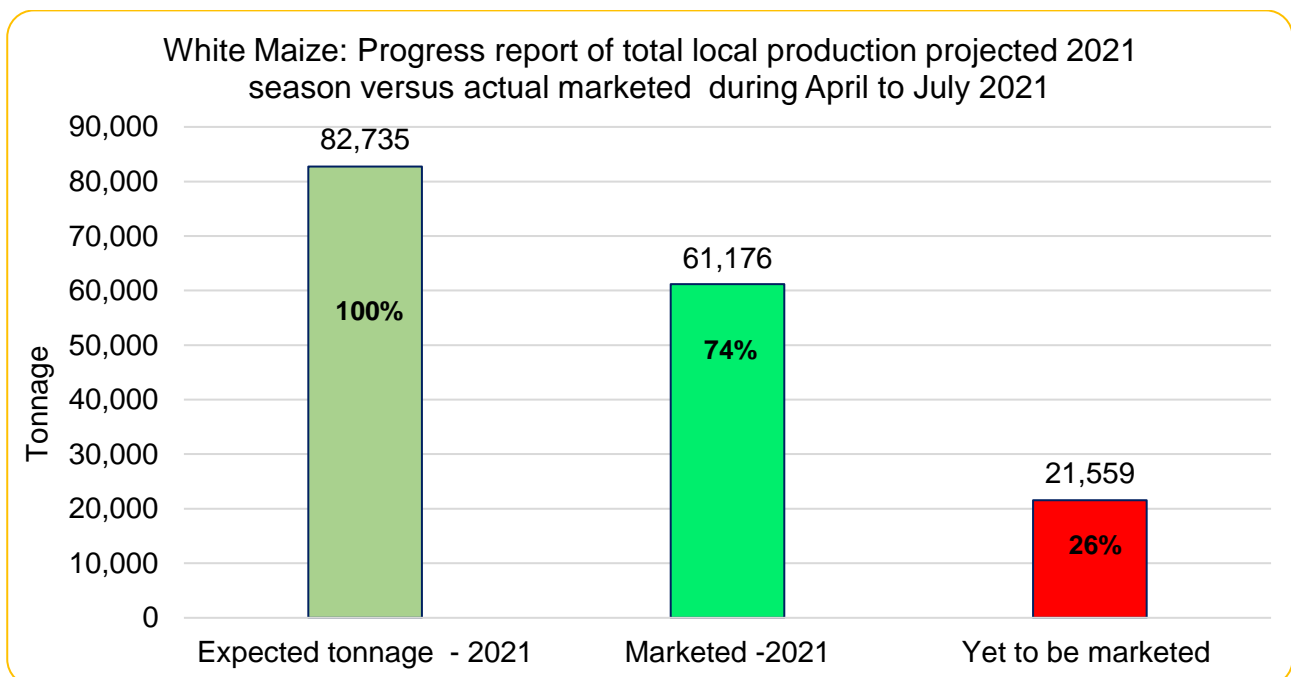


Figure 8, White maize: total tonnage expected vs marketed.

6.2 Mahangu: Total tonnage marketed per production area

Figure 9 below shows that the bulk of the mahangu marketed from this year's harvest came from the Zambezi (487 tons), Ohangwena (147 tons), and Oshikoto (138 tons) regions. Due to the late harvest this year, other regions did not record any grain marketed for April to July 2021. Furthermore, figure 8 shows that there is still a lot of pearl millet yet to be marketed this year.

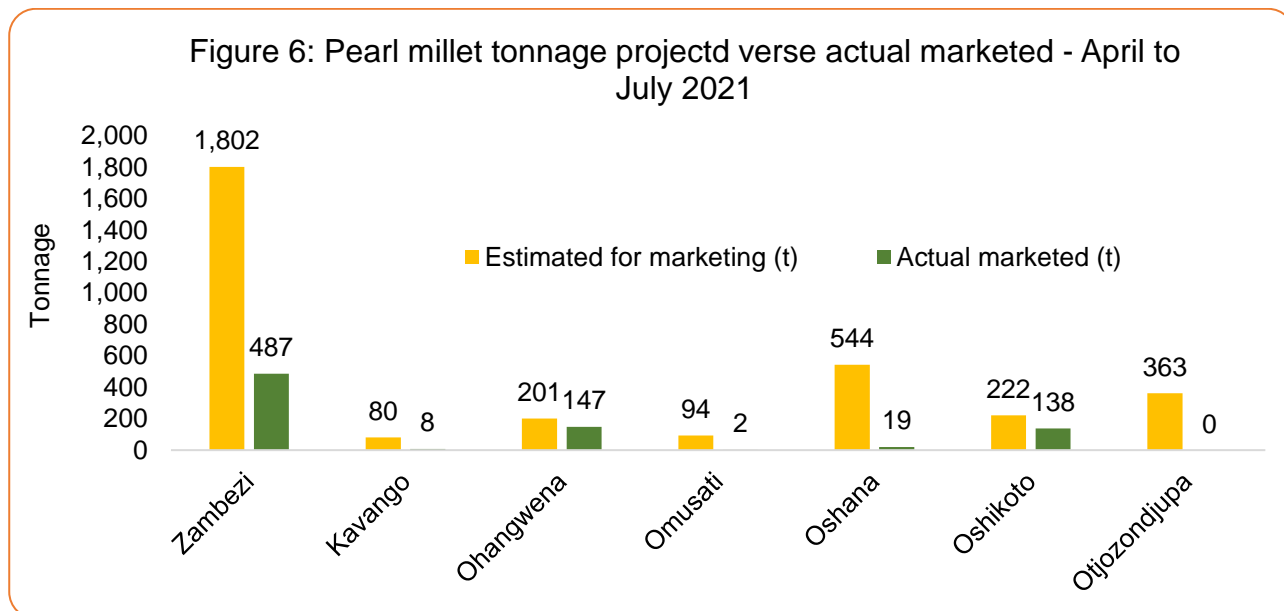


Figure 9, White maize: total tonnage marketed per month per production area.

7. GRAIN DOMESTIC FLOOR PRICE PER TON

Table 2 shows that the floor price for white maize was higher during the period 01-14 May 2021 at N\$4 700 per ton, since the SAFEX Spot Price was higher than the Staggered Floor Price, and then from 15 May until the end of July 2021 the normal Staggered Floor Price was applicable. The price for pearl millet stood at N\$5 327 per ton since it's fixed for the entire marketing period.

Table 2: Grain domestic floor prices for the period April to July 2021

GRAIN DOMESTIC FLOOR PRICE PER TON FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO JUNE 2021			
Fortnights (Weeks)	White Maize	Pearl millet	Wheat
01-14 April 2021	0.00	0	0.00
15-30 April 2021	0.00	0	0.00
01-14 May 2021	***4 700	5 327	0.00
15-28 May 2021	4 570	5 327	0.00
29 May to 11 June 2021	4 592	5 327	0.00
12-25 June 2021	4 614	5 327	0.00
26 June to 09 July 2021	4 635	5 327	0.00
10 July to 23 July 2021	4 657	5 327	0.00
24 July to 06 August 2021	4 679	5 327	0.00

***Safex Fortnight Weighted Average Price of N\$4,700 per ton applied to the (WM1) bought or delivered within the period (fortnight) of 01-14 May 2021.

