

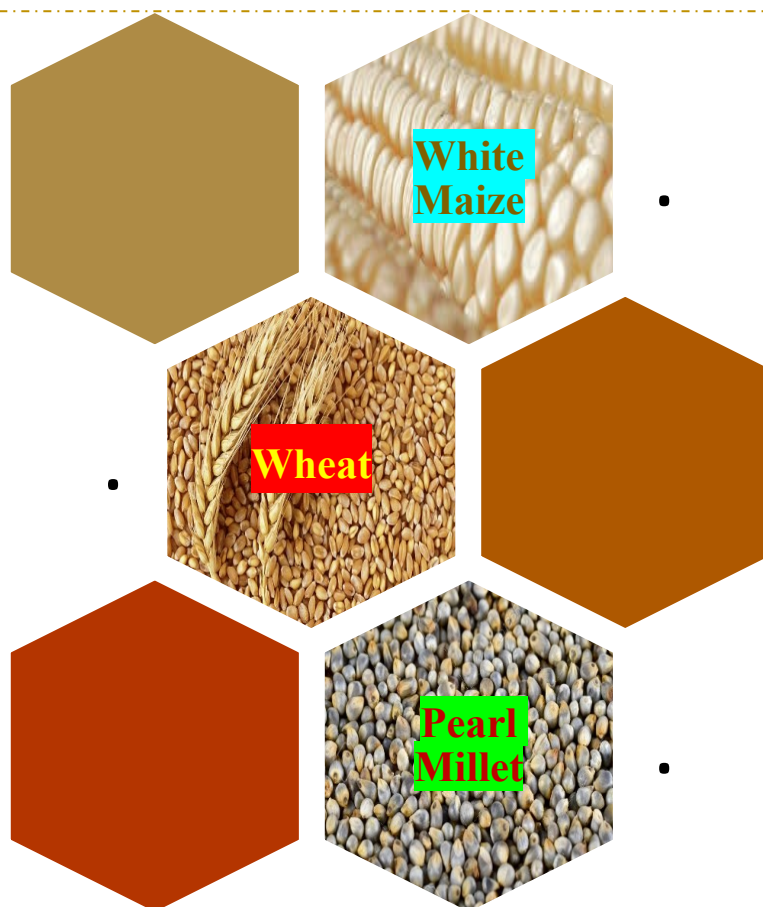


# **AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

## **AGRONOMY MARKET DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION**

### **GRAIN MARKETING PROGRESS REPORT**

**01 APRIL 2022 TO 31 AUGUST 2022**



**Last Updated: 30 September 2022**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Namibia received normal to above normal rainfall during the 2022 planting season, which contributed to the overproduction of the three staples crop, namely white maize, wheat, and pearl millet.

This grain market report presents 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 31 August 2022.

In terms of white maize production, the agronomy sector experienced overproduction of white maize from all the production areas, the national estimated tonnage to be harvested and marketing was estimated at **94 437** tons and by 31 August 2022, a total of **80,525** tons was marketed countrywide. A total of **26,113** tons was imported between 1 April to 31 May 2022.

As for mahangu, the marketing season for pearl millet started on 1 July 2022 and a total of **2,870** tons was expected to be marketed, however, **3,073** tons were marketed between 1 April to 31 August 2022, and no imports recorded.

The marketing season for wheat starts from 1 November to 31 January and before that, the country depends on imported grain to meet local demand. A total of **55.630** tons has been imported between 1 April to 31 August 2022, and only **158 tons** was bought locally.



## 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), and Central and South production areas.

An estimated total tonnage of **94,437 tons** was projected to be marketed during the 2022 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 **09 May 2022** and the border will open when all the local white maize has been marketed.

Figures 1 show that the biggest portion of white maize grain was imported in April 2021 (19,359 tons) and the lowest imports were in May 2022 and this is attributed to the closure of the border for importation as of 9 May 2022. On the other hand, the bulk of the white maize grain was purchased locally in June 2022 (36,101 tons) and the lowest was in April 2022 as the bulk of the locally produced maize became available for marketing in mid-May 2022.

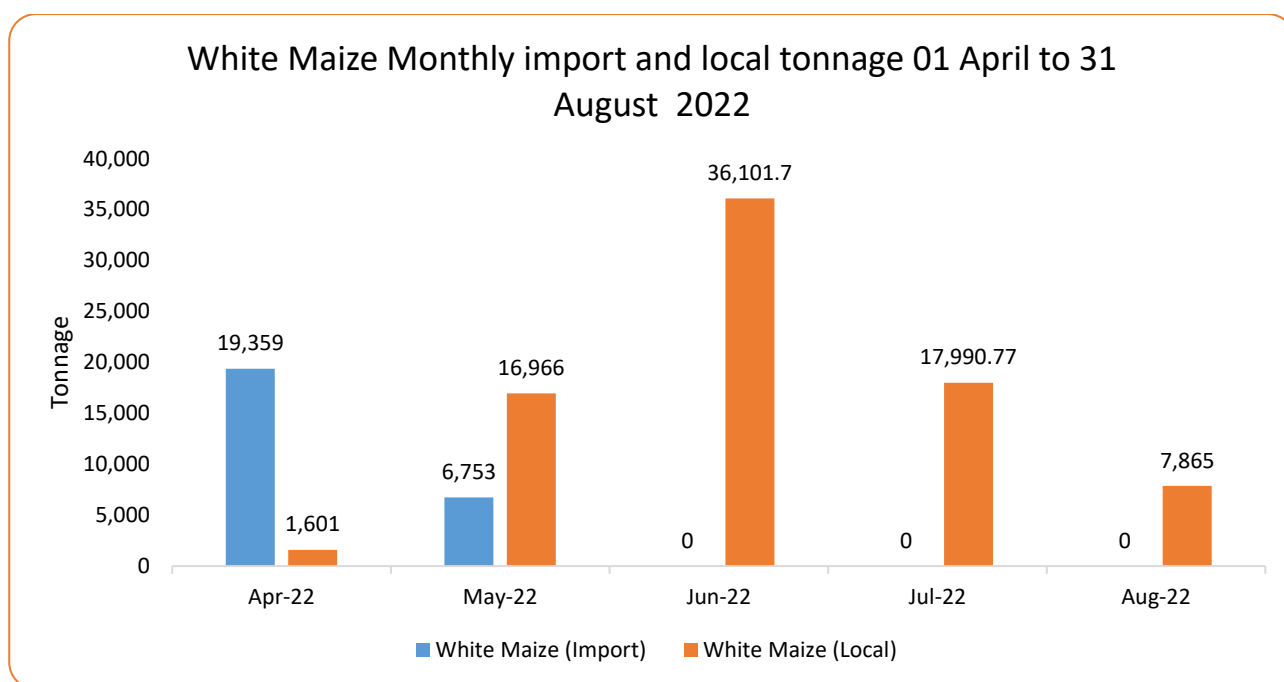


Figure 1, White maize grain imports and local purchases - April to August 2022

### 2.2 Wheat tonnage

Wheat is a winter crop and it is entirely produced under irrigation. The planting season for wheat started in July and the marketing of wheat officially starts from 01 October to 31 January each year. To satisfy the gap between production (supply) and demand, 99% of the wheat traded during the

reporting period was imported. An estimated 29,871 tons is expected to be harvested and marketed during this year, representing 19 % of total local demand, and hence 117,068 tons is expected to be imported until March 2023. An average of 12,078 tons of wheat grain is required monthly to meet the local demand for processors.

The increase in local production is attributed to the availability of water for irrigation and some farmers also prioritized the cultivation of wheat instead of fodder crops such as lucerne, as there is good pasture for livestock during this season due to good rainfall.

On the other hand, the biggest volume of wheat was imported in June 2022 (24,491 tons), mainly from South Africa, Latvia and Estonia.

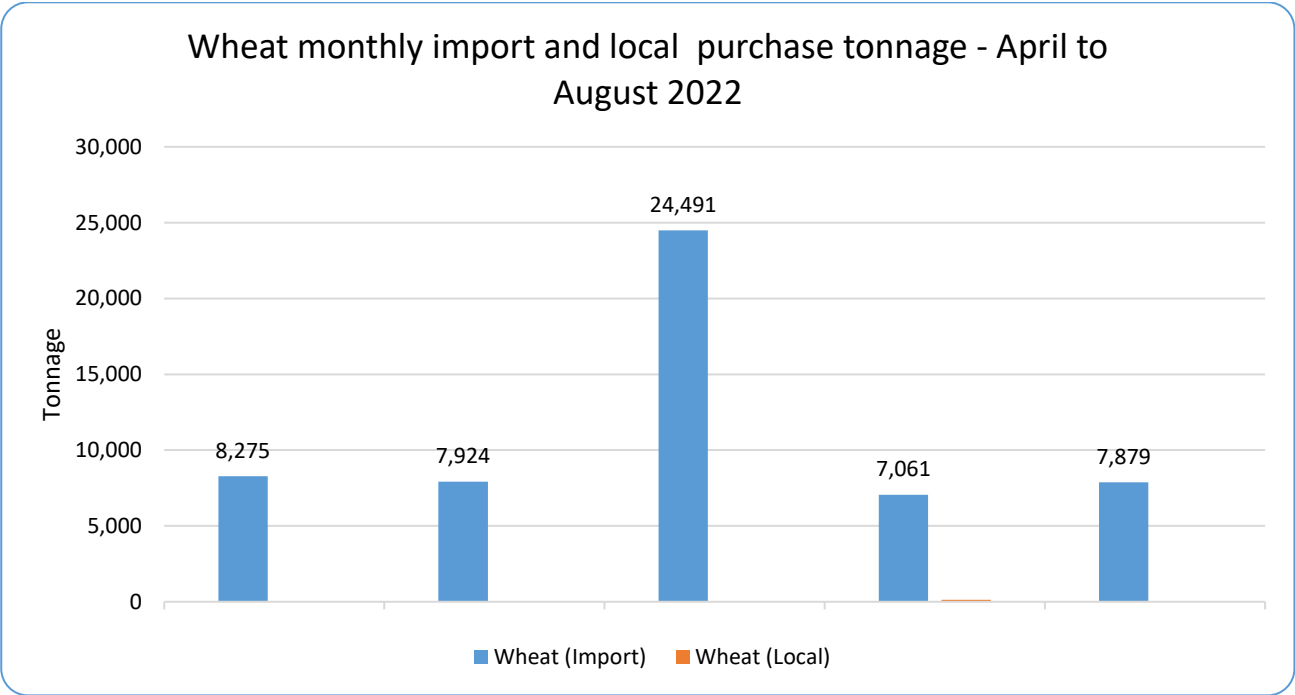


Figure 2, monthly wheat grain imports and local purchases - April to August 2022



## 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 has increased compared to the same period last year due to the good rain received in the country.

The marketing of locally produced grain officially started on 01 July 2022, and during the reporting period the bulk of pearl millet was locally purchased mainly in July 2022 (1,790 tons) and there was no importation of pearl millet during the reporting period.

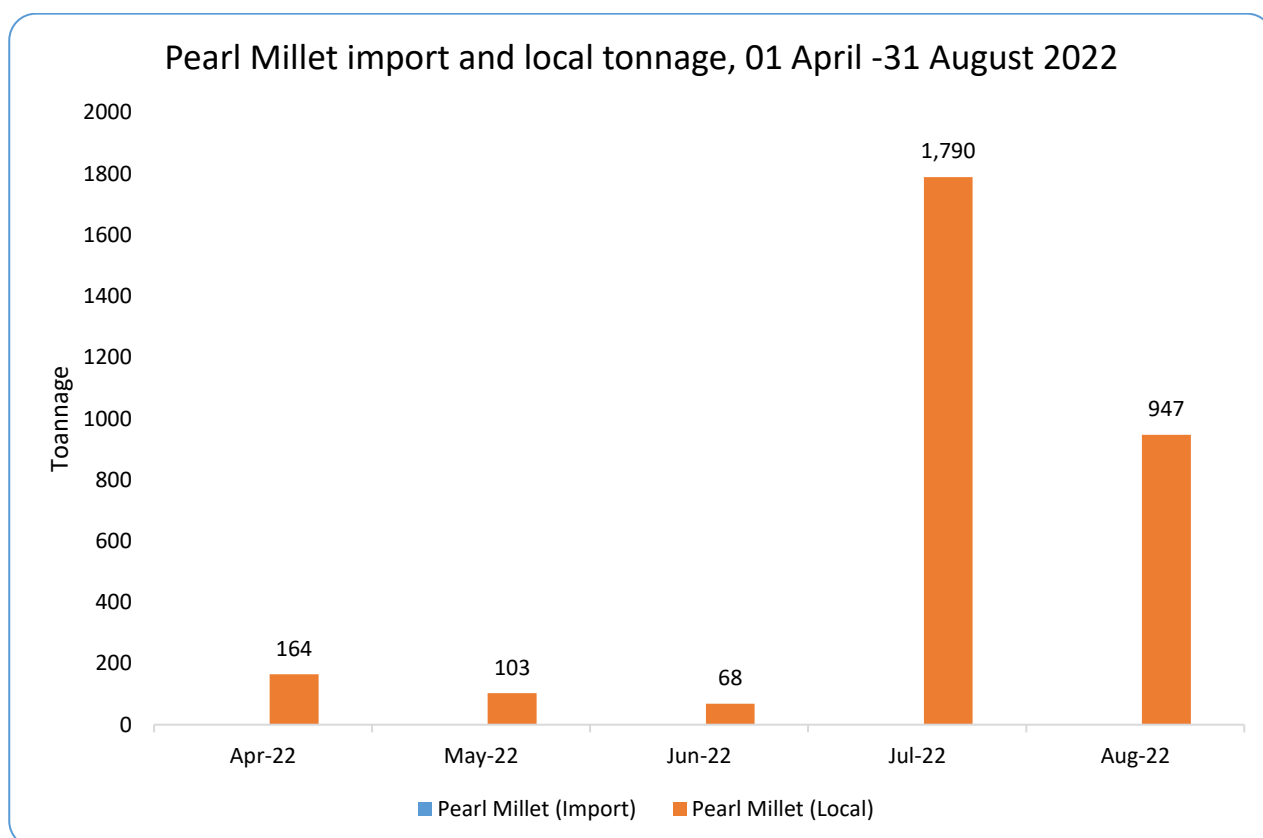


Figure 3, Pearl Millet: monthly grain imports and local purchases – April to August 2022

## 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 106,638 tons, of which 76% (80,525 tons) was local purchase and 24% (26,113 tons) was imported. In terms of pearl millet, the local production marketed stood at 3,073 tons, representing 100% of the total demand.



Furthermore, 55,630 tons of wheat were imported on a 99% basis during the reporting period, and 1% or 158 tons were locally purchased.

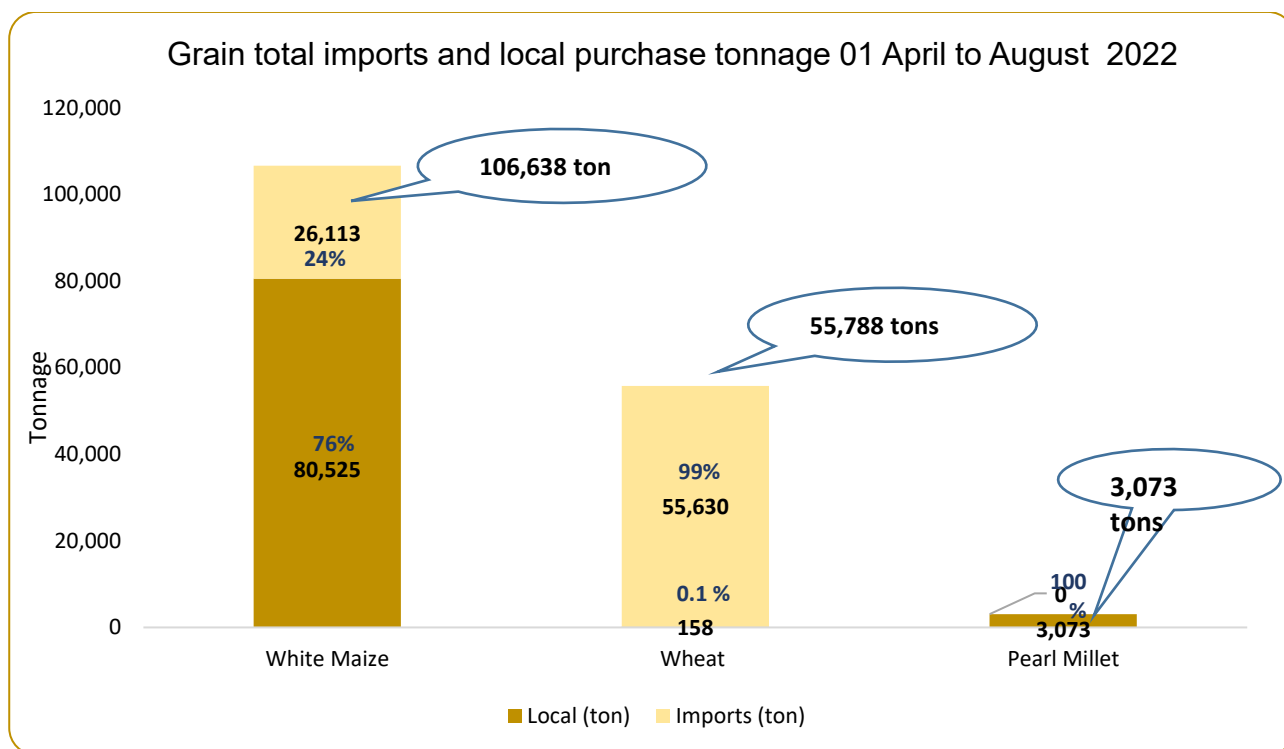


Figure 4, total imports and local purchases of grain for the period April to August 2022



### 3.2 GRAIN MILLED PER PRODUCT PER MONTH

Figure 5 shows the national total grain milled during the period April to August 2022 by millers. The highest grain milled during the reporting period was white maize and the lowest was mahangu in terms of average grain milled. The milling rate of white maize has declined in July and August 2022

due to the availability of mahangu grain for marketing and household consumption during this period.

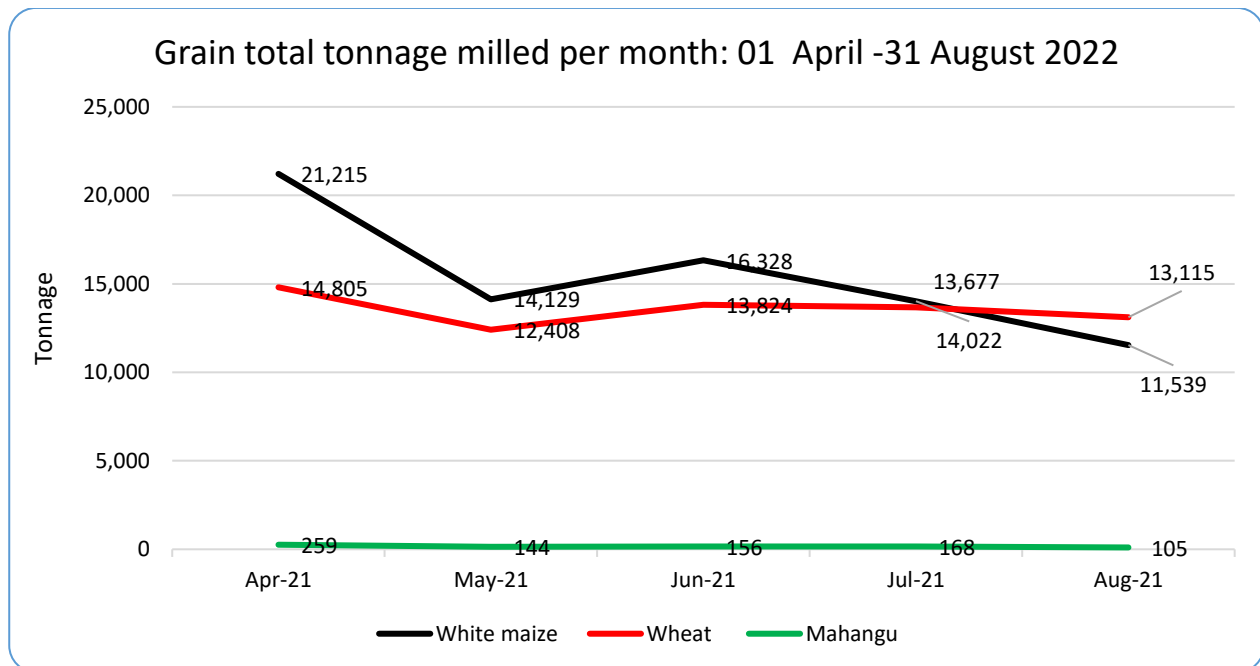


Figure 5, Total grain milled per product per month, April to August 2022

#### 4. AGRONOMY PERFORMANCE 2021 VERSUS 2020

According to figure 6, the total grain (white maize, wheat & pearl millet) traded from April to August 2022 is to a large extent higher than the same period in 2021, with a difference of 7,561 tons. This could be related to delayed harvesting in 2022, caused by late planting.

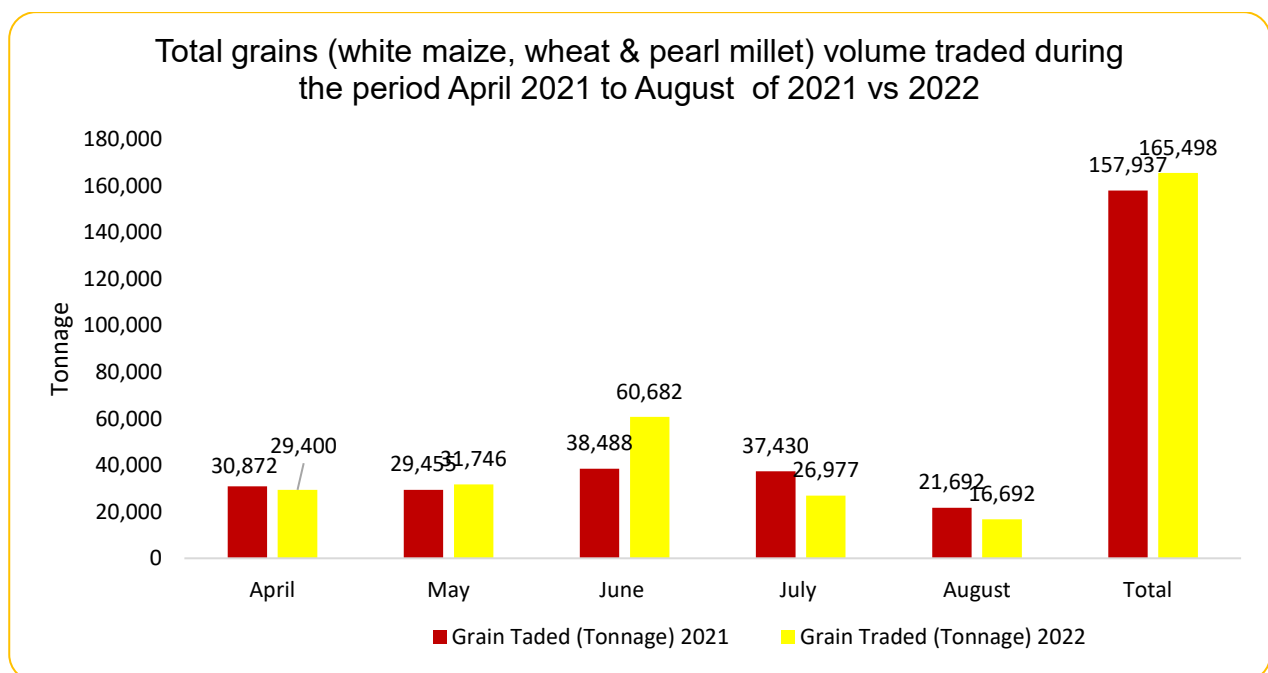


Figure 6, Total grain volume traded during the period April to August 2022 versus 2021

Figure 7 shows that the monthly tonnage of white maize and wheat traded from April to August 2022 versus 2021 varies significantly, while for pearl millet there is insignificant variation.

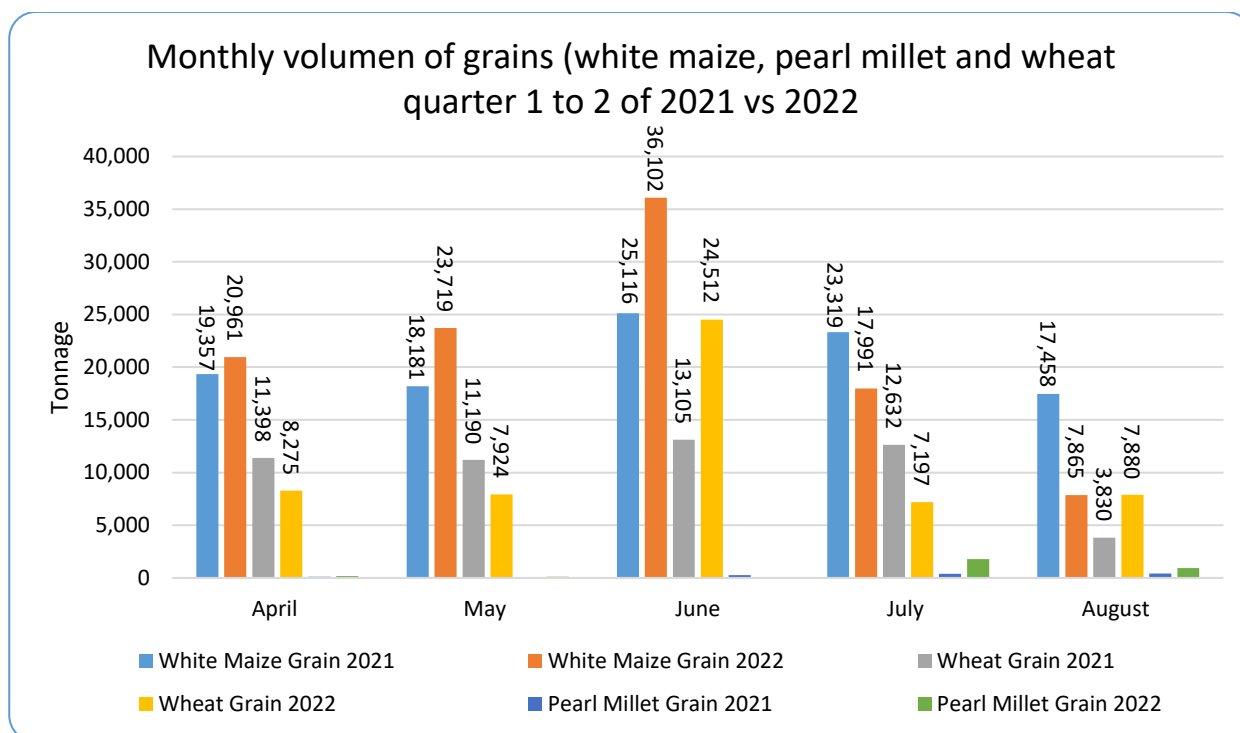


Figure 7, Monthly volume traded per grain type for the period April to August 2022 versus 2021

## 5. GRAIN DEMAND ANALYSIS

The total demand for white maize during the reporting period stood at 106,638 tons, of which 80,525 tons were produced in the country and 26,113 tons imported, thus satisfying the demand gap for processors 24%. As for wheat, Namibia still relies on imports to meet the local demand for wheat and with local production only satisfying about 0.3% of the demand.

Mahangu being one of the staple foods produced in Namibia, about 3,073 tons of local production was marketed to processors and silos, with no imports.

During the reporting period, the national local grain (white maize, wheat, and pearl millet) proportion stood at 51%, meaning 49% were imported grains.

Table 1: Total grain imports and local purchases proportion - April to August 2022

	Local (ton)	Imports (ton)	Total	Local %	Import %
White Maize	80,525	26,113	106,638	76%	24%
Wheat	158	55,630	55,788	0%	99.7%
Pearl Millet	3,073	0	3,073	100%	0%
Total	83,756	81,742	165,498	51%	49%



## 6. TOTAL LOCAL VOLUME EXPECTED VERSU MARKETED

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

Figure 8 shows that the biggest portion of the white maize marketed during the reporting period was from the Karst area (37,553 tons), followed by the Central area (23,764 tons) and the lowest tonnage was marketed in the Kavango (4,846 tons). Figure 9 shows that 85% of the estimated harvest has been marketed and 15 % is yet to be marketed.

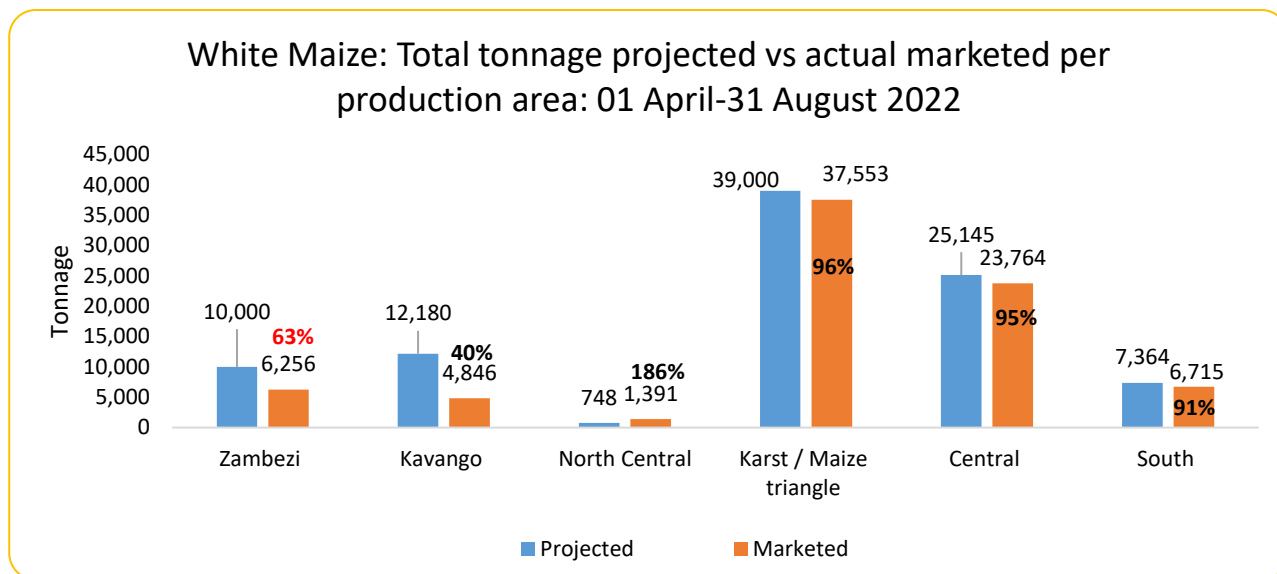


Figure 8, White maize: total tonnage expected vs marketed per month per production area.

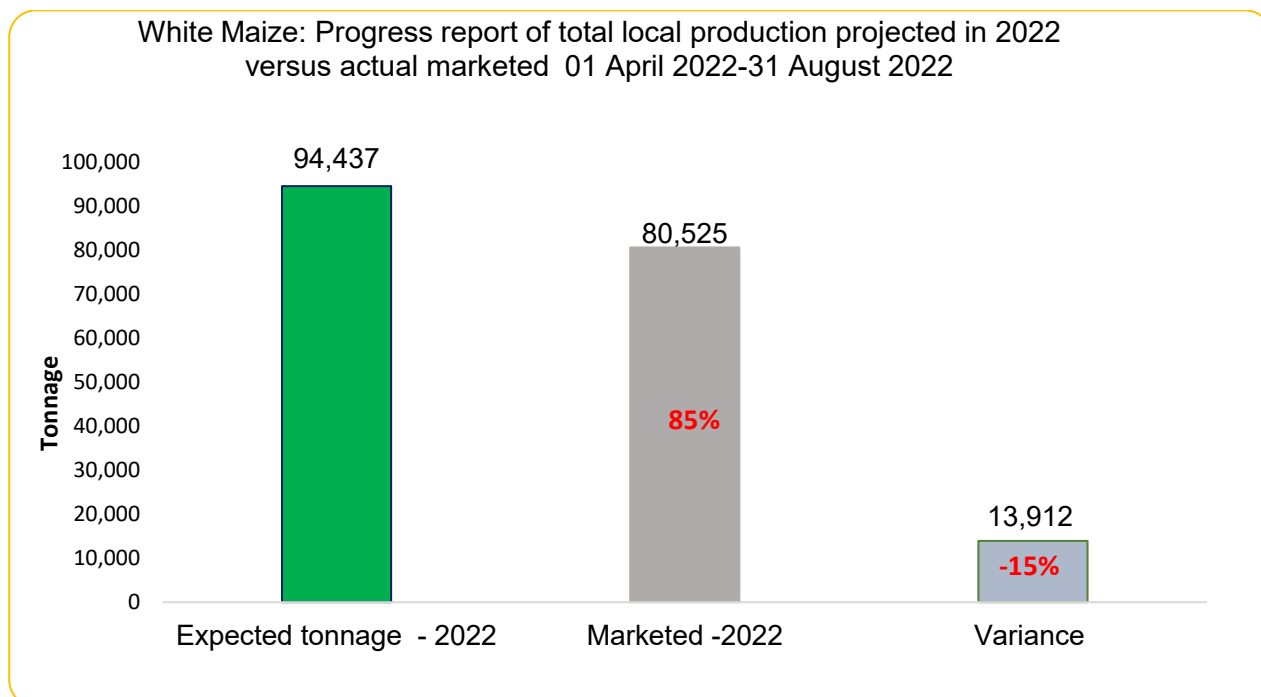


Figure 9, White maize: total tonnage expected vs marketed.

## 6.2 Mahangu: Total tonnage marketed per production area

Figure 10 below shows that the bulk of the mahangu marketed from this year's harvest came from the Zambezi (514), Oshikoto (312) Kavango (311), and Ohangwena (314 tons) regions. Zambezi region predicted the highest tonnage to be marketed but only 58% was marketed.

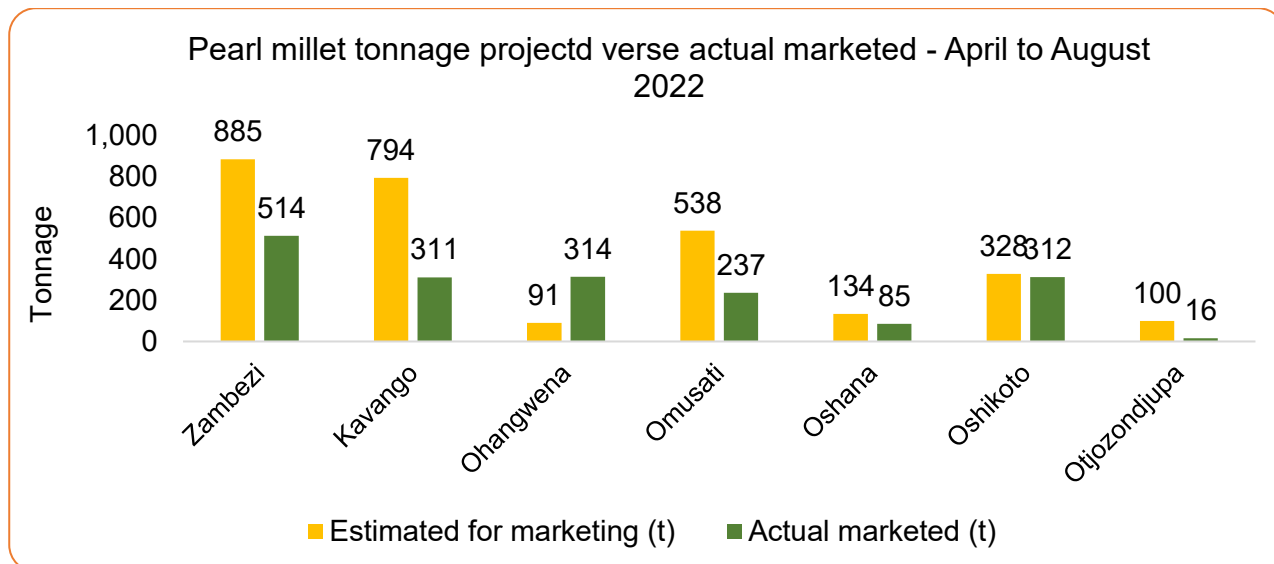


Figure 10, Pearl Millet: total tonnage projected verse actual marketed per production area.

## 7. GRAIN DOMESTIC FLOOR PRICE PER TON

Figure 11 shows the minimum floor price for white maize and mahangu for the 2022 marketing season.

As for white maize, the SAFEX spot price was high than the SAFEX five-year average and from 1 May to 03 September 2022, the SAFEX Spot Price was the applicable price as it was higher than the Staggered Floor Price, for the period 1 May to 03 August 2022.

The price for pearl millet stood at N\$6 333 per ton and it is fixed for the entire marketing period.

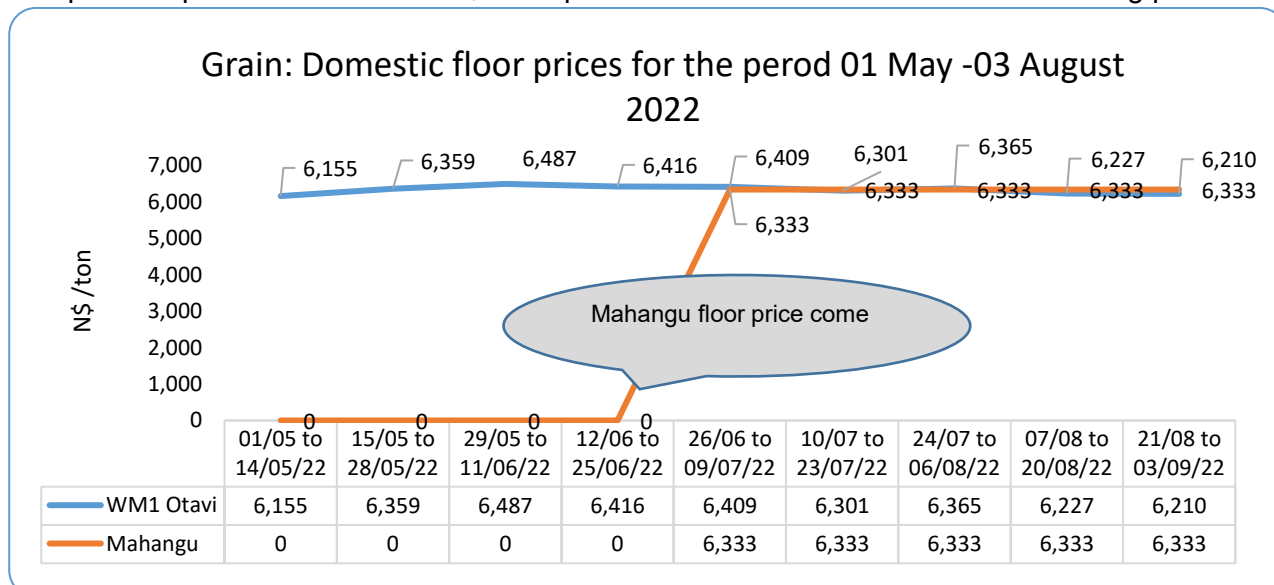


Figure 11 Grain domestic floor prices for the period April to August 2022

## 8. CONCLUSION

In terms of white maize grain, out of the national harvest 94,437 tons expected to be marketed during the 2022 marketing season, and a total of 80,525 tons (85%) have been marketed as of 31 August 2022.

Furthermore, out of 2,870 tons of pearl millet expected to be marketed this season, 3,073 tons have been marketed as of 31 August 2022, though the NAB has observed a low volume of pearl millet available for marketing in the Zambezi, contrary to the forecasted tonnage.

The report also indicates that, despite the good harvest of white maize, wheat, and pearl millet grains expected to be marketed this season, Namibia remains a net importer of staple grain crops, and wheat contributes the bulk of imports.

-----**END**-----