



AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

AGRONOMY MARKET DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION

WHITE MAIZE PRODUCTION FORECAST REPORT

HARVESTING/MARKETING SEASON 2025



Last Updated: 31/03/2025

1. INTRODUCTION

White maize is a staple grain crop grown primarily for human consumption in Namibia. Its production mainly occurs in the Zambezi, Kavango, North Central (Etunda), Karst (Maize Triangle), Central (Summerdown and Hochfeld), and South (Hardap) crop production zones of Namibia. It is produced under both rainfed and irrigated systems, with planting occurring from October to January, and harvesting from April/March to October each year.

The marketing of locally produced white maize grains is managed through the White Maize Marketing Mechanisms/Agreement, as signed by organized producers and millers. The marketing of white maize grains officially begins on the 1st of May each year and continues until all available grains are marketed to registered millers/silos.

To effectively and efficiently facilitate the marketing of locally produced white maize grain, production data is collected at the beginning of each planting season to estimate the expected production tonnage. This data helps determine the tonnage to be taken up by registered local millers/silos and is also relevant for the implementation of the close and open border periods.

During the 2024 marketing season, a total of **33,460** tons of white maize were marketed from the 1st of May to the 31st of December 2024. Meanwhile, a total of **68,879** tons is expected to be harvested and marketed during the 2025 marketing season from a total of **17,865 hectares**. This represents an increase of **35,419 tons (106%)** compared to the tonnage marketed during the 2024 marketing season. The increase in the expected harvest is attributed to improved rainfall patterns experienced across all production zones of Namibia during the 2025 planting season. There has also been a significant increase in the number of producers who planted maize in 2025, following favorable rainfall predictions from the meteorological services.

This report presents the total national grain tonnage expected from all production zones to be marketed during the 2025 marketing season. The report further provides insights into the total hectares planted and the average yield per hectare expected under both rainfed and irrigated production systems. It also includes a comparison of the white maize volume and hectares expected for 2025 versus the tonnage and hectares harvested during the 2024 marketing season.

2. METHODOLOGY

The white maize production data was collected using the subjective yield estimation method. This method involves estimating crop yield based on the producer's historical yield data, with validation performed using the average yields per hectare for each production zone from previous seasons.

The data collection process began by sending the expected crop production data collection form (Expected/Actual crop production data collection form FOR/AMD/01) to producers via email and through the NAB website. Once the forms were completed by the producers, they were returned to NAB either by email or hand delivery. Producers who did not respond via email were contacted by phone to encourage them to submit the completed forms.

In the Zambezi production zone, the registration of producers and collection of crop estimate data was facilitated through the registration of expected harvests at the Agricultural Development Centres (ADCs), with support from officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform stationed at the ADCs. Radio announcements, in various local languages, were made to raise awareness and encourage producers who wish to market white maize grains during the 2025/2026 marketing season to submit their expected harvest data to NAB. The completed forms from the ADCs were then captured into Excel.

The data captured was cleaned and analyzed in Microsoft Excel, using both graphical and tabular methods.

A total of 101 commercial white maize producers have registered their expected harvest for the period from February to March 2025, which includes the producers from the Green Scheme Irrigation Projects) and excluding surplus white maize producers from the Zambezi production zone.



3. PRODUCTION FORECAST

This section provides an analysis of the demand, expected tonnages, hectares planted, anticipated average yield per hectare, the number of producers registered, and the white maize grain trade statistics for the 2025 marketing season.

3.1 Expected production quantities and the domestic demand analysis

Figure 1 below illustrates the projected domestic production of white maize for 2025 alongside the respective domestic demand. The country is expecting an improved harvest of white maize for 2025, with delivery to registered millers and silos anticipated as early as the end of March 2025. A total of 68,879 tons of white maize is projected to be available for the 2025 marketing season.

While the average monthly demand for local white maize is estimated at 24,2000 tons, the total expected harvest of 68,879 tons will be sufficient to meet the domestic demand for three months.

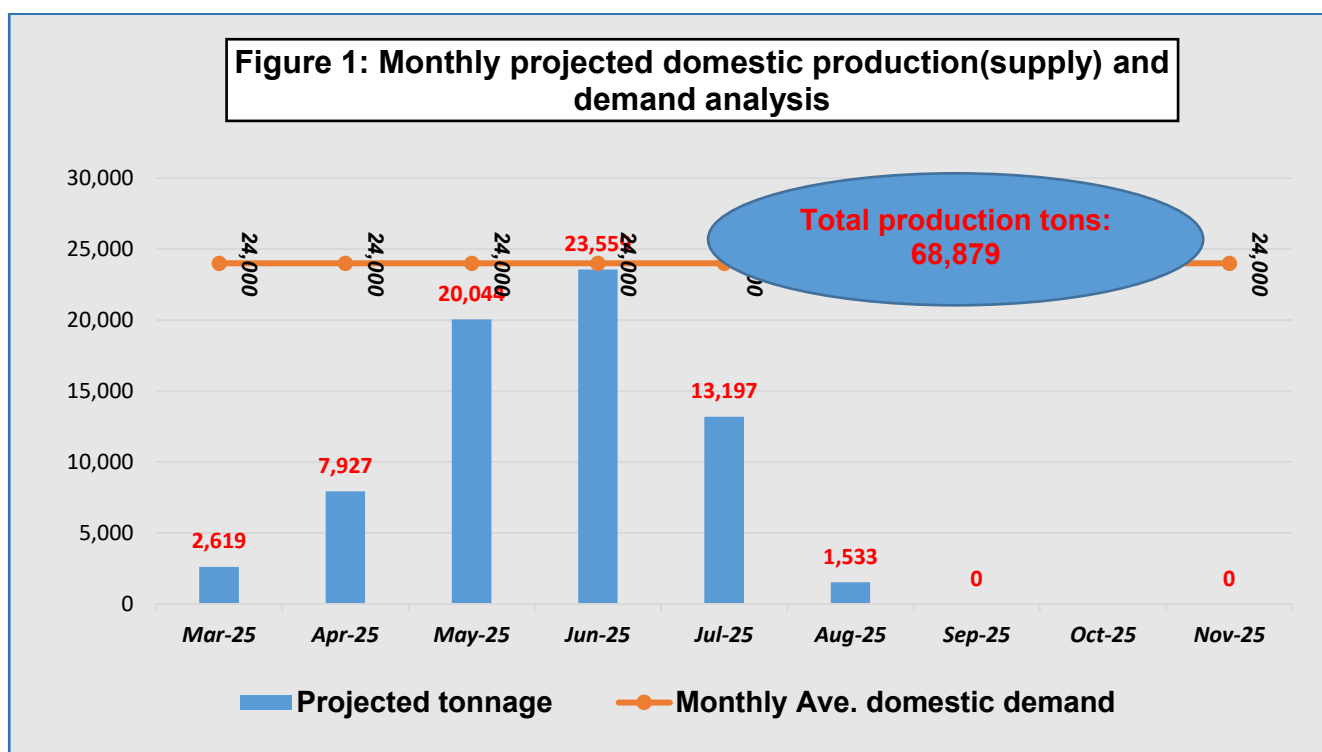


Figure 1: Monthly expected production tonnage and the average expected domestic demand

Therefore, the border will close for importation during the 2025 marketing season, to ensure that all locally produced grain is absorbed by millers.

Figure 2 below illustrates the expected monthly volume of maize to be harvested from each production zone. The highest volume of 23,559 tons, is anticipated to be harvested in June. The majority of the harvest in June will come from the Karst and Central Production zones. A smaller

volume will be harvested in April, which marks the start of the harvesting period, with another smaller peak expected toward August 2025.

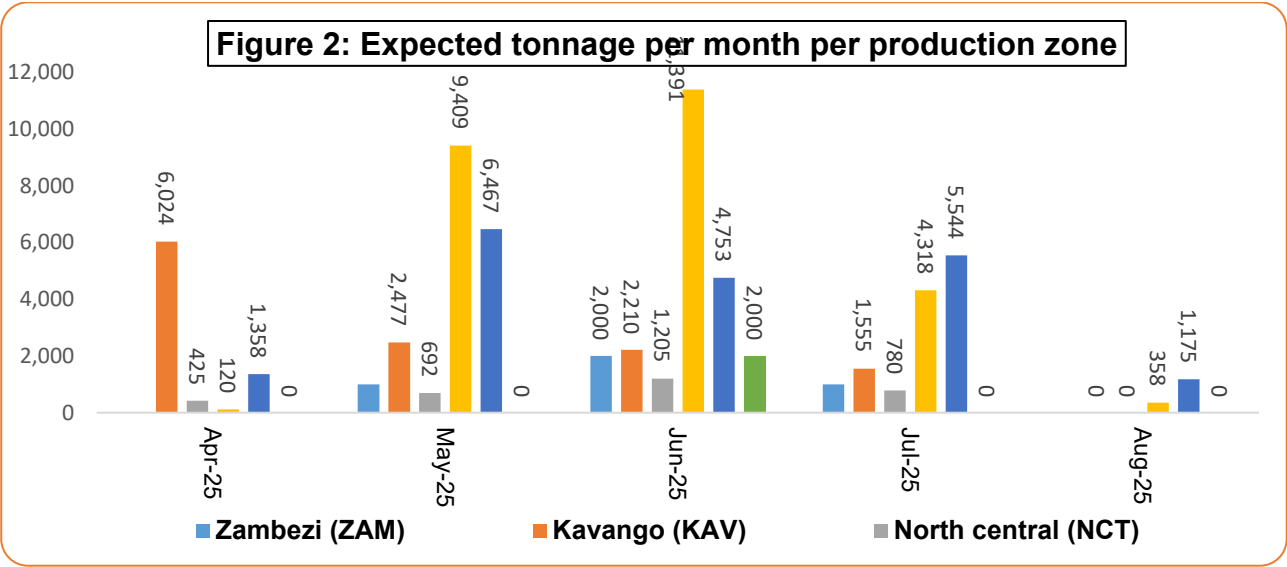


Figure 2: Expected tonnage per month per production zone

Figure 3 below shows that the largest volumes in 2025 are expected to be harvested from the Karst and Central production zones, with 24,956 tons (38%) and 20,143 tons (29%), respectively. In contrast, the North Central and South zones are expected to contribute the lowest harvests, with 4,515 tons (6%) and 2,000 tons (3%) of the total, respectively. Additionally, the expected harvest from the Zambezi region is estimated at 4,000 tons.

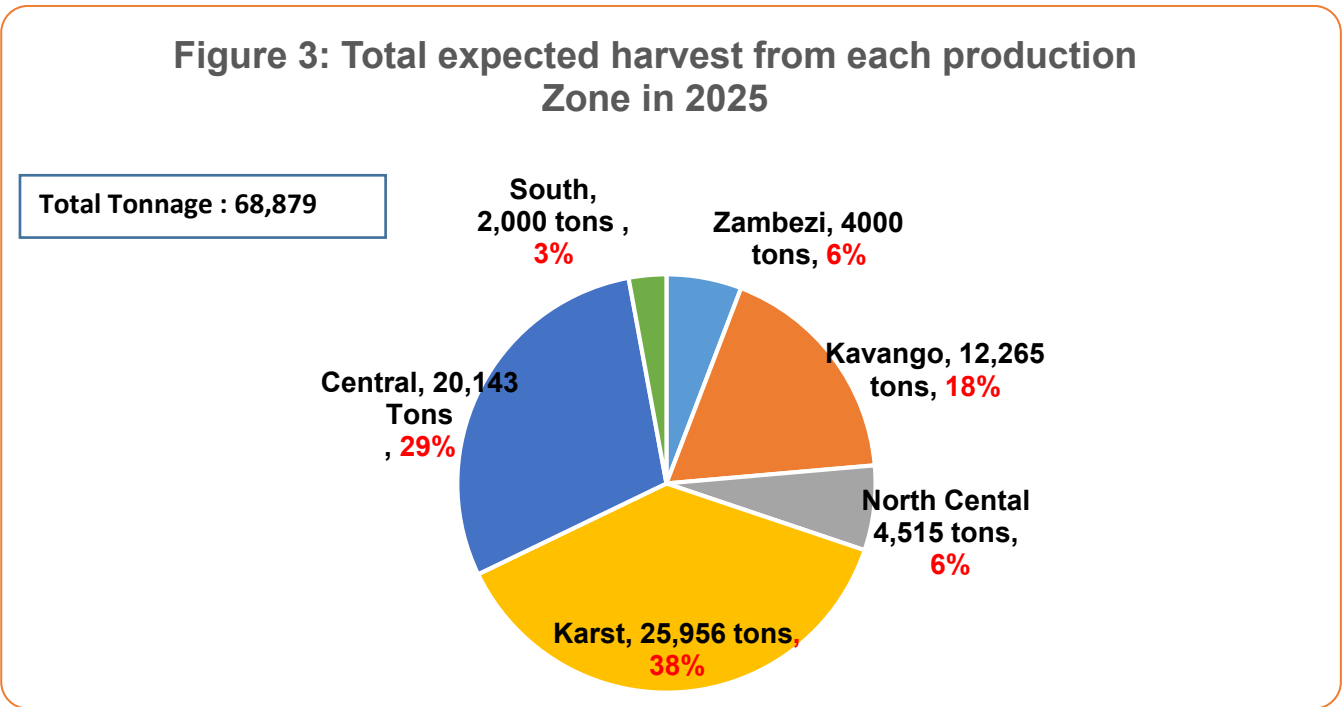


Figure 3: Total expected tonnage per production zone

3.2 Expected tonnage from irrigated and rainfed production

Figure 4 below shows that out of the total 68,879 tons of white maize expected to be harvested and marketed during the 2025 season, the largest tonnage is expected to come from irrigated production, with 51,382 tons (75%). Rainfed production has improved due to better rainfall patterns, and as a result, a total of 17,497 tons (25%) is expected to be harvested from rainfed production.

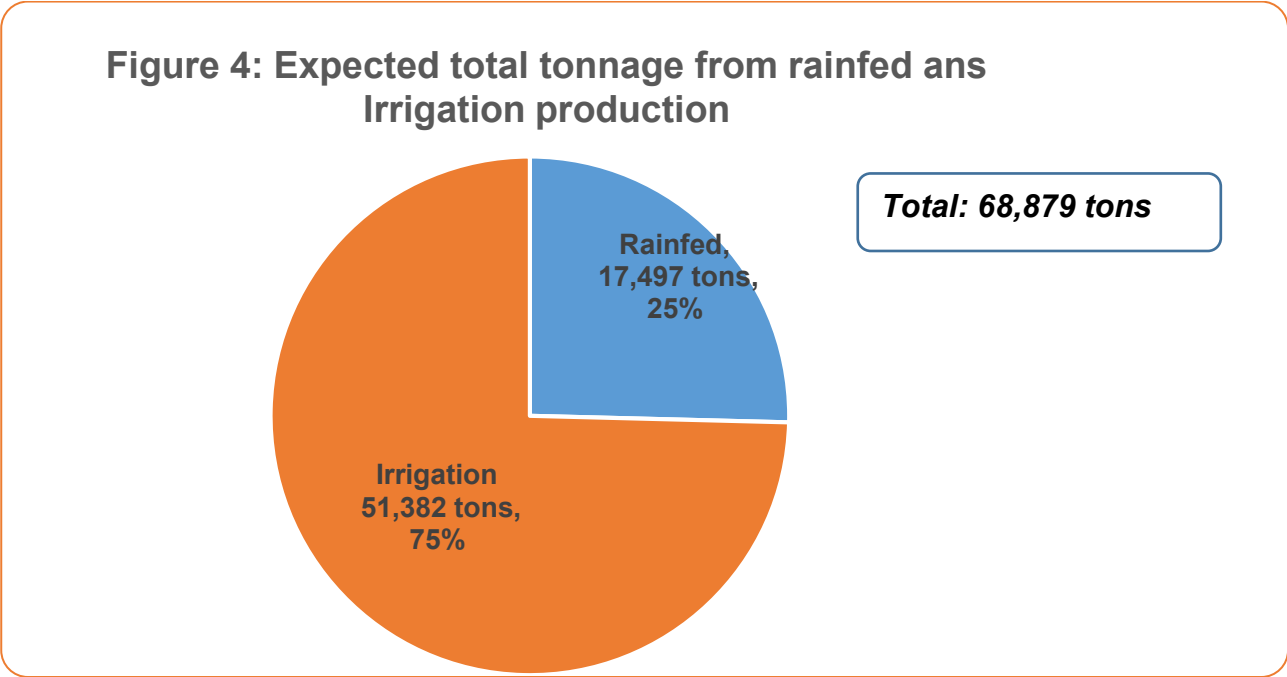


Figure 4: Total tonnage expected from irrigated and rainfed production

Figure 5 below shows that the highest tonnage from rainfed production is expected to come from the Karst production zone (11,342) and the lowest from the central production zone.

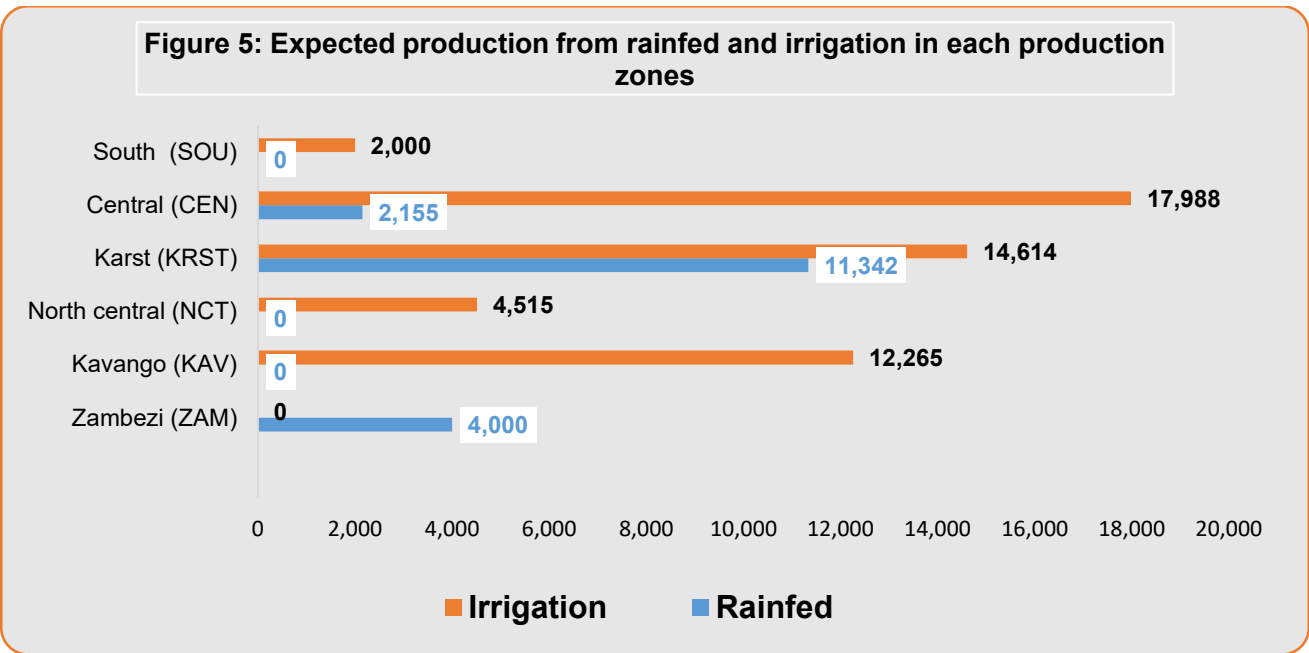


Figure 5: Expected tonnage from irrigated and rainfed production

3.3 Hectares planted during 2024/ 2025 planting season

Figure 6 below shows the total hectares of land planted to be harvested in 2024/ 2025, across both irrigation and rainfed production in all the production zones. For rainfed production, the Zambezi production zone planted the largest land area, estimated at 8000 ha, followed by Karst production zone planted the largest land area, with 3,778 hectares, and the Central production zone with 763 hectares. Under irrigation, the Kavango production zone planted the largest zone, with 1,891 hectares.

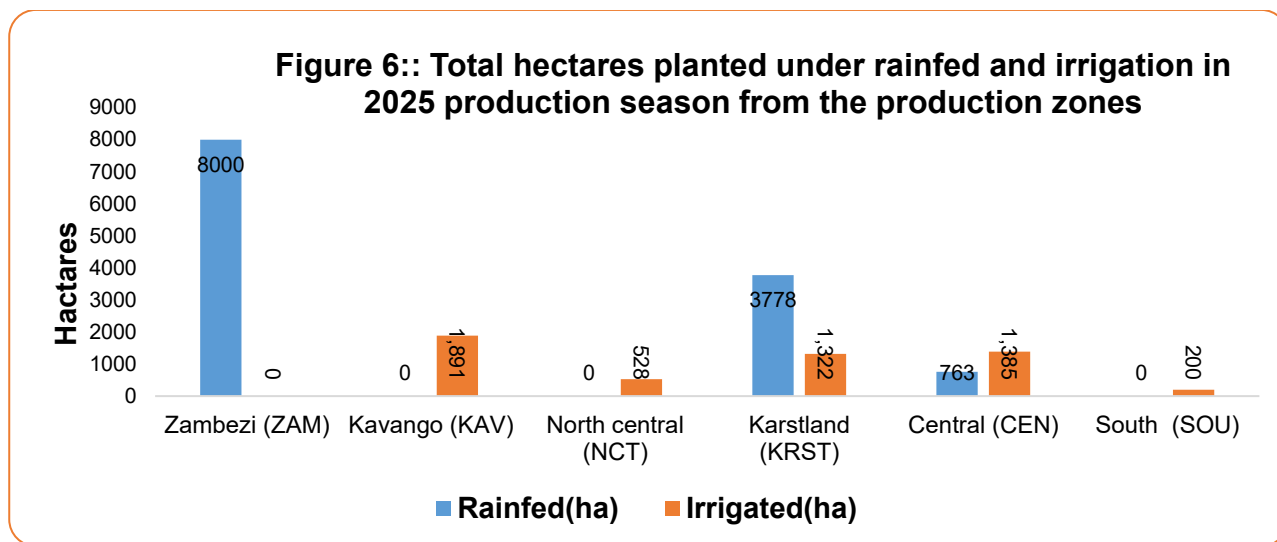


Figure 6: Total hectares expected to be harvested from irrigation and rainfed production in each production zone.

Figure 7 below shows that a total of **17,865** ha was planted and will be harvested during 2025 marketing season, of which **12,541** ha (70 %) is rainfed, and **5,325**ha (30%) is irrigated.

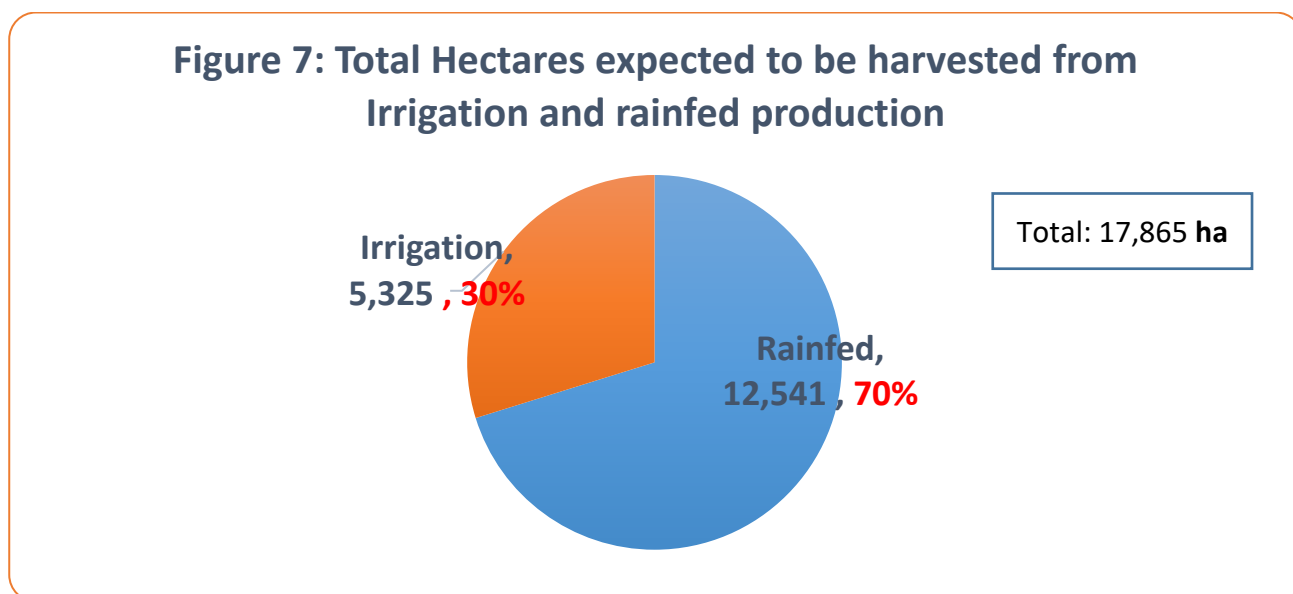


Figure 7: Total hectares planted under irrigation and rainfed production

3.4 Forecasted average yield per hectare

Figure 8 below shows the average yield expected to be harvested per hectare in each production zone during 2025. The highest average yield per hectare is expected from irrigated production, in the Central production zone (**13 t/ha**), followed by Karstland production zone (**11 t/ha**). The lowest yield per hectare under irrigation is expected from Kavango (**7 t/ha**). As for the rainfed production, the highest expected average yield per ha will be **3 t/ha** and the lowest average yield per hectare is expected form the Zambezi region.

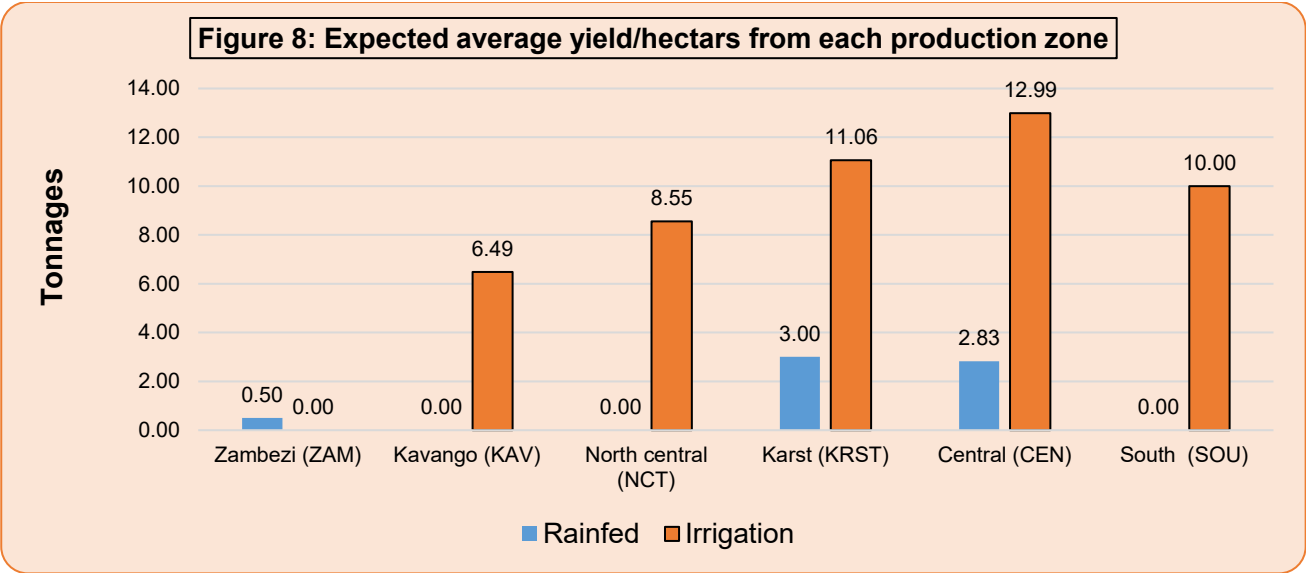


Figure 8: Expected average yield (tons\ha) for both irrigated and rainfed production

Figure 9 below shows that the national expected average yield per hectare from irrigated production is **10 t/ha**, and **3,85 t/ha** from rainfed production during 2025 production year.

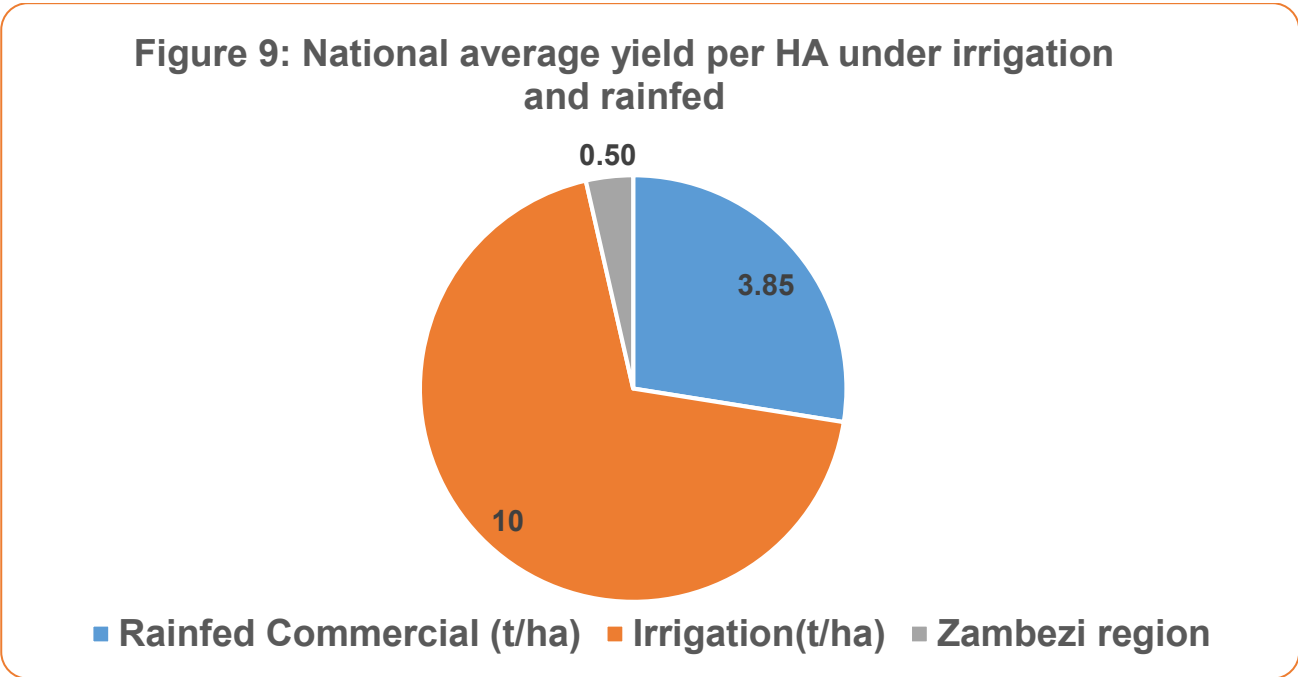


Figure 9: Total expected national average yield per hectare

4. COMPARISON OF TONNAGE AND HECTARES (2025 Vs. 2024)

4.1 Total tonnage expected in 2025 vs. actual tonnage produced in 2024

Figure 10 below shows the total tonnages expected to be harvested during 2025 as compared to the actual total tonnage marketed during the 2024 marketing season. A total **33,460** tons was marketed in 2024 compared to **68,879** tons expected during 2025 marketing season, showing 51% improvement in production during 2025.

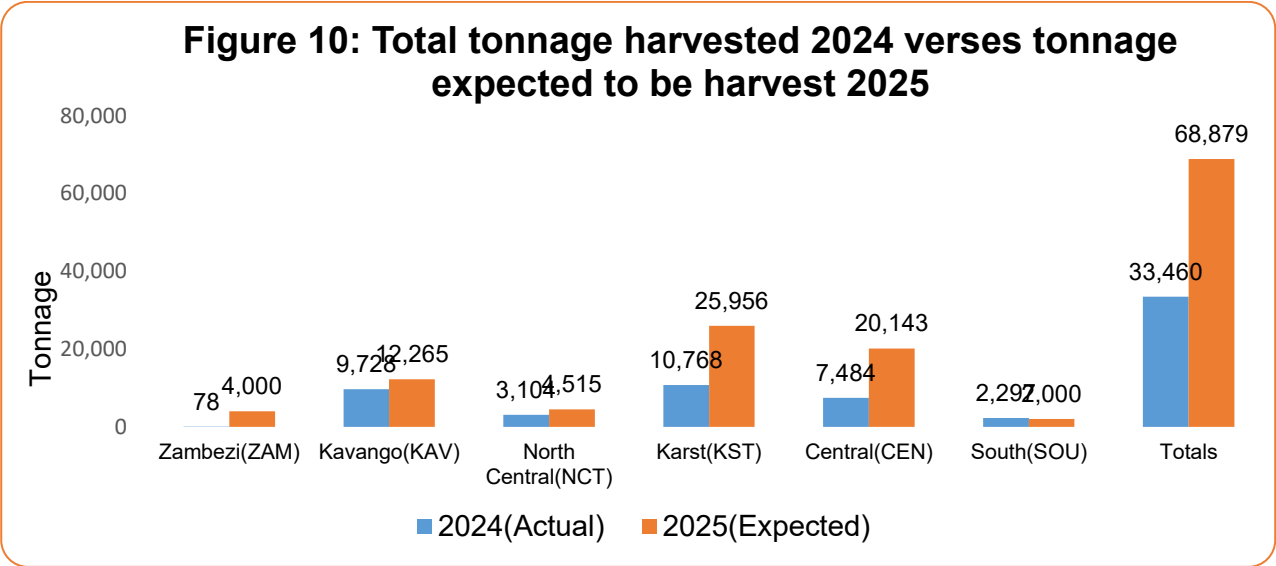


Figure 10: Rainfed tonnage – 2024 versus 2024

4.2 Total tonnage expected in 2025 vs. actual tonnage produced in 2024

4.3 Rainfed and irrigated hectares planted in 2025 vs. 2024

Figure 11 below illustrates the total hectares planted in 2025 compared to 2024 for both irrigation and rainfed production across all production zones. A total of 3,412 hectares were planted in 2024, compared to 17,865 hectares in 2025. This reflects a substantial increase of 14,453 (80%) hectares in 2025.

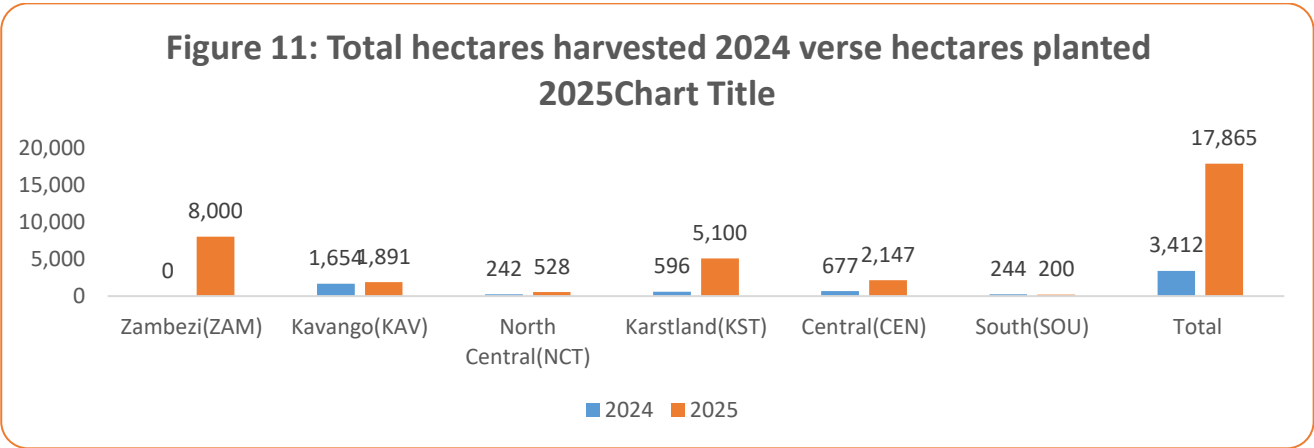


Figure 11: Irrigated and rainfed hectares planted in 2025 vs. 2024

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this report highlights that the expected harvest of white maize during the 2025 marketing season, from both irrigated and rainfed production, has increased by 51% compared to the 2024 marketing season. This growth is attributed to improved rainfall patterns in the production zones, which have resulted in higher yields per hectare, as well as an increase in the number of farmers planting white maize in 2025 compared to the previous year.

Although it is too early to predict exactly when the bulk of the expected harvest will be available, given the good rainfall in March 2025, the expected harvest is sufficient to **meet domestic demand for three (3) months**, from May 2025 to at least July/August 2025, depending on the intake speed by millers. The supply of locally produced white maize grain is expected to slight equal to the monthly demand from June 2025, and in line with the existing rules and regulations, the border will be closed for the importation of white maize during the marketing period to ensure the smooth uptake of local grains.

END
