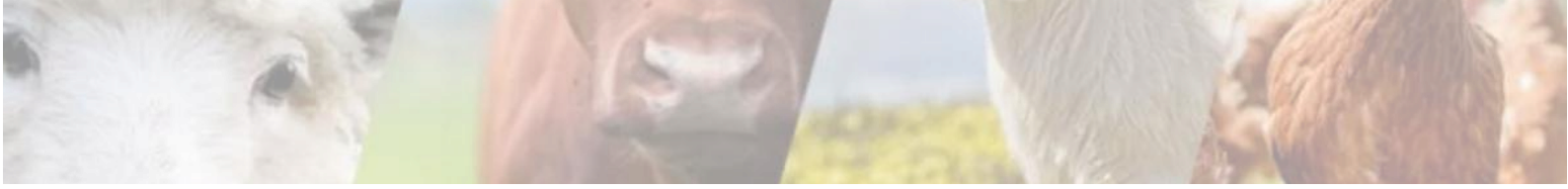
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development

Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment Report: First Round

CLAFA-1

2024/25 Summer Season

ZimStat
Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency



ZIMBABWE

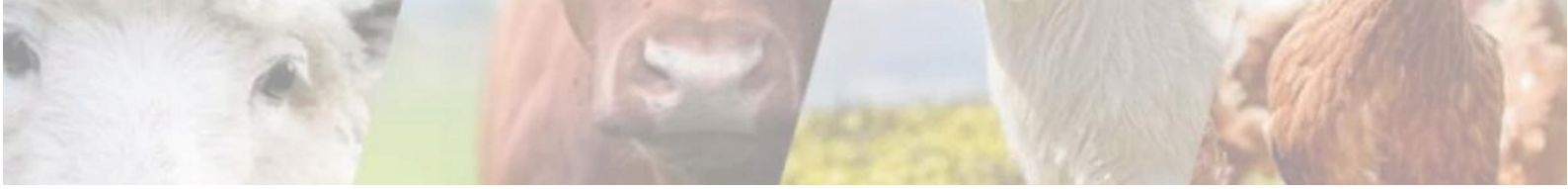
FIRST ROUND OF CROPS, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES ASSESSMENT

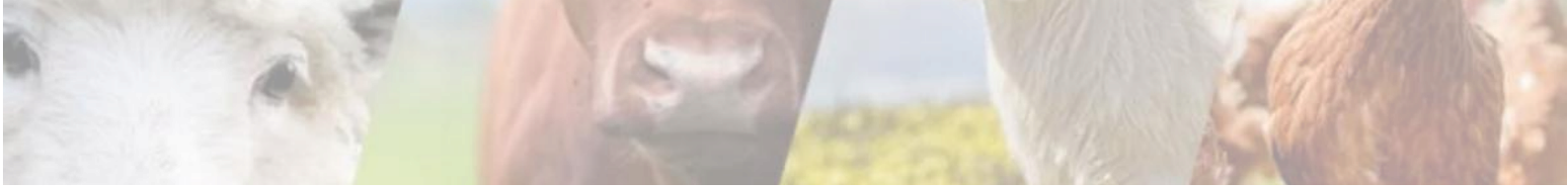
(CLAFA-1)

2024/2025 SUMMER SEASON

20 February 2025

MINISTER
MINISTRY OF LANDS, AGRIC., FISHERIES
WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
20 FEB 2025
No. 1 LIBERATION LEGACY WAY
P. BAG 7701, CAUSEWAY
HARARE, ZIMBABWE





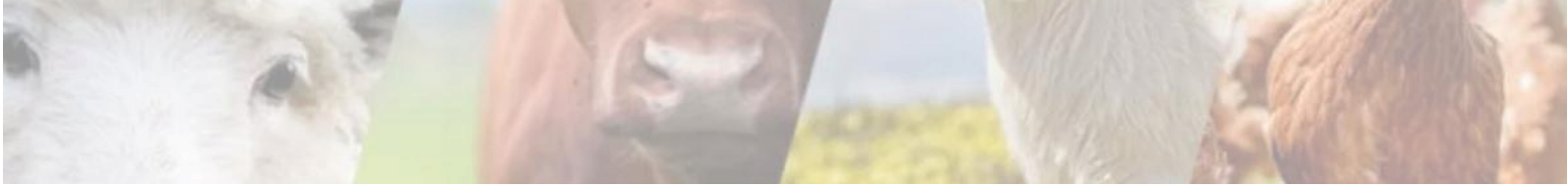
FOREWARD

Recognizing the importance of collaborative efforts and promoting the Whole of Government Approach (WGA) to implementing national development initiatives, the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development partnered with the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) to conduct the first round of the 2024/25 Crop and Livestock Assessment (CLAFA 1) Survey. This report highlights the findings from this essential exercise, which seeks to provide a current overview of the status of crops, livestock and fisheries. Accurate agricultural statistics are vital for effectively monitoring progress achieving national strategic objectives as detailed in National Development Strategy 1 (NDS-1). In particular, the identified National Priority Areas that encompass Food and Nutrition Security, Health and Well-being, and Economic Growth and Stability. This data-driven approach ensures that agricultural initiatives are strategically aligned with national priorities, fostering an environment for sustainable economic growth. Likewise, the findings from the assessment are instrumental in further shaping agricultural development strategies in the country through informing the formulation of National Development Strategy II.

As Zimbabwe aspires to become An Empowered Upper Middle-income Society by 2030, the insights derived from Crop and Livestock Assessment statistics regarding production practices and trends, will inform setting of actionable, achievable, and impactful strategic goals. Further, statistics from CLAFA exercises are key in supporting agricultural production initiatives including the village business units and irrigation business units. These programs are designed to enhance productivity and empower local communities. The implementation of smart agriculture practices, including the Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme, is also informed by these statistics, leading to targeted interventions, ultimately, contributing to overall agricultural resilience and sustainability in addition to enhanced food security. We extend our gratitude to the Government of Zimbabwe, Development Partners, the farming community, other institutions and individuals that continue to support the CLAFA program. It is our aspiration that this report serves as a crucial resource for policymakers, researchers, development partners and practitioners, fostering collaborative efforts to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience in Zimbabwe. Together, let us strive towards realizing our shared vision of a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society for all.

Tafadzwa Bandama
Director-General
Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

Prof. Obert Jiri
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development



SUMMARY

This First Round of Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment (CLAFA-1) is a Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT-led and Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Waster and Rural Development (MLAFWRD)-enabled, whole of government approach, to more accurately establish the area grown to crops in the 2024/2025 summer season, and to determine growth in the fisheries and livestock sub-sectors for the year 2024.

The Agriculture, Food Systems, and Rural Transformation Strategy (AFSRTS) projected the agriculture sector to grow to USD 13.75 billion by 2025, a revision from the original plan of USD 8.2 billion, owing to the sector's stellar annual growth of 8.5% per year from 2020 to 2023, although this was followed by the worst drought in 43 years last season. A projected contraction of the sector by as much as 15% is envisaged. Consequently, the expected growth to USD 13.75 billion seems unlikely to be met under such circumstances.

The 2024/2025 season had an erratic start, in mid-November, with very scattered rainfall, and with Mashonaland provinces having a delayed commencement of the season. Localised dry spells led to crops wilting in some parts of the country. With the late start of the rains, some farmers switched to sorghum in the traditional maize growing areas. From mid-December onwards, improved rains, with heavier falls in the southern provinces, brought renewed hope for many farmers. According to the Meteorological Services Department, normal to above normal rains are expected in the second half of the season. This seems to be generally the case for the southern provinces.

The area planted to maize increased from 1 728 897ha in the 2023/24 season to 1 822 904ha in 2024/25 season, a 5.4 % increase and marginally above the target of 1 800 000 ha. However, 74,000 ha was recorded as a write-off due to a prolonged dry spell in late November to mid-December 2024.

The area planted to traditional grains increased by 7% to 434,374 hectares from 405,116 hectares planted last year and is 4% above target. The pearl millet planted area increased to 251,265 hectares, a 29% increase, from 194,232 hectares last year and 9% below target.

Overall, the area under staple cereals (maize and traditional grains) was 101% of the targeted area, being 2,540,385 hectares against a target of 2,520,000 ha, but 8.1% higher than the 2,349,921 hectares achieved in the 2023/24 season.

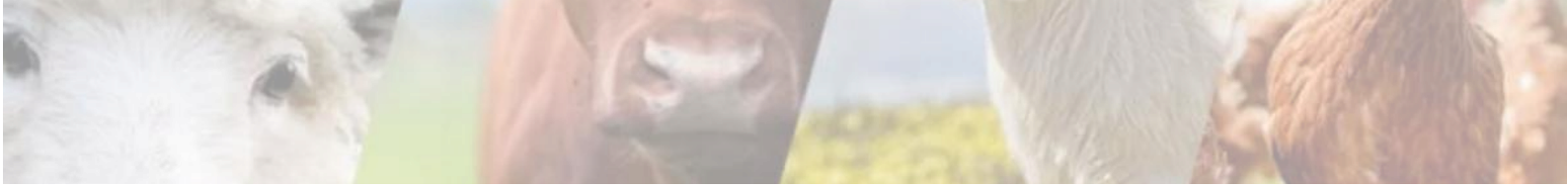
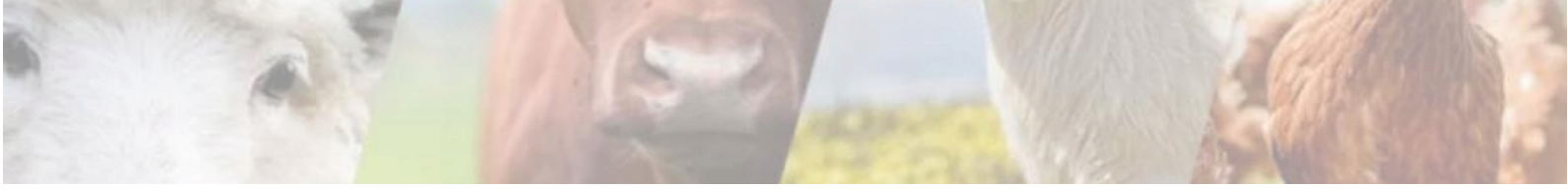


Table 1: Cereals Summary

Crop	Area achieved 2023/2024 season	Total Area 2024/2025 season (Ha)	Target 2024/2025 season (Ha)	% target achievement
Maize	1,728,873	1,822,904	1,800,000	1.01
Sorghum	405,116	434,374	418,000	1.04
Pearl Millet	194,232	251,265	275,000	0.91
Finger Millet	21,700	31,842	27,000	1.18
Total	**2,349,921**	**2,540,385**	**2,520,000**	**1.01**

At the time of the assessment in late January, the maize condition was generally fair to good, largely in response to the improved rainfall received during late December and January.

The total area under field and plantations crops is 3,516,628ha against a target of 3,974.287 ha compared to last year, as shown in Table 2.



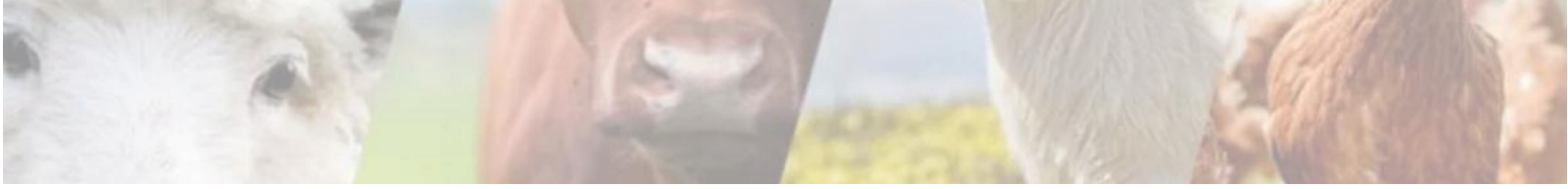
CROP AREA PLANTED

Table 2: Crop Area (Ha) Planted Against Target

Crop	Target (2024/25)	Actual Area Planted		% achieved of Target
		2024/25	2023/24	
Maize	1,800,000	1,822,904	1,728,873	101
Sorghum	418,000	434,374	405,116	104
Pearl Millet	275,000	251,265	194,232	91
Finger Millet	27,000	31,842	21,700	118
Cereals total	**2,520,000**	**2,540,385**	**2,349,921**	**99**
Sweet Potato	30,000	20,108	10,413	67
Cassava	5,000	76	47	2
Soya bean	77,000	40111	37,658	52
Groundnuts	385,000	223,729	369,772	58
Sugar Beans	55,000	31,577	34,488	57
Round nuts	110,000	73,820	121,211	67
African pea	93,500	92,009	93,732	98
Sunflower	160,000	90,220	87,295	56
Cotton	270,000	122493	145,256	45
Sesame	20,000	39,295	71,990	196
Tobacco	148,500	143058	136,126	96
Sugarcane	80,000	79,828	79,728	100
Tea	4,868	4,382	4,868	90
Coffee	750	692	685	92
Citrus	6,369	6,396	6,369	100
Bananas	8,000	8,216	8,135	103
Apples	300	233	227	78
Total	**3,974,287**	**3,516,628**	**3,557,921**	**88**

HORTICULTURE

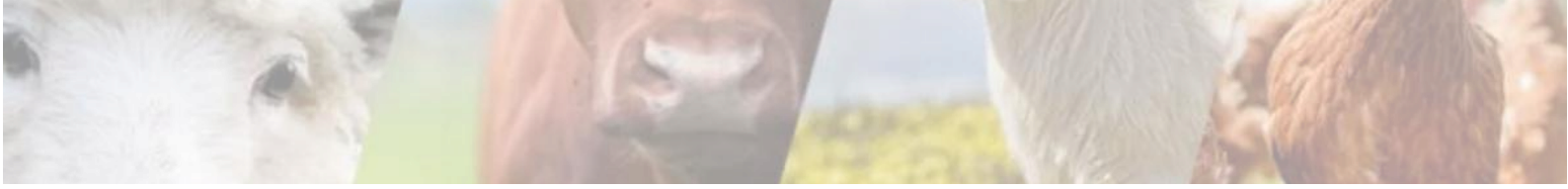
The El Nino-induced drought of 2023/24 resulted in the slow growth of the horticulture sector as it affected water availability for irrigation. The false start of the season negatively affected small-scale farmers who usually grow potatoes using rain-fed systems in December. However, notable increases in area planted to perennials were observed in blueberry, orange and coffee.



The area under blueberry increased by **3%** from **650 h**a in the 2023/2024 season to **670 ha** in the 2024/2025 season; while the area under orange increased by **2%** from **4 631 ha** in the 2023/2024 season to **4724 ha** in 2024/25 season. On the other hand, pecan nuts recorded a **1%** increase in area planted from **913 ha** in the 2023/2024 season to **923 ha** in the current season.

The area under tea decreased by **10 %** from **4 868 ha** in the 2023/2024 season to **4 382 ha** in the 2024/2025 season. The continued low producer prices of tea and high input costs have forced farmers to shift to more rewarding enterprises.

The area under coffee increased by **1%** from **685 ha** in the 2023/24 season to **692 ha** in the 2024/25 season. Table 3 shows the horticulture trends.



HORTICULTURAL CROP AREA (HA)

Table 3: Horticulture Crop Area (Ha)

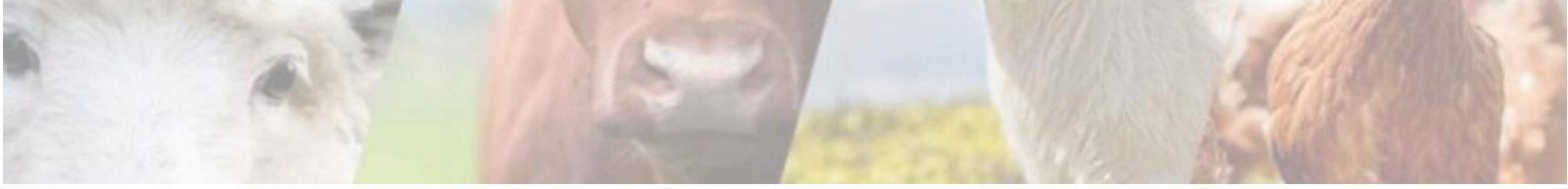
	AREA(HA)				
Perennial crops	Target	2024/25	2023/24	% Change from last year	% achievement to the target
Tea	4900	4382	4868	-10	89
Coffee	700	692	685	1	99
Orange	4700	4724	4631	2	101
Lemon	1700	1772	1738	2	104
Banana	8300	8216	8135	1	99
Apples	250	233	227	2.6	93
Peaches and Nectarines	380	360	356	1.1	95
Macadamia	9100	9905	9807	1	109
Avocado	2800	2745	2718	1	98
Mango	5150	5121	5071	1	99
Sugar cane	80000	79828	79728	0.1	100
Blueberry	690	670	650	3.1	97
Pecan Nut	950	923	913	1.1	97
Totals	**119620**	**119571**	**119527**	**0.04**	100

LIVESTOCK

The government had identified 2,300,000 cattle as being at risk from the worst drought in 43 years. Depleted pastures and diminishing water supply were identified as key challenges, to be compounded by an increasing disease burden from tick-borne diseases, as water points dried up reducing dipping services. The government responded by mass-information dissemination about mitigation, and adaptation, including treating livestock as a business, targeted culling, establishment of ward drought mitigation centres, and provision of silage and hay, among others. Consequently, 44 766 cattle were lost, which is 1.98 % of the population at risk.

The grazing condition (quantity and quality) and water supply have become satisfactory in most regions of the country following widespread rains received in January. The livestock is in a fair to good body condition.

Despite the drought, the national beef cattle herd grew by 0.4% from 5,718,523 in 2023 to 5,741,397 in 2024, as shown in Table 4.



The national dairy herd increased by 8.7% from 60,398 in 2023 to 65,659 in 2024. This resulted in a 15% increase in raw milk production to 114,699,440 litres from 99,823,775 litres in 2023.Reductions were recorded in goats and piggery.

LIVESTOCK POPULATION

Table 4: Livestock Population

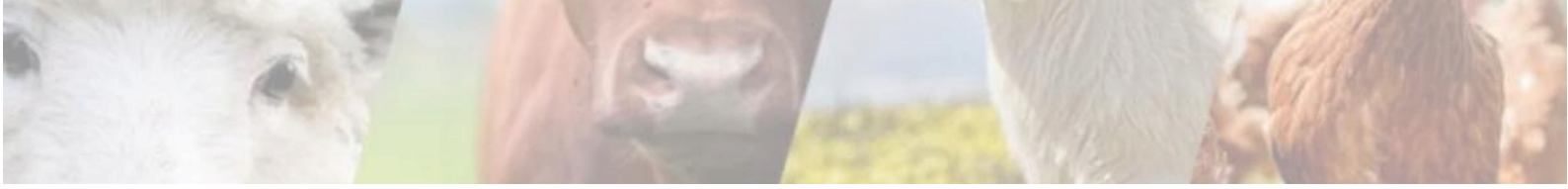
Livestock Class	2024	2023	% Change
Beef Cattle	5,741,397	5,718,523	0.4
Dairy Cattle	65,659	60,398	8.7
Goats	4,883,669	5,087,155	-4
Sheep	746,277	742,810	0.5
Piggery	301,747	302,853	-0.4
Indigenous chicken	18,095,637	Not assessed	N/A

A total of 751,408 four-week-old indigenous chicks were distributed in 2024 under the Presidential Rural Poultry Scheme compared to 808,122 in 2023 bringing the cumulative total of beneficiaries to 200,161.

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Total fish production in 2024 was 31,296 MT with 26,310 MT being from capture fisheries and 4,986 MT from aquaculture. Kapenta harvests decreased by 16 % from 6,200 MT in 2022/23 to 5,200 MT in 2023/24. The reduction in Kapenta production is attributable to overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities. Currently, there are over 450 rigs in Zimbabwe and over 1,000 rigs in Zambia, significantly exceeding the recommended sustainable limits of 275 rigs for Zimbabwe and 225 rigs for Zambia.

Due to the El Niño-induced drought, Nile tilapia production decreased by 32% from 6,704 MT to 4,800 MT. This decrease was largely caused by premature harvesting due to drying ponds, low water quality, and economic difficulties. Other production challenges were high feed costs, and limited access to high-quality fingerlings.



The number of functional aquaculture production units increased from 8,779 to 9,974 and the area under pond culture increased from 175 hectares to 200 hectares.

Table 5: Production from Aquaculture

Fish Species	Target	2024(MT)	2023 (MT)	% Change
Nile tilapia	7,000	4,800	6,704	-32
Red-breasted bream	15	10	12	-17
Mozambique bream	10	7	6	+33
African catfish	300	139	48	+188
Rainbow trout	30	30	36	-16
Total	**7,355**	**4,986**	**6,806**	**-27**

Crocodile production

Crocodile numbers decreased from 443,098 in 2018 to 319,865 in 2023, with a slight recovery to 331,299 in 2024. These trends raise sustainability concerns, emphasizing the need for better breeding programme, habitat management, and strategic actions to ensure long-term viability, biodiversity conservation, and economic stability.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT 8.0.

Rural Development 8.0 - the cocktail of outcome-based and impact-oriented eight Presidential interventions - is designed to improve the livelihoods of rural communities and to increase their economic participation for the attainment of Vision 2030, while leaving no one and no place behind. Progress in the implementation of these interventions is shown in Table 6

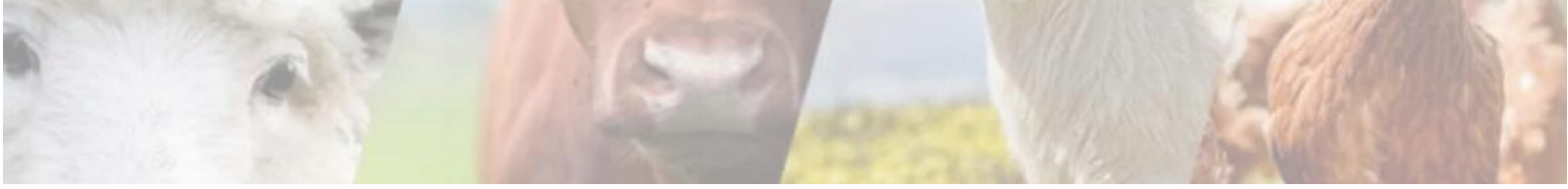
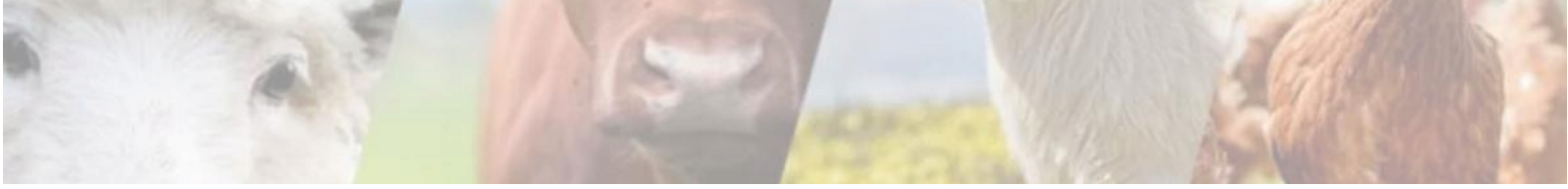


Table 6: RD8.0 Progress

Programme	Activity	Target (Households/Dams/Fishponds /Boreholes/irrigation Schemes)	Achievement 2024	Cumulative Achievement to date
Presidential Climate Proofed Input Scheme		3,500,000 households	3, 500,000	3,500,000 annually
Presidential Cotton Scheme		24 000 MT	9 978 MT	9 978 MT annually
Presidential Community Fisheries	Dam Stocking	100	33	67
	Fishpond establishment	1000	1342	1342
Presidential Blitz Tick Grease Scheme		767,595 Units	148,894 Units	767,595Units
Presidential Goat scheme		640,000	0	6897
Presidential Vision 2030 Accelerator Model	Irrigation schemes business units	460 Irrigation Schemes	76 Business Units Established	236 Business Units Established
Presidential Poultry Scheme		30,000,000 Chicks	751,408 Chicks	2,001,611 Chicks
Presidential Rural Development Programme	Fruit trees	18,000,000	0	50,000
	Boreholes	35,000 Villages	873 Villages	3 556 Villages
	Vegetable Combo	3,500,000	456,119	961,473
	Sweet Potato Vines	1,800,000	1,040,000	1 370 000



PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 It has been observed that no cloud seeding activity was undertaken to enhance rainfall to date, suggesting suboptimal planning and poor coordination, which ought to be remedied by the establishment of an ad hoc Working Party of senior officials from the responsible Ministries. The Working Party should jointly plan, execute, monitor, evaluate and report on cloud seeding activities.

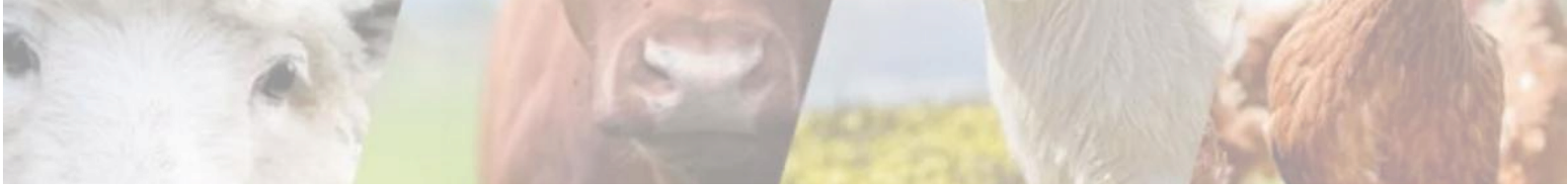
2 Climate-proofing agriculture should be accelerated at household and national levels – through Pfumvudza/Intwasa and accelerated irrigation development.

3 There has been a progressive increase in yields under Pfumvudza/Intwasa. Emphasis should however be made on agro-ecological tailoring of crops, and soil health and fertility management – two critical components of the sustainable intensive conservation farming practice, Pfumvudza/ Intwasa. Additionally, Pfumvudza/Intwasa must be a universal practice and should not only be undertaken in order to receive Presidential inputs or social welfare support.

4 Irrigation development, nationally, is lagging behind plan, with 217 000 functional irrigations against a target of 496 000 ha, necessitating the need to further incentivise the private sector to invest in this important subsector, so the target of 50 000 ha annually can be achieved. Of this 496 00ha, some 350 000 ha will be dedicated to summer cereal production.

5 To show gratitude for the support for social welfare, and to celebrate an expected good season, it is suggested that communities be mobilised so that each beneficiary household of the Presidential Input Scheme delivers 10 kg grain to the Strategic Grain Reserve, with Village Heads delivering 15 kg and Chiefs 20 kg each. This amount takes into account the need for households to replenish their household strategic stocks.

6 All the Rural Development 8.0 schemes are vitally important for the attainment of Vision 2030, and should be adequately resourced. The private sector should be further mobilised and incentivised to invest in Village Business Units, to provide value chain financing, to provide offtake markets, and to provide aggregation, value addition and beneficiation services.



7 The establishment of Ward Drought Mitigation Centres (WDMC) should continue in order to build resilience of communities against future shocks. The target is 1620 WDMCs. The ban on household and village-based cattle sales, in favour of structured, auction-based, ward-centred and calendar-determined cattle sales at WDMCs should be enforced.

8 The Presidential Blitz Tick Grease Scheme, should be re-named Presidential Household Tick Grease Scheme, to more clearly delineate this Scheme from routine acaricide provision for communal dipping. The Scheme should be expanded to include deworming chemicals to improve cattle condition for better conception and herd increase. Additionally, accelerated dip rehabilitation should continue to the targeted 4,009 dip tanks by 2025;

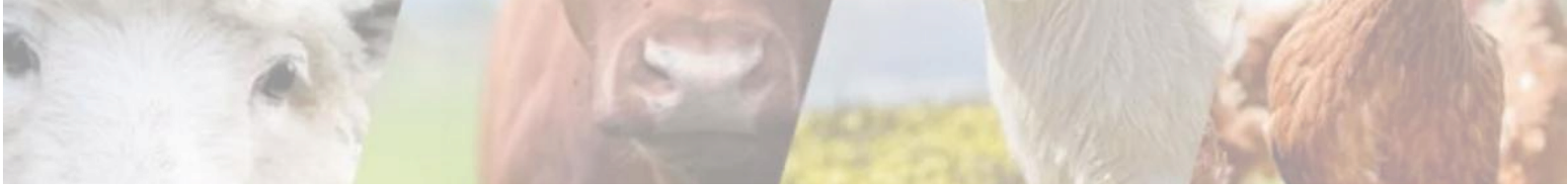
9 The establishment of the five government fingerling production centres – at Heanderson, Chipinge, Makoholi, Matopo and Lupane - should be accelerated to provide easier access to high quality fish genetics proximal to beneficiary communities.

10 Agriculture should be viewed as a business irrespective of scale – from household to corporate level – necessitating further capacitation of farmers (through farmer field schools), AGRITEX Business Advisors (physical and mental motorisation) and value chain actors.

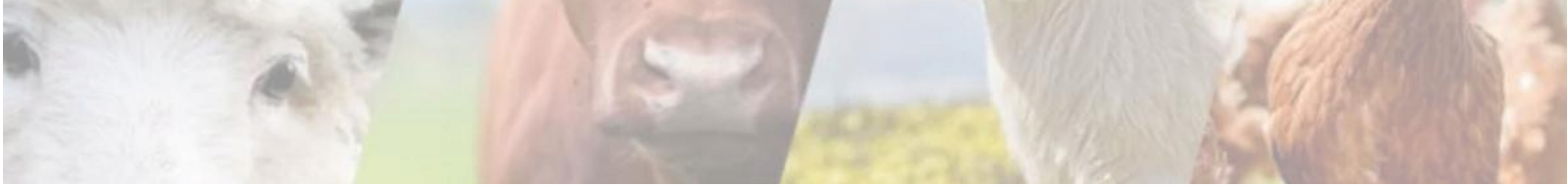
11 Localisation of the production of key farming inputs, such as fertiliser, which constitutes 30 to 40% of the production cost per unit area, has not progressed at the desired pace, making farming more expensive than other jurisdictions. This matter deserves more urgent attention.

12 The development and deployment of digital services to enhance value chain efficiencies – from ideation to production to marketing-, to lower the cost of production and improve viability, profitability and sustainability, and to provide timely up to date policy and management information, should be accelerated.

13 Meanwhile, the use of the Vision 2030 Agricultural Livelihoods Tracker (VALT/Pundutso) must be routine, and must form part of the CLAFA, to assess and measure the impact of RD 8.0 interventions at uplifting rural communities out of poverty towards Vision 2030. Requisite resources should be availed for this purpose.



14 Noting the general good rains for crop production across the country, only needs-driven extension of the social welfare food drought mitigation is recommended beyond 31 March 2025. However, the school feeding programme should continue to the end of the first term.



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Development-enabled and Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)-led, whole of government approach conducts four National, Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessments. These are the:

a) First Round,
b) Second Round and,
c) Post-harvest assessments for crops, livestock and fisheries and
d) Winter wheat assessment.

For the 2024/25 season, field staff carried out the first round of Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment commencing with intensive data collection from between 21 and 31 January 2025. The verification exercise by provincial and district teams was undertaken from 1 to 6 February 2025.

The main objectives of the Crop Livestock and Fisheries Assessment (CLAFA1) were to:

(a) ascertain the area planted to major crops and determine the factors that influenced the planted area;
(b) ascertain the livestock population,
(c) assess the availability, accessibility, and usage of both crop and livestock production inputs;
(d) assess rainfall season quality, including the start of the season, temporal and spatial rainfall distribution, and occurrence of extreme events, affecting crop growth stages and condition;
(e) assess grazing and livestock condition, water supply, and disease prevalence and control;
(f) assess fisheries and aquatic resources production;
(g) assess overall prospects for the season (early warning) and;
(h) assess the implementation progress of the Rural Development 8.0. Schemes.

METHODOLOGY

The Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment was undertaken using a three-pronged multi-stakeholder triangulated approach for data collection, collation and report writing.

The following methods were used:

1. **Traditional survey method,**
2. **Satellite data using remote sensing tools and,**
3. **Secondary data from stakeholders.**

SUMMARY OF THE METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

SURVEY METHOD

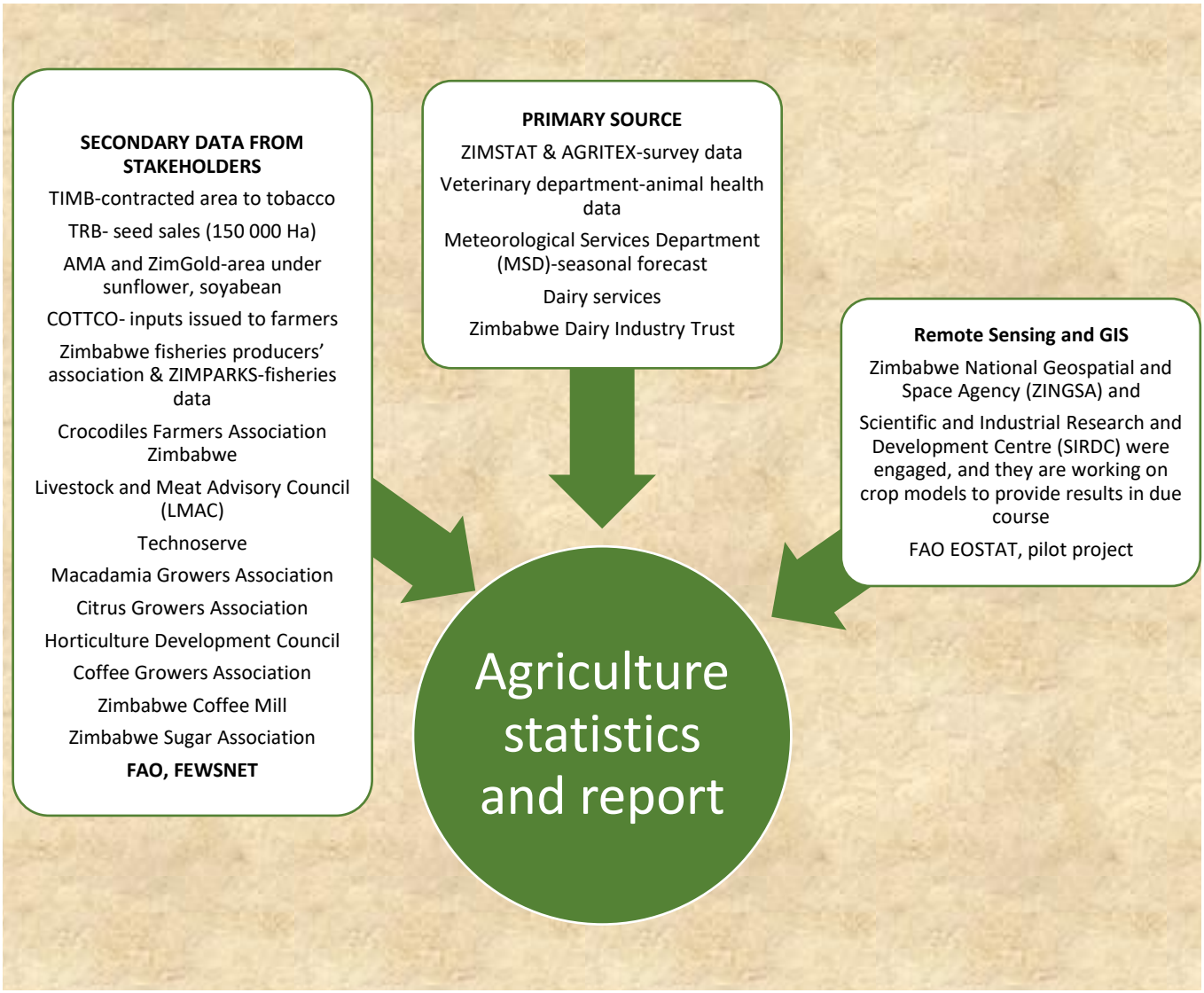


Figure 1: **SURVEY METHOD**

Production data was collected from all agricultural wards (1 562). A census was carried out on all large-scale commercial farmers and irrigation schemes. From A1, A2, small-scale commercial farmers, old resettlement, communal area (CA) and peri-urban farmers, stratified random sampling of 30 farmers per agriculture sub-sector was done in all wards in Zimbabwe. An open data kit system was used to collect data

from farmers. A total of 60 000 farmers were interviewed and presented spatially (Figure 1). Total area planted to crops was derived after extrapolating systematically sampled farmers.

Satellite data using remote sensing tools

Engagements have been made with FAO, ZINGSA and SIRDC. The full results will be integrated with the Second Report, due in April.

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) LOCATION OF INTERVIEWED FARMERS

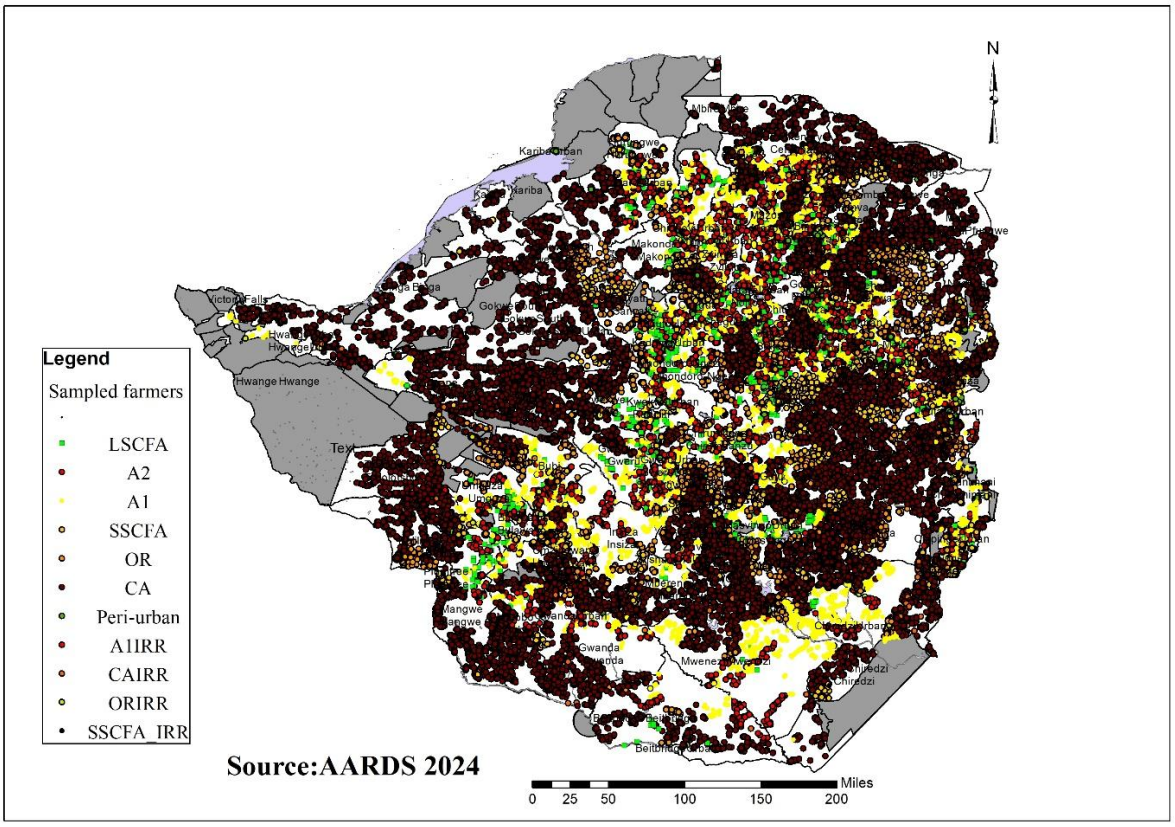


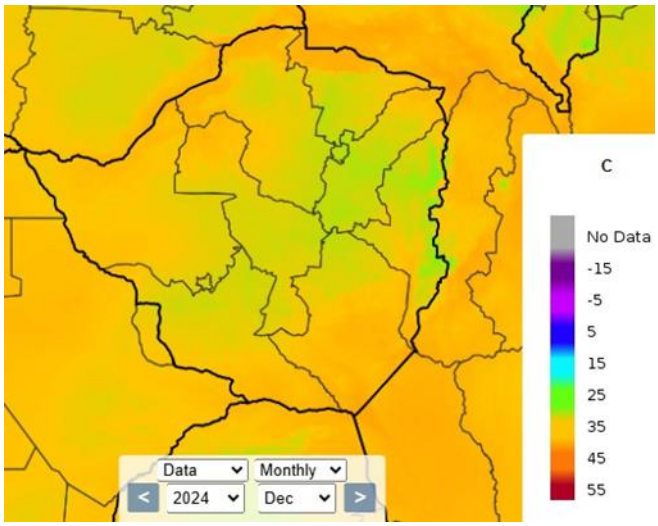
Figure 2: **GPS LOCATION OF INTERVIEWED FARMERS**

1. SEASON QUALITY

3.1 SEASON QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE

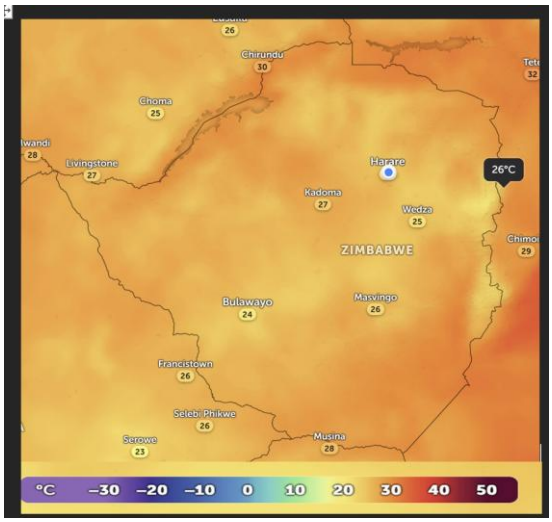
November and the first half of December experienced extreme dry and hot weather conditions. This led to one of the driest starts to a rainy season in many parts of Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South, as well as certain areas in Masvingo, Midlands, Manicaland, and Mashonaland East Provinces.

December 2024



Temperature Distribution in December 2024

February 2025



Expected Temperature in February 2025

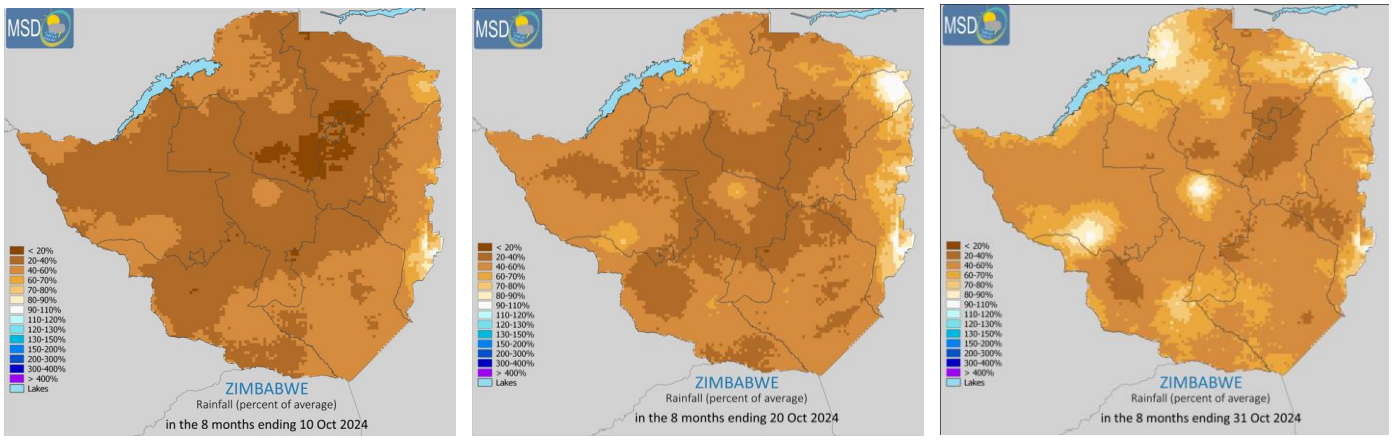
Source: UCSB CHC CHIRTS ERA5

Figure 3: Temperature Across Zimbabwe during December 2024.

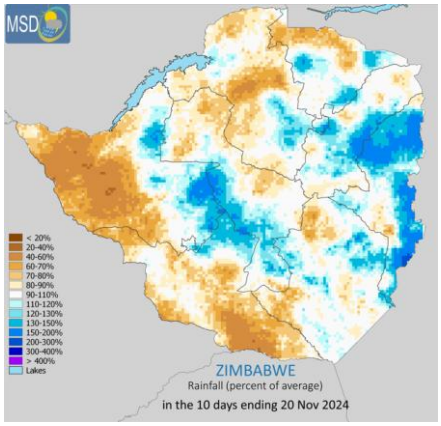
The dry conditions delayed planting across the country. The government had to extend the planting date for tobacco from 31 December, 2024, to January 15, 2025.

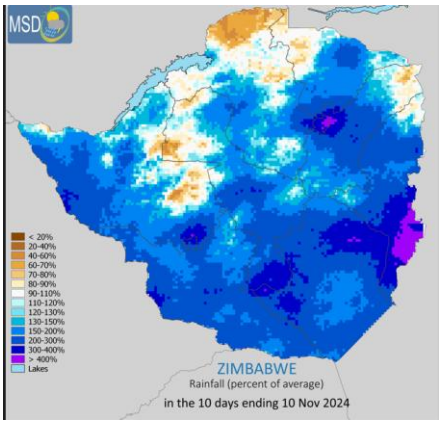
The rainfall pattern from October to December 2024 is shown in Figs **4**

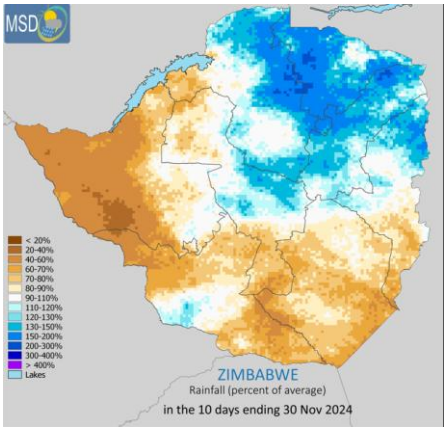
Fig 4:Rainfall received in October 2024



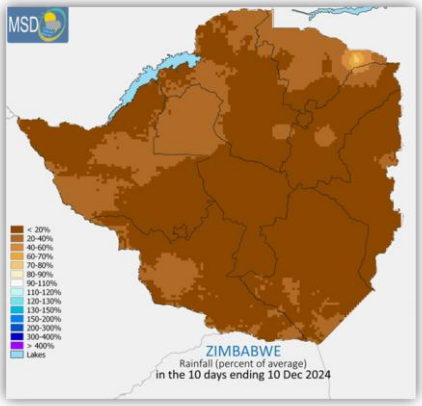
Rainfall received in November 2024

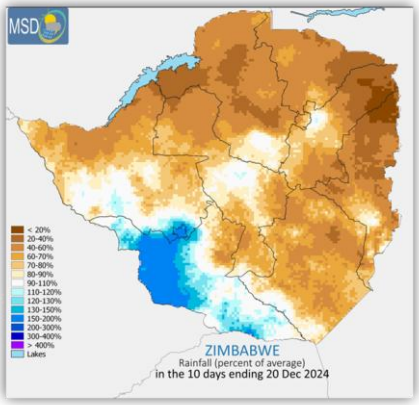


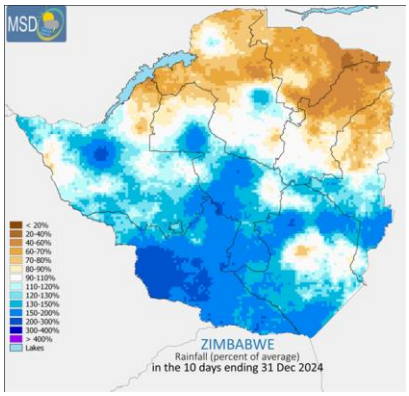




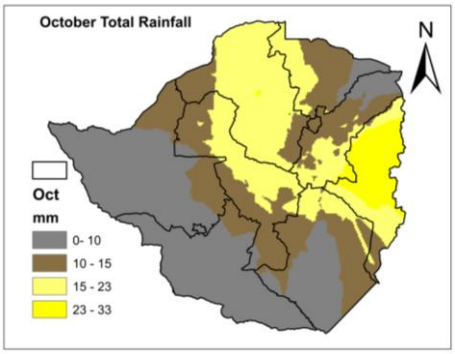
Rainfall received in December 2024



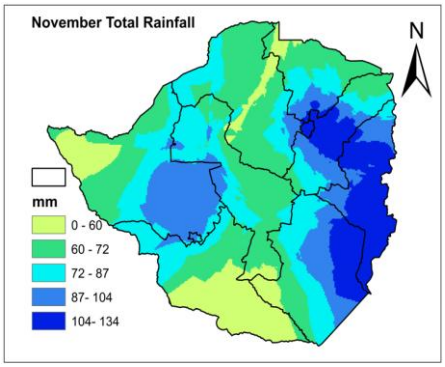




October 2024 Total Rainfall



November 2024 Total Rainfall



December 2024 Total Rainfall

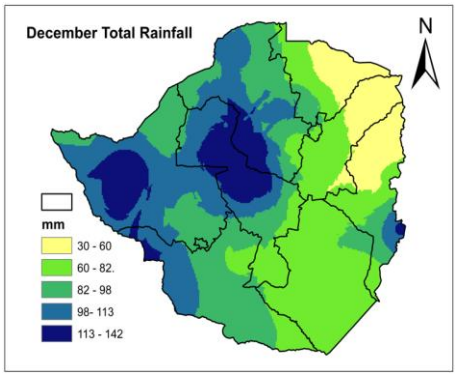


Figure 4: Comparison of the total rainfall received between October 1 and December 10, 2024

The rainfall distribution was uneven across the country, with some regions receiving less rainfall than expected. This had negative implications for agriculture, and water supply.

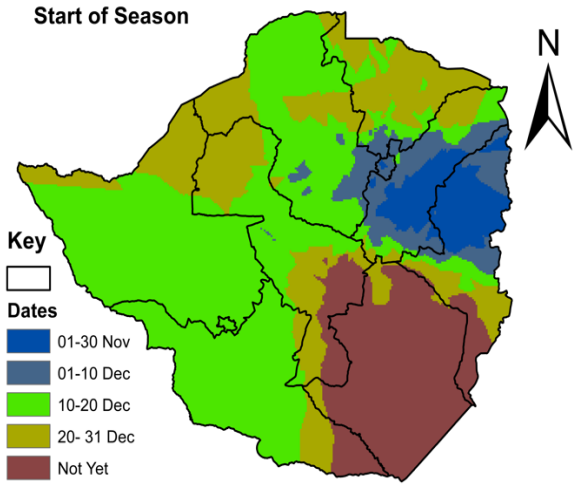


Figure 5: Start of season (SOS) dates for 2024-2025 rainfall season

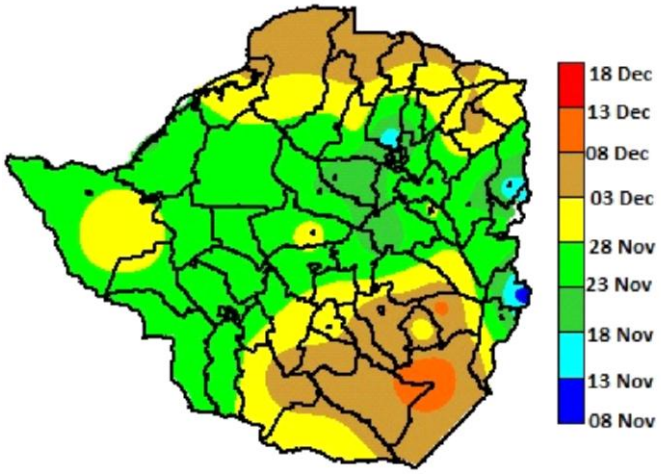


Figure 6: Long-term Start of season dates for the period 1981-2010

CROP CONDITION

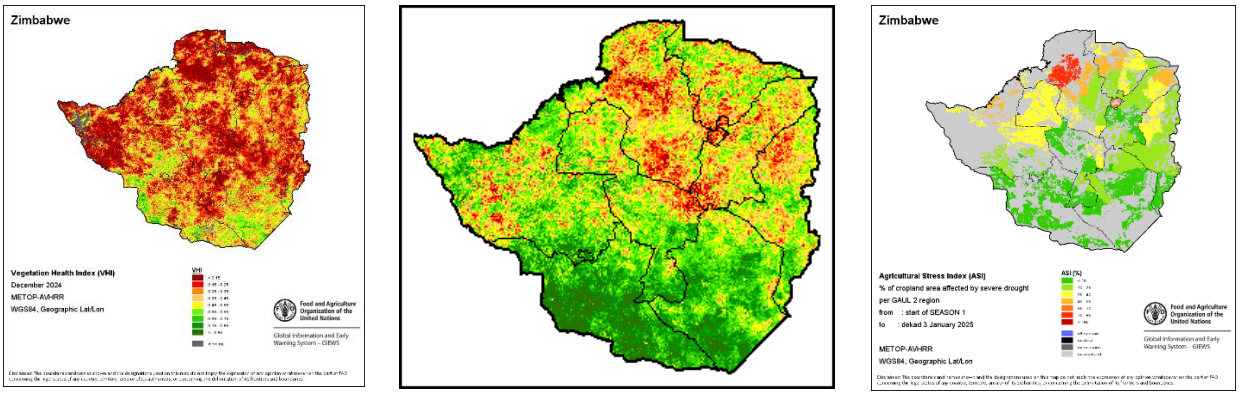


Figure 7: The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

NDVI measures the "greenness" of ground cover and is used as a proxy to indicate the density and health of vegetation. NDVI values range from +1 to -1, with high positive values corresponding to dense and healthy vegetation and low and/or negative NDVI values indicating poor vegetation conditions or sparse vegetative cover. The NDVI anomaly indicates the variation of the current decad to the long-term average, where a positive value (for example, 20 per cent) would signify enhanced vegetation conditions compared to the average, while a negative value (for instance, -40 per cent) would indicate comparatively poor vegetation conditions. source https://www.fao.org/giews

Maize condition

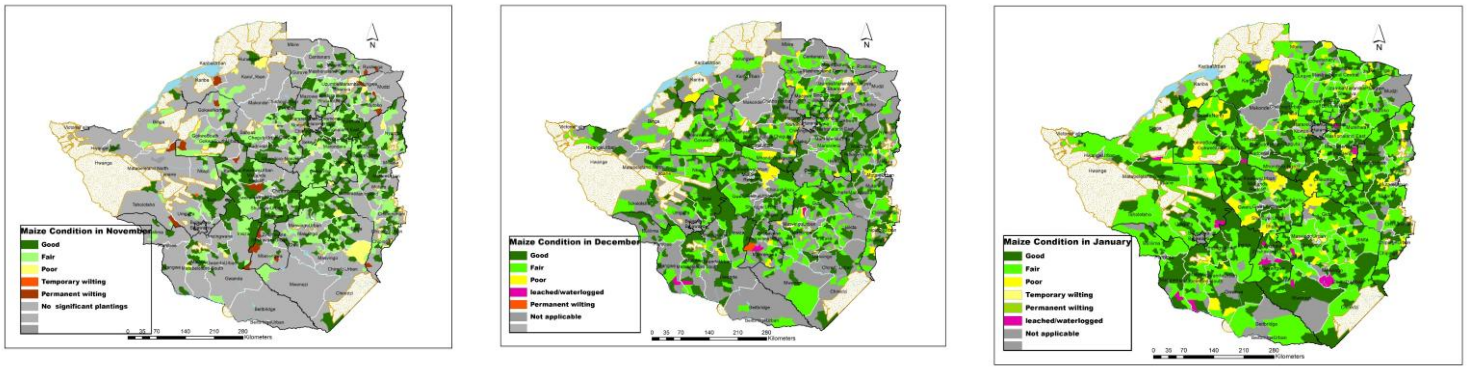


Figure 8: Maize Condition for the period November to January

By the time of assessment, the maize crop condition was generally fair to good. The crop condition under the Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme was fair to good, and farmers anticipate higher yields than those under conventional tillage.

3.2 CROP ESTABLISHMENT

The bulk of maize crop was planted in November (40%), December (41%) and January (19%).

Many farmers took advantage of the January rains to plant pulses such as African pea, bean, sweet potato as well as sunflower.

The bulk of the irrigated tobacco is ready for marketing, while some of the dry land crop is being harvested, cured, and graded. Some farmers were also affected by the late rains and have a late tobacco crop, whose planting was facilitated by government's extension of the planting date to 15 January 2025.

3.3 PESTS AND DISEASES

As part of pest surveillance, sample moth traps were set up throughout the country. African armyworm (AAW) moth catches were high in Matabeleland North (Umguza, Bubi) and Manicaland (Chimanimani), Midlands (Gokwe South) and Mashonaland Central (Mbire, Bindura). African armyworm outbreaks were reported in Masvingo (Chilonga), but were successfully controlled.

Surveillance for African and Fall armyworms is ongoing across the country.

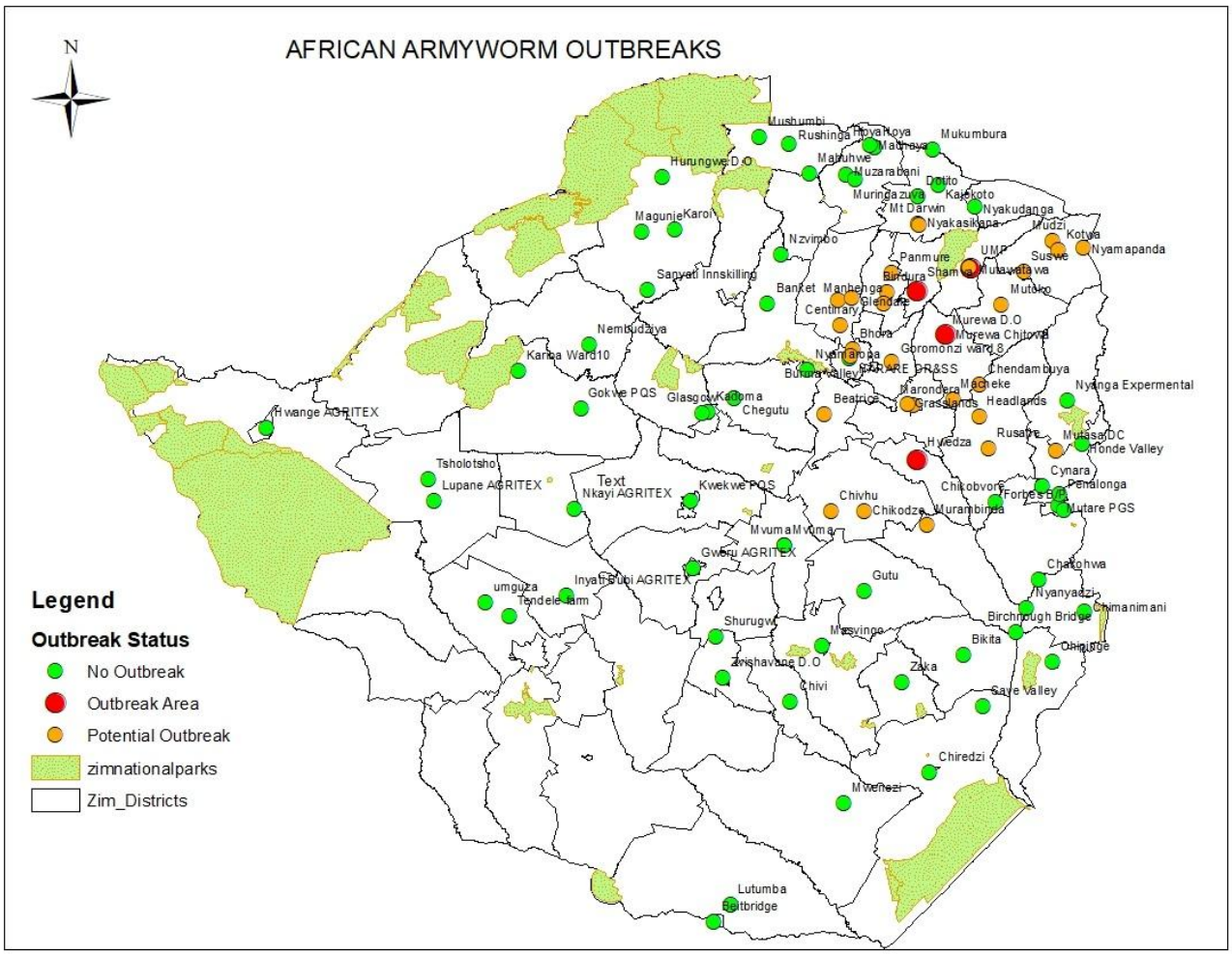


Figure 9: African Armyworm Outbreak status as at 04 February 2025

CEREAL CROPS

FOOD SECURITY CROPS

4.1 MAIZE AREA PLANTED

Figure 10: Maize crop value chain

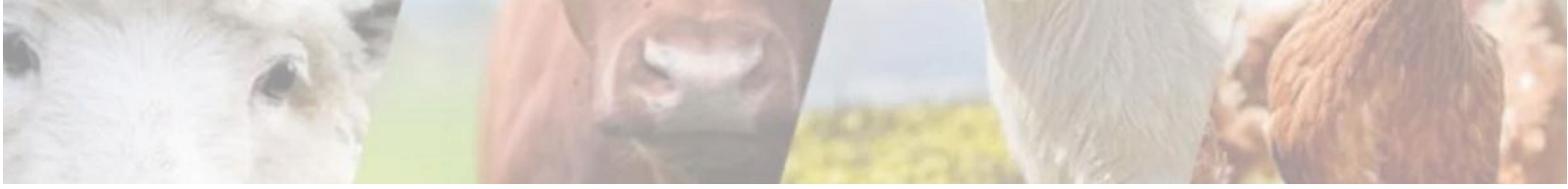
The area planted to maize was 1 822 904 ha compared to **1 728 897 ha** in the 2023/24. Of this area, 101 738 ha were lost to the dry spell in December 2025.

MAIZE AREA PLANTED (HA) BY PROVINCE

Table 7: **Maize Area Planted (Ha) By Province**

Province	**2024/25**	**2023/2024**	**%Change**
Manicaland	274,126	266,901	2.7
Mashonaland Central	220,325	207,966	5.9
Mashonaland East	214,855	225,675	-4.8
Mashonaland West	382,926	290,005	32.0
Masvingo	164,251	172,215	-4.6
Matabeleland North	95,598	95,726	-0.1
Matabeleland South	87,939	89,353	-1.6
Midlands	382,886	381,056	0.5
Total	1,822,906	1,728,897	5.4

The maize area in urban areas across the country is estimated at 26,902ha.



MAIZE AREA BY SECTOR

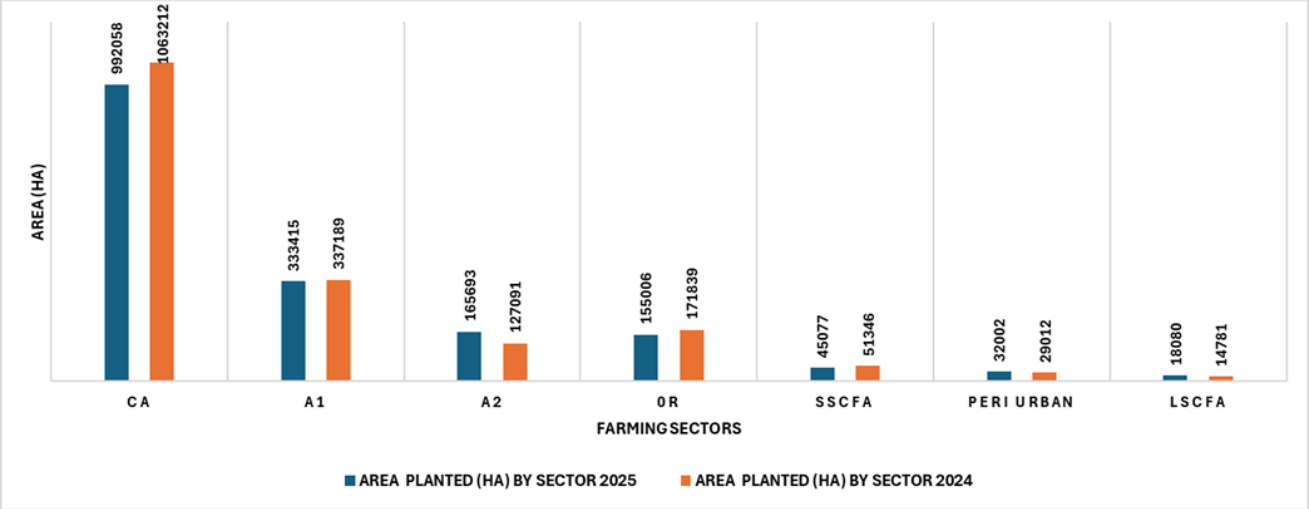


Figure 11: Maize Area by Sector

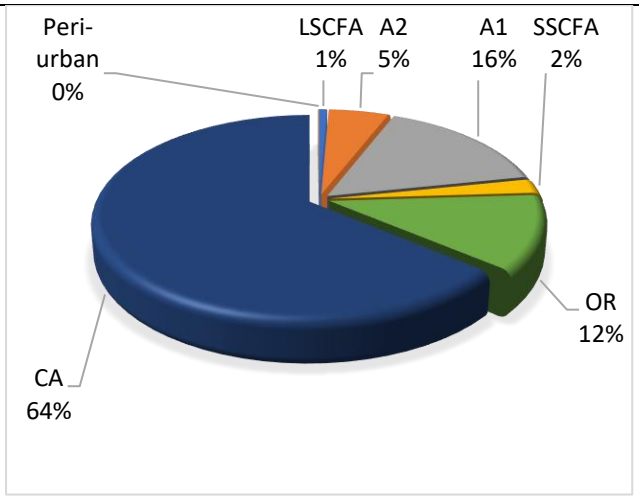
The communal sector still contributes the largest area under maize (60%) whilst LSCF, A2, A1, SSCF and OR contributed 39% of the area under maize collectively.

Figure 12: **Maize Area written Off to Drought**

MAIZE AREA (HA) WRITE OFF

Province	Write-Off Area
Manicaland	9326
Mashonaland Central	8096
Mashonaland East	7445
Mashonaland West	14756
Masvingo	3740
Matabeleland North	7459
Matabeleland South	3278
Midlands	20737
Total	**74836**

Write off area by province



Write off area by sector

MAIZE UNDER PFUMVUDZA

Figure 13: Pfumvudza

The maize area under Pfumvudza is 504,136 ha, an increase of 13% compared to last year's 447,415 ha.

Table 8**: Maize Area under Pfumvudza y Province**

Province	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**%Change**
Manicaland	72,152	91,148	-21
Mashonaland Central	109,040	72,239	51
Mashonaland East	118,721	97,583	22
Mashonaland West	107,842	87,245	24
Masvingo	27,120	35,442	-23
Matabeleland North	15,804	11,549	37
Matabeleland South	6,640	8,649	-23
Midlands	46,817	43,561	7
Total	504,136	447, 416	13

4.2. SORGHUM

The area under sorghum increased by 7% in the 2024-25 season to 434,374 ha from 405,116 ha in the 2023-24 season. The notable increases were in Masvingo, Mashonaland West, Matabeleland South, and Midlands provinces. The increase in area planted to sorghum is attributed to improved crop agro-ecological matching strategies, particularly in agro-ecological Regions 3 to 5.

SORGHUM AREA PLANTED (HA) BY PROVINCE

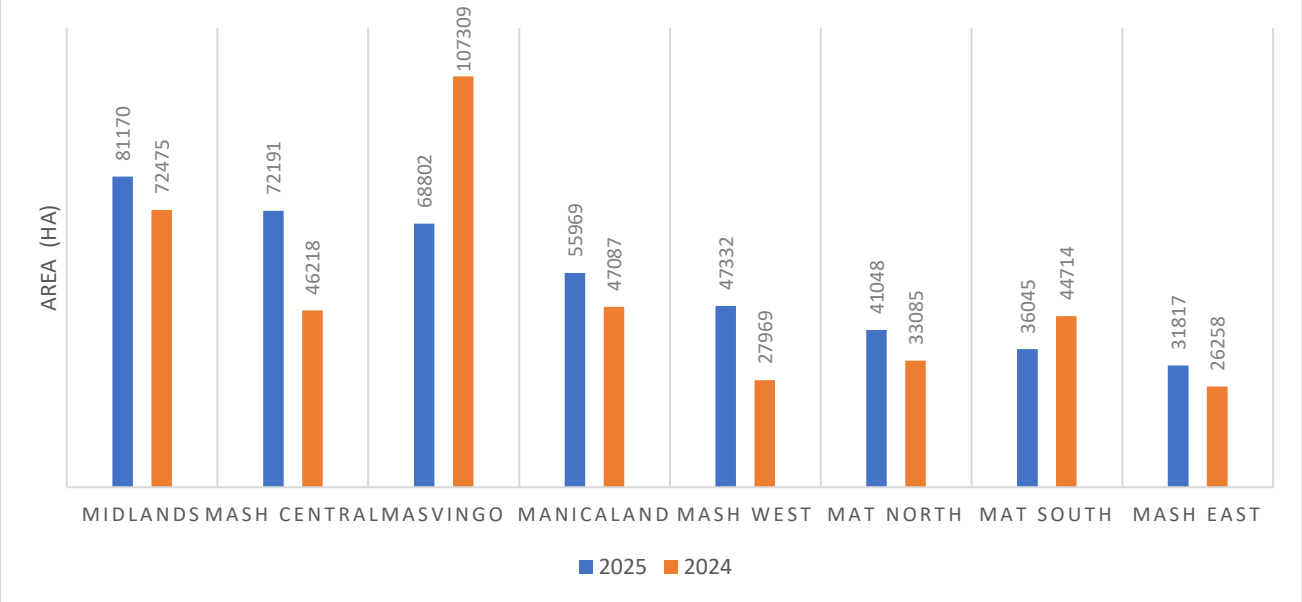
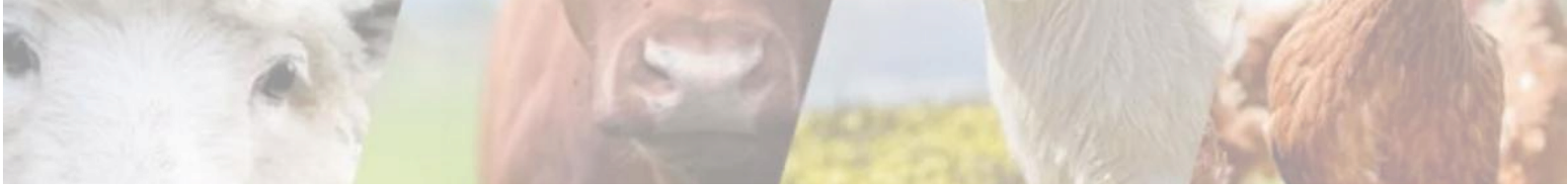


Figure 13: **SORGHUM AREA PLANTED (HA) sBY PROVINCE**

**By time of assessment (21-31January 2025), farmers were still planting*



SORGHUM AREA TO PFUMVUDZA

The area under Pfumvudza sorghum reduced by 10% in the 2024-25 season to 212,446 ha from 237,053 ha in the 2023-24 season.

Table 9: Sorghum Area Planted Under Pfumvudza (Ha) by Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24
Manicaland	14,843	40,241
Mashonaland Central	16,417	37,313
Mashonaland East	15,664	38,568
Mashonaland West	25,469	32,482
Masvingo	34,081	29,481
Matabeleland North	35,714	12,980
Matabeleland South	41,417	11,492
Midlands	23,574	34,496
Total	**212,446**	**237,053**

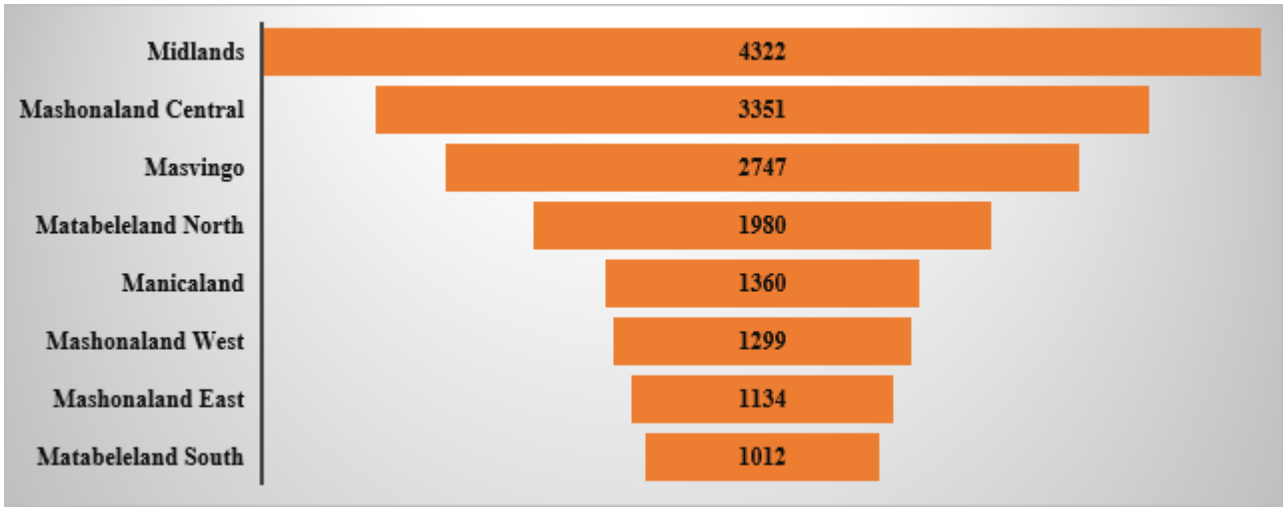
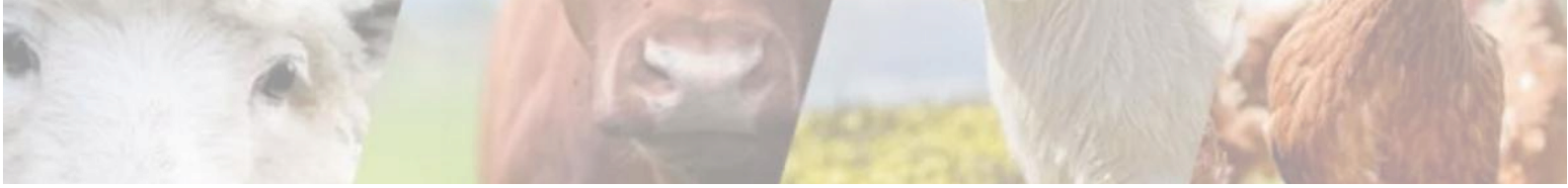


Figure 14: Sorghum Area Write-Off (Ha) By Province



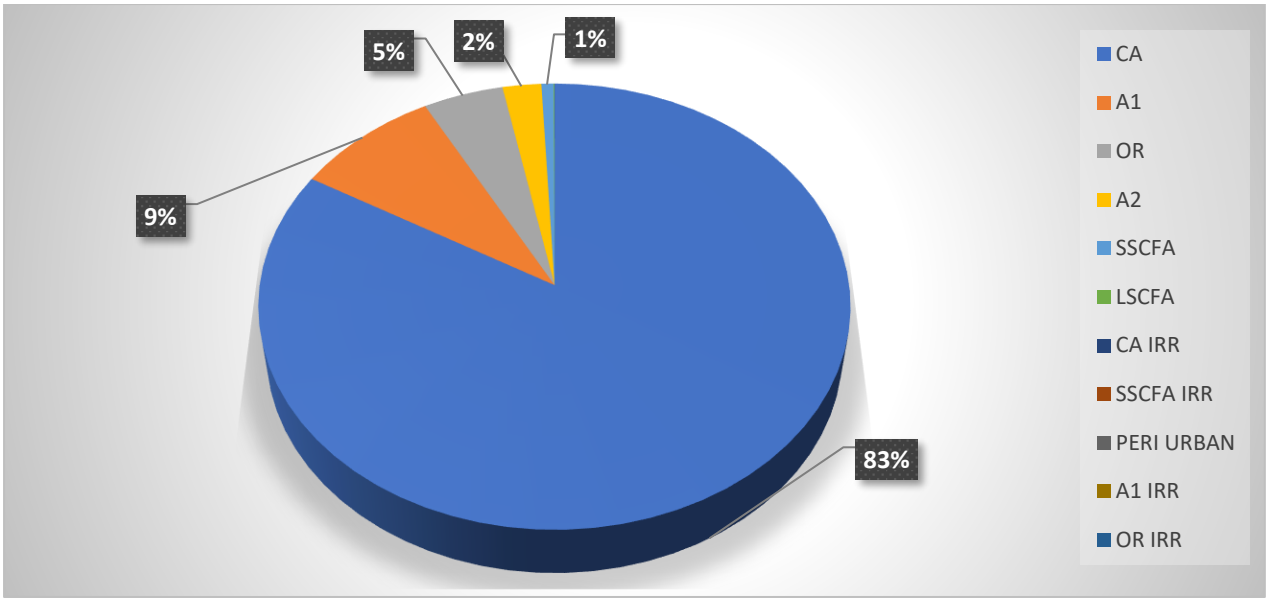


Figure 15: Sorghum Area Write-Off (Ha) By Sector

The prolonged dry spell in December was the cause of the write off of the crop.

4.3 PEARL MILLET



PEARL MILLET AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

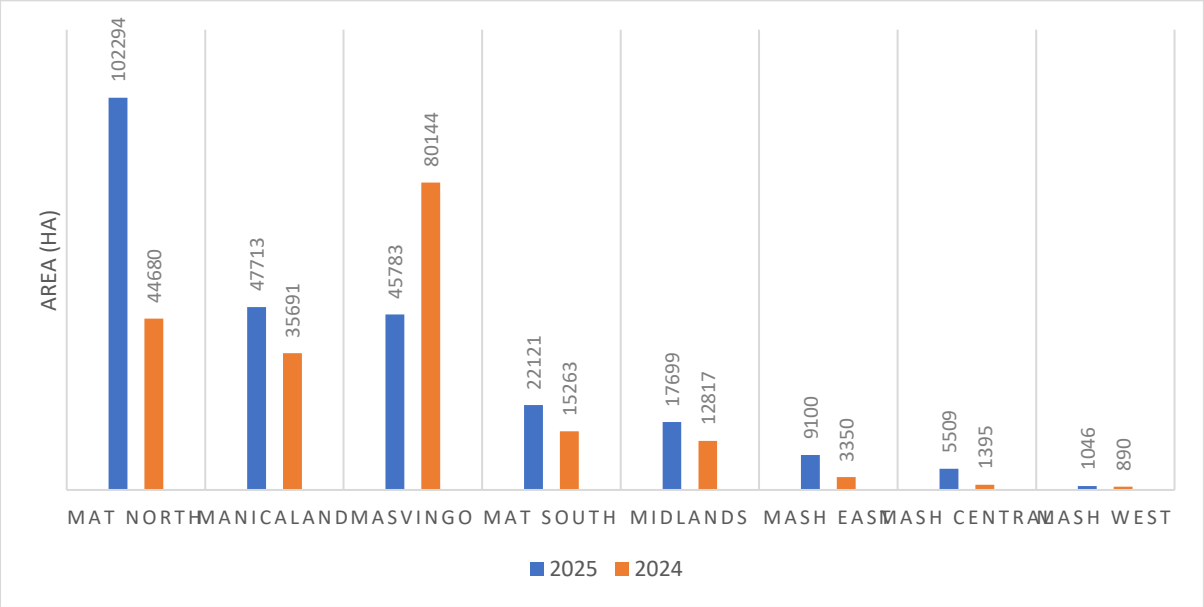


Figure 16: Pearl Millet Area (Ha) By Province

*By the time of assessment (end of January), farmers were still planting some pearl millet, especially the colloquially termed variety "Mukadzi Usainda", which tends to reach maturity fast.

Pearl millet area planted increased by 29% from 194,230 ha in 2023/24 to 251,265ha in 2024/25 season with notable increases in Matabeleland North and Manicaland provinces. Of the 9995ha of pearl millet written off, some 87% was from the communal sector while 10% was from the A1 sector.

FINGER MILLET

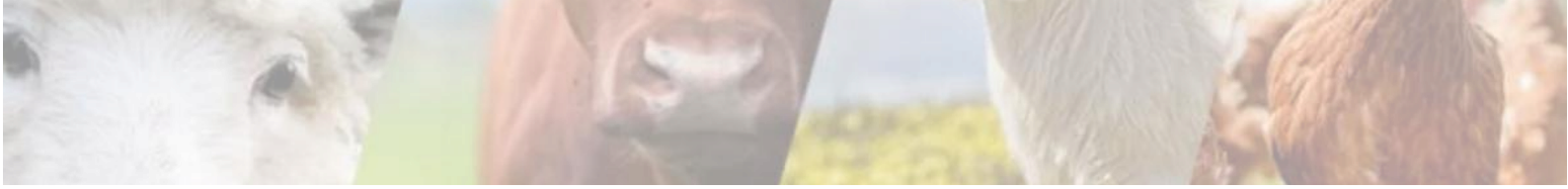


FINGER MILLET AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Table 10: Finger Millet Area (Ha) By Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	6087	5388	13
Mashonaland Central	993	348	185
Mashonaland East	6607	3595	84
Mashonaland West	490	632	-22
Masvingo	11252	8061	40
Matabeleland North	193	53	264
Matabeleland South	494	302	64
Midlands	5726	3321	72
Total	**31842**	**21700**	**47**

On average, a 47% increase in area planted to finger millet was recorded in all provinces, except of Mashonaland West which recorded a 22 % decrease from the previous season.



FINGER MILLET BY PROVINCE

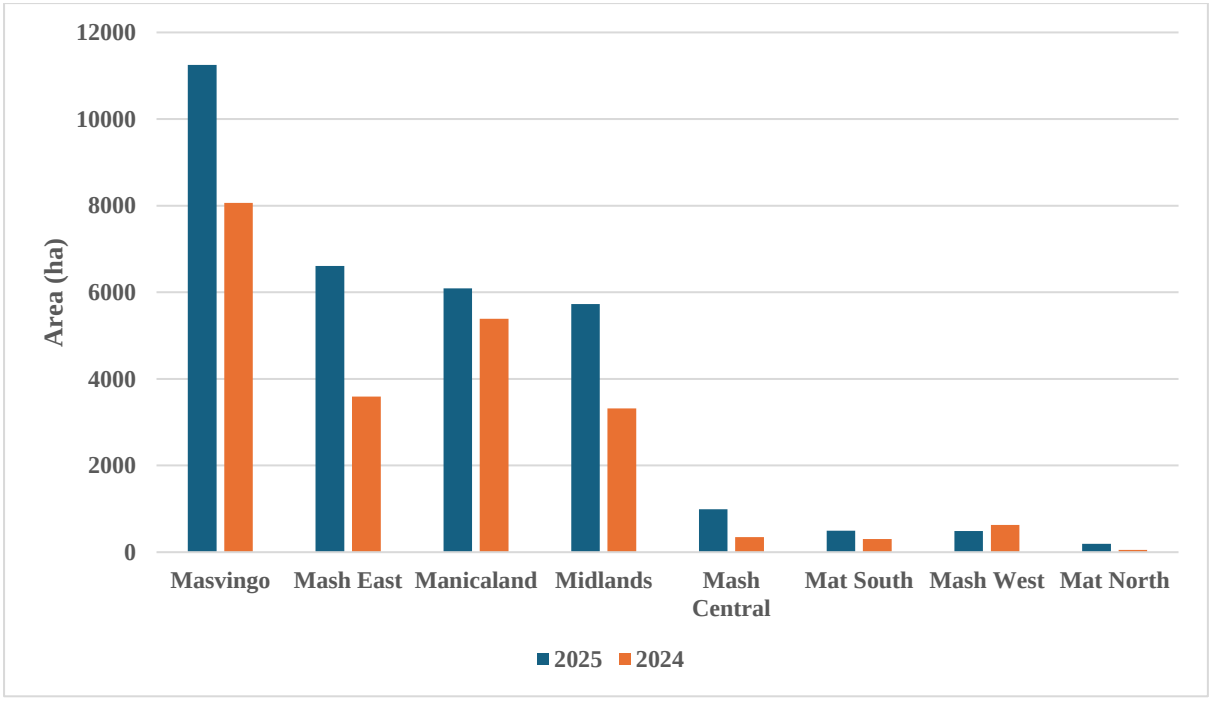


Figure 17: Finger Millet by Province

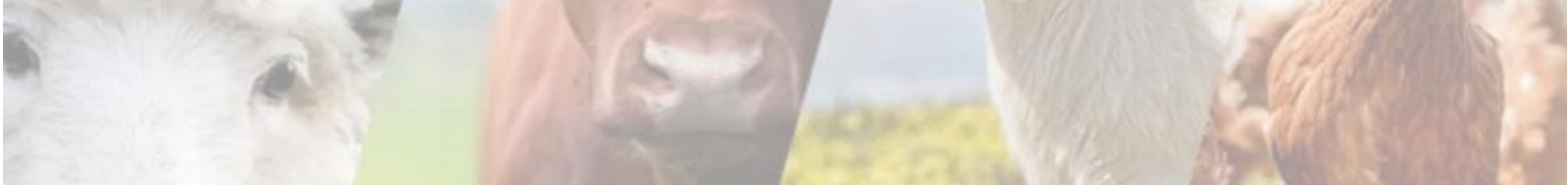
4.6 HORTICULTURE



PERRENIAL CROPS AREA

Table 71: Perennial Crops Area

Perennial crops	AREA(HA)				
	Target	2024/25	2023/24	% Change from last year	% achievement of the target
Tea	4900	4382	4868	-10	89
Coffee	700	692	685	1	99
Orange	4700	4724	4631	2	101
Lemon	1700	1772	1738	2	104
Banana	8300	8216	8135	1	99
Apples	250	233	227	2.6	93
Peaches and Nectarines	380	360	356	1.1	95
Macadamia	9100	9905	9807	1	109
Avocado	2800	2745	2718	1	98
Mango	5150	5121	5071	1	99
Sugar cane	80000	79828	79728	0.1	100
Blueberry	690	670	650	3.1	97
Pecan Nut	950	923	913	1.1	97
Totals	**119620**	**119571**	**119527**	**0.04**	100



Irish Potato

A cumulative **9,839 ha** was planted in 2024 compared to 6,243 in 2023, reflecting a 58% increase.

The country has attained self–sufficiency in table potato requirements. However, seed potato production is still insufficient to meet local requirements. Increasingly, potato contracting is gaining momentum, as chip manufacturers should secure at least 40% of their annual raw material requirements from value chain financing.

Table 128: Irish Potato Production in 2024

Province	Planted (Ha) winter	Planted (Ha) summer	Cumulative Area planted (Ha)
Mashonaland West	455	137	592
Mashonaland Central	1,654	642	2 ,296
Mashonaland East	1,051	279	1,330
Manicaland	916	105	1, 021
Midlands	460	119	579
Masvingo	2.9	1.8	4.7
Matabeleland North	55	38	93
Matabeleland South	68	68	136
Total	**4, 659**	**1 ,388**	**6, 047**

Table13: Potato Area Planted (Ha) By Province

Province	Cumulative Area planted (Ha) (2024)	Cumulative Area planted (Ha) (2023)	%Change
Mashonaland Central	2,296	713	222
Mashonaland East	1,330	907	47
Manicaland	1,021	2521	-59
Mashonaland West	592	1,795	-67
Midlands	579	33	165
Masvingo	4.7	33	-85
Matabeleland North	93	54	72
Matabeleland South	136	199	-32
Total	**6,047**	**6,255**	**-3**

The estimated area under Irish potatoes can produce 124 860 to 249 720 MT.

Cumulative Irish potato area in 2024.

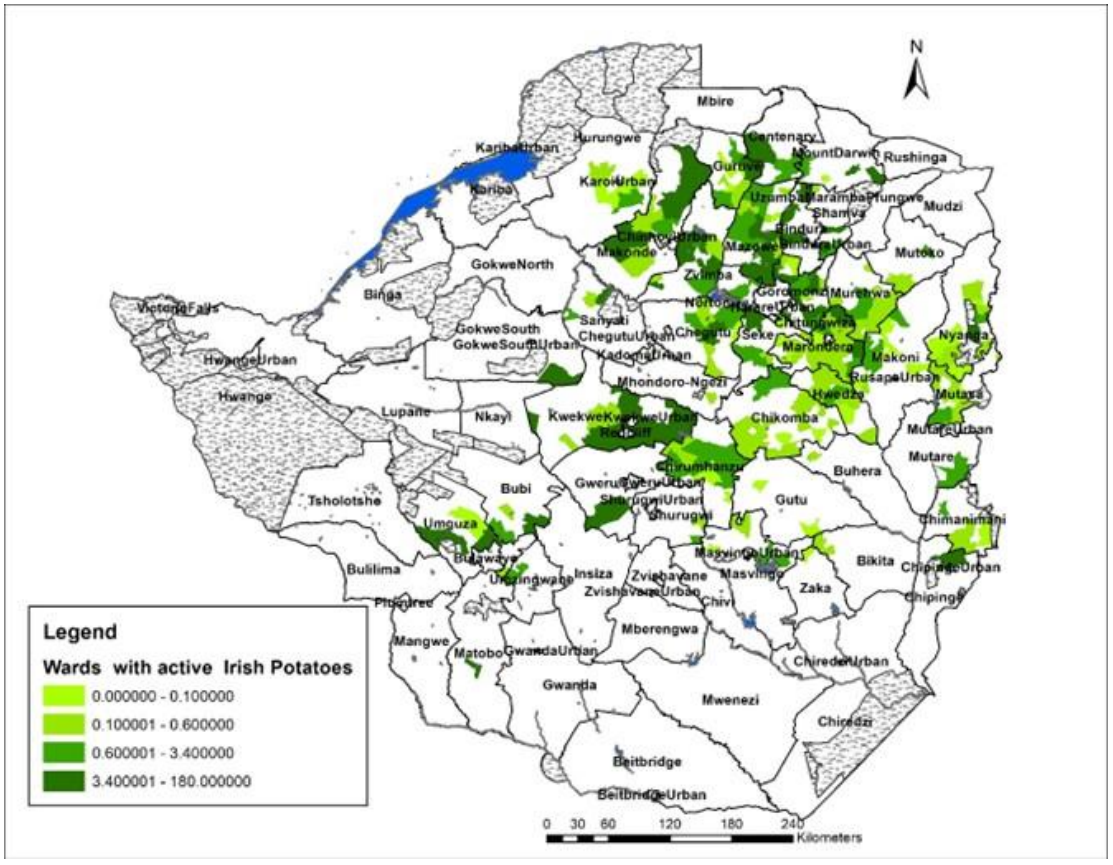


Figure 18: Active Irish Potatoes by time of survey (January 21-27, 2024)

OIL SEED CROPS

OIL SEED CROPS

5.1 COTTON

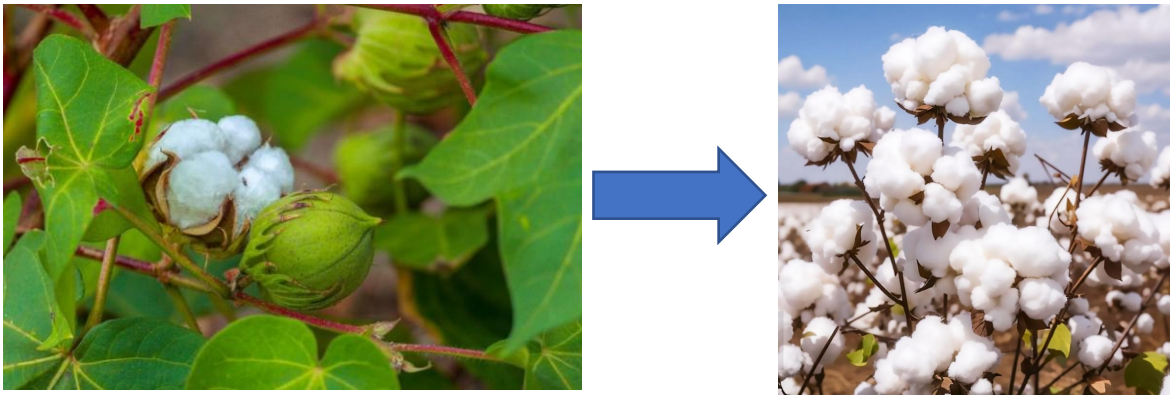
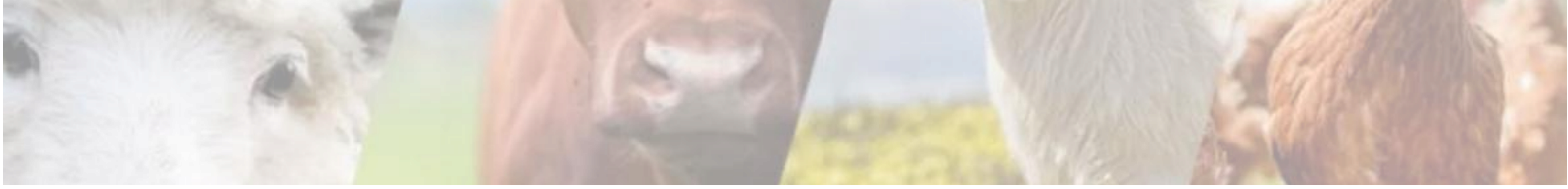


Table 9: Cotton Area Planted (Ha) By Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	20,020	11411	75%
Mashonaland Central	39,452	26211	51%
Mashonaland East	2,927	4581	-36%
Mashonaland West	11,707	18709	-37%
Masvingo	8,270	24894	-67%
Matabeleland North	1,927	2488	-23%
Matabeleland South	65	240	-73%
Midlands	38125	66404	-43%
Total	**122,493**	**154938**	**-21%**



COTTON AREA PLANTED (HA) BY PROVINCE

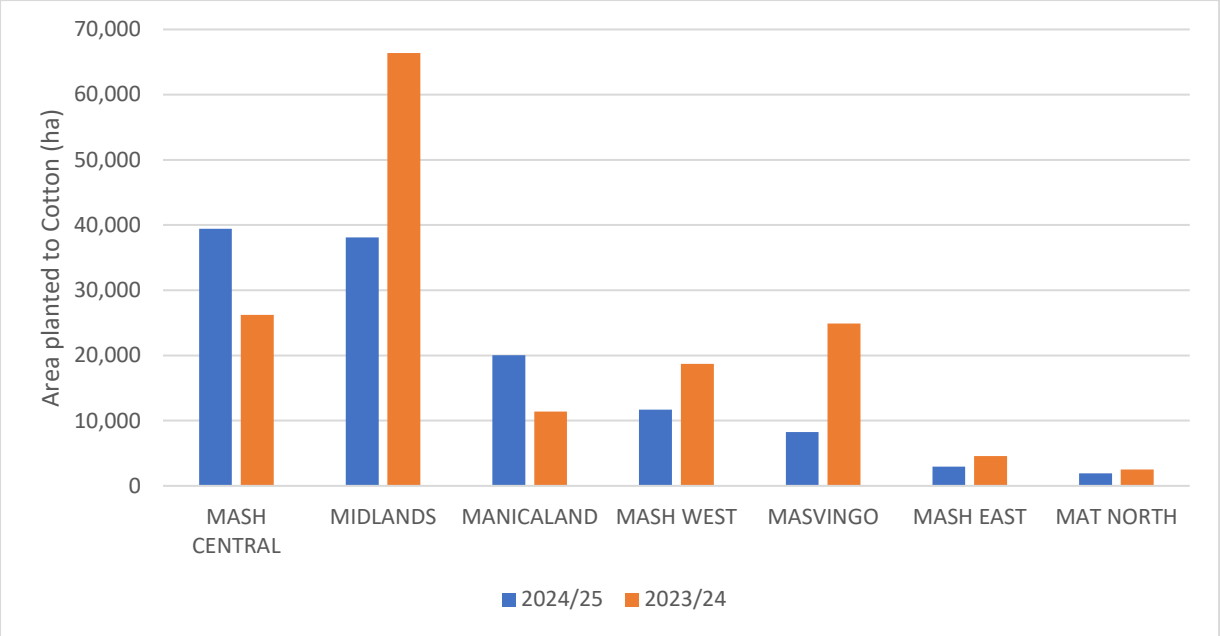
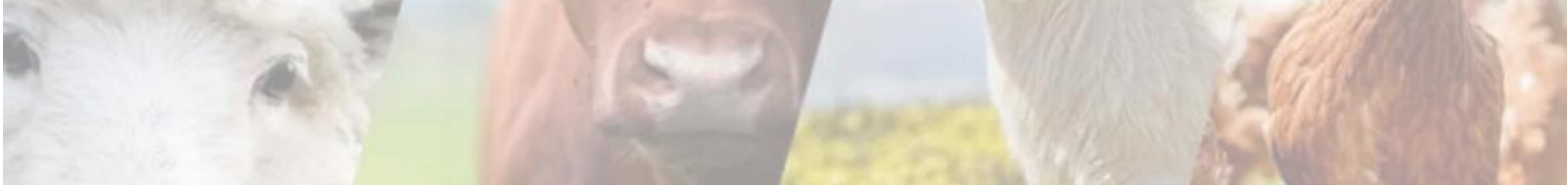


Figure 19: Cotton Area Planted (Ha) By Province

5.2 SOYABEAN

The area under soyabean increased by 7% to 40,111 compared to 37,658 ha in 2023/24 season.

Figure 20: Soyabean value chain



SOYABEAN AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Table 10: Soyabean Area (Ha) By Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	1,097	194	465%
Mashonaland Central	14,876	15,304	-3%
Mashonaland East	4,905	1,445	239%
Mashonaland West	17,618	15,985	10%
Masvingo	16	44	-64%
Matabeleland North	180	152	18%
Matabeleland South	49	-	-
Midlands	1,370	4,534	-70%
Total	**40,111**	**37,658**	**7%**

SOYABEAN AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

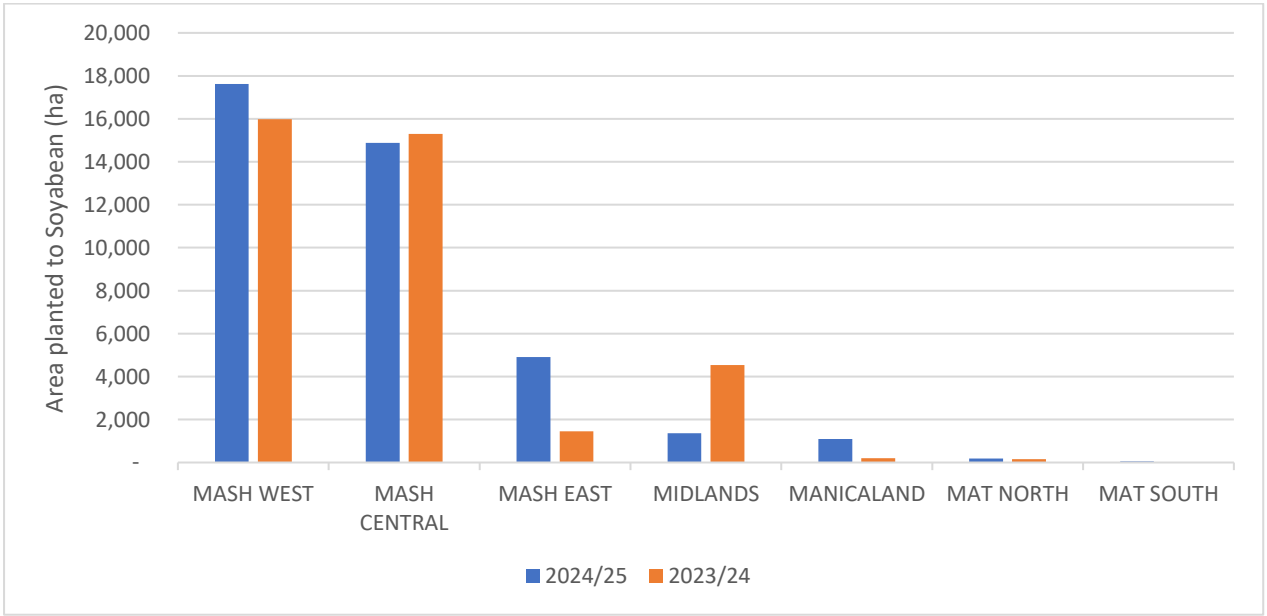


Figure 20: Soyabean Area (Ha) By Province

5.3 GROUNDNUTS

The area under groundnuts suffered the highest reduction in several years due to the dry spell experienced during the expected peak groundnut planting period.



Figure 21: Groundnut crop value chain

GROUNDNUT AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Table 11: Ground Nut Area (Ha) Planted By Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	43203	54173	-20
Mashonaland Central	23784	73249	-68
Mashonaland East	35821	62707	-43
Mashonaland West	15301	27910	-45
Masvingo	38671	65745	-41
Matabeleland North	3430	7761	-56
Matabeleland South	11331	21306	-47
Midlands	52188	78226	-33
Total	**223729**	**391077**	**-43**

GROUND NUT AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

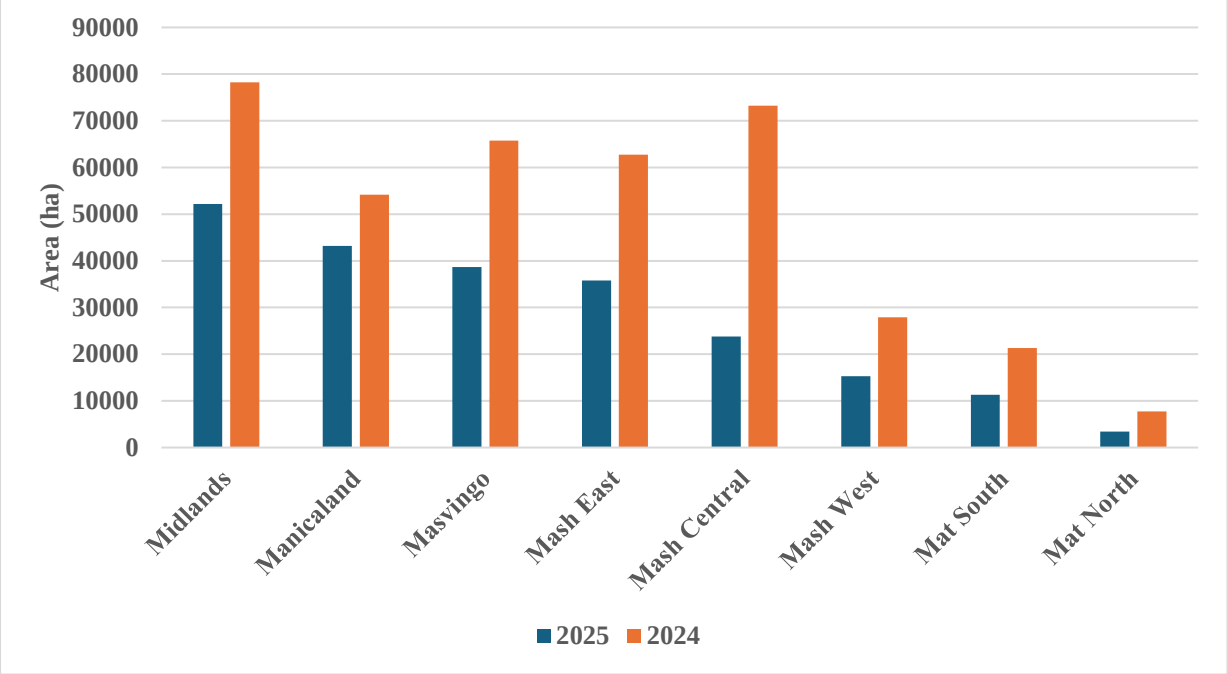


Figure 22: Ground Nut Area (Ha) Planted by Province

5.4. SUNFLOWER

The area under sunflower increased marginally by 3%, compared to last year. By the time of the assessment, farmers were still planting sunflower.

Figure 23: Sunflower value addition

SUNFLOWER AREA (HA) BY PROVINCE

Table16: Sunflower Area (Ha) By Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	10923	13625	-20%
Mashonaland Central	11573	20047	-42%
Mashonaland East	12693	9489	34%
Mashonaland West	11376	9073	25%
Masvingo	3226	6695	-52%
Matabeleland North	2877	1838	57%
Matabeleland South	4278	1747	145%
Midlands	33274	24781	34%
Total	**90220**	**87295**	**3%**

SUNFLOWER AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

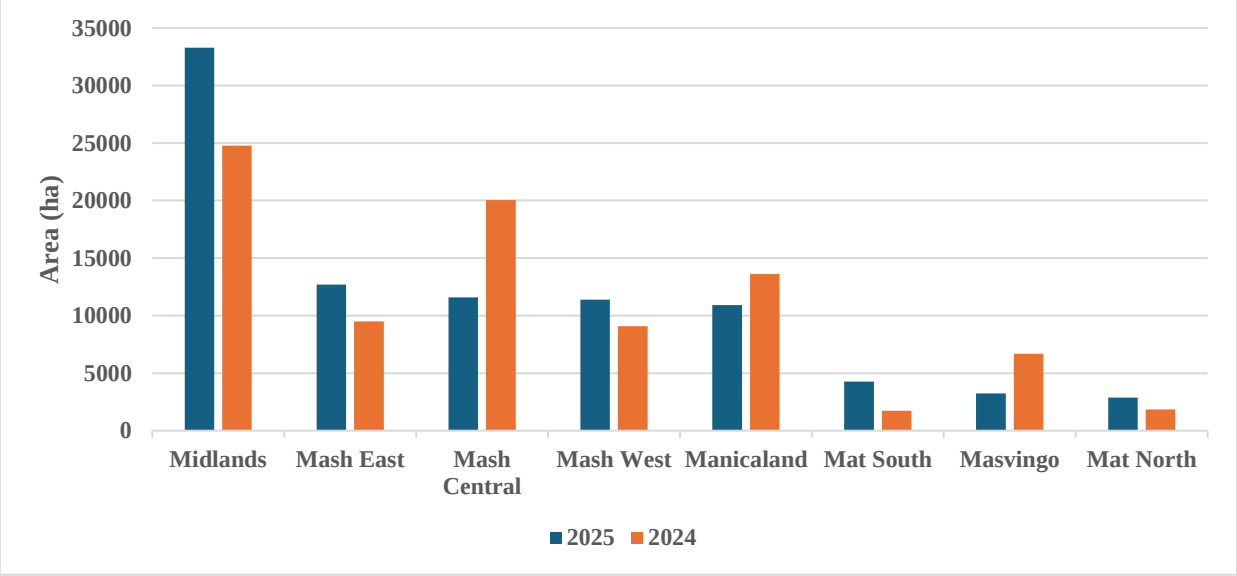


Figure 24: Sunflower Area (Ha) Planted by Province

5.5. SESAME

The area under sesame was reduced by 45 %.

SESAME AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Figure 25: Sesame crop value addition

Table 17: Sesame Area (Ha) Planted by Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	9176	9858	-7
Mashonaland Central	18138	30390	-40
Mashonaland East	111	0	0
Mashonaland West	14	0	0
Masvingo	10928	30224	-64
Matabeleland North	20	5	300
Matabeleland South	92	352	-74
Midlands	816	1161	-30
Total	**39295**	**71990**	**-45**

OTHER CROPS

OTHER CROPS

6.1 TOBACCO

The area under tobacco increased by 5% from 136,126 ha to 143,058 ha in the 2024/25 season.

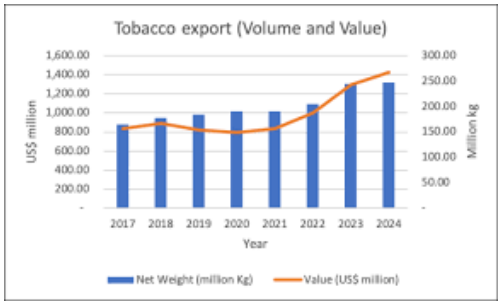



Figure 27: Tobacco crop

TOBACCO AREA PLANTED (HA) BY PROVINCE

Table 18: Tobacco Area Planted (Ha) By Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	25,625	19,795	29%
Mashonaland Central	41,051	41,492	-1%
Mashonaland East	23,321	23,864	-2%
Mashonaland West	52,626	50,652	4%
Masvingo	43	17	153%
Matabeleland North	12	5	140%
Matabeleland South	21	5	320%
Midlands	359	296	21%
Total	143,058	136,126	5%

TOBACCO AREA PLANTED (HA) BY PROVINCE

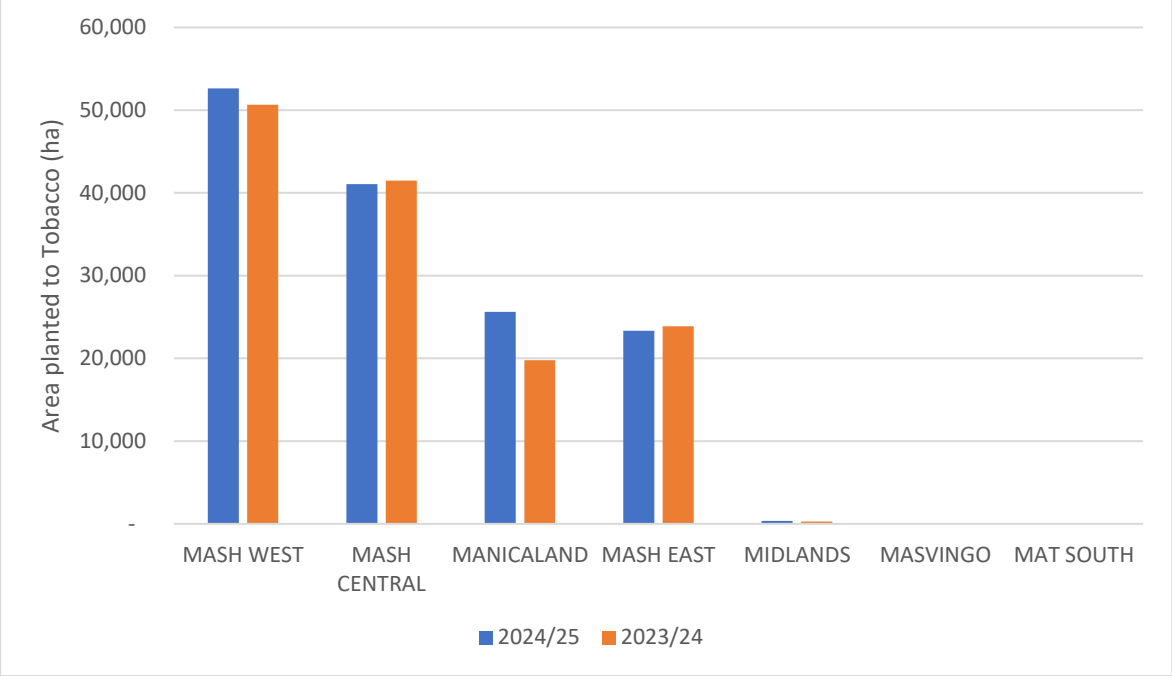


Figure 28: Tobacco Area Planted (Ha) By Province

6.2 PAPRIKA

The area under paprika increased by 22% from 1351ha to 1653 ha in the 20224/25 season

Figure 29: Paprika crop and value addition

Table 19: Paprika (Ha) Planted by Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	432	354	22%
Mashonaland Central	23	256	-91%
Mashonaland East	76	194	-61%
Mashonaland West	696	360	93%
Masvingo	56	36	56%
Matabeleland North	0	0	
Matabeleland South	0	0	
Midlands	370	151	145%
Total	1653	1351	22%

PAPRIKA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

PAPRIKA (HA) PLANTED BY THE PROVINCE

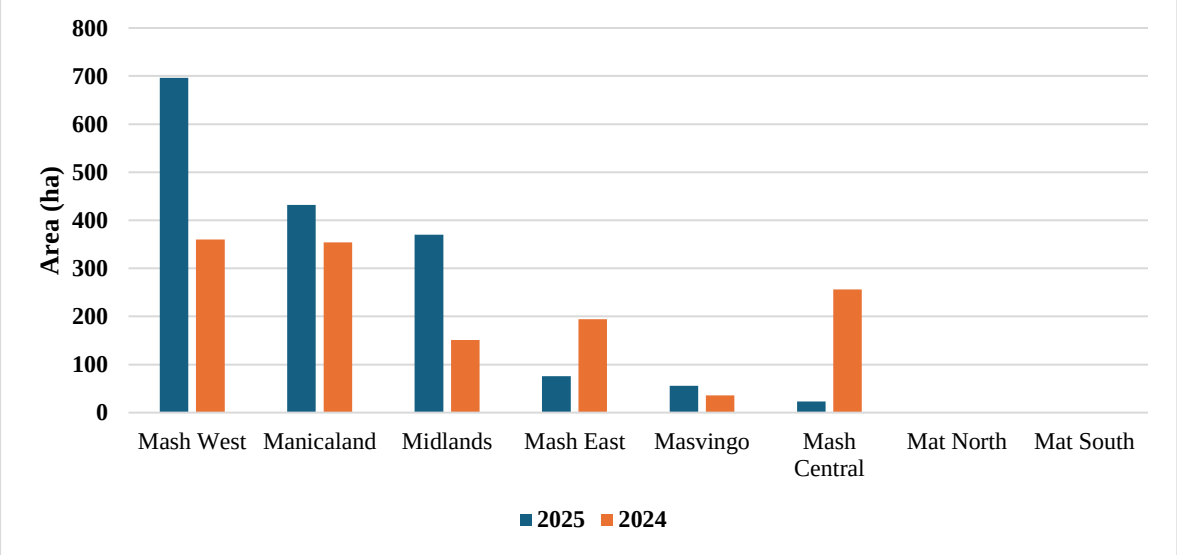


Figure 29: Paprika (Ha) Planted by the Province

6.3 BAMBARA NUTS

The area under Bambara nuts decreased by 39% from 121,210 ha to 73,820ha in the 2024/25

Figure 30: Bambara nuts crop

BAMBARA NUT AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Table 20: Bambara Nut Area (Ha) Planted by Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	20734	29311	-29%
Mashonaland Central	1057	1341	-21%
Mashonaland East	8485	11471	-26%
Mashonaland West	1782	3458	-48%
Masvingo	23102	39951	-42%
Matabeleland North	1553	3959	-61%
Matabeleland South	4651	8915	-48%
Midlands	12456	22804	-45%
Total	**73820**	**121210**	**-39%**

BAMBARA NUTS AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

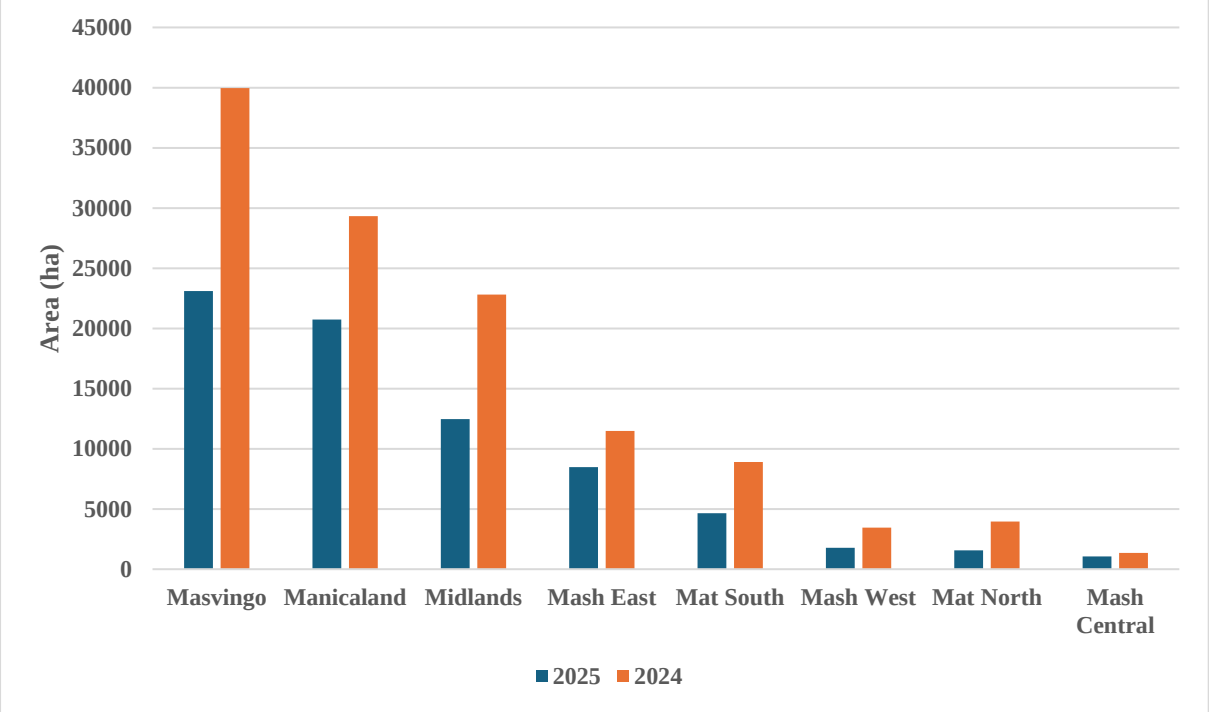


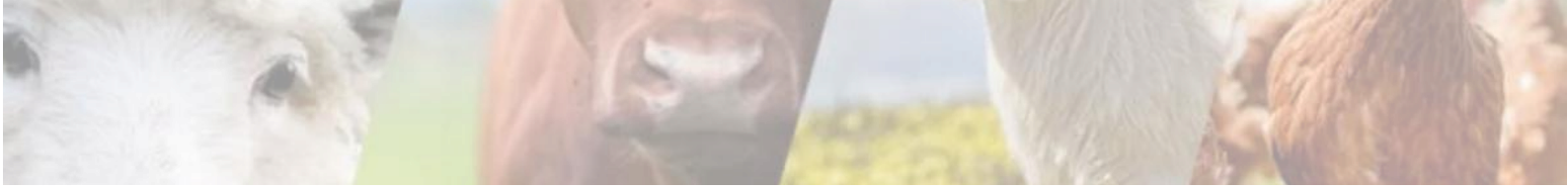
Figure 31: Bambara Nuts Area (Ha) Planted by Province

6.4 EDIBLE BEANS

The area under edible beans was reduced by 8%



Figure 32: Edible Beans crop



EDIBLE BEANS AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Table 21: Edible Beans Area (Ha) Planted by Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	6321	4315	46
Mashonaland Central	7661	7324	5
Mashonaland East	6273	8380	-25
Mashonaland West	5156	5796	-11
Masvingo	1159	2409	-52
Matabeleland North	356	347	3
Matabeleland South	269	834	-68
Midlands	4382	5083	-14
Total	**31577**	**34488**	**-8**

EDIBLE BEANS AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

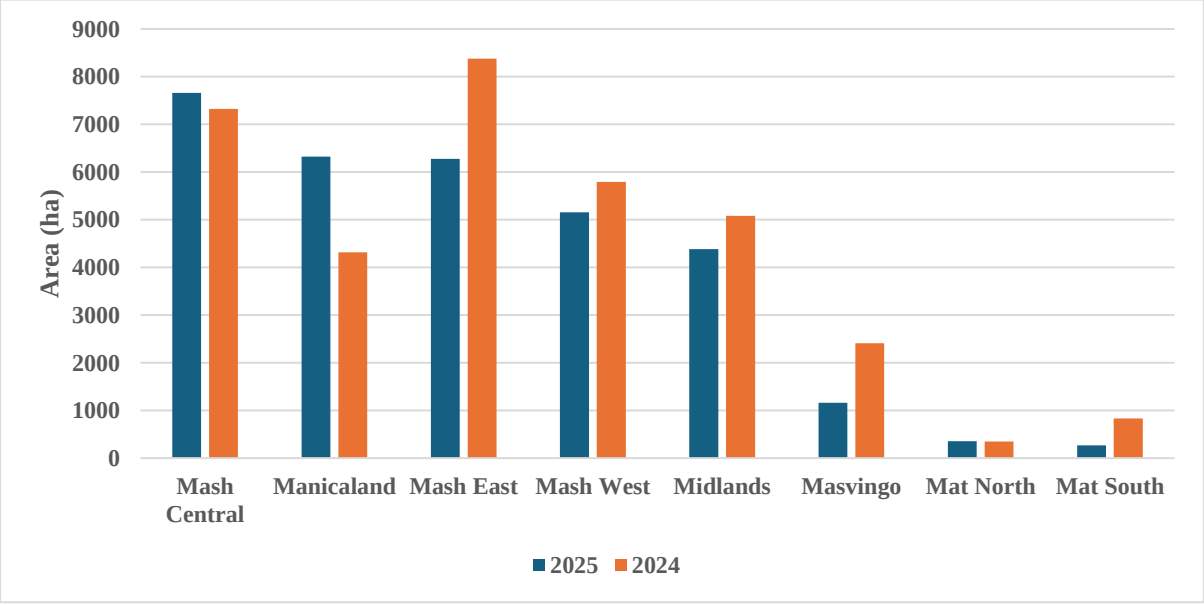


Figure 33: Edible Beans Area (Ha) Planted by Province

6.5 AFRICAN PEA

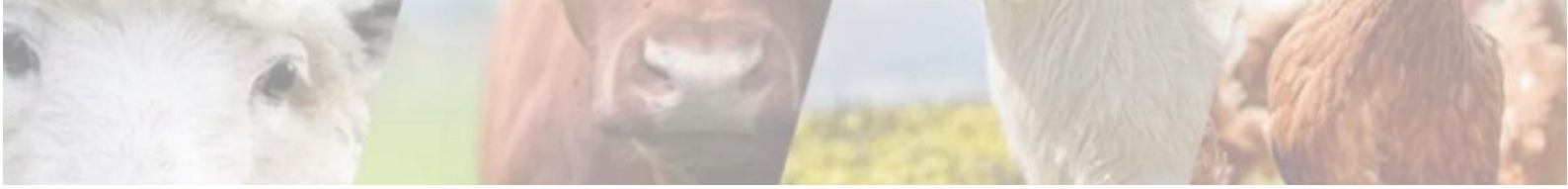
The area under African pea increased by 12%.

Figure 34: African pea crop

AFRICAN PEA AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Table 12: African Pea Area (Ha) Planted By Province

Province	2023/2024	2023/2022	% Change
Manicaland	10356	14220	-27
Mashonaland Central	20409	13317	53
Mashonaland East	8639	10128	-15
Mashonaland West	6684	9292	-28
Masvingo	16371	6685	145
Matabeleland North	3748	4916	-24
Matabeleland South	6731	4644	45
Midlands	20794	20208	3
Total	**93732**	**83410**	**12**



AFRICAN PEA AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

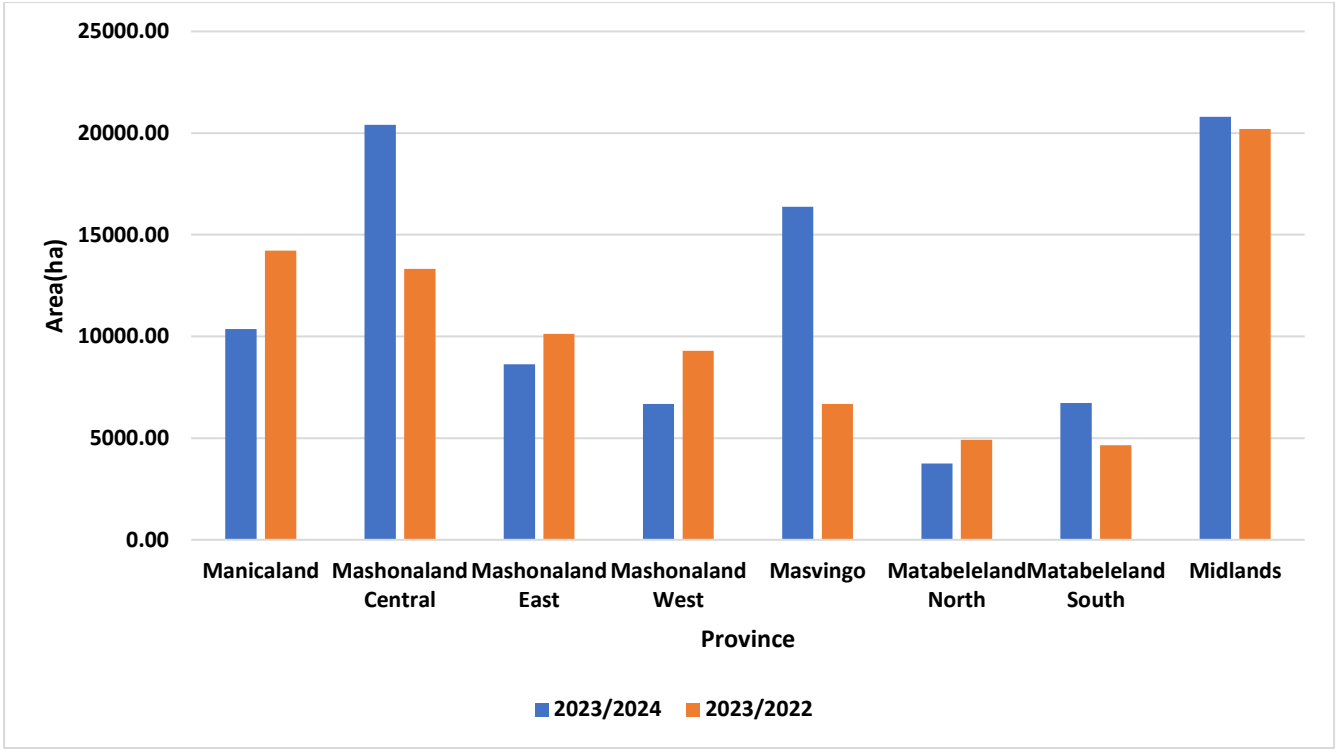
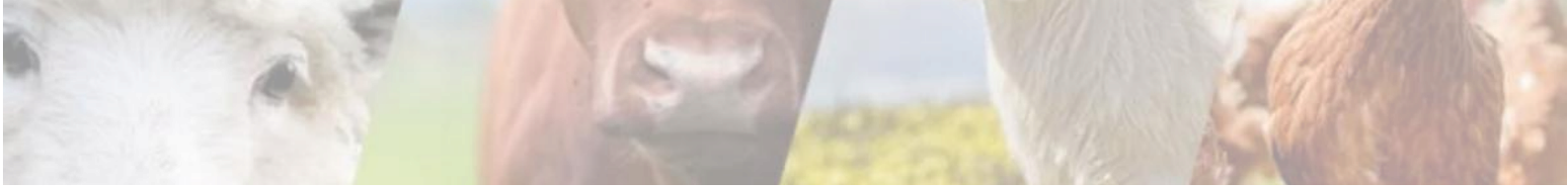


Figure 35: African Pea Area (Ha) Planted by Province

6.6 RICE

The area under rice reduced by 0.2%. Rice is increasingly becoming an important subsistence crop to the urban youth, who have substituted maize with rice and/or potato. Over 99% of the rice requirement is imported. Local efforts at increasing rice production under the Japan-NERICA and South Korea-rice projects have begun.

Figure 36: Rice crop and grain



RICE AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Table 13: Rice Area (Ha) Planted By Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	80	267	-0.70
Mashonaland Central	20	119	-0.83
Mashonaland East	159	115	0.38
Mashonaland West	39	91	-0.57
Masvingo	115	15	6.67
Matabeleland North	0	11	-1
Matabeleland South	0	0	0
Midlands	79	0	0
Total	492	618	-0.20

RICE AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

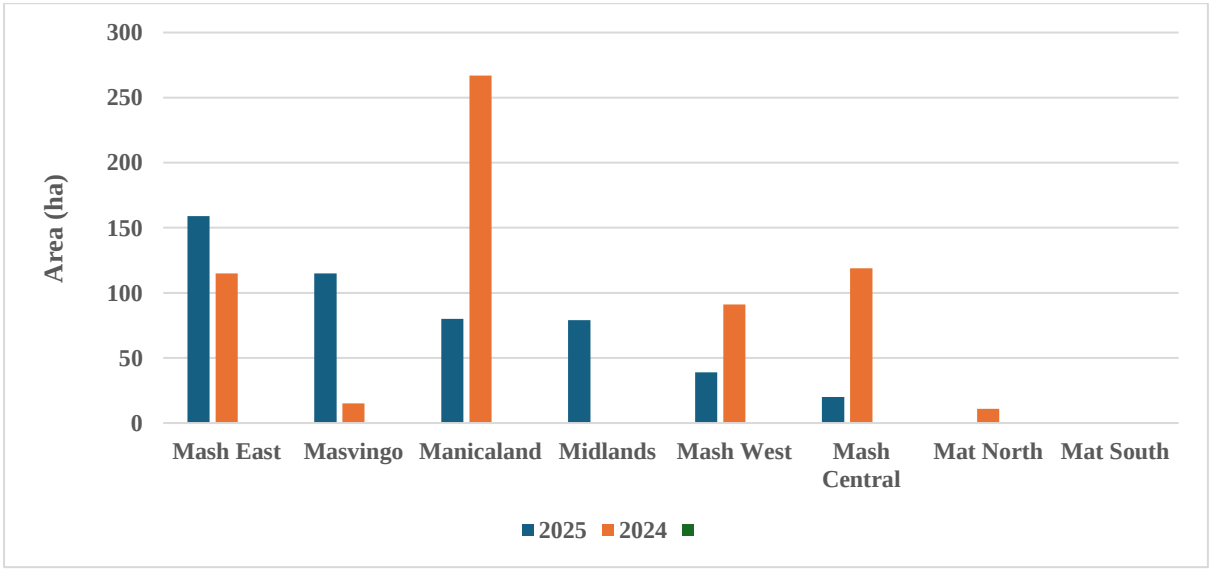


Figure 37: Rice Area (Ha) Planted by Province

6.7 SWEET POTATO

The area under sweet potato increased by 62%.

Figure 38: Sweet potato crop

SWEET POTATO (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Table 24: Sweet Potato (Ha) Planted by Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	3475	4159	-16
Mashonaland Central	1762	2097	-16
Mashonaland East	4155	1327	213
Mashonaland West	2654	1208	120
Masvingo	5159	1117	362
Matabeleland North	84	276	-70
Matabeleland South	463	182	154
Midlands	2356	47	4913
Total	20108	10413	93

SWEET POTATO (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Figure 39: Sweet Potato (Ha) Planted by Province

6.8 CASSAVA

An insignificant area was planted to cassava.

Figure 40: Cassava crop and value addition

CASSAVA AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

Table 25: Cassava Area (Ha) Planted by Province

Province	2024/25	2023/24	% Change
Manicaland	43	44	-2%
Mashonaland Central	1	2	-50%
Mashonaland East	17	0	0
Mashonaland West	11	0	100
Masvingo	4	0	0

Matabeleland North	0	0	0
Matabeleland South	0	0	0
Midlands	0	0	0
Total	76	46	65%

CASSAVA AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

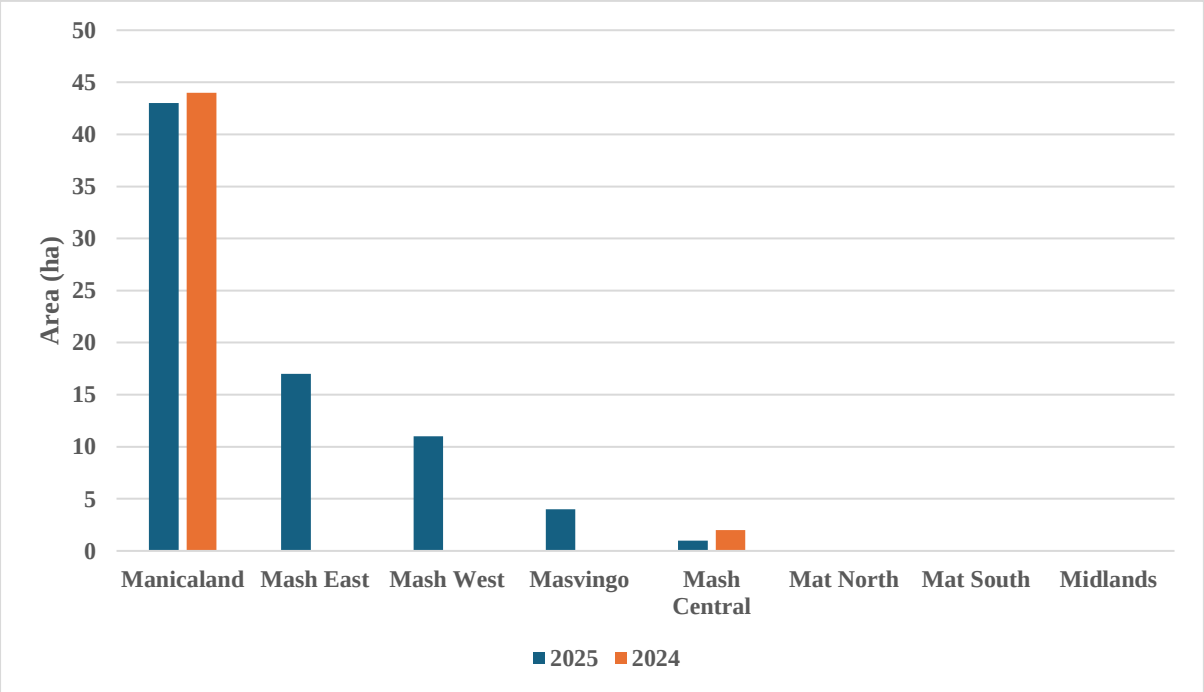


Figure 41: Cassava Area (Ha) Planted by Province

6.9 LIVINGSTONE POTATO

The area under this crop was 246 ha.

Figure 42: Livingstone potato crop

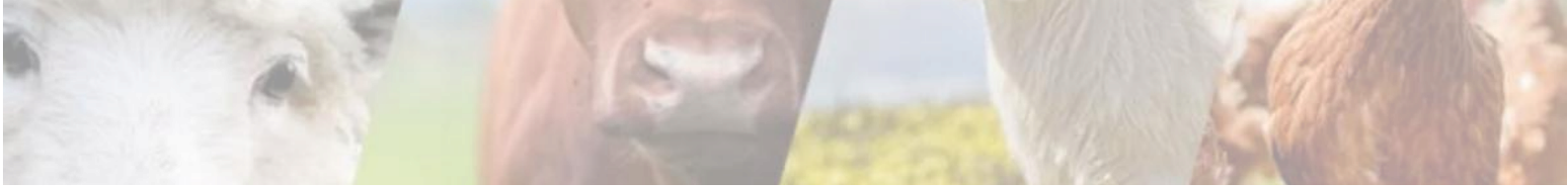


Table 26: Living stone Potato Area (Ha) Planted by Province

Province	2023/24
Manicaland	2
Mashonaland Central	36
Mashonaland East	1
Mashonaland West	4
Masvingo	95
Matabeleland North	28
Matabeleland South	2
Midlands	78
Total	**246**

LIVINSTONE POTATO AREA (HA) PLANTED BY PROVINCE

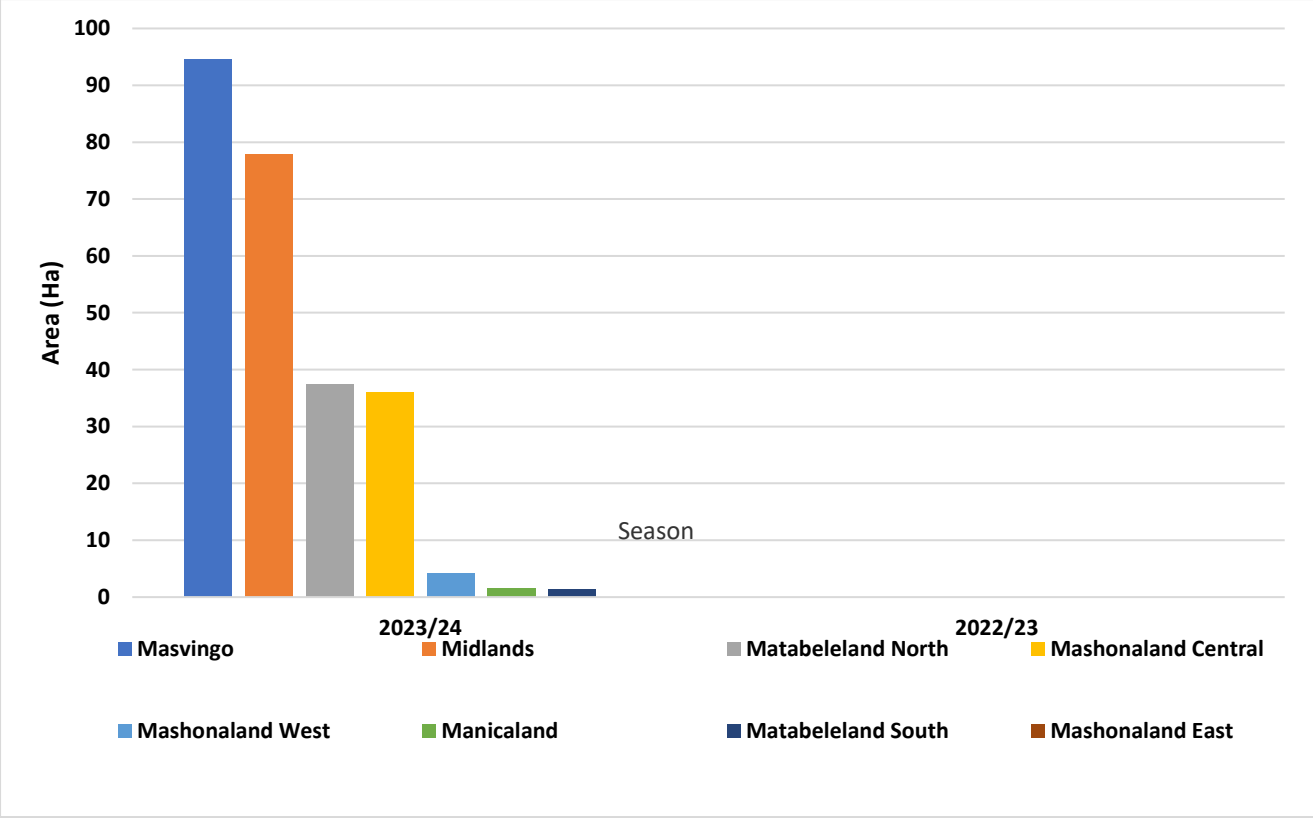


Figure 43: Livingstone Potato Area (Ha) Planted by Province

6.10 COCOYAM

The area planted to cocoyam increased by 47 %

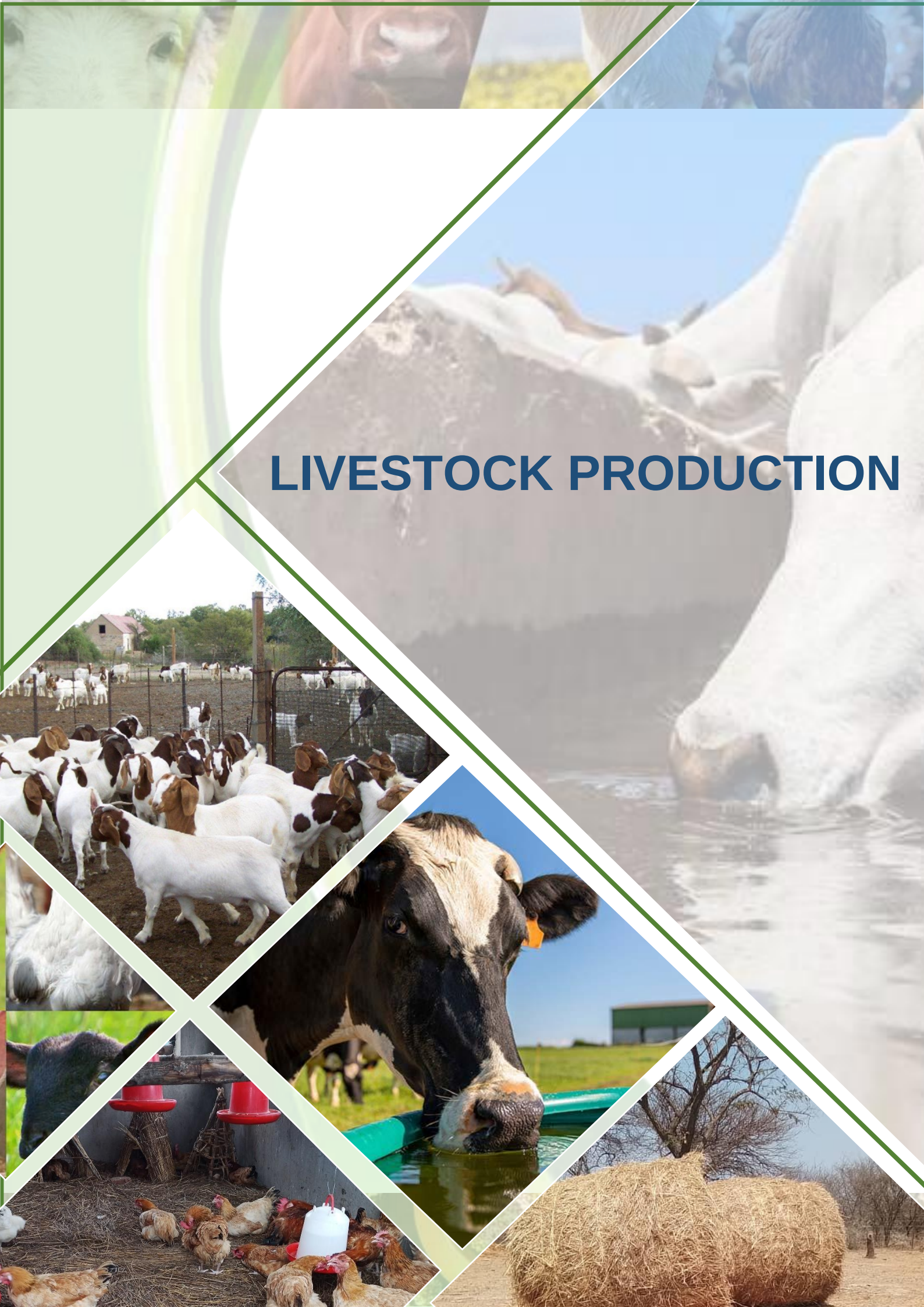
Figure 44: Cocoyam crop and value addition

Cocoyam production has been reported in Manicaland province, and predominates in Chimanimani, Chipinge and Mutasa districts.

Table 14: Cocoyam Area (Ha) Planted

Province	**2024/25**	**2023/24**
Manicaland	1254	855

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

7.1 BEEF CATTLE

There was a marginal increase in the beef cattle population of 0.4 % compared to last year. Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North suffered reductions due to the El Nino-induced drought that caused panic culling and considerable deaths.

Figure 45: Beef Cattle

Table 15: Beef Cattle Population by Province

Province	Beef Cattle Population		
	2024	2023	Change (%)
Manicaland	650,484	643,954	1
Mashonaland Central	476,617	473,774	0.6
Mashonaland East	686,423	679,586	1
Mashonaland West	543,949	538,456	1
Matabeleland North	720,177	726,786	-0.9
Matabeleland South	677,244	689,654	-1.8
Midlands	983,871	971,244	1.3
Masvingo	1,002,632	995,089	0.8
Total	**5,741,397**	**5 718 533**	**0.4**

***Productivity indices will be included in the second-round report**

Most provinces recorded modest population growth, with Midlands leading at 1.3%, followed by Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West (1% each), and Masvingo (0.8%).

Cattle mortality

Figure 46: Cattle mortality

Cause of cattle mortality

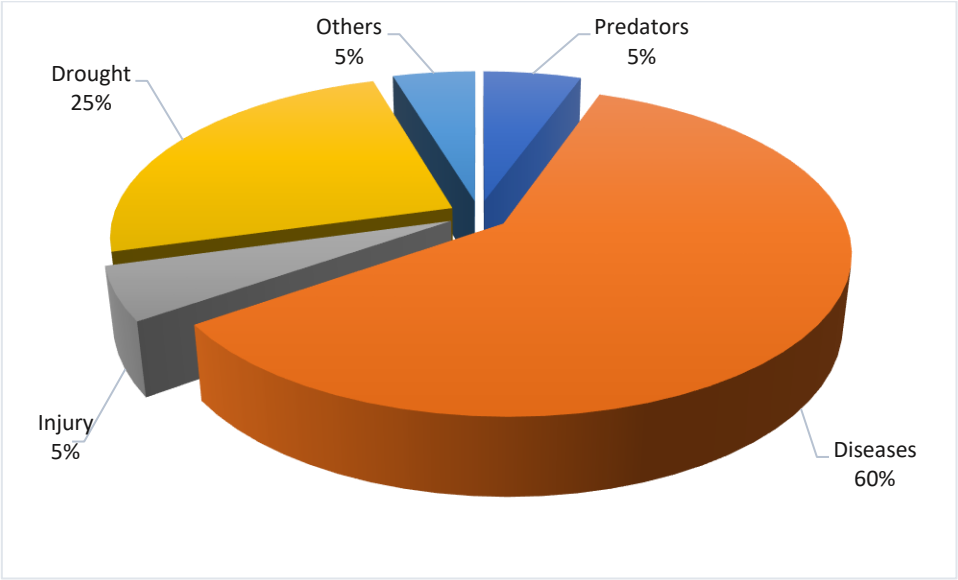


Figure 47: Causes of Beef Cattle Mortalities

Cattle mortality was primarily caused by diseases, followed by drought.

Better disease management, improved drought resilience, and stronger protective measures against predators and injuries can help reduce these deaths.

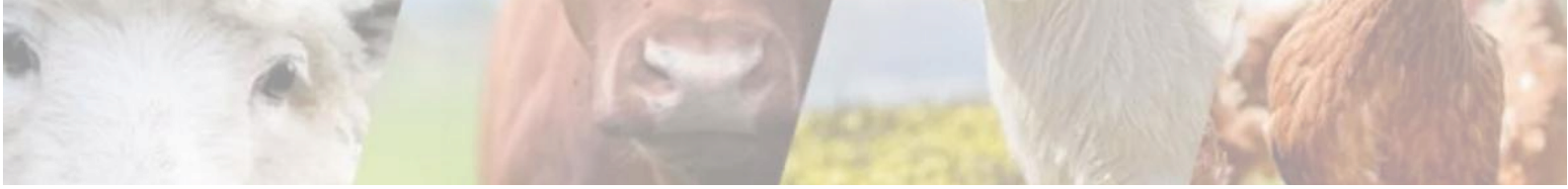


Table: 29 Cattle mortality due to the impacts of El Niño induced drought

Provinces	**Number of animals**
Manicaland	3,071
Mashonaland central	55
Mashonaland East	212
Mashonaland West	53
Masvingo	2,475
Matabeleland North	17,966
Matabeleland South	19,945
Midlands	989
Total	**44,766**

In response to the El Niño-induced drought, government and partner efforts focussed on supplementary feeding (survival feed, silage and hay), provision of enhanced veterinary services, and provision of water (borehole drilling) and the establishment of Ward Drought Mitigation Centres. Sadly, a cumulative 44 766 cattle were lost to drought, with 84.5% lost in Matabeleland provinces.

7.2 SMALL RUMINANTS AND PIGS

The total goat population declined from 5,087,155 in 2023 to 4,883,669 in 2024 marking a 4% decrease.

The total sheep population increased slightly from 742,810 in 2023 to 746,277 in 2024 reflecting a 0.5% rise.

The total pig population decreased slightly from 302,853 in 2023 to 301,747 in 2024, a 0.37% decrease.

Figure 48: Small Ruminants and Pigs

Table 16: Number of Small Ruminants and Pigs by Province

Province	Goats		Sheep		Pigs	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2,023	2,024
Manicaland	785,192	771,765	95,519	99,341	41,237	40,579
Mashonaland Central	484,215	480,341	129,640	132,881	45,274	47,756
Mashonaland East	594,093	581,068	40,100	41,261	39,339	42,405
Mashonaland West	494,078	486,682	38,518	39,674	33,110	28,428
Matabeleland North	551,866	524,880	58,776	59,246	38,525	36,960
Matabeleland South	711,790	659,934	230,900	226,282	40,320	38,083
Midlands	709,147	664,065	36,201	36,473	6,859	7,592
Masvingo	756,774	714,935	113,156	111,119	58,189	59,944
Total	**5,087,155**	**4,883,669**	**742,810**	**746 277**	**302,853**	**301,747**

***Productivity indices will be included in the second-round report**

7.3LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Figure 49: Livestock

LIVESTOCK CONDITION

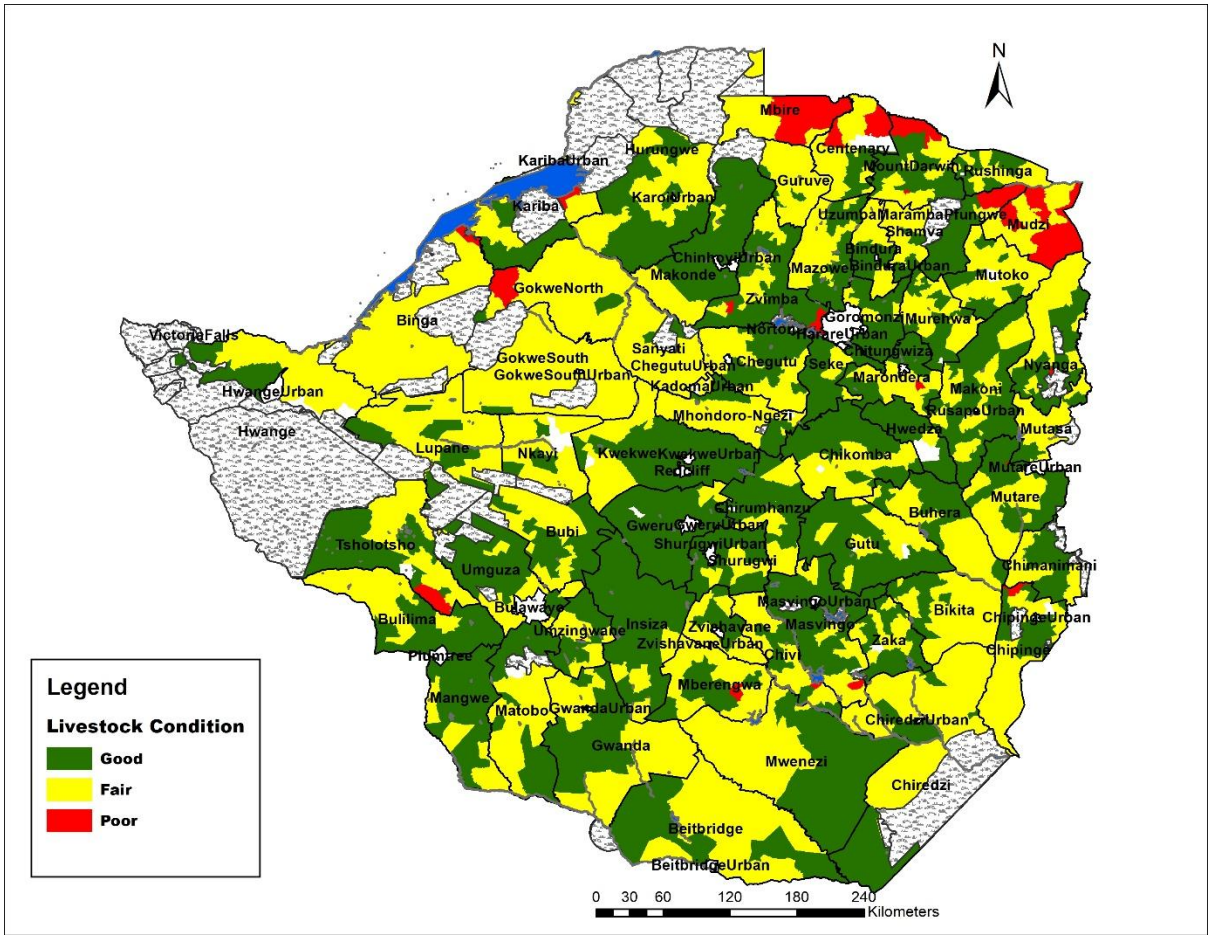


Figure 50: Livestock Condition

The majority of country had fair to good cattle condition, with well-maintained livestock in central, western, and southern regions. However, certain areas, particularly in Gokwe North, Mbire, and Mutoko and scattered locations in the south and east of Chiredzi, Zaka, and Tsholotsho, had poor cattle condition.

7.4 GRAZING CONDITION

Figure 51: Grazing Condition

Grazing condition

Good grazing condition was recorded in most parts of the country, while poor grazing condition was observed in specific localized areas of Mbire, Centenary, Mt. Darwin, Chivi, Beitbridge and Binga.

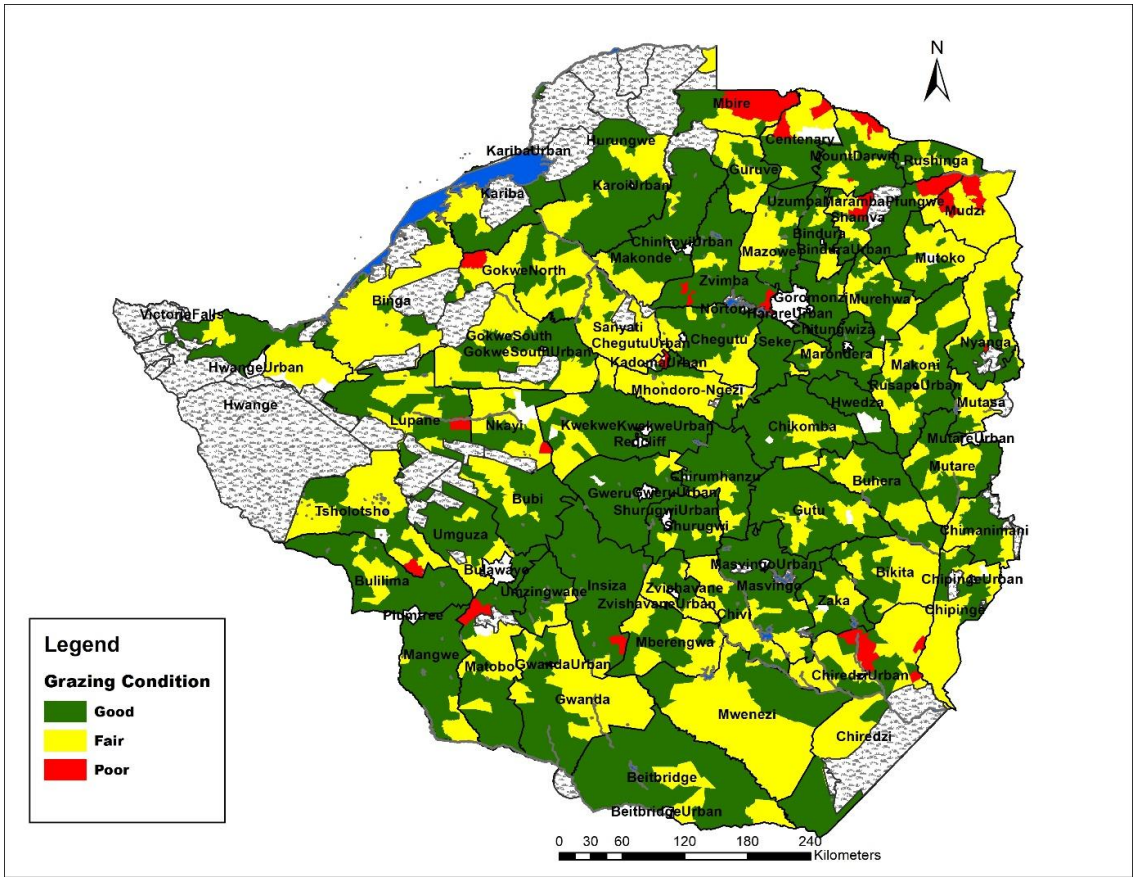


Figure 52: Grazing Condition

7.5 LIVESTOCK DIPPING SITUATION

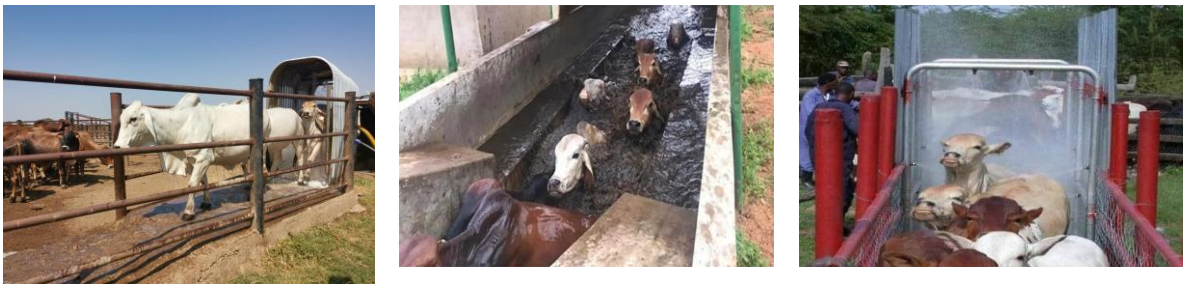


Figure 53: Livestock Dipping Situation

LIVESTOCK DIPPING FREQUENECY

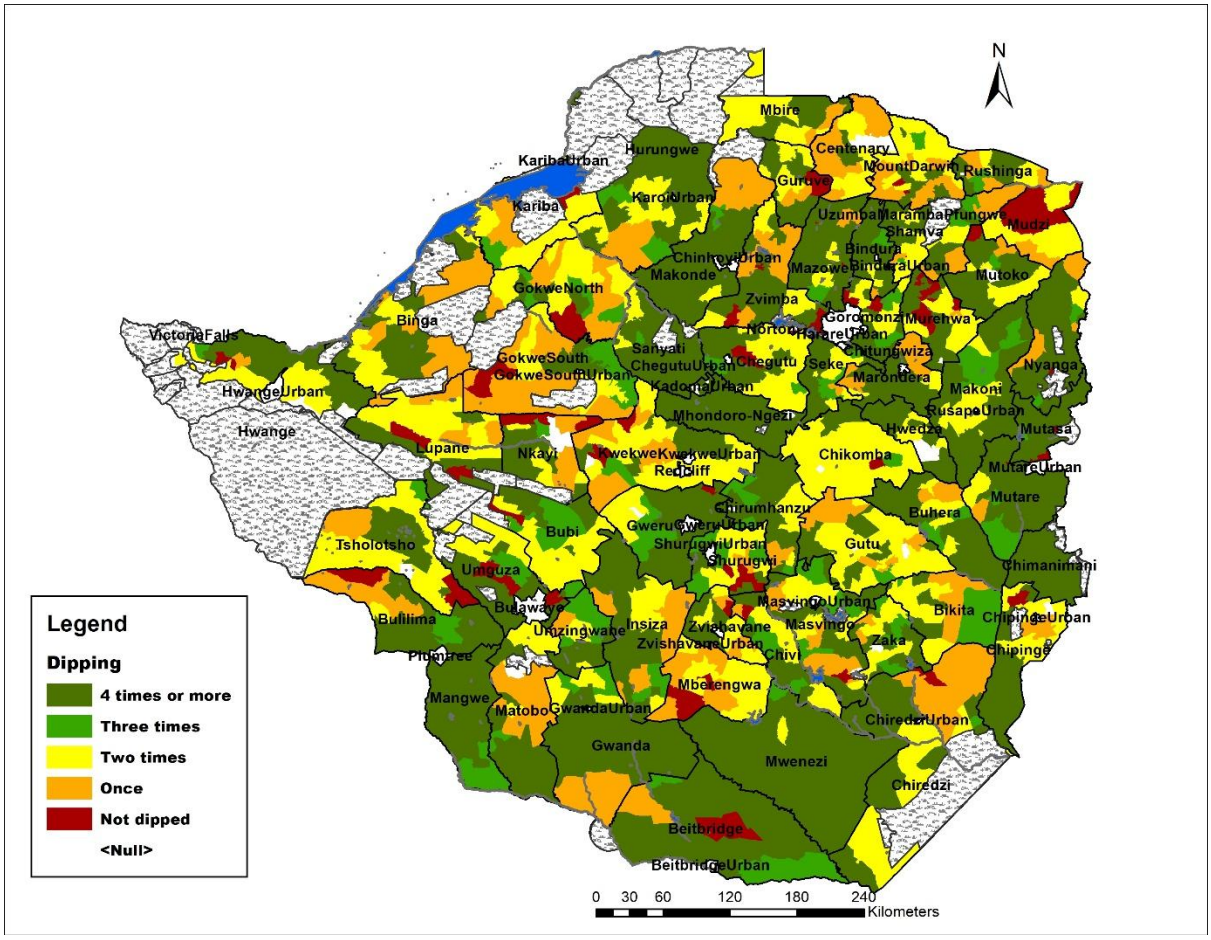


Figure 54: Cattle Dipping Situation in January 2025

Analysis of Dipping Frequency:

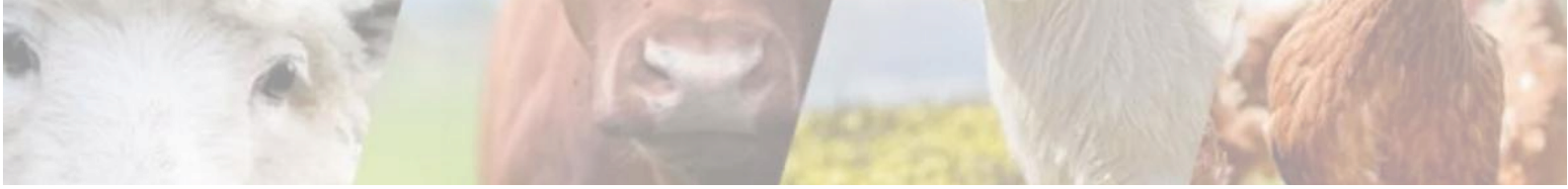
- Frequent Dipping (Dark Green and Light Green – 4+ times and 3 times) was practiced in parts of Mashonaland, Midlands, and some areas of Matabeleland North. These regions are benefitting from consistent tick control, reducing the risk of tick-borne diseases like Theileriosis and Anaplasmosis.

- Moderate Dipping (Yellow – 2 times) was practiced Masvingo, Manicaland, and Matabeleland South. In these areas, while some protection exists, the dipping frequency may be insufficient to break the tick life cycle, which may lead to disease outbreaks.
- Minimal Dipping (Orange – Once) was practiced in Matabeleland South, Masvingo, and some areas in Mashonaland East, indicating that these areas are at high risk of tick infestations, as dipping once is not enough to effectively control ticks.
- No Dipping (Red – Not Dipped) practiced in parts of Beitbridge, Mwenezi, Gwanda, Gokwe North, and scattered areas in Manicaland and Mashonaland, indicating that cattle in these areas are highly vulnerable to tick-borne diseases, leading to high mortality and economic losses for farmers.
- Infrequent and no dipping areas (orange and red) require urgent intervention, such as restoring dip tanks, ensuring regular supply of acaricides, and promoting alternative tick control measures (e.g., pour-ons and hand spraying).

Figure 55: Theileriosis (January Disease)

TICK-BORNE DISEASE CASES AND MORTALITIES IN 2024

Most tick-borne disease cases were caused by theileriosis, followed by heartwater, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. A similar pattern was observed in the number of deaths due to tick-borne diseases. Theileriosis also had the highest case fatality rate, followed in that order by heartwater, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis.



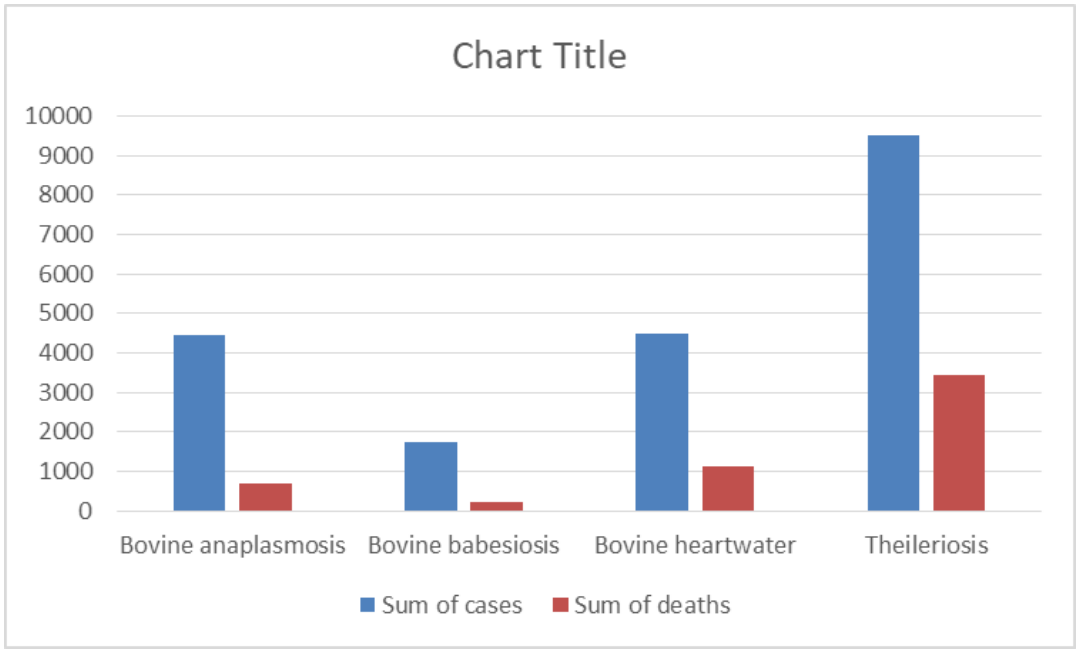


Figure 56: Tick- borne cases and Mortalities

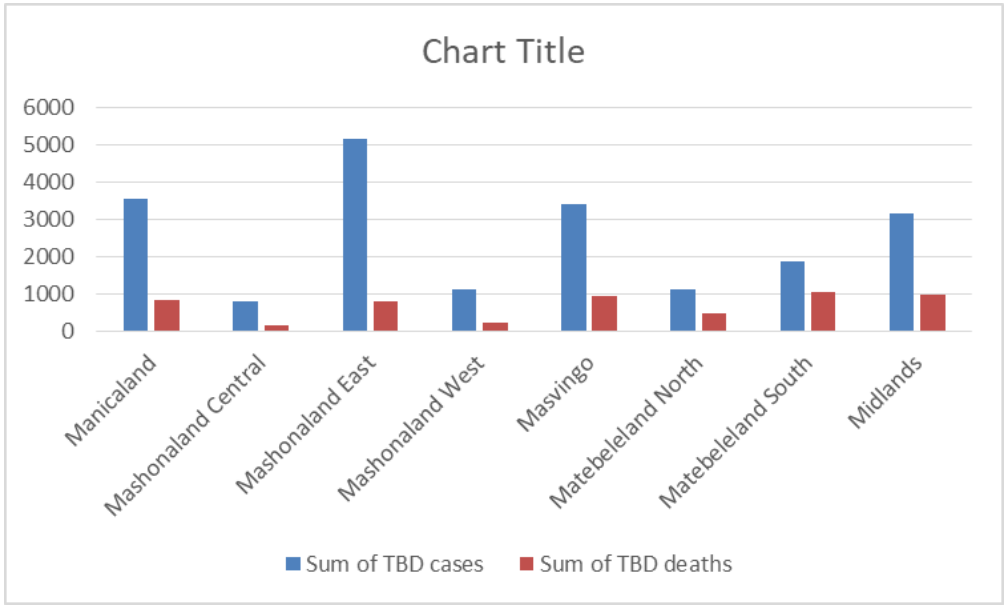


Figure 57: Tick-Borne Disease Cases and Deaths per Province in 2024

DAIRY



DAIRY HERD

The national dairy herd increased from 60,398 in 2023 to 65,659 in 2024, a 8.7% growth. There was a significant increase in milk production, from 99,823,775 litres in 2023 to 114,699,440 litres in 2024. This is a 14.9% growth. The number of registered dairy units increased from 250 in 2022 to 255 in 2024.

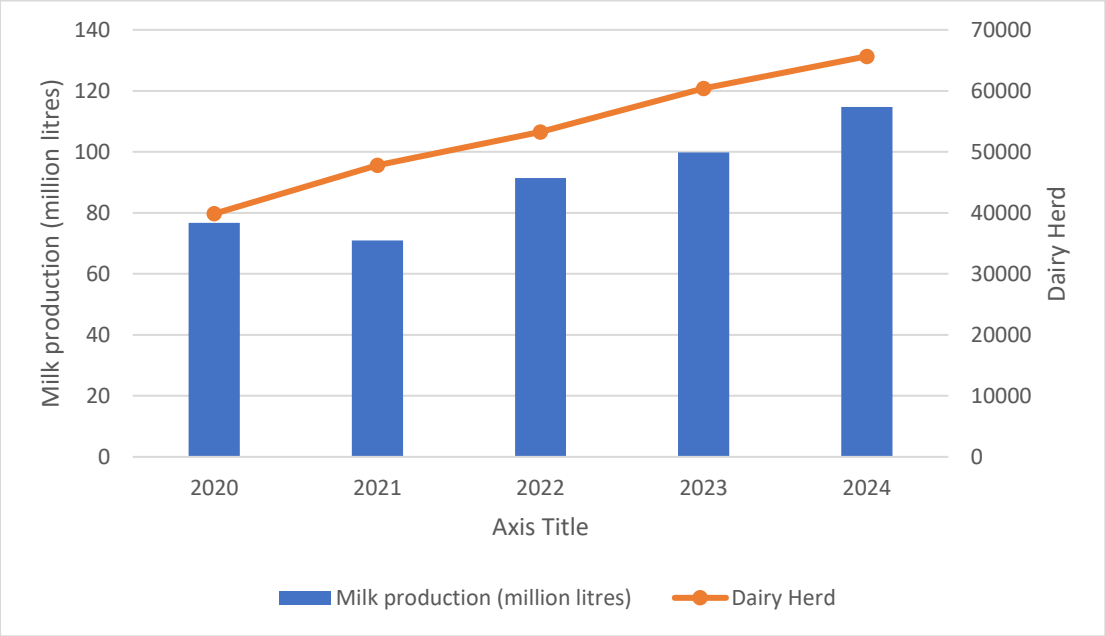


Figure 58: Dairy Herd and Milk Production Trends

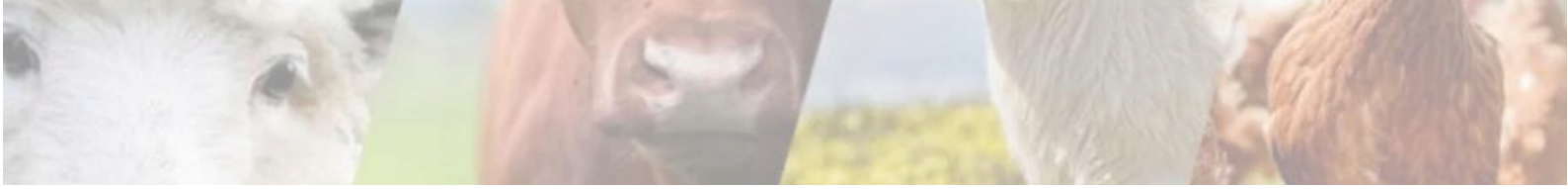


Table 31: A comparison of monthly raw milk production for 2023 and 2024

Month	2024	2023	% Change
January	9,527,233	8,140,041	17
February	8,810,593	6,957,773	27
March	8,964,078	7,515,105	19
April	9046115	7,520,421	20
May	9498262	7,868,470	21
June	9269864	7,900,406	17
July	9979253	8,327,022	20
August	10159614	8,815,674	15
September	9801378	8,869,624	11
October	9783073	9,073,809	8
November	9797510	9,323,464	5
December	10062467	9,509,943	6
Total	**114699440**	**99,821,752**	**15**

SMALLHOLDER DAIRY MILK COLLECTION CENTRES

Table 32: Distribution of smallholder milk collection centres across various provinces

	Number of milk collection centres		
	operational	Non-operational	Proposed new and yet to open
Manicaland	13	3	0
Mashonaland Central	1	2	0
Mashonaland East	12	3	0
Mashonaland West	3	1	0

Masvingo	1	0	0
Matabeleland North	0	0	0
Matabeleland South	3	0	0
Midlands	3	0	7
Total	36	9	7

7.8 SMALL RUMINANTS CONDITION

Figure 59: Small Ruminants Condition

The general body condition of sheep and goats was good during the assessment as they responded quickly to the improved grazing and browse condition. The survey showed lack of routine goat management practices, such as deworming, vaccination, proper feeding, and disease control.

GOAT MORTALITY

Goat mortality increased to 13% from 10% in 2023, indicating the need for enhanced disease control, predator management, and drought resilience measures to improve goat survival and productivity.

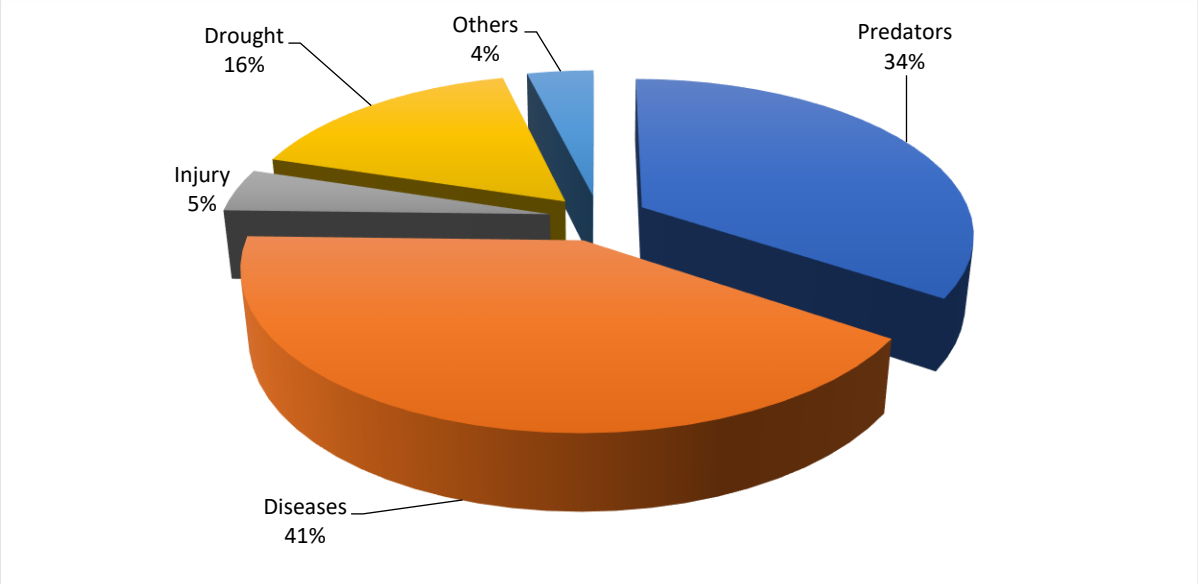


Figure 60: Proportion of Goat Mortalities by Cause

SHEEP MORTALITY

Sheep mortality was unchanged at 8%.

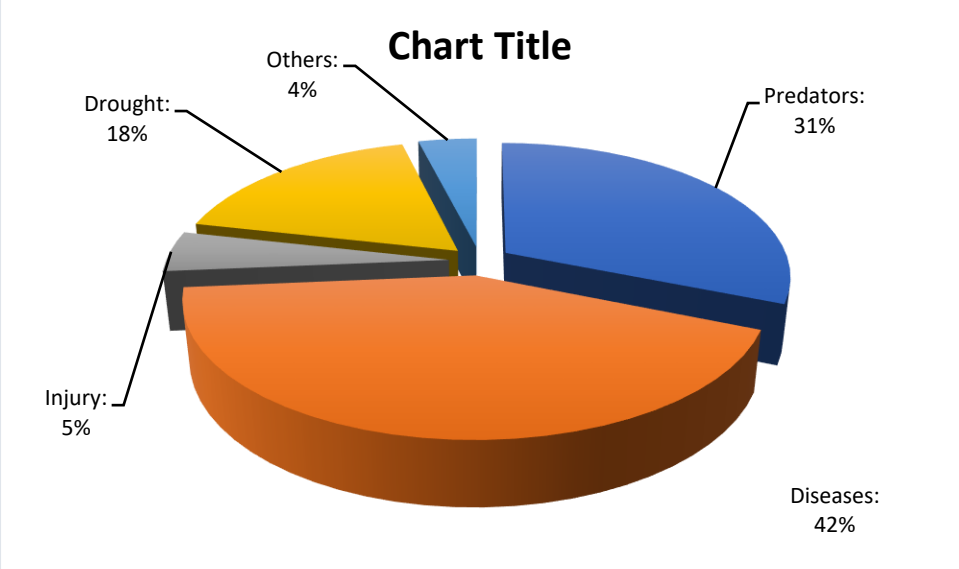


Figure 61: Sheep Mortality Causes

Diseases accounted for the highest proportion sheep deaths at 42%, followed by predators (31%), drought (18%), injuries (5%), and other causes (4%). Improving disease management and better predator control strategies could significantly reduce sheep losses.

7.11 APICULTURE



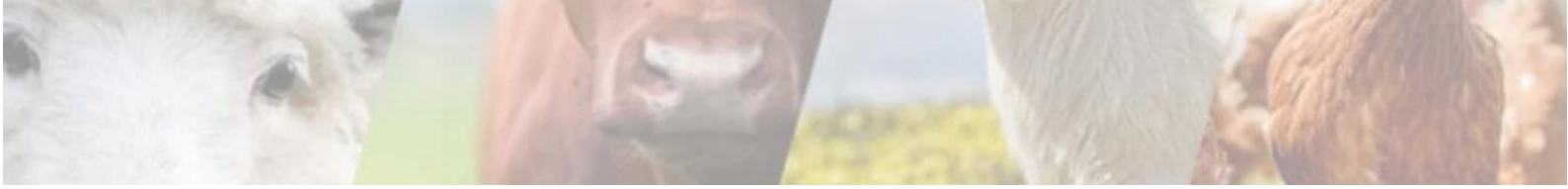
Figure 62: Types of beehives

APICULTURE

There were 26 912 beekeepers, a 3% increase from 2023, with 150 003 hives.

Table 33: Summary of Beekeeping Activities across Provinces

Province	Total number of hives	Modern Hives		Traditional Hives	
		Number	Proportion colonised (%)	Number	Proportion colonised (%)
Manicaland	73291	22122	82	51169	69
Mashonaland Central	14796	5533	56	9263	59
Mashonaland East	15601	7463	71	8138	65
Mashonaland West	16927	5459	64	11468	68
Masvingo	10722	3450	45	7272	60
Matabeleland North	2202	1421	21	781	46
Matabeleland South	664	561	24	103	58
Midlands	15828	8951	29	6877	52
Total	**150031**	**54960**	**63**	**95071**	**65**



Manicaland had the highest number of beekeepers (9,447) and hives (73,291), while Matabeleland South had the least. The overall colonization rate was 63% for modern hives and 65% for traditional hives.

Table 34: Honey Production by Province

	Colonised Hives		**Honey produced in 2024 (Kg)**	
Province	Modern	Traditional	Total Production (Kg)	Average production per hive (Kg)
Manicaland	18,058	35,314	664,943	12
Mashonaland Central	3,075	5,462	85,520	10
Mashonaland East	5,275	5,302	134,471	13
Mashonaland West	3,494	7,746	114,148	10
Masvingo	1,558	4,378	36,171	6
Matabeleland North	301	358	5,359	8
Matabeleland South	132	60	2,966	15
Midlands	2,617	3,605	34,082	5
Total	**34,510**	**62,225**	**1,077,659**	**11**

Total honey production increased to 1,077,659 kg, a 2.3% rise from 1,053,335 kg in 2023, with wide variations in productivity of hives, suggesting that management interventions can increase hive productivity.

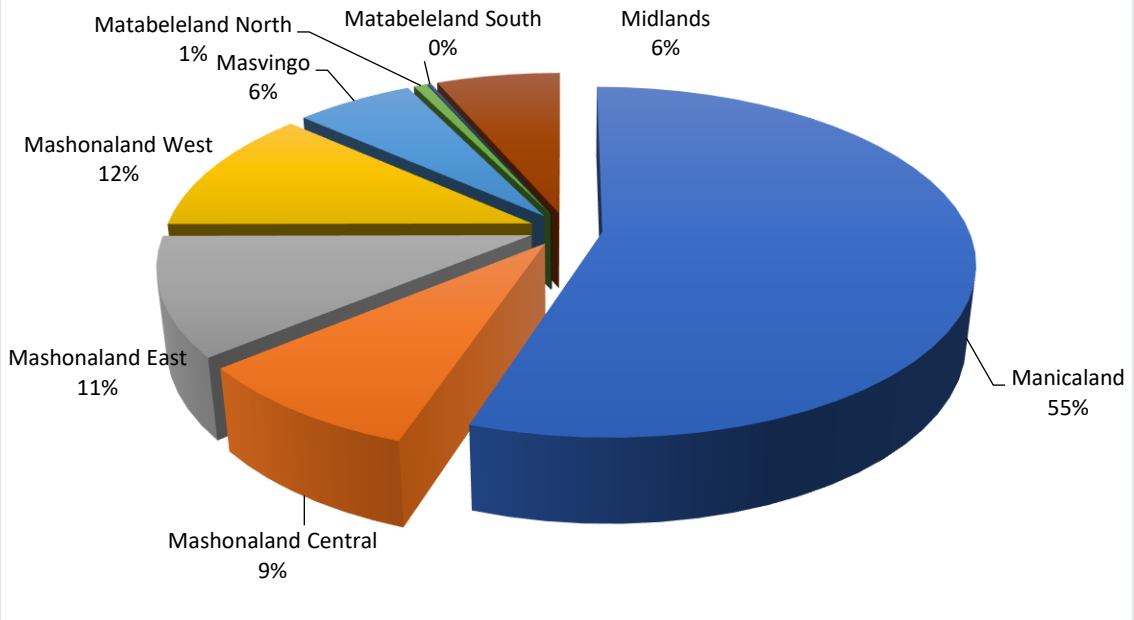


Figure 63: Spatial Distribution of Apiaries

FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

PRODUCTION TREND OF CAPTURE FISHERIES



Table 35: Wild Capture Fisheries

Fish Yield (MT)	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change From 2023
Nile Tilapia	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,700	6
Other Tilapia	600	510	550	370	-49
Kapenta	5,400	5,950	6,200	5,200	-19
Tigerfish	100	140	150	140	-7
African Catfish	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	0
Other Freshwater Fishes	17,900	13,600	17,400	17,700	2
TOTAL	**26,600**	**22,700**	**27,100**	**26,310**	-3

NB: These statistics exclude widespread informal fishing

HARVEST TREND OF MAIN SPECIES OF CAPTURE FISHERIES

Total fish produced in the 2023/24 season was 31,296 MT with 26,310 MT being capture fisheries and 4,986 MT from aquaculture. The Kapenta harvest decreased by 16 % from 6,200 MT in 2022/23 to 5,200 MT in 2023/24. Nile tilapia experienced a steep decline of 32%, from 6,704 MT in 2022/23 to 4,800 MT in 2023/24. African catfish production increased by 188%, from 48 MT to 139 MT. However, both red-breasted bream and rainbow trout faced declines of 17% and 16%, respectively, indicating specific challenges that may be hindering their production. Tilapia production increased by 35 % from 4,949 MT in 2021/22 to 6,704 MT tonnes in 2022/23.

8.2 AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION CAPACITY

Table 36: Functional Aquaculture Production Units

Method of Culture	Number of units 2022/23	Number of units 2023/24	m³ in '000 year 2022/23	m³ in '000 year 2023/24	Ha 2022/23	Ha 2023/24
Ponds	8,779	9,974			175	200
Cages	155	155	171	171		
Raceways and silos			3	3	1	1
Totals	**8,937**	**10,132**	**172**	**172**	**175**	**200**

There was a 13.3 % increase in production units from 8779 in 2023 to 9974 in 2024. There is strong growth in freshwater aquaculture, especially in pond systems, driven by the Presidential Community Fisheries Scheme.

Table 37: Aquaculture Production

Fish Species	2023/24 (MT)	2022/23 (MT)	% Change
Nile tilapia	4,800	6,704	-32
Red-breasted bream	10	12	-17
Mozambique bream	7	6	+33
African catfish	139	48	+188
Rainbow trout	30	36	-16
Total	**4,986**	**6,806**	**-27**

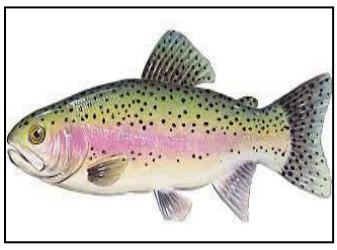


Figure 64: Bream/ Tilapia **Catfish/** **Trout**

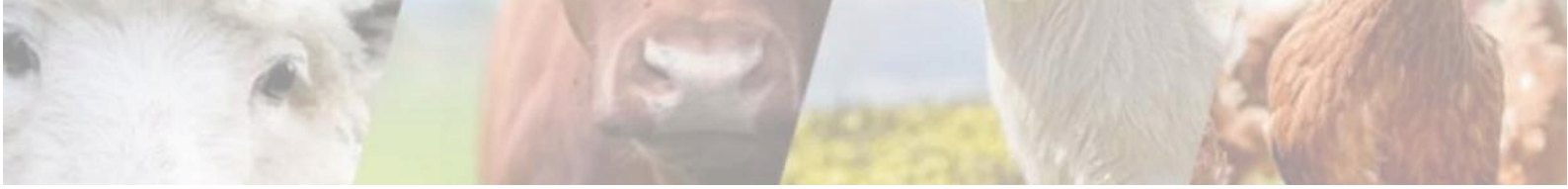


Table 38: Percentage Proportions of Farmed Fish Species by Province

Province	Tilapia spp	Catfish	Trout spp	Grand Total
Manicaland	92%	5%	3%	100%
Mashonaland Central	89%	11%	1%	100%
Mashonaland East	95%	4%	2%	100%
Mashonaland West	98%	2%	-	100%
Masvingo	91%	5%	4%	100%
Matabeleland North	96%	4%	-	100%
Matabeleland South	90%	8%	3%	100%
Midlands	95%	4%	1%	100%

Tilapia makes up 89% to 98% of total fish cultivated, because of suitability to the local environment and growing conditions, rapid growth, and palatability.

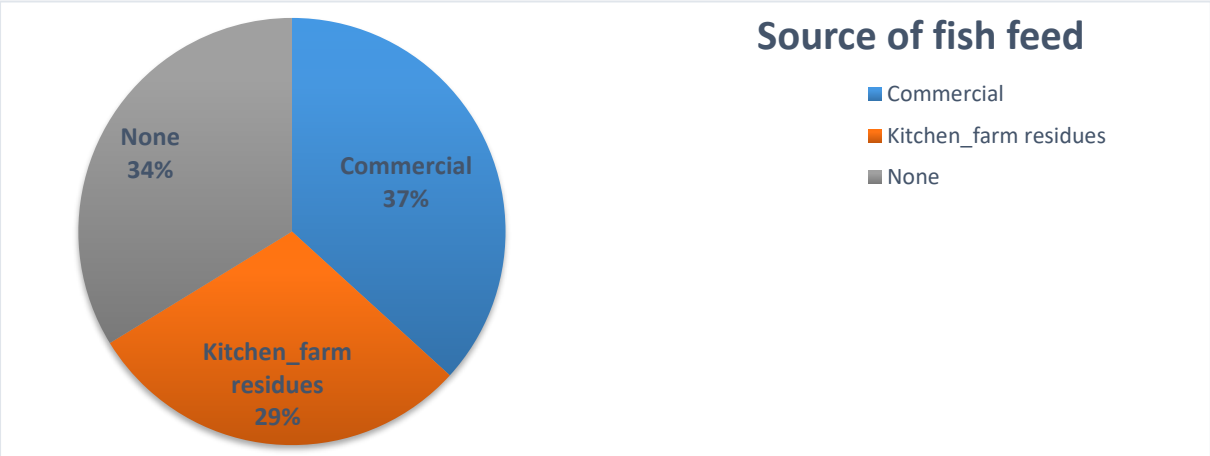


Figure 65: Sources of Feed

Commercial feed comprised 37% of the total, highlighting an increasing shift towards professional farming practices that prioritize fish health and market demands. However, a disturbingly high percentage of growers still use no feed for their production facilities.

FINGERLINGS PRODUCED

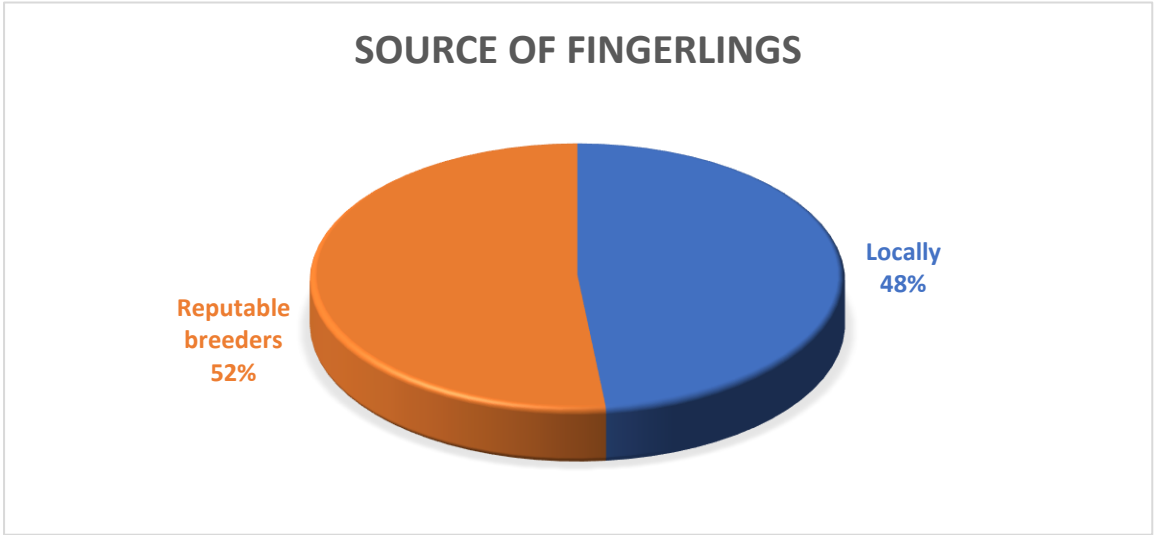
Figure 66: Fingerlings Production



A total of 26,926,720 fingerlings were produced in 2022/23, compared to 19,139,061 in 2023/2024, a 29% decrease. Production from government facilities was low, at 2% of the total as the facilities are still under construction.

Table 39: Number of Fingerlings Produced in 2023

Local Name	Total	Destined to aquaculture	Released to the wild
Nile Tilapia	26,782,320.00	26,172,350.00	609,970.00
Catfish	4,900.00	4,900.00	0
Red-breasted bream	42,000.00	30,000.00	12,000.00
Mozambique Tilapia	16,000.00	14,500.00	1,500.00
Rainbow Trout	81,500.00	81,500.00	0
Total	**26,926,720.00**	**26,303,250.00**	**623,470.00**



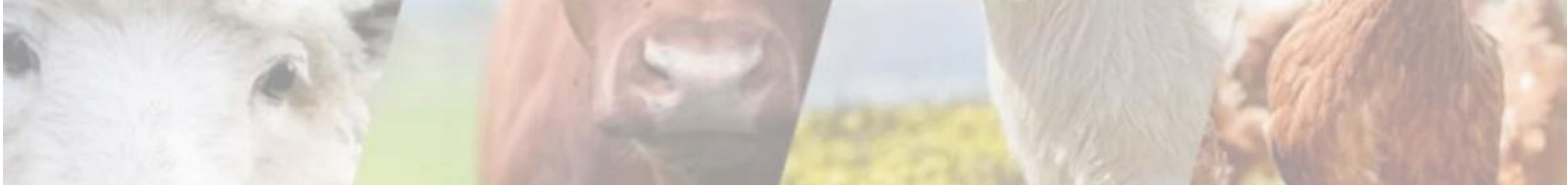


Figure 67: Source of Fingerlings

8.6 CROCODILE PRODUCTION

Figure 68: Captive Breeding of Crocodiles in Zimbabwe

Table 40: Crocodile Numbers by Class

Crocodile Class	2023	2024
Eggs (incubated)	163,091	166,105
Hatchling	88,492	111,824
Rearers	58,409	91,825
Juveniles & Breeders	9,873	9,765
Total	**319,865**	**331,299**

Crocodile production

Crocodile numbers decreased from 443,098 in 2018 to 319,865 in 2023, with a slight recovery to 331,299 in 2024. These trends raise sustainability concerns, emphasizing the need for better breeding programme, habitat management, and strategic actions to ensure long-term viability, biodiversity conservation, and economic stability.

IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT 8.0 PROGRAMMES

IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT 8.0 PROGRAMMES

RURAL DEVELOPMENT 8.0.

"Rural Development 8.0" comprises a series of outcome-based and impact-oriented Presidential interventions designed to leave no one and no place behind, and to positively impact the attainment of Vision 2030.

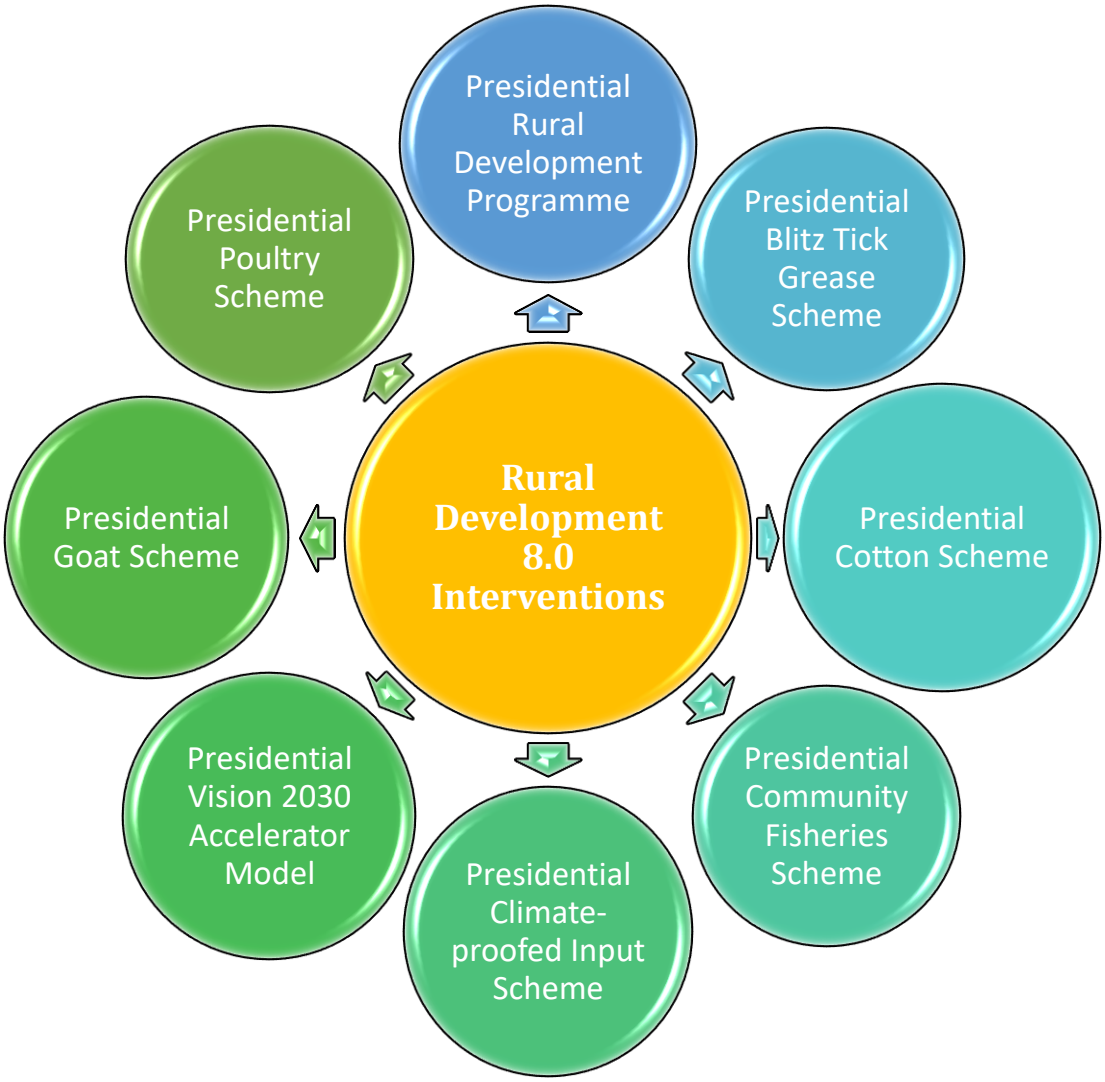
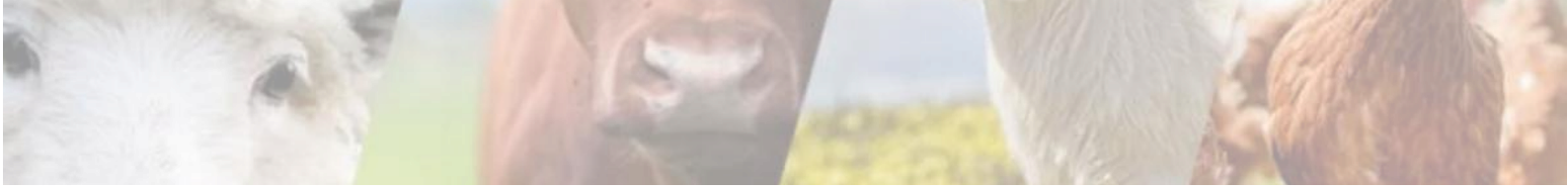


Figure 69: Rural Development 8.0 Interventions

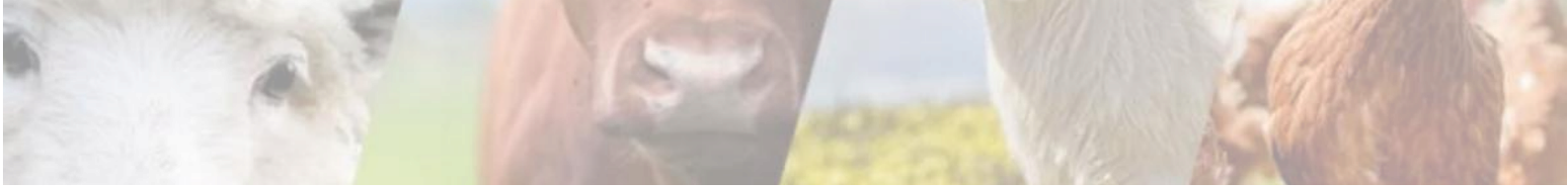


9.1 PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE-PROOFED INPUT SCHEME

The Presidential Inputs Support Scheme supported **3.5 million** smallholder farmers in communal, A1, small-scale commercial farming (SSCF), old resettlement (OR), and peri-rural sub-sectors.

Table 41: Pfumvudza/ Intwasa -Presidential Inputs Seed and Fertilizer Distribution as at 11 February 2024.

Product	Inputs Brought Forward	Cumulative Inputs Receipts	Totals	Cumulative Distributed	Percentage of inputs distributed
Compound D (MT)	18,603	49,860.850	68,464.06	65,192.680	95
Topdressing (MT)	30,352	16,118.390	46,358,660	46,358,660	100
Agricultural Lime (MT)	1,582	0.000	1,581.940	1,092.600	69
Maize Seed (MT)	435	13,881.335	14,316.766	14,264.580	100
Soyabean Seed (MT)	205	223.975	429.038	429.038	100
Sugarbean Seed (MT)	162	537.910	699.529	632.812	90
Sorghum Seed (MT)	365	2,566.450	2,931.385	2,739.037	93
Pearl Millet Seed (MT)	91	6.036	97.318	97.006	100
Groundnuts Seed (MT)	128	618.168	746.470	651.436	87
Sunflower Seed (MT)	169	2,068.952	2,237.999	1,552.998	69
Vegetable Seeds (Numbers)	641,910	1,050,512	1,692,422	1,109,004.000	66
Demise (Fall armyworm chemical)(Litres)	5,750	28,030.250	33,779.750	225,543.750	76
Knapsack Sprayers (Numbers)	4,329	24,152.000	28, 481.000	24, 791.000	87



9.2. PRESIDENTIAL COTTON SCHEME

The programme also targeted **520 000** households for cotton.

Table 42:2024/2025 Cotton Inputs Summary by Province

PROVINCE	Comp L(MT)		Lime (MT)		Topdressing (MT)		Seed (MT)	
	Received	**Distributed**	**Received**	**Distributed**	**Received**	**Distributed**	**Received**	**Distributed**
Mash Central	2160	2160	1980	309	1702	256	900	481
Mash West	2933	2902	2149	1508	2108	546	1093	652
Mash East	342	342	0	0	116	51	182	44
Masvingo	2336	2314	1562	1025	1727	356	1344	682
Manicaland	638	610	765	615	713	142	517	234
Midlands	4208	4147	4253	2705	2357	844	1268	949
Mat North	485	436	1899	142	946	1	163	100
MatSouth	0	0	330	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**13102**	**12911**	**12938**	**6304**	**9669**	**2196**	**5467**	**3142**
Percentage distributed	**99**		**49**		**23**		**57**	

Under both Input Schemes, attention to matters of soil health forms an integral component of the holistic, sustainable, intensive conservation and precision farming method, Pfvumvudza /Intwasa. In this regard, Zimbabwe's soils map showing pH and liming requirements should inform agronomic practices, at household level.

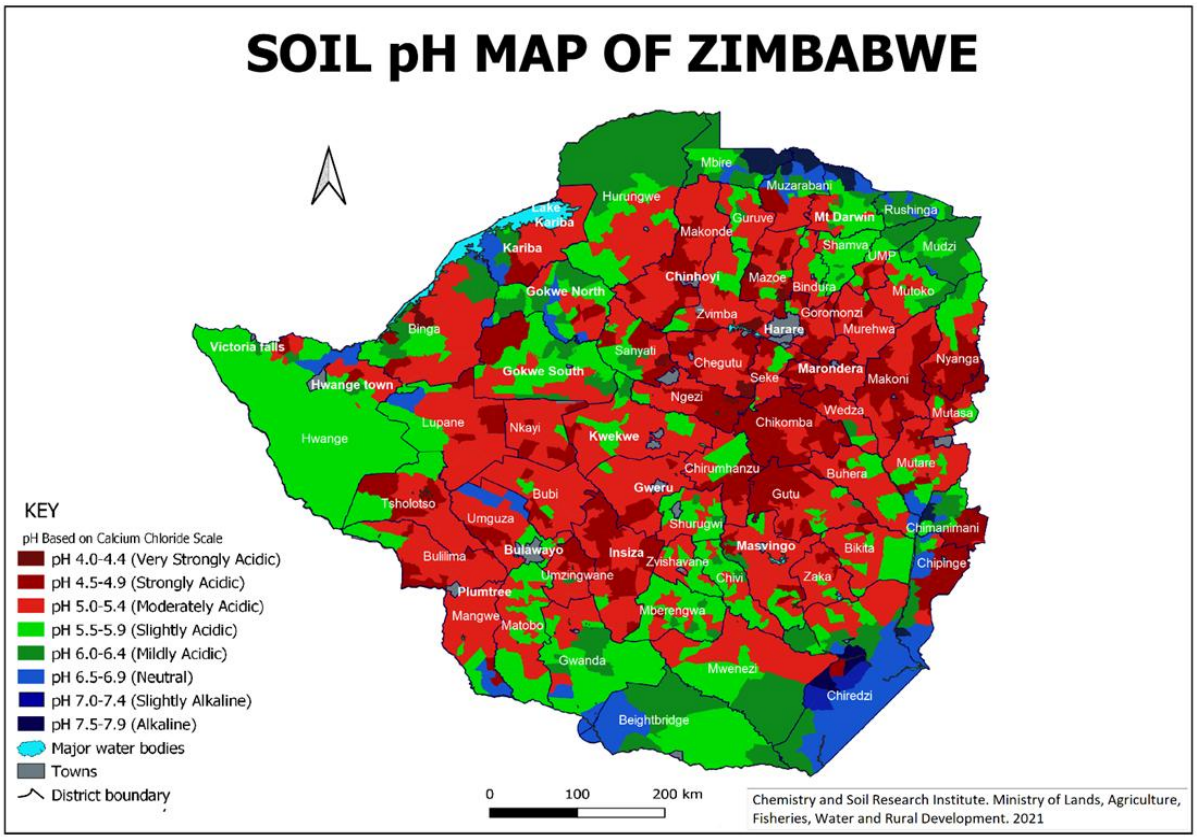


Figure 70: Soil PH Map of Zimbabwe

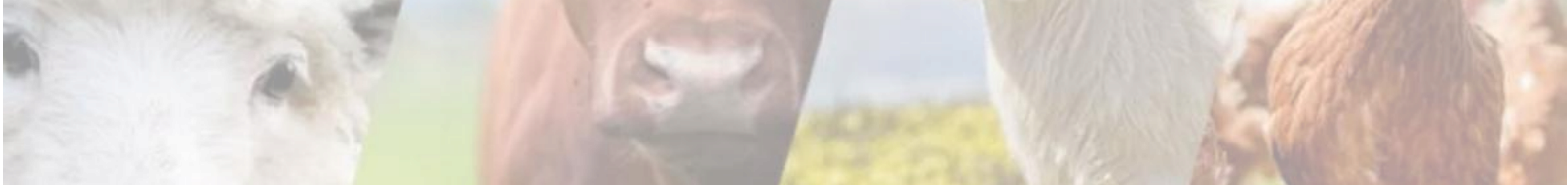
Presidential Blitz Tick Grease Programme

This Scheme is being renamed the Presidential Household Tick Grease Scheme, to distinguish it from the provision of acaricides for the community dipping programme.

The Presidential Tick Grease Programme distributed 148,894 units out of a 767,595 target, achieving an overall 19% distribution rate.

Table 43: Presidential Tick Grease Distribution in 2024

Province	Target	Distributed	Percentage received
Manicaland	124,270	35,500	29
Mashonaland Central	69,828	13,400	19
Mashonaland East	76,339	41,000	54
Mashonaland West	82,333	20,994	25
Masvingo	130,382	-	0
Matabeleland North	83,878	7,123	8
Matabeleland South	73,016	-	0
Midlands	127,549	30,877	24
Total	**767,595**	**148,894**	19



PRESIDENTIAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Presidential Rural Development Programme's objective is to construct a single borehole in every one of the 35,000 rural villages in the country, powered by solar, supporting a one-hectare drip irrigated plot. A company is then formed to run the Village Business Units as a viable, profitable and sustainable business under the Companies and Other Entities Act Additionally, the plan involves distributing 10 fruit trees to each of the 1,800,000 households and providing 50 sweet potato vines to each of the 1.8 million households.

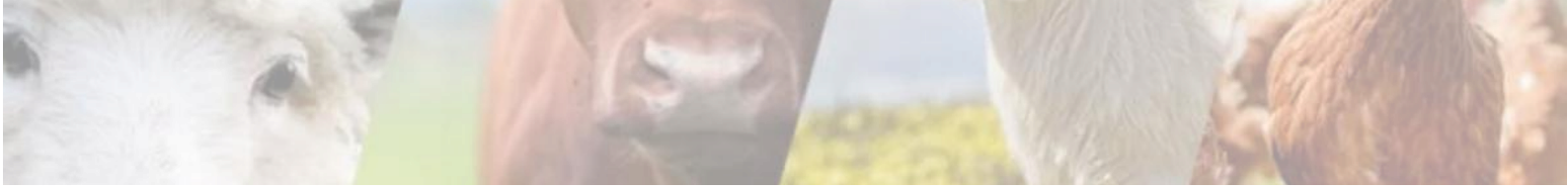
To date, **1 370** vegetable combos have been distributed across the country, 1040 000 combos were distributed in 2024 and 330 000 combos in 2025 out of the **3 500 000 HH** earmarked for distribution this year. The vegetable combo for each beneficiary comprises of 5g packs of Tomato, Onion, Carrot, Rape and Mustard Tsunga.

Cumulatively, a total of **3 696 800** elite virus-free sweet potato vines have been distributed since 2022.

A total of **3 498** boreholes have been drilled across all provinces as at 31 December 2024. Each province has received at least three rigs each to expedite borehole drilling.

Table 44: Number of Boreholes Drilled by Province to Date

Province	Boreholes drilled to date	Bush pump equipped to date	Boreholes solarised to date
Manicaland	512	73	14
Mashonaland West	270	35	1
Mashonaland East	409	63	8
Midlands	394	101	12
Matabeleland South	250	48	7
Matabeleland North	236	89	21
Mashonaland Central	378	48	4
Masvingo	692	136	2
Bulawayo	63	52	6
Harare	352	83	55
Totals	**3,556**	**728**	**130**

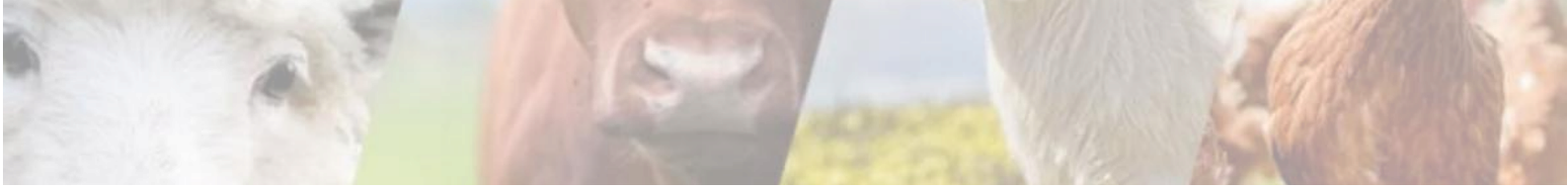


NUMBER OF BUSINESS UNITS ESTABLISHED BY PROVINCE

Table 45: Number of Business Units Established by Province

Province	Target	Business Units					Total Completed Business Units Established	Not completed Business Units
		VBU	SBU	CBU	YBU	VTC		
Manicaland	824	32	12	2	1	1	48	71
Mashonaland West	712	37	2	0	0	0	39	39
Mashonaland East	936	37	17	1	7	1	63	42
Midlands	1 856	40	4	1	0	0	45	84
Matabeleland South	1 240	24	6	0	0	0	30	39
Masvingo	2 544	88	8	3	0	1	100	51
Bulawayo	152	0	13	0	0	0	13	5
Harare	48	0	6	0	0	0	6	14
Matabeleland North	1 200	20	1	17	0	0	38	39
Mashonaland Central	976	58	8	1	1		68	74
Totals	**10 488**	**336**	**77**	**25**	**9**	**3**	**450**	**458**

VBU = Village Business Unit, **CBU** = Chief Business Unit, **SBU** = School Business Unit, **YBU** = Youth Business Unit, VTC = Vocational Training Centre



SWEET POTATO VINES DISTRIBUTED BY PROVINCE

Table 46: Sweet Potato Vines Distributed by Province

Province	Sweet Potato Vines Distributed
Mashonaland West	150 000
Mashonaland East	192 000
Mashonaland Central	100 000
Matabeleland South	92 000
Matabeleland North	92 000
Manicaland	Yet to receive
Midlands	Yet to receive
Masvingo	Yet to receive
Totals	**626 000**

Presidential Community Fisheries Scheme

The Presidential Community Fisheries Scheme seeks to establish two fishponds in each village, each with 2000 Tilapia fingerlings. Additionally, some 1,200 dams will also be stocked. Some 40 dams across six provinces were stocked with 325 000 fingerlings in 2024.

Table 47: Number of Ponds Stocked by Province

Province	Number of ponds	Number of fingerlings
Manicaland	244	924,000
Mashonaland East	372	1,381,500
Mashonaland Central	107	328,000
Mashonaland West	175	1,034,000
Masvingo	141	7,007,000
Midlands	80	343,000
Matabeleland North	109	408,000
Matabeleland South	115	351,000
Total	**1,342**	**11,797,500**

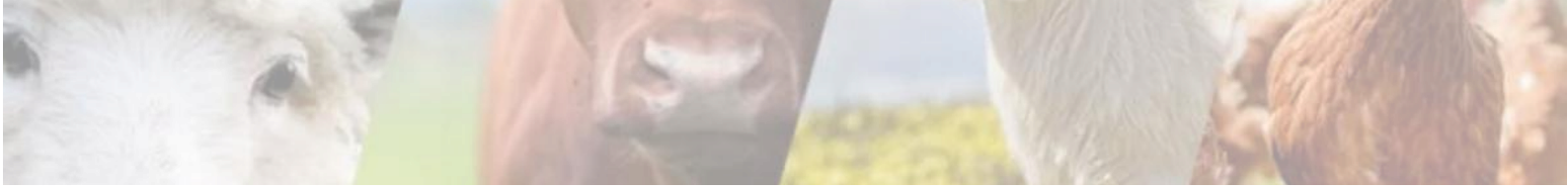


Table 48: Dams Stocked in 2023 by Province

Province	Dams Stocked	Fingerlings Stocked
Mashonaland Central	11	100 000
Mashonaland West	6	60 000
Mashonaland East	5	38 000
Masvingo	8	63 000
Midlands	5	50 000
Matabeleland South	5	14 000
Total	**40**	**325 000**

PRESIDENTIAL POULTRY SCHEME

The **Presidential Rural Poultry Scheme** targets 18**00,000 households** with a package of **ten 4-week-old chicks** and a **vitamin stress mix sachet**. Since its inception **2,007,611 birds** have been distributed under this initiative with 200,761 households benefiting.

Table 49: Distribution trends for Presidential Poultry Scheme

Province	Number distributed		
	2023	**2024**	**2025**
Bulawayo	34,211	6,040	1,000
Harare	49,260	161,995	4,500
Manicaland	75,458	138,612	10,700
Mashonaland Central	71,325	58,404	21,800
Mashonaland East	249,958	71,991	5,000
Mashonaland West	57,316	71,999	5,500
Masvingo	58,607	146,911	26,250
Matabeleland North	62,836	43,025	0
Matabeleland South	57,628	23,900	0
Midlands	72,523	28,531	0
Total	**789,122**	**751,408**	**74,750**

PRESIDENTIALVISION 2030 ACCELERATOR MODEL

The Vision 2030 Accelerator Model aims to replicate the highly successful Bubi-Lupane Model to encompass all the 460 irrigation schemes, covering an area of 26,000 ha and benefiting over one million people. So far, 324 irrigation schemes have been transformed to the Vision 2030 accelerator model, overseen by ARDA, with substantial improvements in viability, profitability and sustainability.

10. WATER SECURITY

10.1.DAM LEVELS

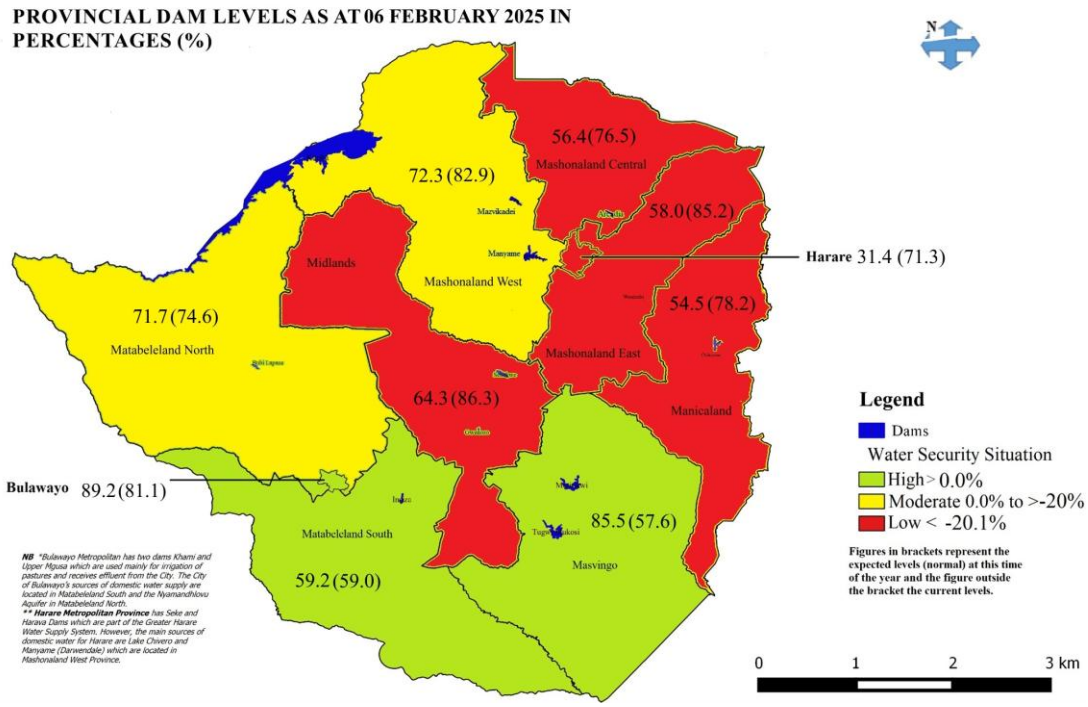
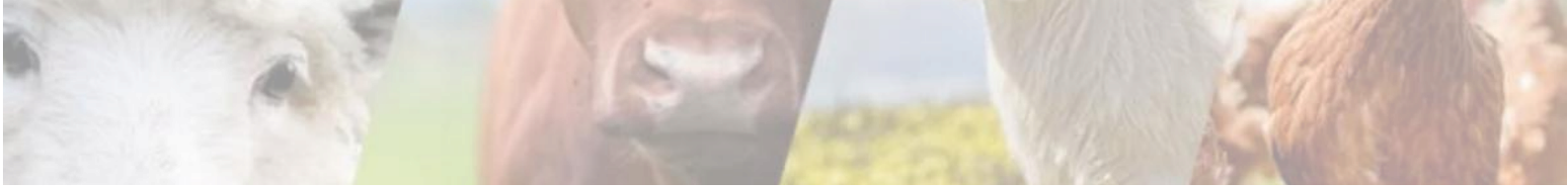


Figure 71: Dam Levels

The national storage levels are **75.4%** as at 6th February 2025, significantly higher than the normal levels of 66.6% expected at this time of the year. However, there are wide provincial variations.

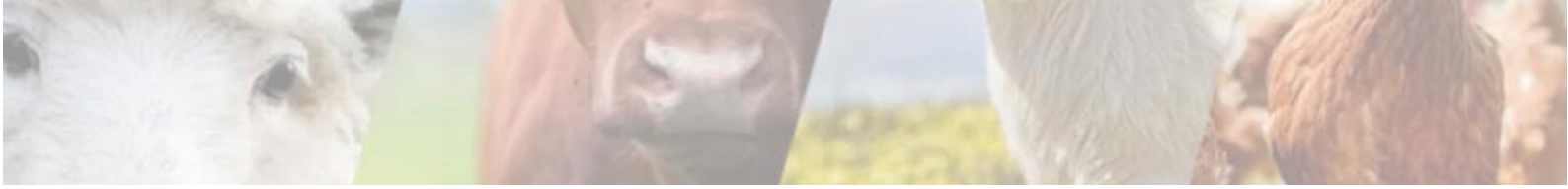


KEY ENABLERS FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAMME

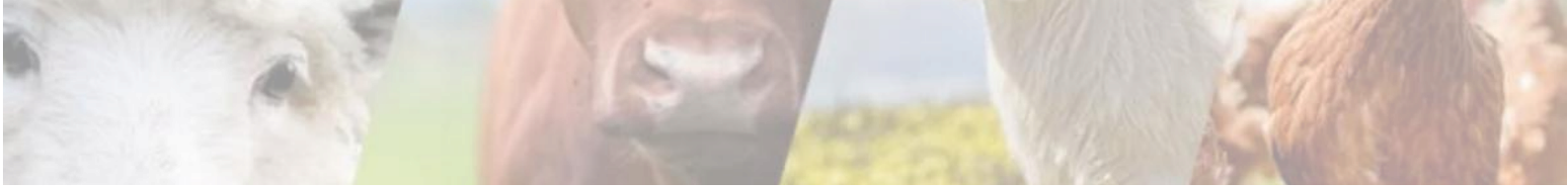
There are 21 enablers for the summer season. As of 6 February 2025 the status of the enablers was as shown in Table 50

Table 50: Enablers Implementation Tracker

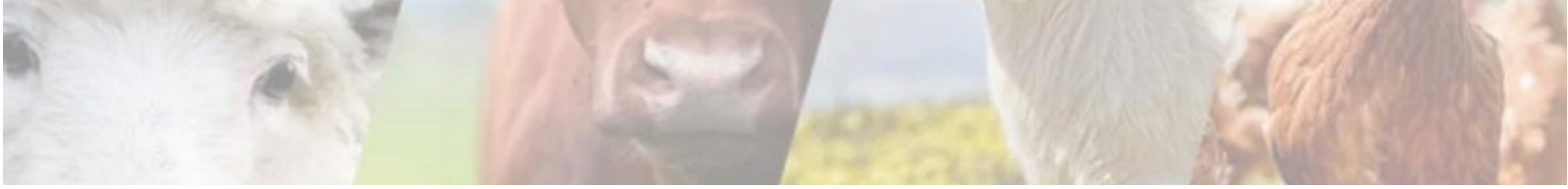
Enabler	Remarks
1. Financing	As at 31 January 2025, Bankers Association of Zimbabwe indicated funding of ZWG 852 970 million and USD163.12 million for the 2024/2025 Season.
2. Irrigation	Total irrigable area this season is 185 197ha (38 735ha maize, 2 097ha soya bean, tobacco 18 638ha, 79 728ha Sugarcane, 39 799Ha is under horticulture perennial crops and 6 200 ha under horticulture annual crops).
3. Water	Supplementary water for irrigation is available; water allocations revised, and are now crop-specific. Farmers registering with ZINWA for coordination of water supplies during the season. Dams are 75.4% full compared to 84.7% last year same time and the expected normal level of 66, 6% expected at this time of the year.
4. Mechanisation	Some 15,308 tractors, 9 230 Disc harrows, 11 212 Ploughs and 313 combine harvesters are available. The available tractors have tilled 2 863 942 ha as at 06 February 2025. 700 tractors, 80 combine harvesters and 30 grain carriers are expected from Belarus in 2025.
5. Seed	Seed grower payments behind and may affect future volumes, as farmers shun seed production. The current debt for the Presidential Inputs Scheme programme for the past three season is **USD269 636 648,47**.
6. Fertilizer	The fertiliser industry is currently compiling information of fertiliser sales.
7. Chemicals	Reports of FAW resistance have been made and this is being investigated



8. Power	ZESA implementing MOU signed by all parties. Agritex and ZEDTC working together to update farmers' database in preparation for the 2024/25 summer season and 2025 winter season. ZESA is working on solar net metering in the farming sector.
9. Fuel	Farmers can access DFI fuel from Petro-trade. No ZWG fuel available.
10. Markets	Pre-planting price for maize is USD335, traditional grains USD335, soyabean USD619.31 and sunflower USD721.20. Marketing arrangements are being finalised.
11. Farmer payments	Timeous payments to incentivise production and motivate delivery to GMB for SGR are required. Outstanding farmer payment balance is ZIG175.04 million and USD14, 97 million. Crop Purchase Buffer Fund was launched on 29 November 2024 and currently ZWL11 256 626.66 and USD 138 263.08 is in the account.
12. Capacity building	Adequate fuel, tablets, data for Agricultural Business Development Advisors (formerly AGRITEX Extension Worker). Establishment of 35,000 Farmer Field Schools, one in each village. To date 40 527 farmer field schools have been established for crops and livestock. To date 2 536 376 farmers have been trained. Some 6 000 tablets have been received and 5 133 have been distributed.
13. Insurance	Risk management, weather-indexed insurance, area yield insurance to climate-proof agriculture. Insurance Council of Zimbabwe has expanded the programme from Goromonzi to include 10 000 farmers in Hurungwe, Bindura, Buhera, Gokwe South, Unguza and Bulilima.
14. Policy and regulations	Planning, pre-planting, and marketing price announcements as per policy. Marketing arrangements are now under discussion.
15. Coordination	A "whole of government" and "whole of sector" approaches required for smooth implementation of the Summer Plan.
16. Monitoring and evaluation	Production Estimates Committee chaired by ZIMSTATS. CLAFA1 report to Cabinet 18 February 2025.



17. Land	Title deeds production underway and 2 500 to be issued by 31 March 2025. Some 2 701 Joint Ventures on 234 432ha registered.
18. Soil management	Zimbabwe revised agro-ecological zones, and soil and pH maps available.
19.Migratory pests' control	African Army Worm (AAW) outbreak reports have been received from Mashonaland East (UMP and Murewa districts), Matebeleland North (Hwange district), Manicaland (Chipinge District) and Mashonaland Central (Shamva district) provinces affecting maize and sorghum. Chemicals and sprayers were provided and control is in progress. Fall Army Worm (FAW) reported in all provinces affecting maize. Some outbreaks have necessitated use of drones.
20.Contracting farmers	For maize, sorghum and sunflower private sector contracted area is 157 941ha in the 2024/25 season compared to 198 118ha in the 2023/24 season, a decrease of 20%.
21.Security	Farmers to form local security clusters to deter thefts and vandalism on farms.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It has been observed that no cloud seeding activity was undertaken to enhance rainfall to date, suggesting suboptimal planning and poor coordination, which ought to be remedied by the establishment of an ad hoc Working Party of senior officials from the responsible Ministries. The Working Party should jointly plan, execute, monitor, evaluate and report on cloud seeding activities.

2. Climate-proofing agriculture should be accelerated at household and national levels – through Pfumvudza/Intwasa and accelerated irrigation development.

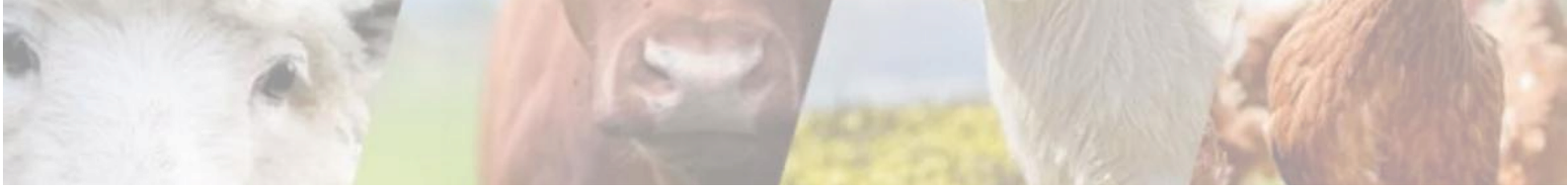
3. There has been a progressive increase in yields under Pfumvudza/Intwasa. Emphasis should however be made on agro-ecological tailoring of crops, and soil health and fertility management – two critical components of the sustainable intensive conservation farming practice, Pfumvudza/ Intwasa. Additionally, Pfumvudza/Intwasa must be a universal practice and should not only be undertaken in order to receive Presidential inputs or social welfare support.

4. Irrigation development, nationally, is lagging behind plan, with 217 000 functional irrigations against a target of 496 000 ha, necessitating the need to further incentivise the private sector to invest in this important subsector, so the target of 50 000 ha annually can be achieved. Of this 496 00ha, some 350 000 ha will be dedicated to summer cereal production.

5. To show gratitude for the support for social welfare, and to celebrate an expected good season, it is suggested that communities be mobilised so that each beneficiary household of the Presidential Input Scheme delivers 10 kg grain to the Strategic Grain Reserve, with Village Heads delivering 15 kg and Chiefs 20 kg each. This amount takes into account the need for households to replenish their household strategic stocks.

6. All the Rural Development 8.0 schemes are vitally important for the attainment of Vision 2030, and should be adequately resourced. The private sector should be further mobilised and incentivised to invest in Village Business Units, to provide value chain financing, to provide offtake markets, and to provide aggregation, value addition and beneficiation services.

7. The establishment of Ward Drought Mitigation Centres (WDMC) should continue in order to build resilience of communities against future shocks. The target is 1620 WDMCs. The ban on household and village-based cattle sales, in favour of structured, auction-based, ward-centred and calendar-determined cattle sales at WDMCs should be enforced.



8. The Presidential Blitz Tick Grease Scheme, should be re-named Presidential Household Tick Grease Scheme, to more clearly delineate this Scheme from routine acaricide provision for communal dipping. The Scheme should be expanded to include deworming chemicals to improve cattle condition for better conception and herd increase. Additionally, accelerated dip rehabilitation should continue to the targeted 4,009 dip tanks by 2025;

9. The establishment of the five government fingerling production centres – at Henderson, Chipinge, Makoholi, Matopo and Lupane - should be accelerated to provide easier access to high quality fish genetics proximal to beneficiary communities.

10. Agriculture should be viewed as a business irrespective of scale – from household to corporate level – necessitating further capacitation of farmers (through farmer field schools), AGRITEX Business Advisors (physical and mental motorisation) and value chain actors.

11. Localisation of the production of key farming inputs, such as fertiliser, which constitutes 30 to 40% of the production cost per unit area, has not progressed at the desired pace, making farming more expensive than other jurisdictions. This matter deserves more urgent attention.

12. The development and deployment of digital services to enhance value chain efficiencies – from ideation to production to marketing-, to lower the cost of production and improve viability, profitability and sustainability, and to provide timely up to date policy and management information, should be accelerated.

13. Meanwhile, the use of the Vision 2030 Agricultural Livelihoods Tracker (VALT/Pundutso) must be routine, and must form part of the CLAFA, to assess and measure the impact of RD 8.0 interventions at uplifting rural communities out of poverty towards Vision 2030. Requisite resources should be availed for this purpose.

14. Noting the general good rains for crop production across the country, only needs-driven extension of the social welfare food drought mitigation is recommended beyond 31 March 2025. However, the school feeding programme should continue to the end of the first term.

Hon. Dr A. J. Masuka
MINISTER OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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