

First round Crop and livestock
assessment update 2020/2021
agricultural season

Ministry of lands ,Agriculture, water,
fisheries and rural resettlement

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- The crop and livestock assessments are food security early warning tools used in the country
 - provide an indication of the expected crop and livestock production in the country
 - used to determine the food security situation mainly focusing on the agricultural production.
- The assessments are critical for policy and decision makers in terms of prioritizing needy areas and districts in terms of food

THE FIRST CROP AND LIVESTOCK ASSESSMENT

- Establishing area prepared for planting,
- Establishing area planted to different crops,
- Checking rainfall distribution
- Water availability , grazing condition in relation to livestock condition
- Prevalence of diseases.

THE SECOND CROP AND LIVESTOCK ASSESSMENT

- To estimate yields and production of food and non food crops in the country.
- To identify areas of deficit/surplus in cereal production at district and provincial levels.
- To assess the situation of livestock as it relates to stock-feed availability, grazing condition, water supply and disease prevalence

Methodology

- The sampling frame for data collection is thirty (30) farmers per sector per ward or census if less than thirty.
 - These farmers are randomly selected and sampling is done every year in July and August before the beginning of each summer season.
 - This enables time for verifying the sampled farmers.
- The selection is done at the district level to remove any bias.

- Data collection moved from traditional paper questionnaires to digital ODK system.
 - Data collected in real time to enhance the consistency and quality of the collected data using the ODK system.
 - The coordinate reference system will also help to analyse the changes in crop growth and condition.
 - The data obtained is combined or compared to the existing data collected by our extension staff.
 - The use of remote sensing cuts down on the resources required to carry out crop and livestock assessments each year..

Highlights of the assessment

- Data collection just concluded
- Report writing
 - 1-6 March 2021
 - Final report to be released after being tabled in the Cabinet

- The 2020/21 agricultural season was characterized by a good start of the rainfall season which was well distributed in both space and time. The season started during the third dekad of November, whilst most of the districts received their effective rains in the 1st dekad of December 2020.
- The Government of Zimbabwe supported the agriculture season through the following input schemes; Climate Proof Presidential Input Support Scheme (Pfumvudza) including tick grease, Cotton Input Scheme and Special Maize Programme for Import Substitution (Command Agriculture).
- The majority of the households (over 90%) were supported by the available government inputs programs and mainly being the Pfumvudza/Presidential inputs scheme and the command Agriculture program.
- There was a limited availability of top dressing fertilizer on the market since the beginning of season which led to high prices compared to previous seasons.

Crop performance

- The crop stage ranges from late vegetative to reproductive.
- The early planted maize crop constitutes majority (above 70%) of the total cropped area.
- The small grain crop stage ranges from early vegetative to physiological maturity.
- The early irrigated crop has reached physiological maturity and is ready for harvesting.
- The late planted crop has been affected by water logging and showing signs of nitrogen deficiency due to leaching as a result of the persistent rains especially in sandy soil areas.

LIVESTOCK HEALTH •

- January disease in Chegutu, Zvimba ,Seke ,Mhondoro and Sanyati
- Better control of tick borne diseases.
- Isolated cases were recorded for Anthrax, Black Leg, Lumpy Skin and Newcastle in poultry .