Locust Report

• Outbreak of Senegalese grasshoppers received from Midlands Province in December 2020
• National ground teams attended to outbreak areas
• A total of 107 small holder farmers were affected
• Crops under threat were maize, and pearl millet with the pasture grasses being highly preferred
• Chemical control was provided
Locust Report

• There was significant decrease on the Locust population density from 65 to below 10 per square meter.

• Chickens, birds and turkeys observed biologically controlling the locusts.

• Removal of grasses along field edges helped reduce damage to the crops.

• Previously affected crops showed signs of recovery
Locust Report

• ground surveys were carried out in traditional and potential breeding sites for AML in Manicaland, Masvingo and Midlands Provinces (1 December to 18 December 2020)

• This covered sugarcane and cereal production communal areas, old resettlement schemes and irrigation schemes.

• A total of 31 points were surveyed in the three provinces (6 Midlands, 10 Manicaland and 15 in Masvingo).

• No AML was identified
Locust Report

• Awareness materials (Banners, pamphlets, videos and media clips) preparations in progress
• No trainings done and with current Covid guidelines, no face-to-face meetings approved. Possible ways of raising awareness are through Whatsapp platforms and print media.
Overview of crop stage and condition

- Bulk of the cereal crop at early vegetative stage
- Early planted crop at late vegetative stage
- The crop condition is assessed as fair
- Crop affected by too much water resulting in leaching
- Crops showing signs of nitrogen deficiency.
- Nitrogen fertiliser not readily available on the market
- Most farmers failing to weed on time due to the incessant rains.

- Ministry of Agriculture to undertake the **First Round Crop and livestock Assessment early February 2021**
  - ✓ provide national estimates of area planted, crop condition, crop stage and livestock situation report.
  - ✓ Assessment provides early indication of harvest prospects.
Thank you