

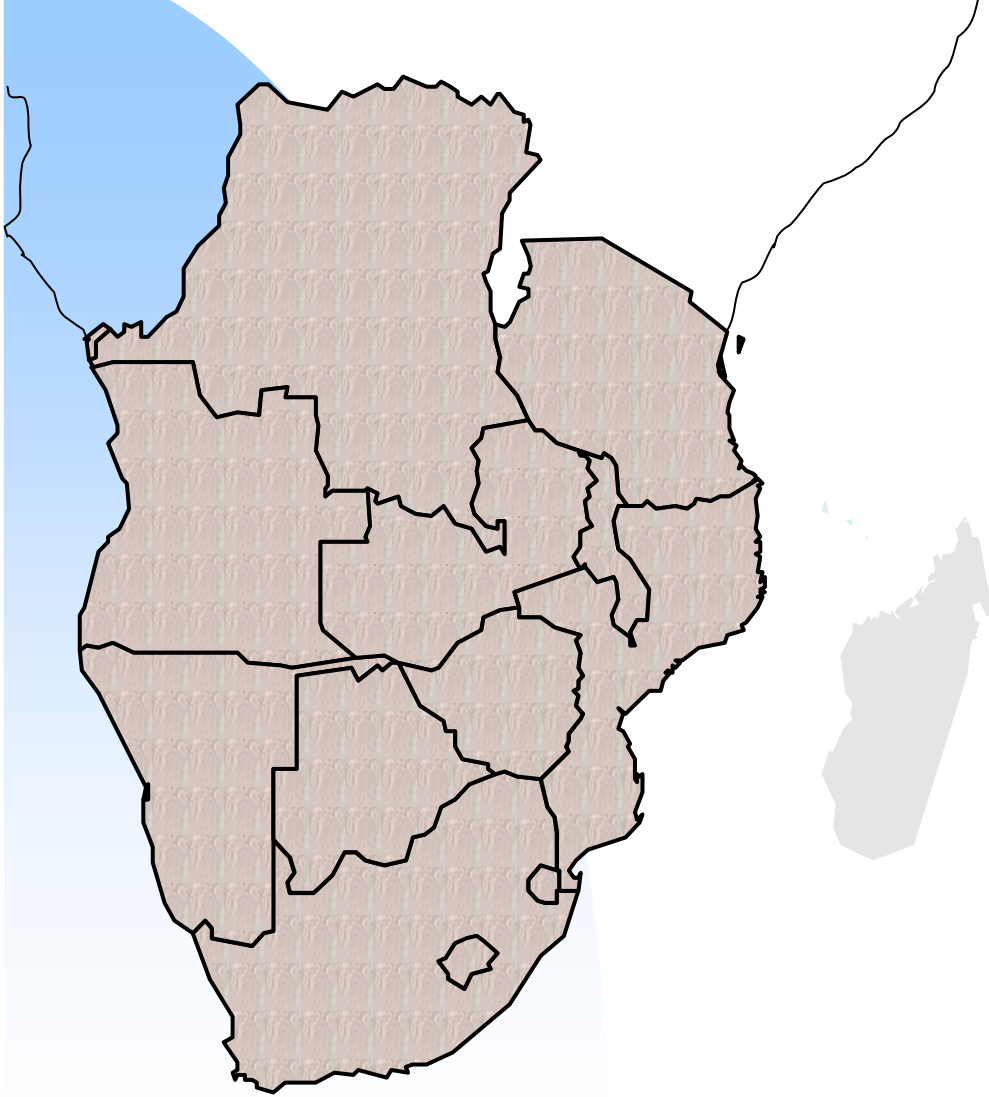


STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

**Presentation at “Continental Seminar on Food Security
– Africa”; 12 - 16 March 2007, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Richard Masundire
Senior Agricultural Economist
SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana
www.sadc.int**

The SADC Region



- 14 Member States.
- 200+ million people.
- Varied climate regions.
- Mostly uni-modal rainfall systems (bi-modal in the north).
- Varied cropping systems.
- Maize (corn) dominant crop
- Cassava and tubers important in the north.
- Rainfed agriculture – irrigation only significant in South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- Prone to **floods** and **droughts**.



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

SADC region is well endowed with a diversified natural resource base

- But agricultural growth and productivity have been stagnant over the past 20 years.
- Agricultural incomes have declined and food insecurity has increased markedly.
- Poverty has increased in rural areas, accelerating rural-urban/migration.
- Unsustainable management techniques in agriculture and natural resources threaten the resource base itself



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The major reasons for hunger in the SADC region are farmers' inadequate access to key inputs and markets,

leaving them as primary producers, chronically poor and vulnerable to food insecurity



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Key challenges

- ☐ **Low financing & Investment in Agriculture;**
 - ☐ **Low Productivity due to low uptake of technology and inputs;**
 - ☐ **Dependency on rain-fed agriculture;**
 - ☐ **Unsustainable use of Natural Resources;**
- ☐ **Proneness to Disasters – but limited Disaster Preparedness;**
 - ☐ **HIV and AIDS;**
 - ☐ **Gender imbalances in accessing inputs and**
 - ☐ **Poor Market Access**



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Food Security Analysis

is done by **Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)** through

- ☐ food/cereal balance sheets
- ☐ remotely sensed information;
monitoring R/F performance during crop
growing period, issuing 10-day agro-
met updates/monthly bulletins
- ☐ vulnerability assessments

Data & Analysis

- **SADC Regional Early Warning System**
 - Has maintained a food balance sheet and crop statistics starting 1987.
 - **Regional Remote Sensing Project**
 - Has since 1988 monitored weather/climate changes and their impacts on crops and production.
 - Monitors crop performance and provides an early forecast of yield and production.
 - **Regional Vulnerability Analysis Committee**
 - Has since 1999 conducted vulnerability assessments (food production and shortfalls, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, HIV and AIDS, and education)

Food Balance Sheets

- Are country-specific,
- focus on stocks and production of each major crop
- projections of human food requirements
- Coverage limited to major staple cereals: maize, wheat, rice, sorghum, millet
- Also cassava where crop is grown
- Meat, other livestock products not included (major criticism)



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

**Table 2: SADC - SUMMARY
ANNUAL CEREAL BALANCE
MARKETING YEAR (Vary by Country) 2006/2007
Thousands of Metric Tons**

	Maize	Wheat	Rice	Millet/ Sorghum	All Cereals	Cassava
<u>A. Domestic Availability</u>	<u>20247</u>	<u>3513</u>	<u>1132</u>	<u>2101</u>	<u>26993</u>	<u>22354</u>
A.1 Opening Stocks	4151	1322	420	263	6155	313
Formal/SGR	4062	1315	392	215	5984	5
On Farm	79	7	21	46	154	308
Other	9	0	6	1	16	0
A.2 Gross Harvest	16096	2191	713	1838	20838	22040
B. Gross Domestic Requirements	20687	4565	2197	2626	30075	13906
C. Desired SGR Carryover Stocks	1572	680	47	68	2367	241
<u>D. Domestic Shortfall/Surplus</u>	<u>-2013</u>	<u>-1733</u>	<u>-1111</u>	<u>-593</u>	<u>-5450</u>	<u>8206</u>
E. Commodity Cross Substitution	380	0	0	498	878	0
<u>F. Imports</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>816</u>	<u>0</u>
F.1 Received	169	135	89	2	395	0
Commercial	161	135	89	1	386	0
Food Aid	9	0	0	0	9	0
F.2 Expected	190	164	48	19	420	0
Commercial	164	164	48	19	395	0
Food Aid	25	0	0	0	25	0
<u>G. Exports</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>30</u>
Committments Shipped	0	2	0	0	2	0
Committments Not Yet Shipped	0	1	0	0	1	30
<u>H. Import Gap</u>	<u>-1274</u>	<u>-1436</u>	<u>-974</u>	<u>-75</u>	<u>-3759</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>I. Forecasted Closing Stock</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8417</u>
J. Current Stock	5963	1773	0	251	7987	0



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1: All Cereal Balance Sheet for the SADC Countries for 2006/07 Marketing Year

Country	Maize Opening Stocks as at 01 April 2006	All Cereals Opening Stocks as at 01 April 2006	2006/06 Maize Production	2006/06 Cereal Production	Domestic Requirements /Consumption	Desired Carryover SGR stocks	Domestic Cereal Gap (Surplus/ Deficit)	Estimated Commercial Imports	Food Aid Imports stocks/ pipeline	Expected Exports	Remaining Cereal Gap/ Surplus
Lesotho	6	47	103	126	394	21	-242	221	22	0	1
Malawi	74	78	2,611	2,754	2,396	60	376	113	0	2	487
Mozambique	50	167	1,534	2,098	2,479	159	-373	0	0	0	-373
Swaziland	7	21	60	61	187	8	-113	0	0	0	-113
Zambia	20	22	1,424	1,597	1,545	55	19	0	0	0	19
Zimbabwe*	53	76	1,705	2,026	2,461	250	-609	0	0	0	-609
TOTAL (6 countries)	210	411	7,437	8,662	9,462	553	-942	334	22	2	-588
Angola	10	25	520	672	1,490	24	-817	91	0	0	-726
Botswana	2	7	13	49	321	35	-300	291	0	0	-9
Mauritius	1	4	2	2	199	10	-203	193	0	0	-10
Namibia	4	34	52	110	266	40	-162	82	0	0	-80
SA	3,834	5,567	6,361	8,269	12,788	1,559	-511	0	0	0	-511
Tanzania	47	111	3,373	5,189	6,072	144	-916	0	0	0	-916
Total (other Countries)	3,898	5,748	10,321	14,291	21,136	1,812	-2,909	657	0	0	-2,252
TOTAL SADC	4,108	6,159	17,758	22,953	30,598	2,365	-3,851	1,223	0	0	-2,628

Source: SADC FANR, August 2006

Remote sensing Information

- Supply of satellite data to all SADC countries
- Technical support and training.
- Support to Vulnerability assessment activities.
- Support to the Regional Disaster Management Strategy.
- Emergency food assessments.

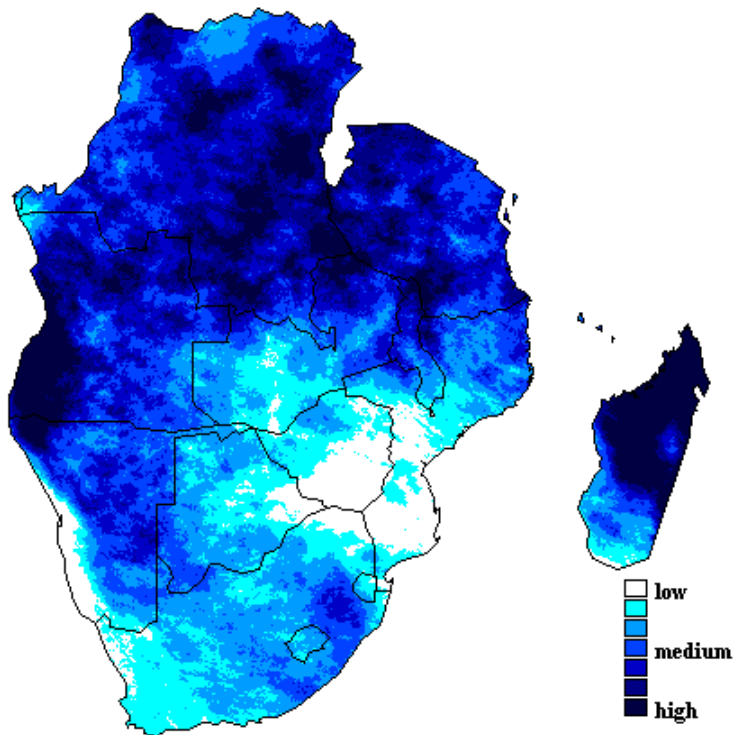
Principal Imagery

- Images are acquired or generated every 10 days.

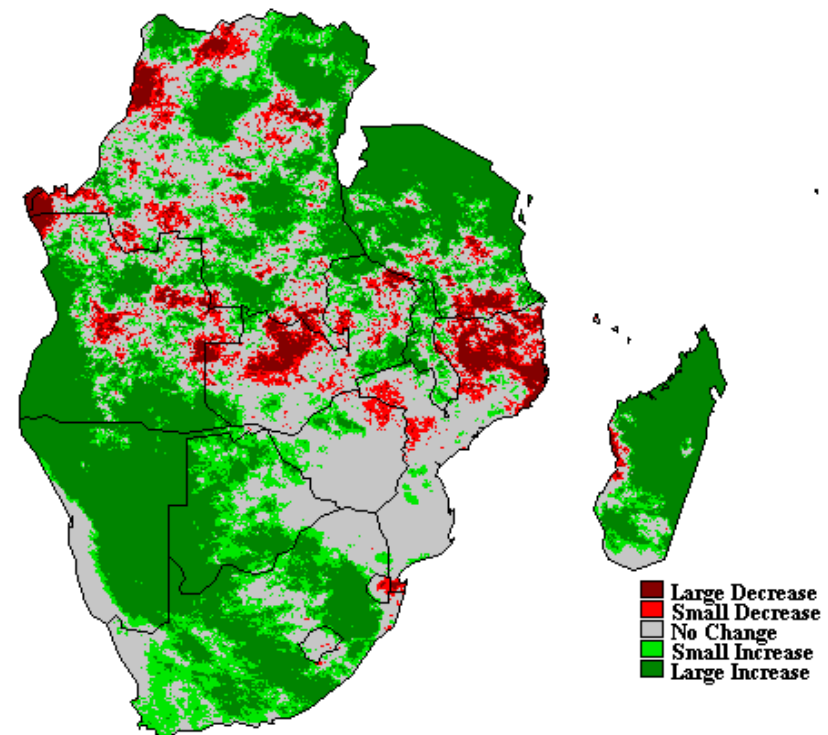
Imagery	Resolution	Monitoring
Cold Cloud Duration	0.1°	Rainfall, storms
NDVI (LAC/GAC)	1.1 km/ 0.1°	Crops, Vegetation
SPOT-4 VGT	1.1 km	Crops, Vegetation
Rainfall Estimates	0.1°	Rainfall, floods
Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)	0.1°	Crop condition

Cold Cloud Duration Images

- A proxy for rainfall activity.
- Derived from METEOSAT infrared channel.
- The RRSU operates and maintains a Meteosat receiver in liaison with the Zimbabwe Department of Meteorological Services.



COLD CLOUD DURATION IMAGE
SADC REGION: 01-10 March 2002

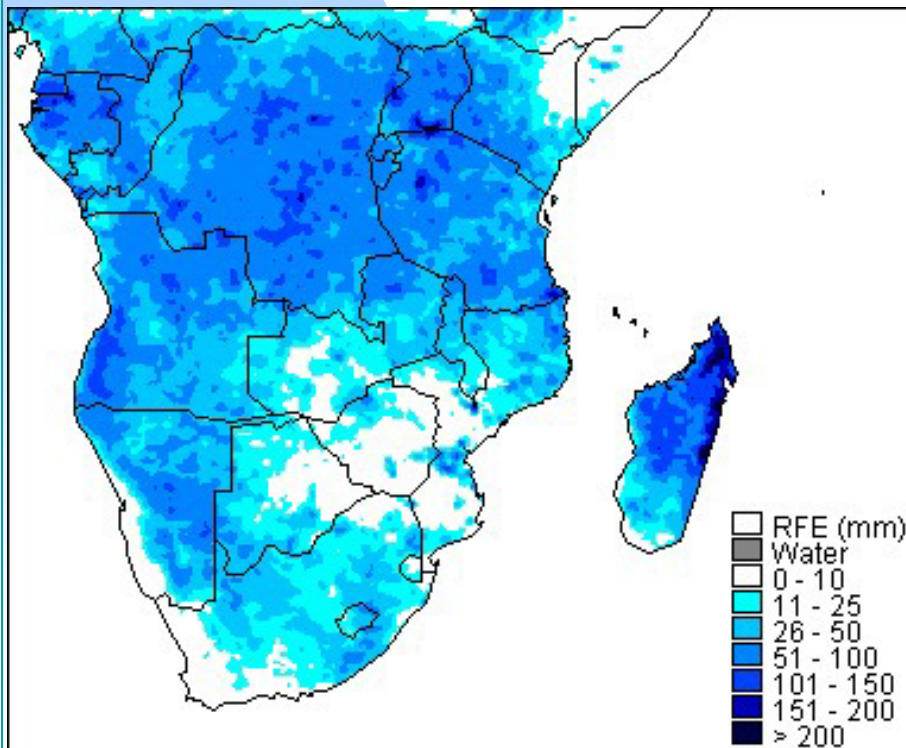


COLD CLOUD DURATION IMAGE
Difference from Average: Same Dekad

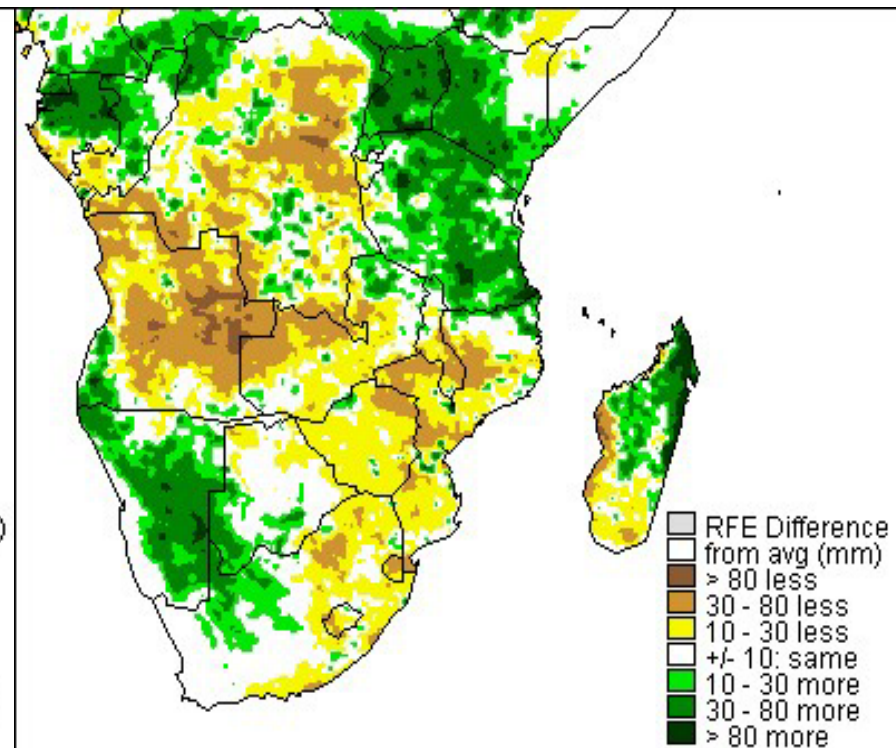
Rainfall Estimates

- Combine satellite images with rain gauge observations.
- Widely applied in crop and flood monitoring.

- RRSU receives Rainfall Estimates from USGS – EROS Data Center.



RAINFALL ESTIMATE IMAGE
SADC REGION: 01-10 March 2002

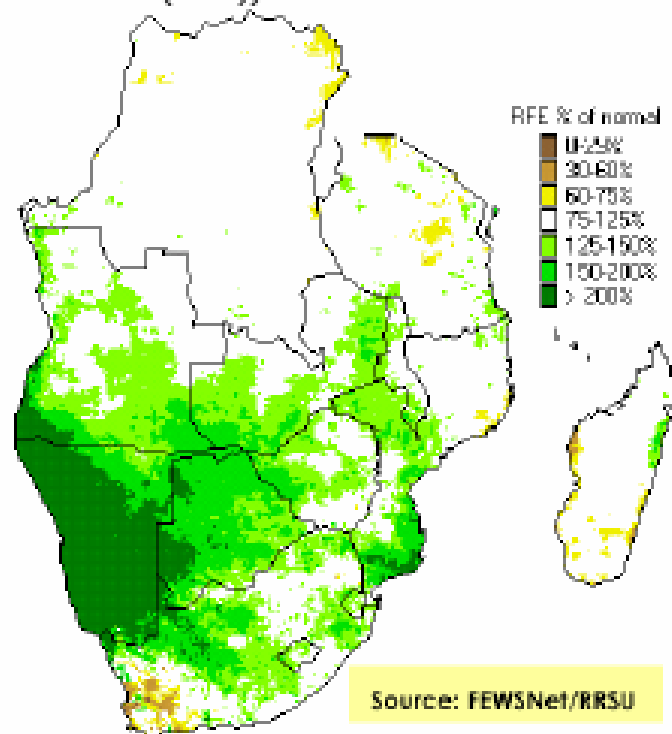


RAINFALL ESTIMATE IMAGE
Difference from average: same period



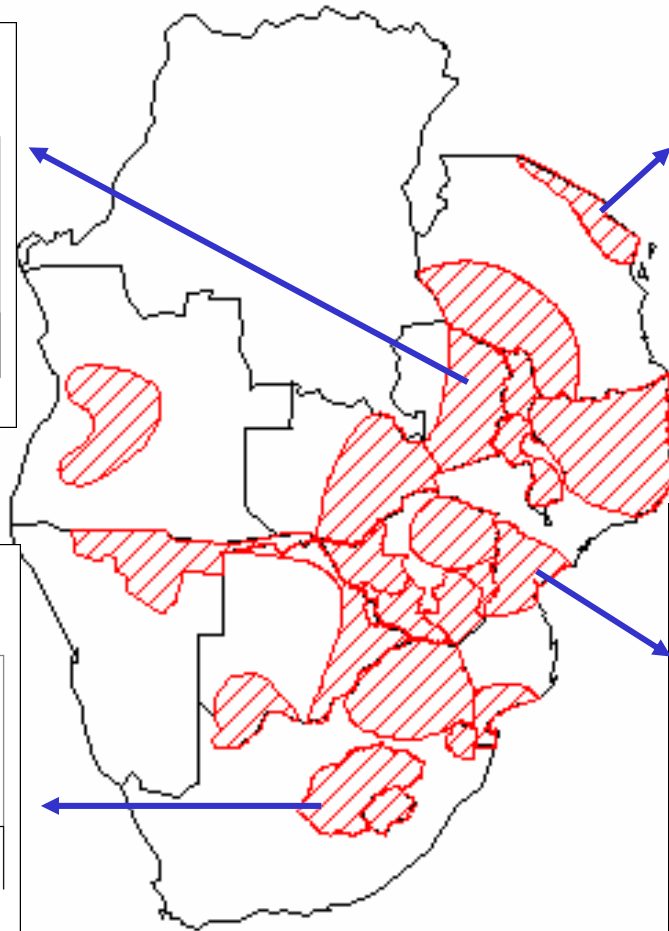
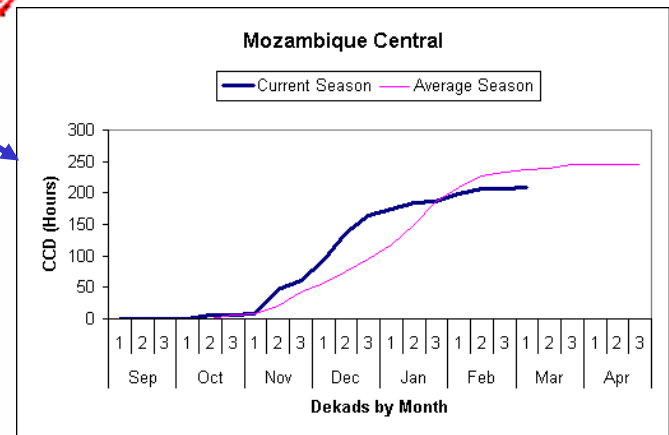
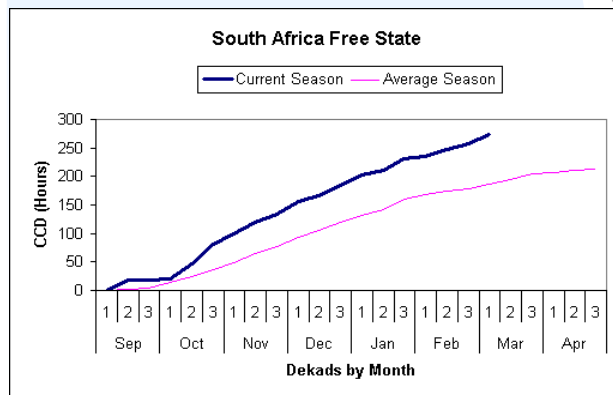
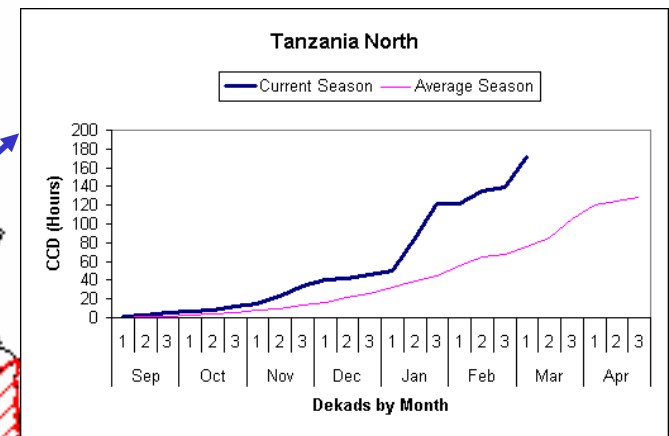
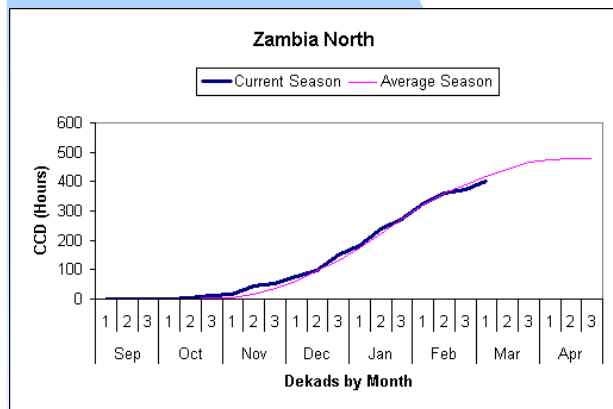
STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Fig.1. Percentage normal rainfall for rainfall totals from 1 September 2005 to 30 April 2006 based on Satellite Images (Rainfall Estimates (RFE))



Time Series Curves

- Help in visualizing seasonal trends and comparing them against long-term averages for main crop-growing regions in SADC.
- Plots of cumulative time series statistics from 2001/2 CCD images:





STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Vulnerability Analysis

The SADC VAC system is comprised of the multi-agency

- ☐ Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC)
- ☐ and the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVAC). Since June 2002, each has conducted a series of vulnerability assessments in the region.



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

VA analysis confirms the fact that vulnerability to food insecurity in the region is chronic in nature

❑ is largely an outcome of growing poverty,

❑ HIV and AIDS, and

❑ weak governance, commonly referred by the UN in the region as the “Triple Threat”.



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The situation has been exacerbated by consecutive years of below normal seasons and poor harvests since 2002 leading to

- ☐ the gradual erosion of household assets. In addition,
- ☐ the policy environment in some countries has also had a negative impact, resulting in households facing reduced availability and affordability of basic commodities and services (education, health, water, agricultural inputs and staple foods).



STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 4a: Population Assessed as Food Insecure

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Lesotho	650,000	270,000	948,300	541,000	245,700
Malawi	3,300,000	400,000	1,300,000	1,320,000	833,000
Mozambique	590,000	964,000	202,000	428,200	121,500
Swaziland	270,000	217,000	600,400	634,400	465,900
Zambia	2,900,000	60,000	39,300	1,232,700	0
Zimbabwe	6,700,000	5,422,600	2,300,000	2,884,800	1,392,500
TOTAL	14,410,000	7,333,600	5,390,000	7,041,000	3,058,700



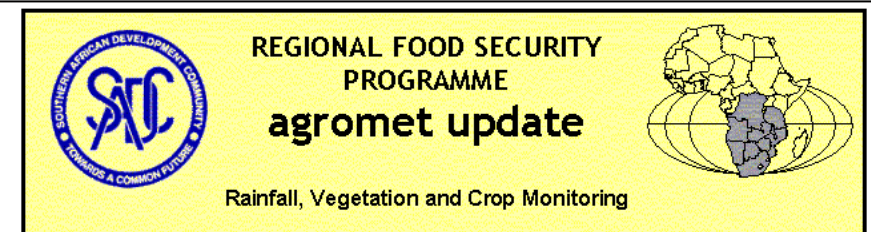
STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 4b: Food Requirements in MT

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Lesotho	36,000	32,900	27,500	12,000	12,900
Malawi	237,000	30,600	50,000	37,900	57,300
Mozambique	48,000	127,200	31,300	-	-
Swaziland	20,000	23,900	28,300	25,400	-
Zambia	224,000	1,400	9,500	118,300	0
Zimbabwe	486,000	388,600	177,000	225,500	91,000
TOTAL	1,051,000	604,600	323,600	419,100	161,200

RRSU Rainfall, Vegetation and Crop Monitoring Publications:

Satellite images and ground information are analysed in reports of this ten-daily *Agromet Update* bulletin ...



Issue 9 dekad 03 Month: January

Season: 2001/2002

Release date: 06-02-2002

Highlights

- Northern half of the region continues to record high rainfall
- Dry spell persists in parts of southern half of the region as early planted crops wilt ...
- January dry spells likely to adversely affect grain production in 2001/2002 ...

Dekadal Rainfall Performance

The upper half of the SADC region continues to receive substantial amounts of rainfall with isolated dry spells as shown by the Cold Cloud Imagery (Figure 1). The ITCZ continued to oscillate in the northern half of the region. Angola, the DRC, Malawi, Tanzania and northern parts of Mozambique and Zambia received medium to high rainfall during the dekad. Masvingo and Matebeleland provinces in Zimbabwe and southern (Beira, Inhambane and Gaza) Mozambique witnessed very low rainfall. Botswana and Namibia had low amounts especially in the southern parts and Kavango and Caprivi strip

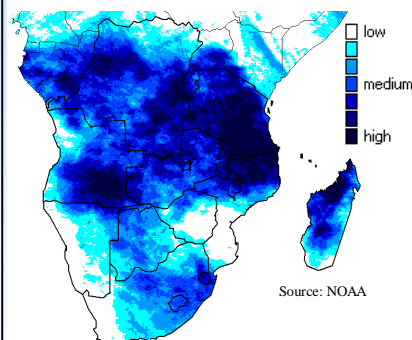


Figure 1. Cold Cloud Duration Imagery

respectively. While the central region of SADC was experiencing depressed rainfall, most of the eastern half of South Africa and its neighbours, Swaziland and Lesotho received high rainfall during the dekad. Kwazulu-Natal recorded up to 150mm of rainfall while the Swaziland record over 40mm of rainfall although crops were already stressed.

Regional Dry Spell Situation Update

The dry spell situation in the region has brought about anxiety as it persist relentlessly in some parts of Zimbabwe and Mozambique and forecasts show no relief (figure 2). While reports indicate resumed rainfall in some countries, the areas still dry report

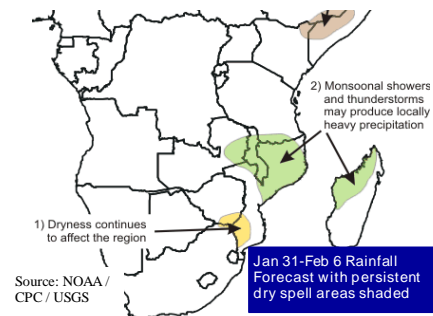


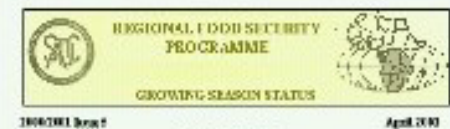
Figure 2. SADC Rainfall Forecast Map

withered crops especially those planted early and at a critical stage of flowering. However, drought tolerant crops like sorghum are not adversely affected giving hope of some harvest to feed the families especially in Botswana.

ANGOLA: High rainfall continues ...

The CCD imagery (Figure 1) indicate medium to high rainfall having been received in most parts of Angola with low rainfall on the coast. The country has generally received sufficient amounts of rainfall since the beginning of the season with crops expected to perform well with no water stress as experienced in other countries. The crops are expected to be at vegetative to flowering stages.

SADC REWS in Collaboration with DMC (Harare) and FEWSNet



HIGHLIGHTS

- Continuing rainfall to 0-monsoonal rainfall conditions due to the northern parts, especially Angola, and seasonal rainfall conditions due to the southern parts of the region.
- Good harvest was expected from the rainfall pattern of the sub-region where the rainfall was high, rainfall was expected.
- Villages in the northern parts of the SADC region during April brought about a good harvest of the region, particularly Botswana and Zimbabwe, which had been experiencing prolonged dry spell conditions.
- Southwestern Angola had the lowest rainfall during the first half of April while water levels in the lake and waterlogged areas in other countries.
- The April, May and June rainfall conditions indicated that during rainfall season had continued to intensify throughout the region, as the ITCZ continued to move northwards.

... and the above- inserted monthly *Growing Season Status* bulletin.

These publications
are regular during
the main SADC crop
growing period
between October
and April.

An RRSU Significant Weather Developments Bulletin:

Half-hourly
infrared satellite
images and
synoptic reports
are used to
monitor storm
and tropical
cyclone
development and
progression.

Targeted alerts
are made and
promptly
dispatched to
affected SADC
Member States
for early warning
purposes.



REGIONAL REMOTE SENSING UNIT

Significant Weather Developments



Release date: 4 February 2002 : 1200 UTC

TROPICAL DISTURBANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL

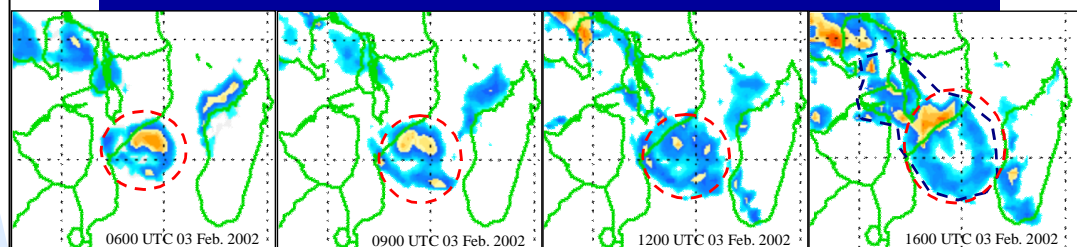
A tropical disturbance has formed in the Mozambique Channel. The chance of the disturbance developing into a cyclone is currently fair. Due to the disturbance, heavy rains may be expected in central Mozambique, Malawi, eastern Zambia and northeastern Zimbabwe.

A tropical disturbance has developed in the Mozambique Channel. Satellite infrared images (see figures below) show a region of convection develop-

ing from off the central coast of Mozambique into the Channel. Winds are estimated at between 37 and 46 km/hr. The potential for the development

of a significant cyclone are currently fair.

Infrared images showing progression of disturbance in Mozambique Channel



Heavy Rainfall Prospects

Cloud bands associated with the tropical disturbance, coupled with moisture influxes into the southern fringes of the rain-bearing Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) may bring heavy rains to central Mozambique, Malawi, eastern Zambia and northeastern Zimbabwe.

Terminology Note

A *tropical disturbance* or zone of disturbed weather is an area of low pressure relative to the surrounding region. Its associated cloud masses are usually not well organized as compared to an actual cyclone.

The Regional Remote Sensing Unit will keep you updated on any significant development regarding the tropical disturbance.

The Significant Weather Developments bulletin is intended to provide timely highlights of developing weather patterns that might pose a threat to human lives and property. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy of this report, country specific requirements should be addressed to the National Meteorological Services. The RRSU and FEWSNET produce a situational Regional Flood Watch during the rainy season.
The SADC Regional Remote Sensing Unit P.O. Box 4046, Harare, Zimbabwe. Email: rrsu@fanr-sadc.co.zw Fax: 263-4-795283

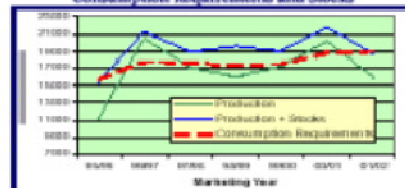
The Ministerial Brief bulletin informs top decision makers in Member States about hot food security and disaster risk issues.



SOME COUNTRIES ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES FILLING CEREAL GAP

The graph below shows that the region is now facing one of the largest regional maize production gaps in recent years (the difference between production and consumption requirements). When stocks are added to last season's production, consumption requirements can almost be met from within the region. However, the physical availability of maize within the region is not enough to ensure that trade and marketing systems will move the maize from surplus to deficit countries. Regional trade over the past few months has been constrained by financing problems, trade restrictions and transport bottlenecks. These constraints must be addressed by SADC countries as a crucial prerequisite to achieve regional food security.

SADC Regional Maize Production, Consumption Requirements and Stocks



FOOD SHORTAGES IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's staple maize is in seriously short supply. National and household reserves are nearly depleted. Rural outlets are often without stock, so limited supplies are quickly purchased. At the national level, at least 100,000MT are needed each month. The Grain Marketing Board (GMB) reports having impounded 42,000MT of maize from commercial farmers in recent weeks, paying government-set prices that are currently less than half of the market price. Recent arrangements by the GMB to import at least 160,000MT of maize from South Africa may have been put into place too late to ease the current shortages, as regional transport constraints are likely to delay shipments.

WFP has reportedly imported 5,200MT of maize meal from South Africa, as well as small quantities of other foods, which will be supplemented by 8,450MT of fortified maize meal donated by the U.S., which will arrive from Tanzania within the next couple of weeks. Response to WFP's emergency appeal for US\$60 million to feed some 558,000 rural people has been slow. Additional resources will be required to assist the urban poor and displaced farm workers. WFP food will assist the most needy households, but will not relieve the current market shortages.

FOOD INSECURITY RISES IN TANZANIA



FOOD INSECURITY RISES IN TANZANIA

The short-rain (Fah) season has ended in bimodal rainfall areas of Tanzania, with poor rainfall, extensive crop failure and poor pasture condition in northern and eastern areas. Most households in these areas are now considered moderately to highly food insecure. A food needs assessment is needed to determine the level of food insecurity and the appropriate response. In the meantime, WFP has extended last year's drought response until the end of April 2002, and plans to use the remaining 5,700MT of food to assist the most seriously affected.

At the national level, while on-farm stocks are run down, government and private stocks (62,000MT and 54,000MT respectively), plus remaining on-farm stocks are considered satisfactory to ensure national food security until the 2001/2002 harvest in May/June. Thus despite the Fah season production shortfalls, extensive commercial imports are not warranted according to analysts.

SLOW PROGRESS ON REGIONAL TRADE

According to private sector sources, maize trading activities within the sub-region are moving very slowly.

Recent reports indicate that Zimbabwe has completed arrangements to import 160,000MT of maize from South Africa. The first shipment of 32MT has reportedly arrived, with more on the way. According to available reports, transport arrangements have been finalized for only 10,000MT, raising concerns over the timing of future shipments due to regional transport constraints. With national grain reserves nearly exhausted, Zimbabwe needs to import at least 25,000MT per week to meet the national requirements for maize.

Malawi has reportedly completed the importation of some 53,000MT of white maize from South Africa despite transport delays in both Mozambique (by rail) and in Zimbabwe (by railroads). There are plans to import a total of 150,000MT of

maize from South Africa. Malawi is also planning to import an additional 30,000MT from Tanzania.

Zambia's Agricultural Market Information Centre reports that the Food Reserve Agency is facilitating the importation of white maize, of which only 31,000MT had arrived as of 23 January. Some 110,000MT is scheduled to be imported before the end of the marketing season.

Given the above situation, it is estimated that South Africa may end up exporting only 310,000-335,000MT of white maize to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and, possibly, DRC combined. Despite the lower-than-expected effective demand from these countries, the South African maize supply and demand situation has triggered imports from South America, which are expected to arrive within the next few months. Maize prices in South Africa are increasing as a result.

VULNERABLE GROUPS ASSISTED

Lesotho: WFP reports that some 36,000 people, whose food supplies were affected by heavy rains and frost last season, are being assisted. Approximately 2,200MT of food is planned to be distributed in five eastern, southeastern and northeastern districts between now and the harvest in April/May.

Mozambique: National and household maize stocks are at low levels, forcing prices upwards. Current maize stocks are estimated to be 70% less than at the same time last year due to the drop in production last season. Many households have reportedly begun to substitute maize and other foods for maize. WFP plans to add some 170,000 additional beneficiaries to its food aid programme, as food reserves become exhausted, bringing the total number of households receiving assistance to almost 390,000 in 45 districts.

Malawi: Government and humanitarian agencies are gearing up to provide assistance to vulnerable groups, as supply shortages and high prices limit access.

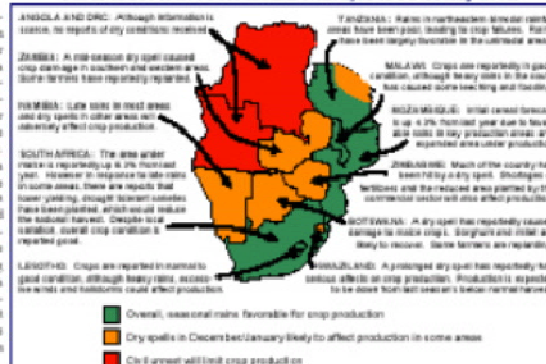
Zambia: WFP plans to import 1,200,000MT of maize from South Africa to assist farmers in 24 districts who were adversely affected last season by either excessively wet or dry conditions. Food is expected to start arriving in-country soon.

2002 PRODUCTION PROSPECTS MIXED, BUT GENERALLY FAVORABLE

Prospects Good ...

At this point of the season, there is no reason for serious concerns over the production prospects from a regional perspective. Much of the region has received near normal or slightly above normal rainfall so far. Even in some areas where dry spells have been reported, the rains have picked up and crops are reportedly recovering. In areas where permanent crop wilting occurred, some farmers have replanted. With favorable rainfall forecast for the remainder of the season, there is reason for guarded optimism.

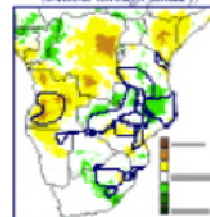
Status of 2001/2002 Production Season, as of 1 February 2002



Prospects Mixed ...

From the national and sub-national perspectives there are localized areas of concern. Many poor subsistence farmers produce on marginal lands and are vulnerable to seasonal dry spells or heavy rains, water-logging and even flooding during the rainfall season. The season so far has been no exception, and at this local level excessively dry or wet conditions have likely caused irreparable damage on some farms. In all likelihood, there are the very same farmers who suffered from similar conditions in previous seasons.

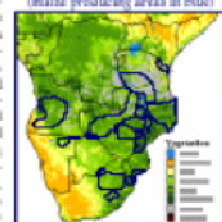
2001/2002 Seasonal Rainfall Compared to Normal (October through January)



2001/02 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE, THROUGH JANUARY

The satellite imagery on the left compares rainfall estimates so far this season (1 October 2001 through 31 January 2002) with the average rainfall for this same period. Rainfall in most of the region has been close to normal, or just slightly above or below average. The blue overlay shows the main maize producing areas of the region, where it is seen that rainfall has been largely normal. The slightly below normal rains in the important crop producing areas of Zimbabwe, central Mozambique and southern Zambia could be cause for concern if rainfall does not recover in the weeks ahead. The below normal rains received in Angola could also be of concern, although satellite imagery showing vegetation (right), indicates at least medium vegetative cover in virtually all of the major crop producing areas of the region. However, many small-scale farmers produce outside of these key production areas on more marginal land, where even slight variations of rainfall from normal can make a substantial difference in their production levels.

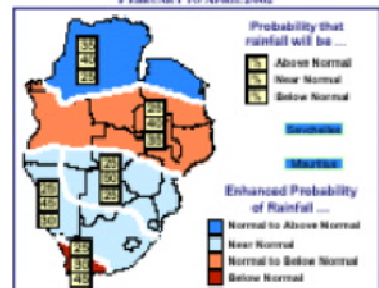
The Current State of Vegetation, as of 31 January 2002 (maize producing areas in blue)



NORMAL RAINS FORECAST

The DRC in Harare has forecast near normal rainfall for most of the region for the remainder of the season. Only the southwestern tip of South Africa is expected to receive below normal rains. The forecast is based on probabilities derived from 30 years of historical data, and considers the state of the global oceanic-atmospheric system. The forecast is relevant only for seasonal time scales and for relatively large areas. Local and month-to-month variations should be expected. National meteorological services should be consulted for local updates.

RAINFALL FORECAST FOR THE SADC REGION FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2002



CYCLOPHONE ACTIVITY COULD INCREASE

In view of the number of cyclones in the South Indian Ocean and compared it against observed cloud activity. Heavy cloud coverage corresponds with the area of above normal SSTs (see map). This is a marked change from about a month ago when the SSTs were near or below normal and cyclone activity was essentially dormant. The increase in SST is associated with increased thunderstorms that could spawn into tropical cyclones, which may or may not reach land.

Mozambique Approves Contingency Plan

For the third straight year, Mozambique has put into place contingency plans to guard against the threats of drought, floods and cyclones. The plan was designed using participatory methods to improve response capacity, and reduce the number of people vulnerable to natural disasters. While some 4.5 million people were affected by the floods in 2000, the plan now estimates that only 1.6 million people are vulnerable to floods this season due to reduced threat and enhanced preparedness. Some 1.3 million people are considered vulnerable to cyclones, and 800,000 people to the threat of drought. Government has started issuing early warnings to communities in local languages and has pre-positioned 8,420MT of food, as well as boats, tractors, cars and water containers in high risk locations to speed up response time in the event of an emergency.

Rivers and Dams Pose Little Threat

At the end of January, most river levels and dams in Mozambique were reported as well below the alert level. Both the Kariba and Cahora Bassa dams on the Zambezi River have excess capacity and, based on the rainfall forecast for the remainder of the season, do not foresee the need for excessive spillage that could cause downstream flooding.

The SADC Food Security Network Ministerial Brief is a joint product of the PANR, the Regional Early Warning Unit, the Regional Remote Sensing Unit, the Vulnerability Assessment Committee, the Database Project and PANR's key partners including USAID's PEWS NET, SC (UK), FAO and the IFRRP/Zambia.



For more information, please contact THE SADC REGIONAL EARLY WARNING UNIT PO Box 4246 Harare, Zimbabwe Tel: (263-4) 738051/2 Fax: (263-4) 738283/729196 Email: reuw@farn-sadc.co.zw Internet: www.sadc-farn.org.zw

SCA/RCR: Drought Monitoring Centre, Harare, 31 January 2002



THANK YOU
