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NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN

Volume 56-2024

<http://www.kilimo.go.tz>

31 DECEMBER, 2024



1.0 NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In bimodal areas, most of the food crops were at vegetative stages with favorable conditions. Field management activities were on progress. In Unimodal areas field management activities including weeding, fertilizer and pesticide application were in progress in most of the areas and crops are at vegetative stage with favorable condition.
- Postharvest handling and marketing for most of the food crops produced in 2023/2024 production season is ongoing in both Unimodal and bimodal areas.
- Rice wholesale average prices were highest in Manyara, Lindi, Kagera and Dar es salaam markets and lowest in Katavi, Tabora, Mbeya, Singida, Geita, Kilimanjaro, Simiyu and Shinyanga markets.
- Maize wholesale prices were highest in Dar es salaam, Tanga, Pwani, Lindi and Kilimanjaro markets and lowest in Dodoma, Ruvuma, Mbeya, Njombe and Songwe markets.
- Dry beans wholesale prices were highest in Pwani, Geita, Simiyu, Lindi and Dar es salaam markets and lowest in Kagera, Njombe, Ruvuma and Songwe markets
- Cassava continues to enjoy favorable conditions all over the country and the crop is at different growth stages.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

National Highlights.....	1
Major Crop Conditions.....	2
Satellite-Based Vegetative Conditions....	3
Rainfall Outlook.....	5
Food Prices for Major crop.....	7
Food Security	9
Public Awareness.....	10
Terms and Definitions	11

2.0 CROP CONDITIONS FOR MAJOR FOOD CROPS

Maize

In most part of the bimodal areas, Maize was at vegetative and reproductive stages (from tasseling to maturity) with favorable conditions. In unimodal areas, farmers were on progress with planting and other field management activities including weeding, fertilizer and pesticide application. The crop was at vegetative stage with favorable condition in most part of the country.



Source: Songea DC in Ruvuma Region

Beans

Planting activities were on progress in most parts of unimodal areas. In bimodal areas beans were at maturity stage and harvesting activities was on progress.



Source: Geita DC in Geita region

Cassava

Usually, cassava is planted in different periods of time based on soil moisture; and for this reason, it is found in different stages of growth. Favorable conditions were experienced in many areas of the country.



Source: Kibiti DC in Pwani Region

Paddy

In both unimodal and bimodal areas planting and other field management activities are on progress. The crop was at vegetative stage.

NB: In some of the irrigation schemes paddy is at grain filling to maturity and harvesting activities were on progress.



Source: Msalala DC in Shinyanga Region

3.0 SATELLITE-BASED VEGETATIVE CONDITIONS

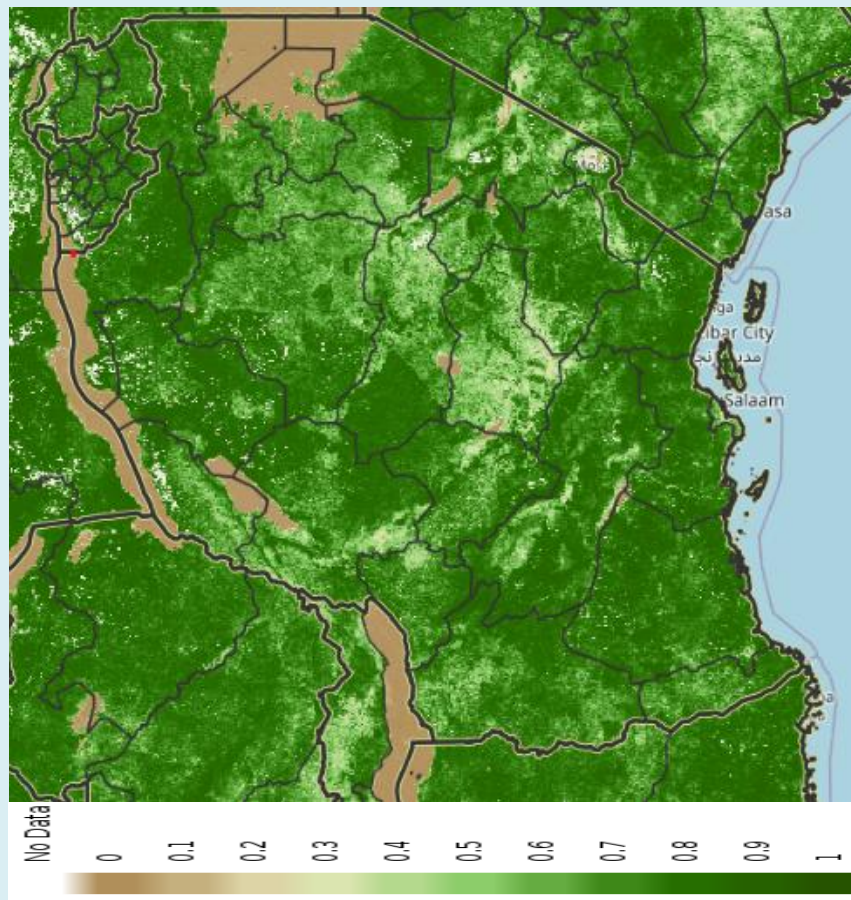


Figure .1: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for 21-31 December, 2024

Source: (EWX) <https://earlywarning.usgs.gov/fews/ewx/index.html?region=af>

In December, 2024, vegetation conditions showed continued improvement in both unimodal and bi-modal areas, following the progress of “Vuli” and Msimu rainfall season. However, the rainfall distribution for the 2024/2025 “Vuli” and Msimu season in December has been less favorable compared to the 2023/2024 rainfall season.

3.1 Satellite-Based Vegetative Conditions

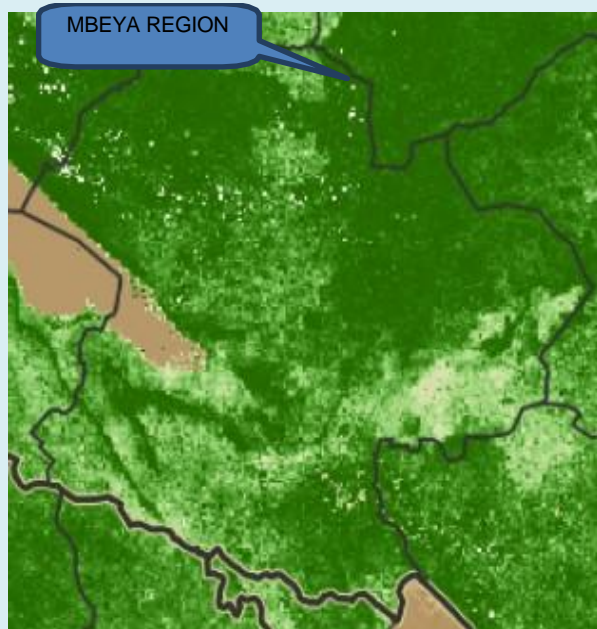


Figure 2: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for Mbeya for 21-31 December, 2024.

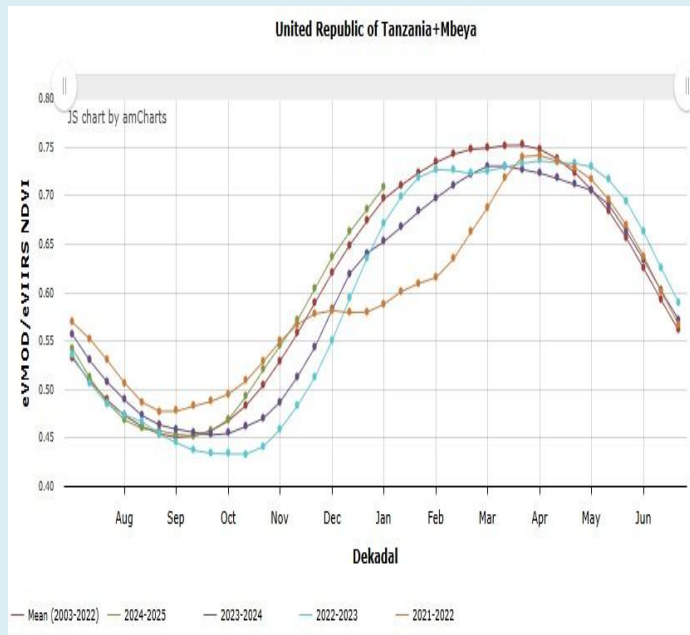


Figure 3. 10 days NDVI for December, 2024 as it compares to 2021, 2022, 2023 and the long-term mean for Mbeya Region.

Source: (EWX) <https://earlywarning.usgs.gov/fews/ewx/index.html?region=af>

When compared to the long term mean NDVI and the NDVI anomalies for December 2021, 2022 and 2023, the NDVI for Mbeya in December 2024 were higher than December 2021, 2022, 2023 and the long-term mean (Fig.3).

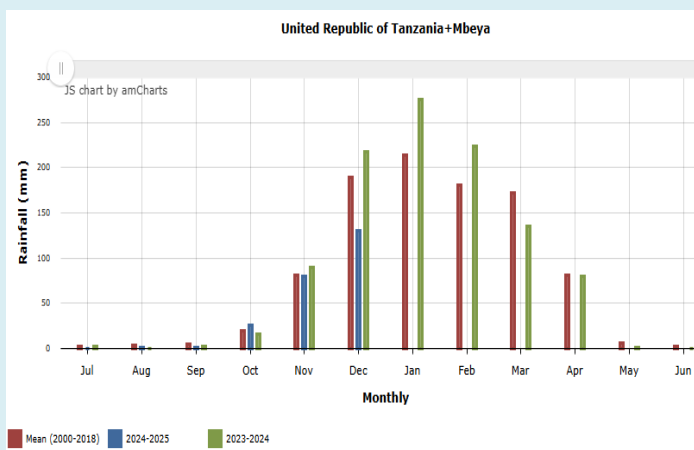


Figure 4 a: Climatology of Mbeya region indicates how rainfall performs in 2024/2025 season as compared to 2023/2024 season

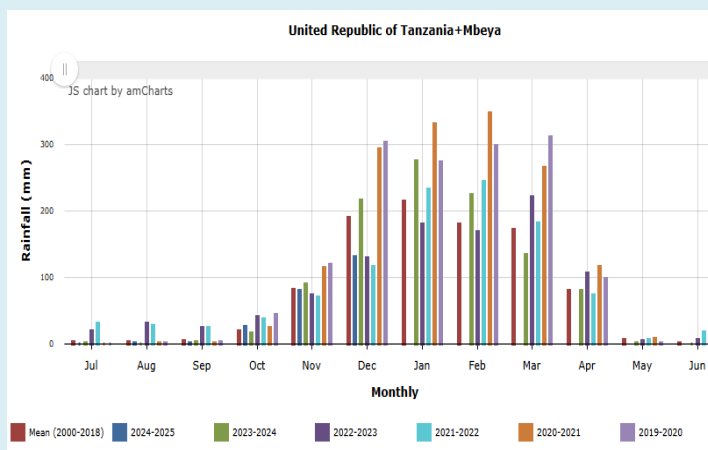


Figure 4 b: Climatology of Mbeya Region for Five years comparison indicates how rainfall performed for five consecutive years.

3.2 Rainfall Performance During December, 2024

In December, 2024, some areas of the country experienced normal rainfall with slightly enhanced rains observed during the first and second weeks. Furthermore, most areas received normal to above normal rains compared to the long term mean for December. Additionally, periods of heavy rains were reported over some areas, resulting in flooding, waterlogging, damage to infrastructure and property and disruptions to economic activities,

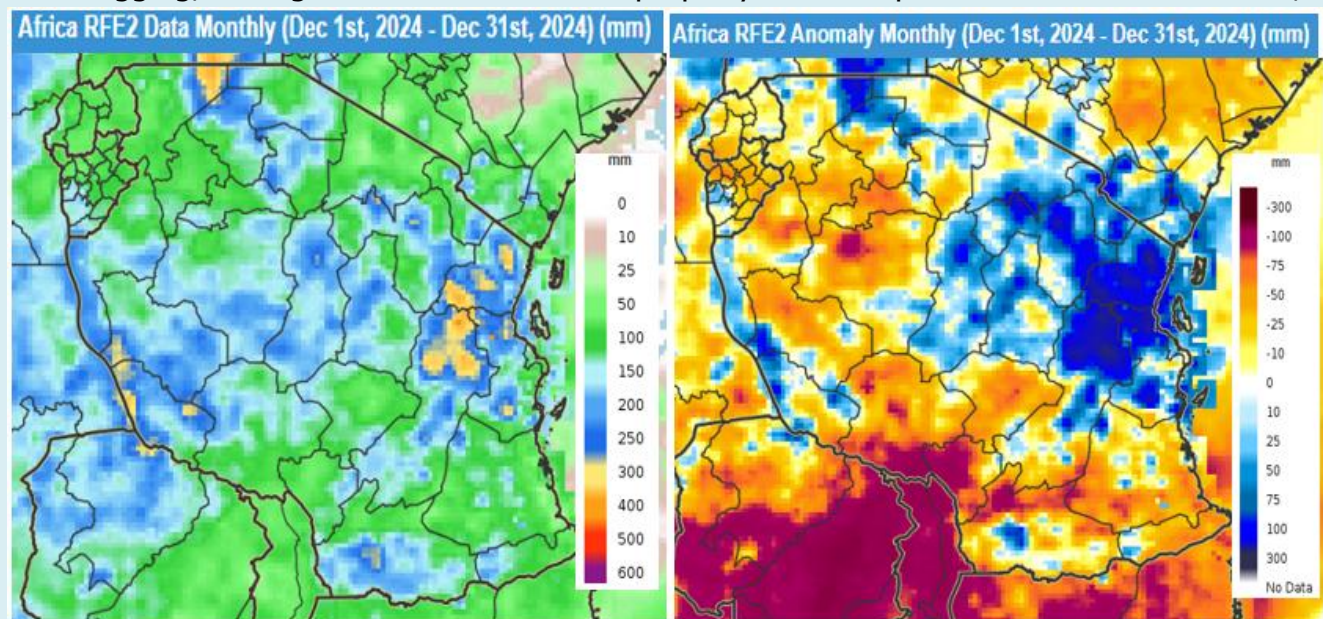


Figure 5: Tanzania Rainfall Distribution for 1st – 31st December, 2024; as total (left) and deviation from long term monthly mean (right).

3.3 Agrometeorological Impact During December, 2024

Improved soil moisture was experienced across most part of the country. Farmers in both unimodal and bi-modal areas actively engaged in field management activities including weeding, fertilizer and pesticide application as crops advanced to vegetative stages.

3.4 Weather Outlook for January, 2025:

During the month of January, 2025 seasonal rains are expected to continue in most unimodal areas, supporting the progression of the Msimu 2024/2025 rainy season. In bimodal areas, off seasonal rains are anticipated in some areas. Enhanced rainfall is likely in some areas during the month, potentially leading to localized flooding. Conversely, warm to slightly hot temperatures are expected to persist over some areas with insufficient rainfall. Details of the weather outlook for January as per Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) is as follows;

Northern Coast (Tanga, Pwani, Dar es Salaam regions, northern part of Morogoro region, Mafia, Unguja and Pemba Islands):

Rainfall is expected in some areas during the month. However, slightly enhanced rains are expected in a few areas, particularly during the first week of the month.

North Eastern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions):

Rainfall is expected in a few areas during the month, with a slight reduction in rainfall expected during the first week.

Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Mara and Simiyu regions):

Rainfall is expected over some areas during the month. Slight enhanced rainfall is anticipated during the second week.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions):

Rainfall is expected over some areas during the month, with a slight enhancement expected during the first and second weeks of the month.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions):

Rainfall is expected in some areas, with a slight enhanced rainfall expected in a few areas particularly during the first and second weeks of the month.

Southwestern Highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, Iringa regions and Southern part of Morogoro region):

Rainfall is expected to continue in most areas during the month. A slight enhancement is anticipated during the first and second weeks.

Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions):

Rainfall is expected to continue in most areas with a slight enhancement during the first week of the month.

Southern Region (Ruvuma region):

Rainfall is expected over some areas. However, a slight increase in rainfall is expected during the first and second weeks.

3.5 Agro-meteorological Outlook for January, 2024

The anticipated continuation of rainfall during January especial for Unimodal areas is likely to enhance soil moisture levels. Farmers are advised to use the available soil moisture to continue with field management activities while seeking guidance from agricultural extension officers in their respective areas for effective farm management.

4.0 FOOD PRICES FOR MAJOR FOOD CROPS

On weekly basis, the national average wholesale prices for major food crops (Maize, Rice and Beans) varied as follows;

Maize

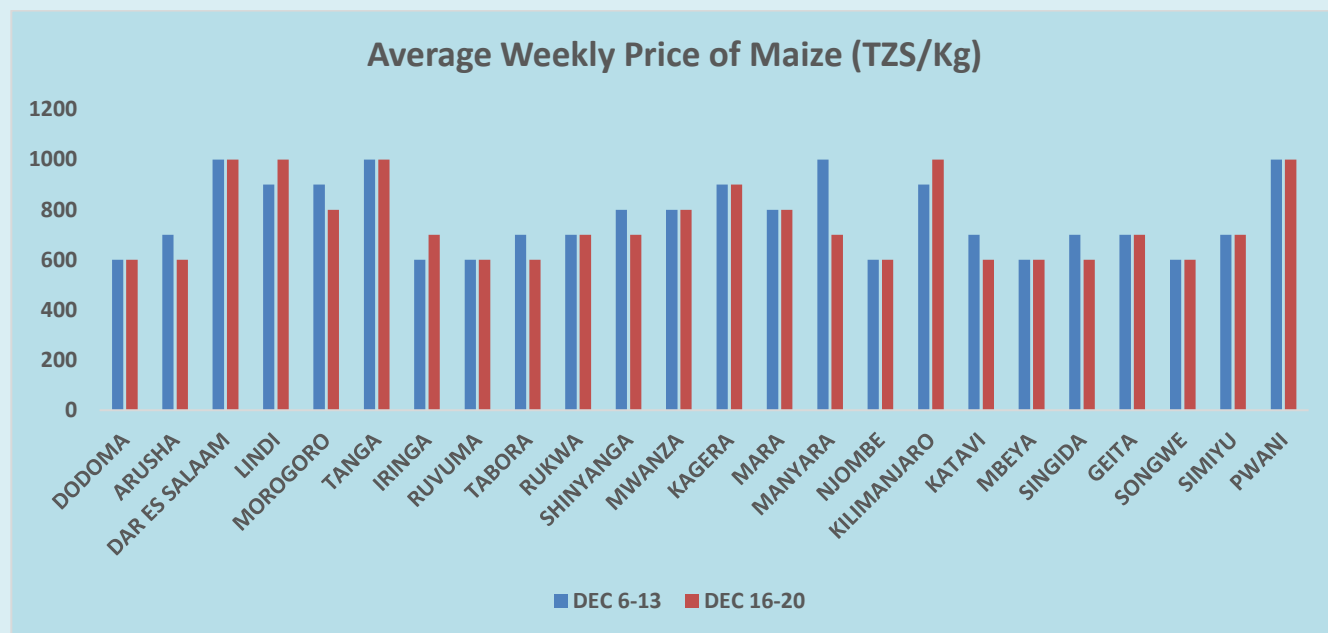


Figure 6: Average weekly prices of maize grain at major markets

- Maize prices were highest in Dar es salaam, Tanga, Pwani, Lindi and Kilimanjaro markets and lowest in Dodoma, Ruvuma, Mbeya, Njombe and Songwe markets.

Rice

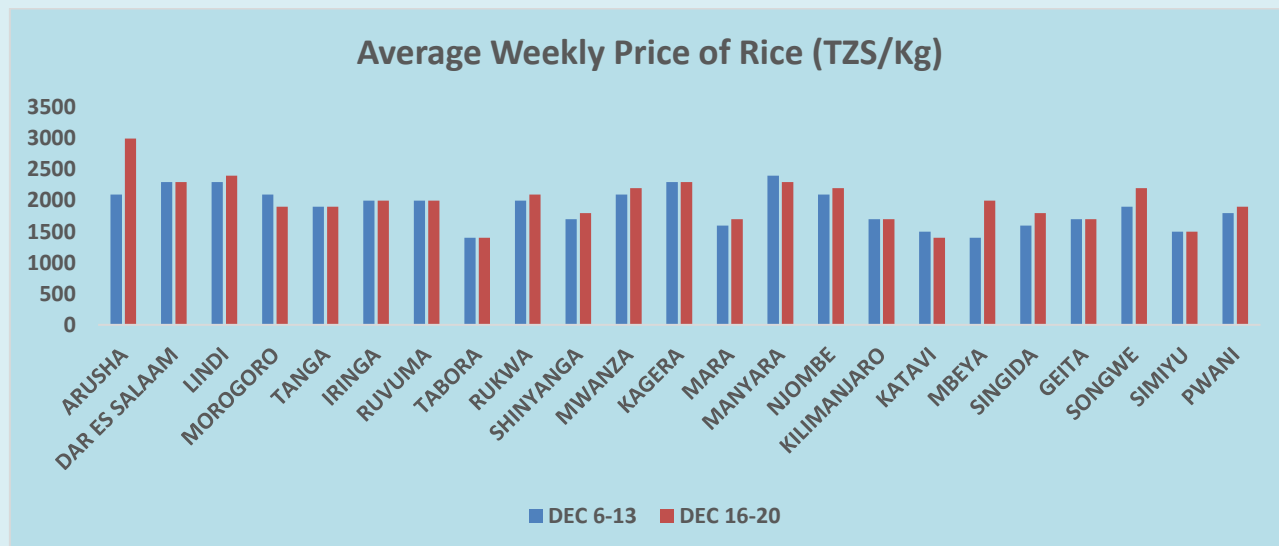


Figure 7: Average weekly prices of rice at major markets

- Rice wholesale prices were highest in Manyara, Lindi, Kagera and Dar es salaam markets and lowest in Katavi, Tabora, Mbeya, Singida, Geita, Kilimanjaro, Simiyu and Shinyanga markets.

Beans

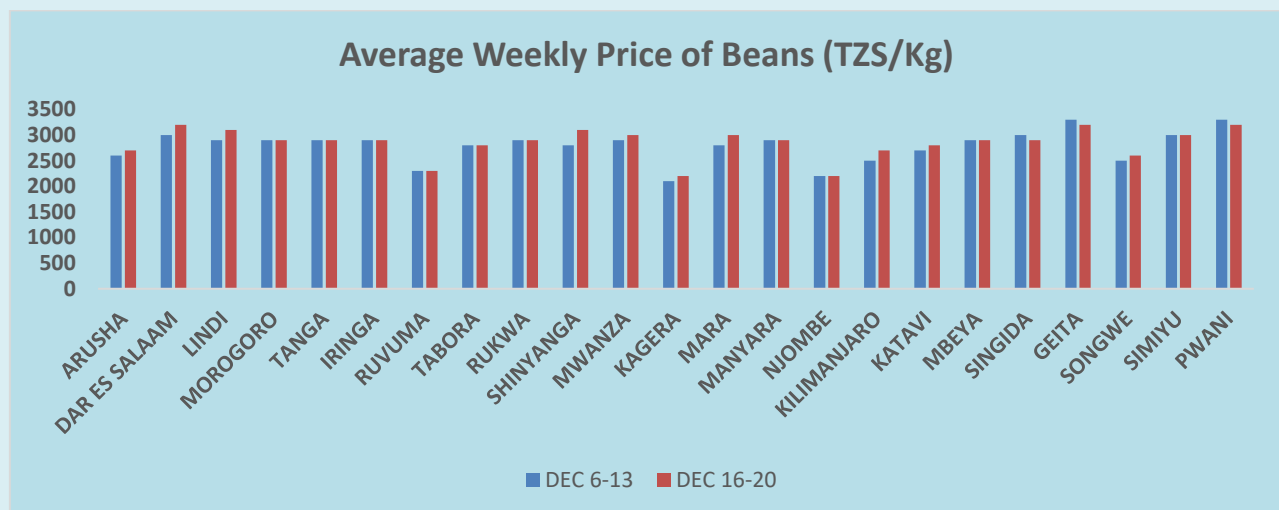


Figure 8: Average weekly prices of dry beans at major markets

- Dry beans prices were highest in Pwani, Geita, Simiyu, Lindi and Dar es salaam markets and lowest in Kagera, Njombe, Ruvuma and Songwe markets

5.0 NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

Over the past four consecutive years, food security situation in Tanzania has progressively improved, with production increasing from 17,148,290 tons in 2021/2022 to 22,803,316 tons in 2023/2024, representing a 32.9% increase. Furthermore, based on the Self Sufficiency Ratio (SSR), over the past ten consecutive years, the country has been self-sufficient at a level ranging from 114% to 128%. In 2024/2025, the country has reached a self-sufficiency ratio of 128%, which indicates a surplus status.

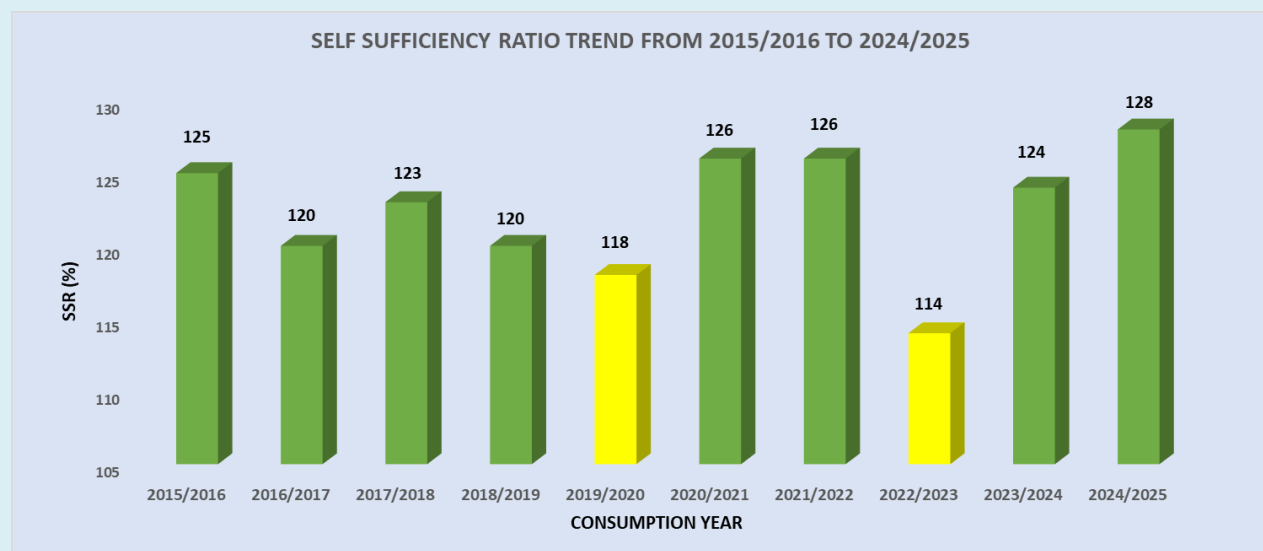


Figure 9: Self Sufficiency Ratio Trends (2015/2016-2024/2025)

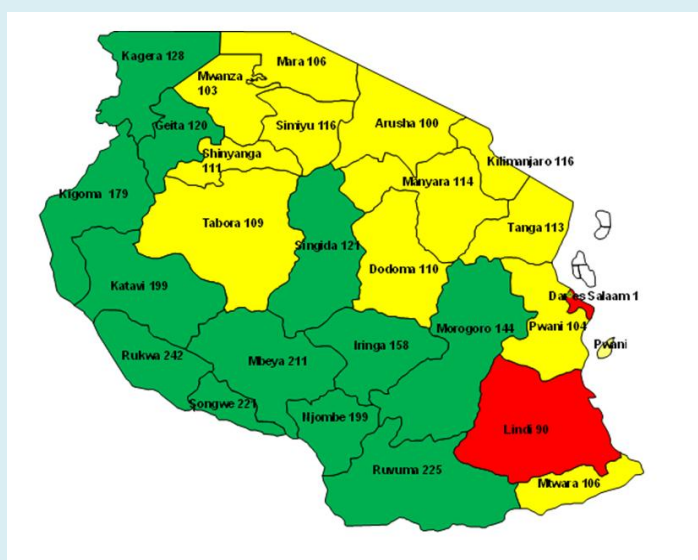


Figure 10: Region Level - Self Sufficiency Ratio for the 2024/2025 consumption year

6.0 PUBLIC AWARENESS

6.1 IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY BY MINIMIZING AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE THROUGH BUILDING A CENTRAL AGRICULTURE REFERENCE LABORATORY.

Tanzania through the Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination Project (TANIPAC) for the period of five (5) years in 18 DCs of Tanzania Mainland and in Zanzibar. To minimize aflatoxin contamination in the country, the project has constructed the Central Agriculture Reference Laboratory at Mtumba-Dodoma which constitutes a total of twelve laboratories to mention; (i) Seed Quality Lab; (ii) Soil Analytical Lab; (iii) Disease Diagnosis Lab; (iv) Microbiology Lab; (v) Chemistry Analytical Lab; (vi) Entomology Lab; (vii) Post harvest Lab; (viii) Bio informatics Lab; (ix) Tissue culture Lab; (x) Mycotoxin Lab; (xi) Food Science Lab; and (xii) Molecular Lab.

By the end of December 2024, the construction had reached 92% whereby the finishing and external works are progressing to completion. This will be for improving researches in agricultural sector therefore reducing agricultural related challenges in the sector.



Status of the construction project at Mtumba in December, 2024

7.0 ACRONYM TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
TMA	Tanzania Metrological Agency
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetative Index. The NDVI is used to measure and monitor plant growth, vegetative cover, and biomass production.
BIMODAL	Areas receiving rains twice a year. This means that the majority of precipitation falls in two distinct seasons a year i.e. short rains Vuli-September to December, Long rains Masika - March to May.
UNIMODAL	Areas receiving rains once a year Msimu rains i.e. from November to April
SSR	Self Sufficiency Ratio
EWX	Early Warning explorer