Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (EmA-FSS) BULLETIN

ISSUE 36: 16 – 31 OCTOBER 2021

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food at the household level was 37.0 percent, which is 27.1 percentage points lower than the 64.1 percent recorded same time last year and is slightly lower than 37.5 percent reported in the first half of October 2021. The southern region continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food (49.5 percent down from 73.1 percent same time last year and is also lower than the 50.8 percent reported in the first half of October 2021).
- In households owning any type of livestock, the proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases was 20.4 percent, which is relatively lower than 21.0 percent recorded during the same period last year and is slightly lower than 20.5 percent recorded in the first half of October 2021. The southern region recorded the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 24.5 percent which is similar to 24.6 percent reported in the in the first half of October 2021.
- The proportion of households involved in fishing related livelihoods activities was 2.6 percent, which is lower than the 3.3 percent recorded in the same time last year but higher than the 1.7 percent reported in the first half of October 2021. The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities (6.0 percent up from 3.3 percent reported in the first half of October 2021). Households involved in fishing related activities reporting some suspected fish diseases dropped to 6.4 percent from 17.6 percent recorded same time last year and is also lower than the 24.6 percent reported in the first half of October 2021. The northern region continues to register the highest proportion of households reporting some suspected fish diseases but dropped from 54.5 percent in the first half of October 2021 to 7.9 percent.
- The average price of maize per kg was MK147.32 , which is lower than the MK185.59/kg reported same time last year. The average maize price is lower than the MK148.72/kg reported in the first half of October 2021. The southern region continued to record the highest average maize prices per kg at MK168.80, which is lower than the MK217.90/kg same time last year.
- Average crop prices per kg were MK751.50 up from MK693.58 for rice, MK906.10 up from MK759.51 for groundnuts, MK496.91 up from MK439.76 for Irish potatoes compared to same time last year.

1. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD – INCREASE IN OWN FOOD PRODUCTION AS MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD FROM 2020 TO 2021

The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food at the household level was 37.0 percent, which is 27.1 percentage points lower than the 64.1 percent recorded same time last year.

The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food is slightly lower than 37.5 percent reported in the first half of October 2021 (Fig 1).

AT REGION LEVEL, the southern region continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food (49.5 percent down from 73.1 percent reported in the same time last year and is also lower than the 50.8 percent reported in the first half of October 2021).

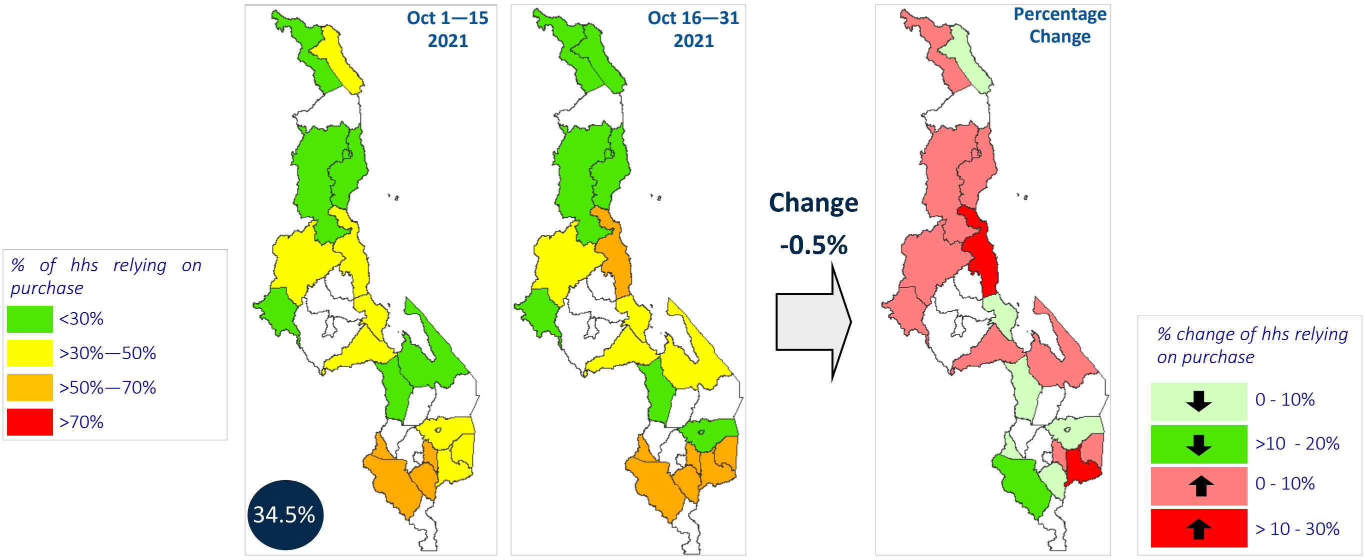
The central region recorded the second highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food (34.6 percent down from 61.9 percent reported in the same time last year but higher than the 31.7 percent reported in the first half of October 2021) and **the northern region** had the least households relying on food purchase (15.6 percent down from 40.1 percent reported during the same period last year and is slightly lower than 15.9 percent reported in the first half of October 2021).

On the other hand, the proportion of households relying on own food production as the main source of food was 61.4 percent, which is higher than the 33.2 percent recorded during the same period last year but lower than the 62.5 percent reported in the first half of October 2021 (Fig 2).

33.2% 2nd half October 2020

61.4% 2nd half October 2021

At the district level, Mulanje (58.1 percent) and Mwanza (58.9 percent) recorded the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food.



Map 1: Comparing proportion of hhs relying on purchase between Oct 1 — 15 and Oct 16 — 31 (2021)

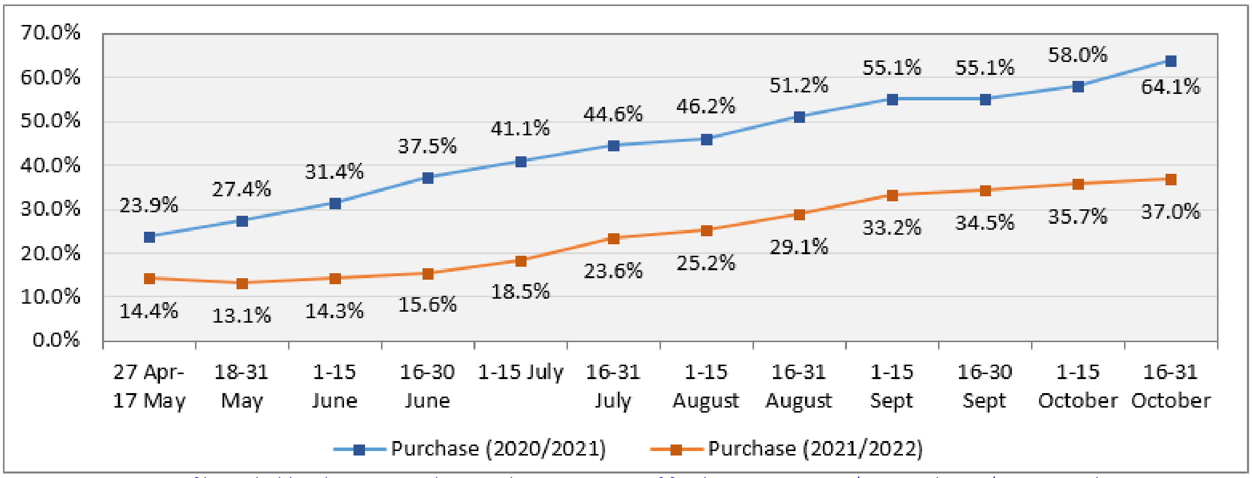


Figure 1: Proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food comparing 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 period

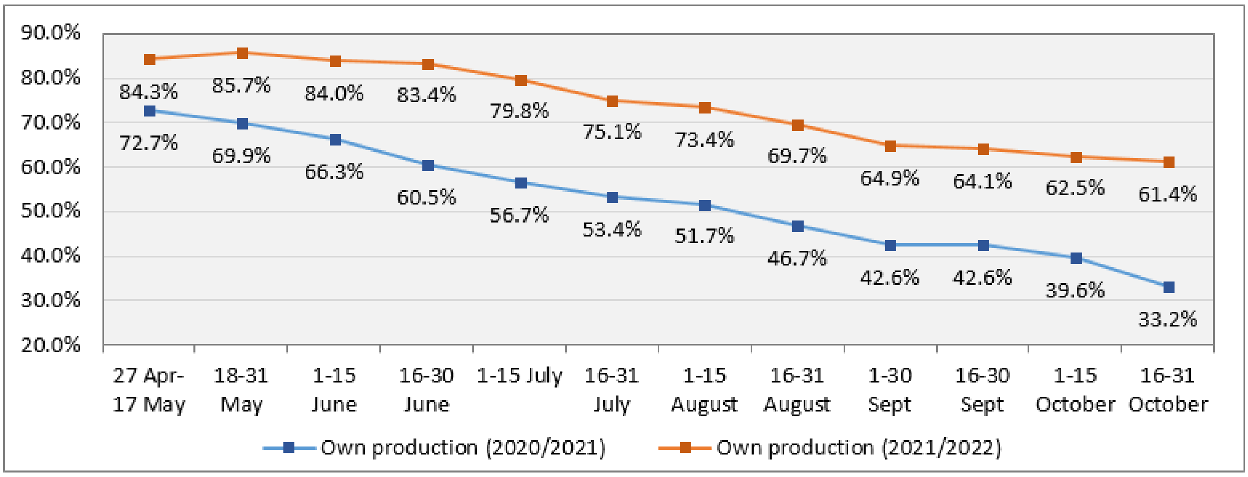


Figure 2: Proportion of households relying on own production as the main source of food comparing 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 period

2. LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP AND DISEASES

The proportion of households owning any type of livestock was 57.1 percent, which is higher than the 55.2 percent recorded during the same period last year and is also higher than the 56.4 percent reported in the first half of October 2021 (Fig 3).

The northern region continues to record the highest proportion of households owning livestock estimated at 84.8 percent up from 81.2 percent reported in the first half of October 2021. The proportion of households owning livestock in the central and southern regions were 52.8 percent slightly up from 52.3 percent and 49.7 percent up from 48.5 percent, respectively when compared with the findings reported in the first half of October 2021.

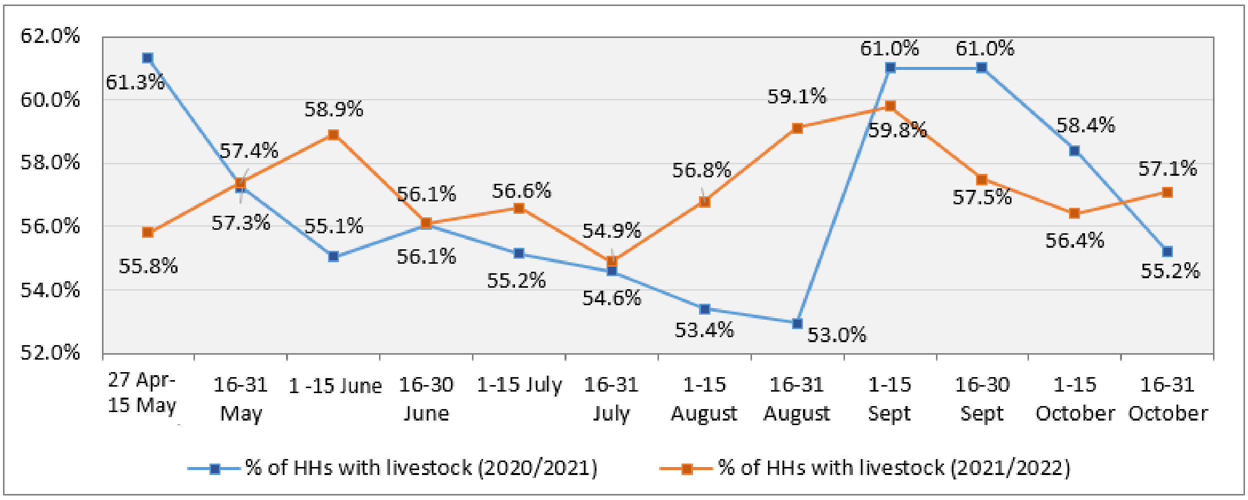


Figure 3: Proportion of households owning any type of livestock comparing 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 period

In households owning any type of livestock, the proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases was 20.4 percent, which is similar to the 21.0 percent recorded same time last year and is slightly lower than 20.5 percent recorded in the first half of October 2021 (Fig 4).

The southern region recorded the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 24.5 percent which is lower than 24.6 percent reported in the first half of October 2021, followed by northern (20.3 percent) and central (16.2 percent) regions.

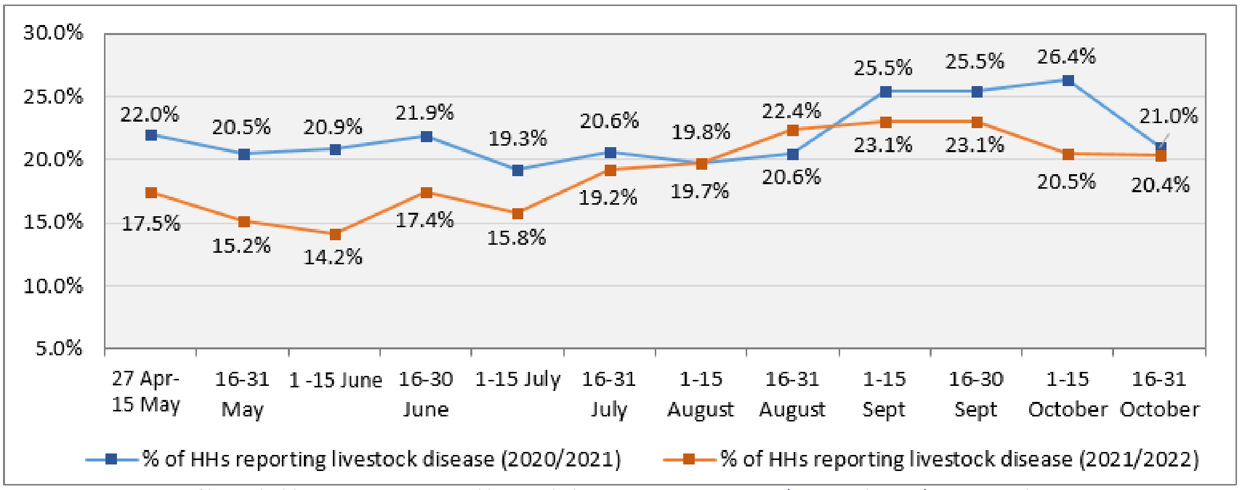


Figure 4: Proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases comparing 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 period

Newcastle disease continues to be the commonly reported livestock disease reported by 80.9 percent of the households reporting livestock diseases, which is higher than the 77.4 percent reported in the first half of October 2021. Other livestock diseases reported in the reporting period include

- **Mange disease** (9.1 percent down from 11.6 percent),
- **Foot and Mouth disease** ((3.6 percent up from 1.5 percent)
- **Chicken pox disease** (4.1 percent down from 6.2 percent)
- **African swine fever disease** (3.1 percent up from 1.8 percent)

3. FISHERIES

The proportion of households involved in fishing related livelihoods activities was 2.6 percent, which is lower than the 3.3 percent reported during the same period last year but higher than the 1.7 percent reported in the first half of October 2021 (Figure 5).

The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities (6.0 percent up from 3.3 percent), followed by the southern region (2.2 percent up from 1.6 percent) and the central region (1.6 percent up from 1.0 percent) when compared with results reported the first half of October 2021.

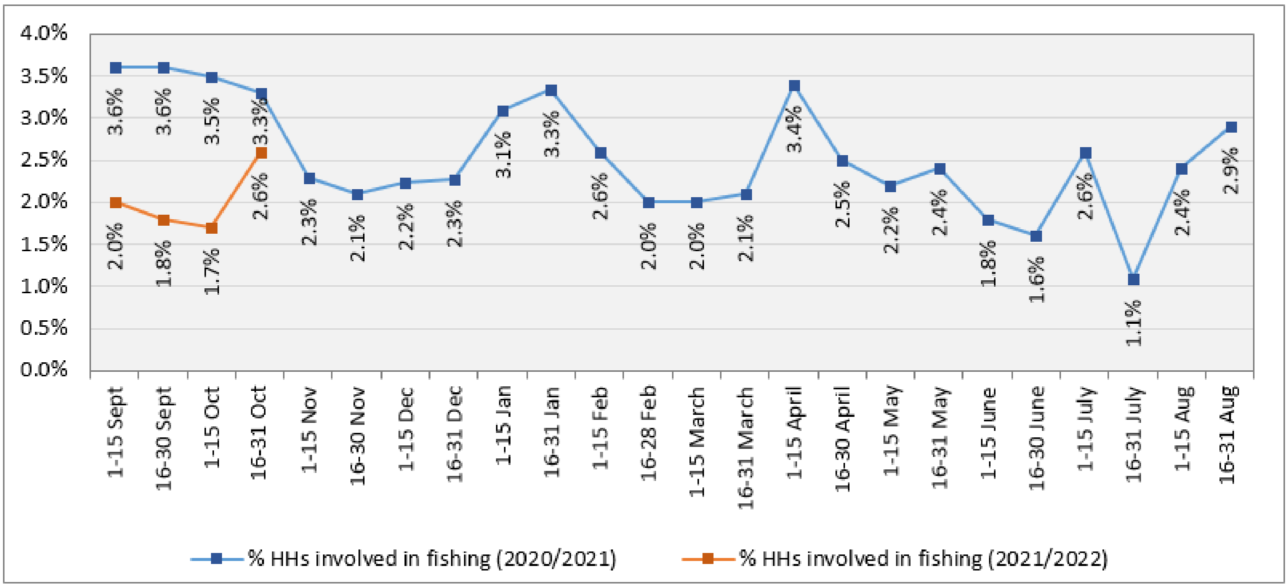


Figure 5: Proportion of households involved in fishing related activities by region in 2021/2022

Households involved in fishing related activities reporting some suspected fish diseases dropped to 6.4 percent from 17.6 percent recorded during the same period last year and is also lower than the 24.6 percent reported in the first half of October 2021 (Fig 6).

The northern region continues to register the highest proportion of households reporting some suspected fish diseases but dropped from 54.5 percent recorded in the first half of October 2021 to 7.9 percent. **In the central and southern regions,** the proportion of households reporting some suspected fish diseases were 4.5 percent down from 8.3 percent in the central region, 5.9 percent up from 4.3 percent in the southern region when compared with findings reported in the first half of October 2021. **Lesions or ulcers and skin erosion or loss of scales were the fish disease reported.**

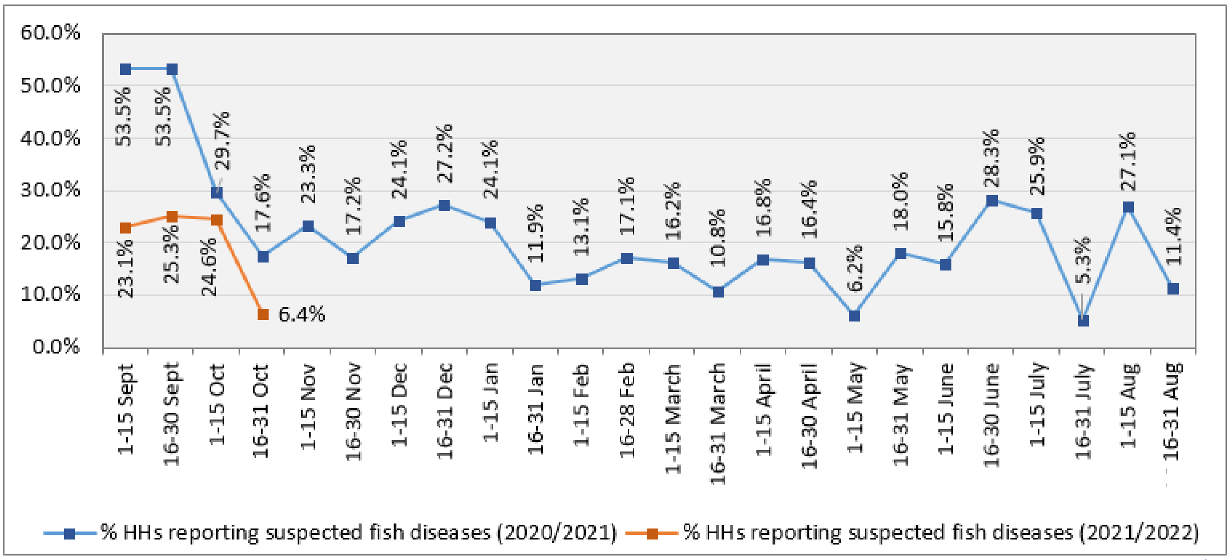


Figure 6: Proportion of households reported suspected fish diseases among households involved in fishing related activities by region in 2021/2022

4. MARKET FUNCTIONALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF VARIOUS FOOD ITEMS

During the reporting period, 98.2 percent of the markets sampled were functional and operational up from 96.1 percent reported in the first half of October 2021.

Districts of Mchinji and Mwanza had 91.3 percent and 94.4 percent of the markets functional, respectively.

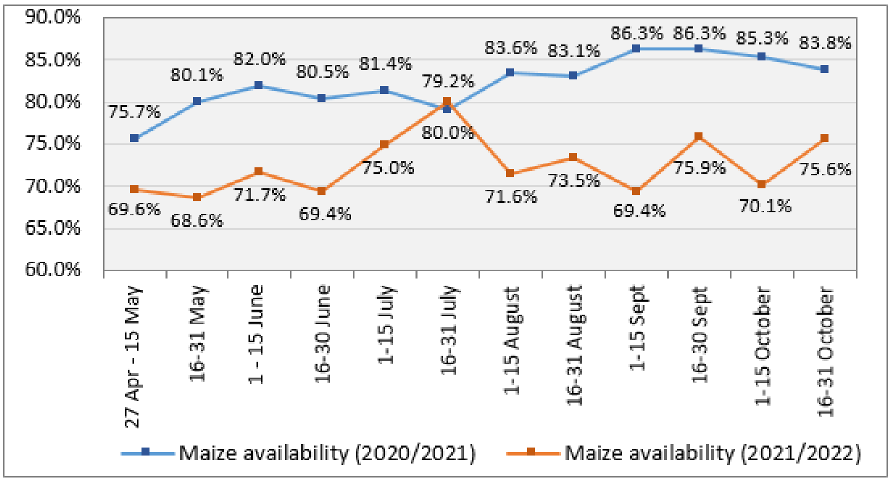


Figure 7: Availability of maize in markets comparing 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 period

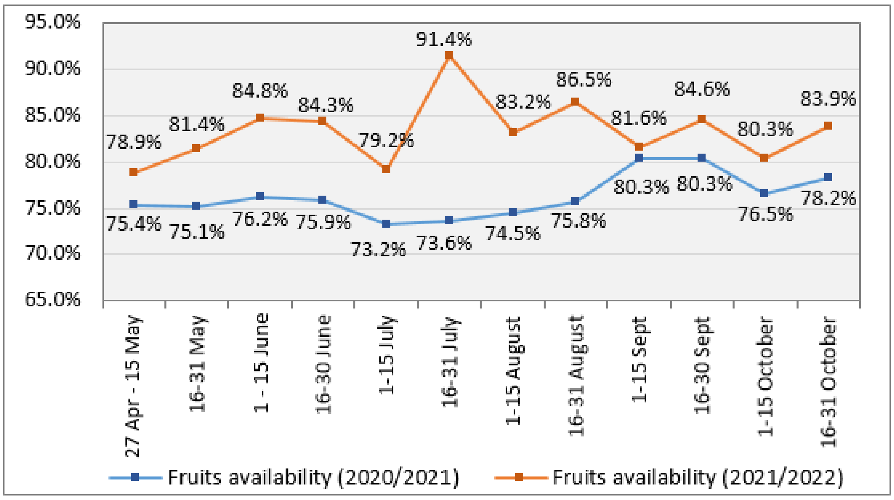


Figure 8: Availability of fruits in markets comparing 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 period

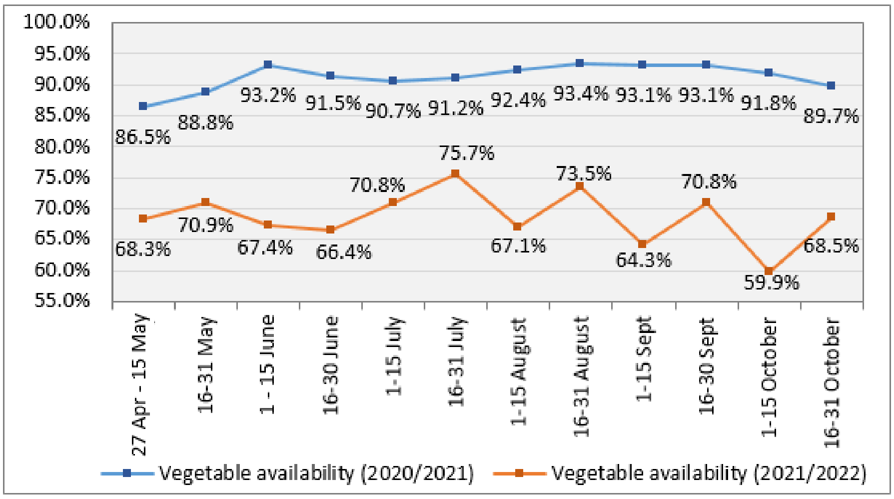


Figure 9: Availability of vegetables in markets comparing 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 period

Overall, availability of vegetables in the markets is lower than the previous year (Fig 9).

Availability of maize in the markets was estimated at 75.6 percent, which is lower than 83.8 percent reported during the same period last year and is higher than 70.1 percent reported in the first half of October 2021 (Fig 7).

By region, availability of maize in the market was highest in the central region (87.5 percent up from 85.5 percent reported in the first half of October 2021), followed by the southern region (68.8 percent up from 60.7 percent) and the northern region (62.5 percent up from 55.2 percent recorded in the first half of October 2021.

Availability of fruits in the markets was estimated at 83.9 percent, which is higher than the 78.2 percent reported during the same period last year and is also higher than the 80.3 percent recorded in the first half of October 2021 (Fig 8).

At regional level, availability of fruits was highest in the central region (88.9 percent down from 90.3 percent reported in the first half of October 2021), followed by the southern region (84.4 percent up from 75.0 percent reported in the first half of October 2021) and the northern (71.9 percent up from 69.0 percent reported in the first half of October 2021).

Availability of vegetables in markets was estimated at 59.9 percent, which is lower than 91.8 percent reported during the same period last year and is lower than the 70.8 percent reported in the second half of September 2021.

At regional level, availability of vegetables was highest in the central region (79.2 percent up from 64.5 percent reported in the first half of October), followed by the northern (65.6 percent up from 62.1 percent reported in the first half of October 2021) and the southern region (57.8 percent up from 53.6 percent reported in the first half of October 2021).

RESULTS

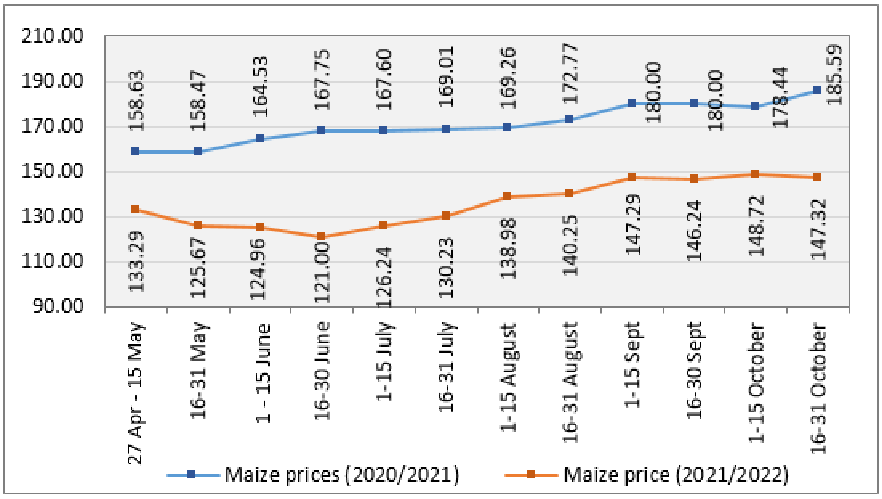


Figure 10: Average price in MK of various commodities at the market

In the reporting period, the average price of maize per kg was MK147.32 , which is lower than the MK185.59/kg recorded during the same time last year.

The average maize price is lowe than the MK148.72/kg reported in the first half of October 2021. Overall, the average maize prices continue to remain lower this year than the previous year due to the good harvest this year (Figure 10).

At regional level, the southern region continued to record the highest average maize prices per kg at MK168.80, which is lower than the MK217.90/kg recorded during the same time last year.

Average maize prices were MK128.80/kg down from MK165.10/kg reported during same period last year in the northern region, MK131.10/kg down from MK176.50/kg reported in the same time last year in the central region.

Table 1: Average crop prices in Malawi Kwacha per kilogram for the selected crops during the 2nd half of October 2021

District	Maize	Rice	Beans	Ground nuts	Irish potatoes	Sweet potatoes
Chikwawa	161.25	668.13	1027.78	885.71	557.14	452.50
Chiradzulu	143.33	633.33	1133.33	1000.00	550.00	400.00
Chitipa	147.14	775.00	703.00	793.00	600.00	290.00
Dedza	135.00	700.00	827.27	898.18	332.22	303.64
Karonga	141.00	599.29	680.14	504.50	279.00	292.14
Kasungu	95.00	716.67	1060.00	766.67	440.00	262.50
Mangochi	194.55	683.08	946.15	842.31	695.00	430.77
Mchinji	112.37	785.29	844.12	836.32	334.80	258.90
Mulanje	165.00	812.50	1025.00	1100.00	362.50	450.00
Mwanza	176.11	800.00	908.33	936.67	354.00	322.22
Mzimba	98.57	921.43	975.00	500.00	350.00	
Nkhata Bay	128.33	933.33	1066.67	1000.00	600.00	400.00
Nkhotakota	170.50	800.00	1020.00	1100.00	628.57	413.85
Ntcheu	136.00	822.22	650.00	783.33	366.67	368.75
Phalombe	163.33	577.78	1011.11	1011.11	466.67	306.67
Salima	137.50	800.00	1175.00	1312.50	678.57	468.75
Thyolo	180.00	933.33	1150.00	1133.33	1166.67	416.67
Zomba	166.80	708.33	1233.33	1156.50	703.33	518.67
Average	**147.32**	**751.50**	**931.57**	**906.10**	**496.91**	**368.16**

Table 1 provides a summary of average prices per kg by district for selected crops. **Average crop prices per kg were:**

⇒MK751.50 up from MK693.58 for **rice**

⇒MK906.10 up from MK759.51 for **groundnuts**

⇒MK496.91 up from MK439.76 **Irish potatoes**

Compared to results recorded during the same time last year. Only the average prices for maize showed a downward trend while the other crops showed a general upward trend when compared to results recorded during the same period last year.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (EmA-FSS) PROTOCOL

INTRODUCTION

With the exponential increase in COVID-19 cases globally in the first quarter of 2020, nearly all countries implemented various containment measures to curb its spread. The Government of Malawi declared a State of Disaster on 20 March 2020 and various preventive measures were put in place including: closure of all learning institutions, restricting public gatherings, suspension of international travel, restrictions on various market activities including limiting the timing. Given the restrictions and measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, it was projected that the situation would have a significant impact on agriculture and food supply chains.

To monitor the situation during this period, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) through the Department of Agriculture Planning Services (DAPS) with technical and financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union set up an Emergency Agriculture and Food Security National Surveillance System (EmA-FSS) in the last week of April 2020. The EmA-FSS complements other existing national systems by MoA and focuses on real time information generation of rapid indicators to help track the evolving dynamics in the country on a weekly basis during phase 1 (May to August 2020) and on biweekly basis under phase 2 and 3 (from September 2020 to to-date)

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of EmA-FSS is to provide weekly data on key agriculture and food security information for monitoring, planning and evidence based decision-making. The following are the specific objectives:

⇒ to monitor trends of market functionality and availability of various food items in the markets;
⇒ to monitor post-harvest loss both at the household and produce market levels;
⇒ to monitor the main source of food and income/livelihood at the household level;
⇒ to monitor suspected livestock diseases at the household level, and;
⇒ to monitor access to veterinary extension services.

To monitor the above, few indicators at the market and household levels are being tracked on bi-weekly basis and they include:

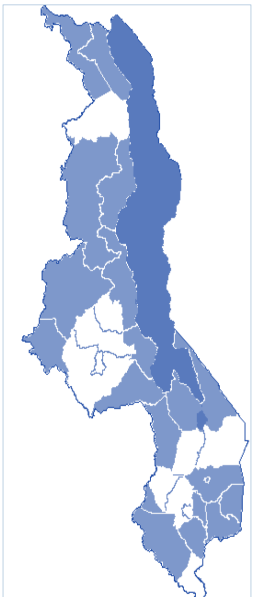
- Percentage of households reporting any form of post-harvest losses
- Percentage of households whose main source of food is from own production
- Percentage of households whose main source of food is purchase
- Percentage of households reporting suspected livestock diseases
- Percentage of households reporting access to livestock veterinary services
- Percentage of markets functional

METHODOLOGY

Data is being collected from 18 districts were selected taking into consideration various factors such as livelihood zones. The selected districts include Chitipa, Karonga, Dedza, Kasungu, Thyolo, Chiradzulu, Mchinji, Ntcheu, Chikwawa, Mzimba, Salima, Nkhata Bay, Mangochi, Zomba, Nkhotakota, Mulanje, Phalombe and Mwanza.

In each of the 18 districts, nine sections were sampled where three villages and at most three markets are being monitored in each section. Thus, in each district 27 villages and markets are being monitored. At the village level, ten households are being selected randomly on a bi-weekly basis.

Data collection is being implemented by Agricultural Extension Development Officers (AEDOs), electronically and uploaded almost in real time, using Kobo Collect Application. All COVID-19 preventive measures are being observed during the data collection including social distancing when administering interviews, use of face masks and hand-sanitizers by the AEDOs, among others.



Source: FAO Malawi

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