



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

ISSUE 13: 16–30 NOVEMBER 2020

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Households relying on purchase as the main source of food increased by 1.2 percent from 65.6 percent in the first half of November to 66.8 percent. The southern region continues to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food and increased by 0.6 percent from 75.7 percent in the first half of November to 76.3 percent in the reporting period. Mulanje and Phalombe continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food estimated at 90.4 percent up from 89.3 percent and 89.9 percent up from 88.5 percent respectively.
- ◆ Nearly 21.1 percent of households owning any type of livestock reported livestock diseases increasing by 2 percent from 19.1 percent in the first half of November 2020. The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 23.7 percent up from 21 percent reported in the first half of November. Districts of Chikwawa, Chitipa, Mangochi, Mulanje, and Salima had over 30 percent of the households reporting livestock diseases.
- ◆ Nearly 2.1 percent of the households were involved in fishing related livelihoods dropping by 0.2 percent from 2.3 in the first half of November 2020. The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities estimated at 3.6 percent up from 2.5 percent. About 17.2 percent of the households involved in fishing related activities reported some suspected fish diseases, down from 23.3 percent in the first half of November, representing a 6.1 percent drop. Districts that reported fish diseases included Chitipa and Nkhata Bay in the northern region; Mchinji in the central region; Chikwawa and Zomba in the southern region.
- ◆ The average price of maize per kg dropped by 2.1 percent from MK192.19/kg in the first half of November to MK189.14/kg. The southern region continues to record high maize prices per kg estimated at MK206.9 down from MK218.5 in the first half of November 2020, a drop by 5.3 percent. Average prices per kg for the other selected crop commodities were MK689.07 up from MK678.85 for rice, MK838.38 up from MK796.07 for beans, MK798.82 down from MK818.30 for ground nuts, MK502.68 up from MK499.01 for Irish potatoes, and MK367.64 up from MK345.30 for sweet potatoes compared to the first half of November 2020.

1. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD —INCREASE IN FOOD PURCHASE

Proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of household food continues to rise and has **increased by 1.2 percent** from **65.6 percent** in the first half of November to **66.8 percent**.

2. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD —DECREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION

Consequently, households relying on own food production **dropped by 1.1 percent from 31.3 percent in the first half of November to 30.2 percent in the reporting period**. Trend analysis shows an increasing upward movement in the proportion of household relying on food purchase as the main source of food (Fig 1).

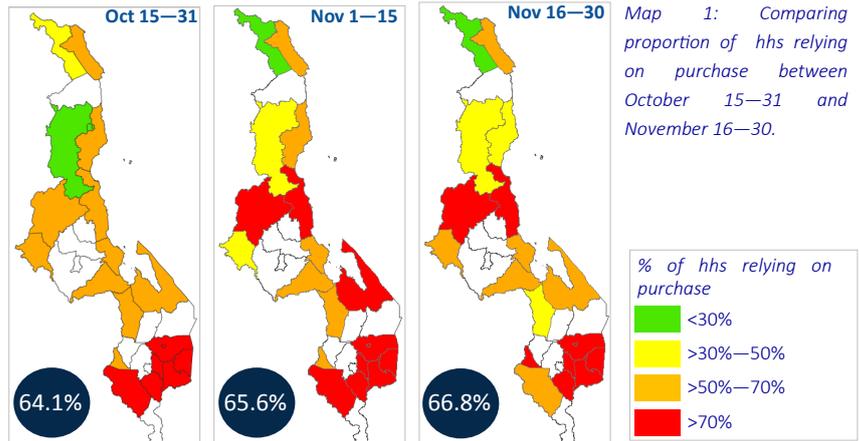
By region, the southern region continues to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food and increased by 0.6 percent from 75.7 percent in the first half of November to 76.3 percent in the reporting period.

In the central region, the proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food increased by 3.3 percent from 60.6 percent to 63.9 percent in the reporting period.

In the northern region, households relying on food purchase slightly increased by 0.2 percent from 46 percent in the first half of November to 46.2 percent.

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, Chitipa recorded the lowest proportion of households relying on food purchase estimated at 36.6 percent up from 29.3 percent in the first half of November. This is followed by Mzimba at 41.1 percent up from 34.8 percent and Nkhata Bay at 43.8 percent down from 57.7 percent in the first half of November 2020.

The districts with the highest proportion of households relying on purchases as the main source of food, include Mulanje (90.4 percent up from 89.3 percent) and Phalombe (89.9 percent up from 88.5 percent) **Map 1**.



The other districts with over **70 percent** of the household relying on food purchase included Chiradzulu, Kasungu, Mwanza, Nkhotakota, Thyolo and Zomba and majority of which are from the southern region.

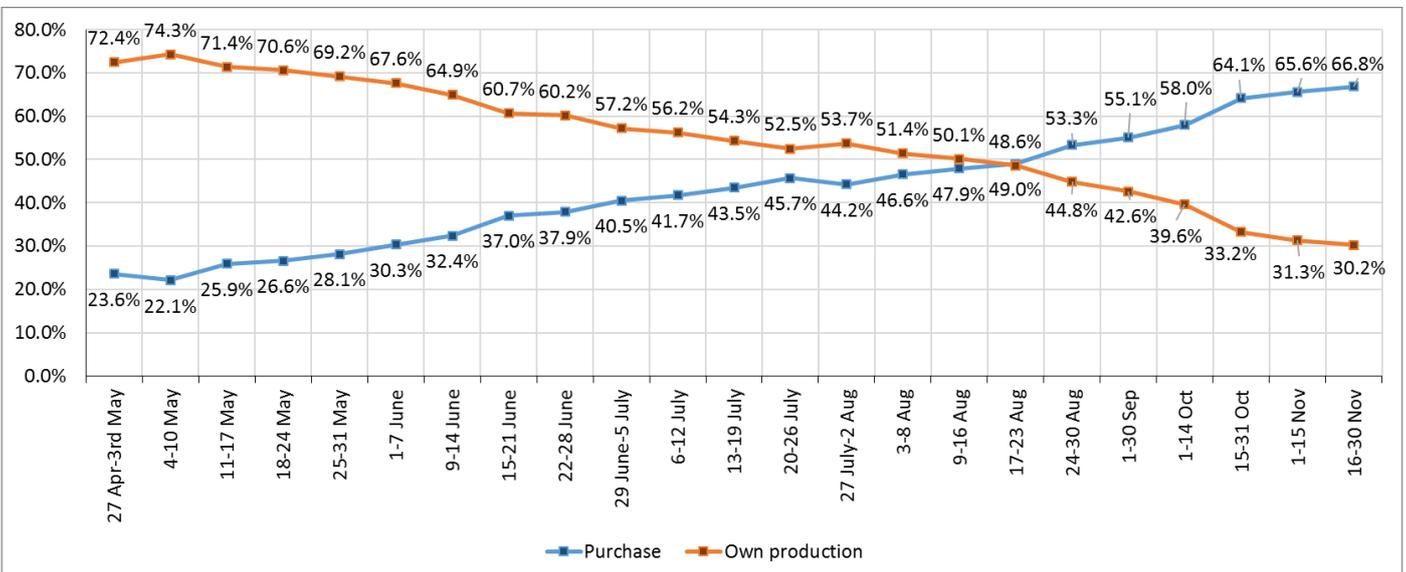


Figure 1: Main Source of Food within the 14 days recall period

3. LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP AND DISEASES

Overall, the proportion of households owning any type of livestock was 55.5 percent up from 54.1 percent reported in the first half of November 2020, representing a **1.4 increase**.

By region, the northern region recorded the highest proportion of households owning livestock at 74.2 percent down from 74.4 percent reported in the first half of November. The central region is estimated at 54.2 percent up from 53.4 percent and the southern region estimated at 50.8 percent up from 48 percent reported in the period under review.

Of the households owning any type of livestock, 21.1 percent reported livestock diseases in the second half of November up from 19.1 percent in the first half of November, representing a **2 percent increase**. The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 23.7 percent up from 21 percent reported in the first half of November. The proportion of households reporting livestock diseases were 22.5 percent up from 21 percent in the southern region, and 17.4 percent up from 15.7 percent in the northern region.

Districts of **Chikwawa, Chitipa, Mangochi, Mulanje, and Salima** had over **30 percent** of the households reporting livestock diseases.

Trend analysis has shown continued dropping in the proportion of households reporting livestock disease beginning the first half of October but slightly increasing during the reporting period (Fig 2).

RESULTS

In households owning livestock, Newcastle disease continues to be the commonly reported livestock disease estimated at 16.6 percent up from 13.9 percent in the first half of November. The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households reporting Newcastle disease (18.6 percent up from 13.5 percent), followed by the southern region (18 percent up from 15.9 percent) and the central region (13.4 percent up from 11.7 percent) when compared with the first half of November 2020.

Other livestock diseases mentioned in the reporting period include Mange disease (2.3 percent), smallpox (1.1 percent), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) (0.4 percent), and African swine fever disease (0.4 percent).

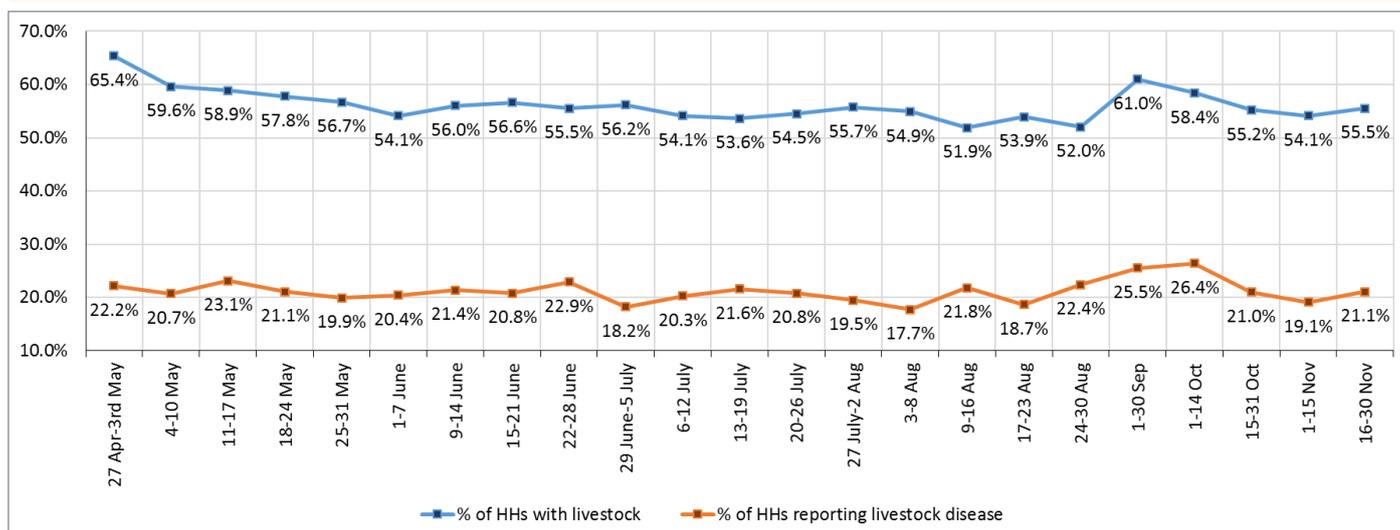


Figure 2: Livestock ownership and livestock disease

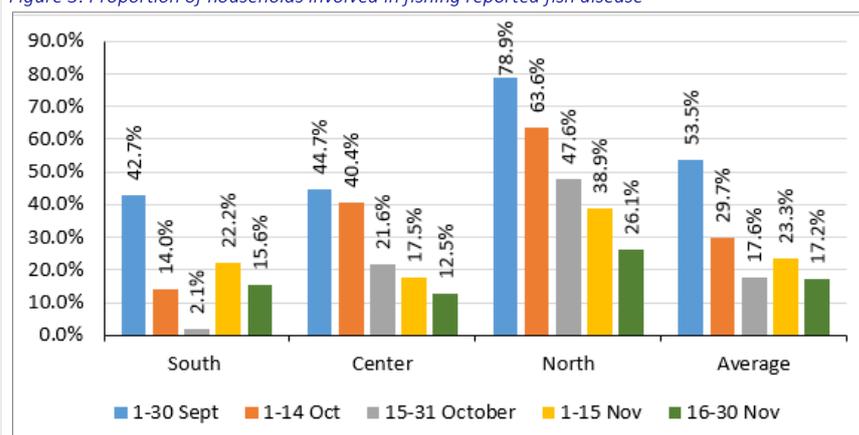
4. FISHERIES DISEASES

In the reporting period, 2.1 percent of the sampled households were involved in fishing related livelihoods dropping by 0.2 percent from 2.3 in the first half of November 2020.

The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities estimated at 3.6 percent up from 2.5 percent followed by the central region at 2.2 percent down from 2.5 percent and the least was the southern region at 1.5 percent down from 2.1 percent in the first half of November.

Out of them, 17.2 percent of the households reported some suspected fish diseases, down from 23.3 percent in the first half of November, representing a **6.1 percent drop**.

Figure 3: Proportion of households involved in fishing reported fish disease



The northern region continues to record the highest proportion of households reporting fish diseases estimated at 26.1 percent down from 38.9 percent followed by the southern region at 15.6 percent down from 22.2 percent and the least was the central region at 12.5 percent down from 17.5 percent reported in the first half of November (Fig 3).

Lesion or ulcers was the most common fish diseases reported by 8.1 percent of the households involved in fishing livelihood activities down from 9.9 percent in the first half of November. The other fish diseases reported by the households included loss of scales reported by 5 percent up from 3.0 percent and localized swelling by 3.6 percent up from 0 percent and no cases of red areas on body were reported compared to 1.8 percent in the first half of November. Districts that reported fish diseases included **Chitipa** and **Nkhata Bay** in the northern region; **Mchinji** in the central region; **Chikwawa** and **Zomba** in the southern region.

5. MARKET FUNCTIONALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF VARIOUS FOOD ITEMS

Nearly all sampled markets have remained functional and operational over the period. During the reporting period, 97.92 percent of the markets were operational down from 98.2 percent in the first half of November. In Kasungu, Mchinji and Mwanza, markets that were operational were 85.7 percent, 95.7 percent and 95.0 percent respectively due to limited supply of agricultural produce and some other reasons. Availability of fruits in the market continued to increase since the first half of October due to the mango season. Overall, the availability of maize has stabilized between the two reporting periods (Fig 4).

In the reporting period, maize availability was at 83.0 percent which is similar to 82.9 percent in the first half of November. The availability of vegetables was 92 percent down from 92.4 percent and fruits was 92.6 percent up from 84.1 percent (Fig 4). By region, availability of maize was lowest in the northern region (60.0 percent down from 62.7 percent) since most households rely on own production and highest in the central region (93.8 percent up from 88.2 percent) followed by the southern region (82.2 percent down from 84.3 percent) when compared with the first half of November 2020.

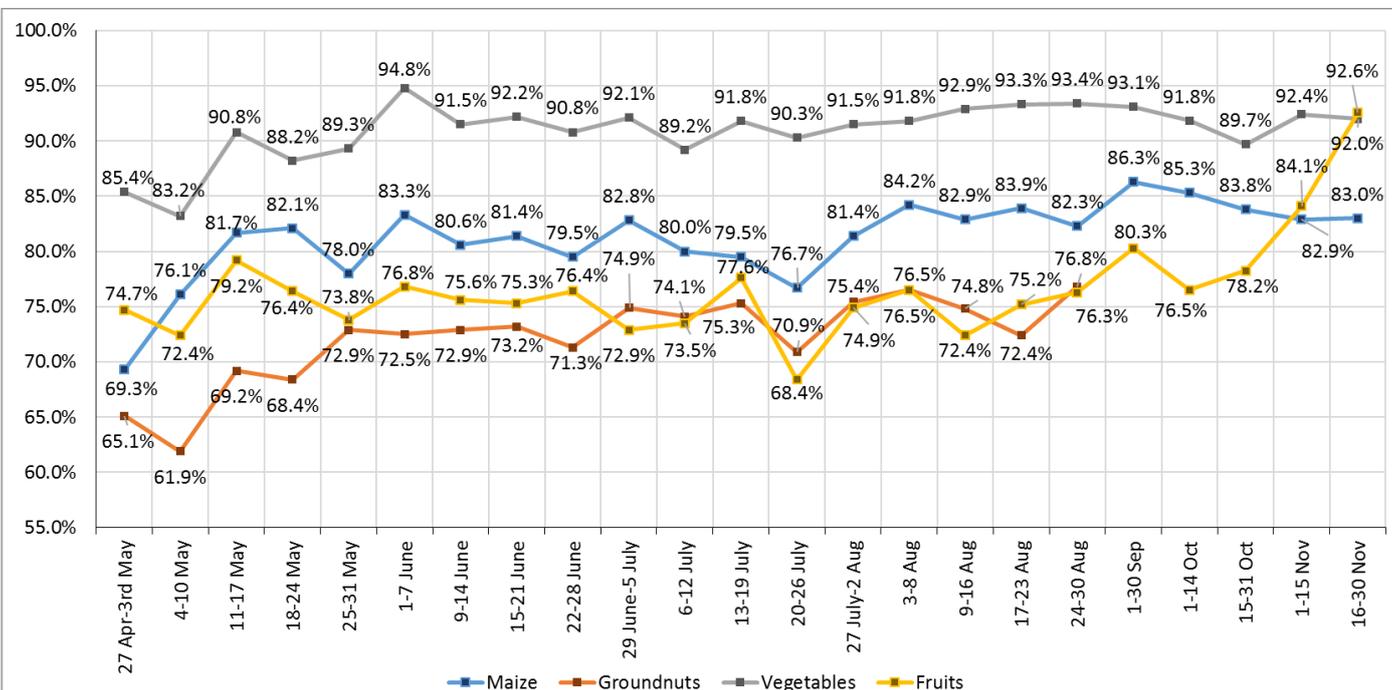


Figure 4: Availability of various items in the market (Some Availability)

In the reporting period, the price of maize recorded a 2.1 percent drop per kg of maize and traded at an average price of MK189.14/kg compared to MK193.19/kg in the first half of November.

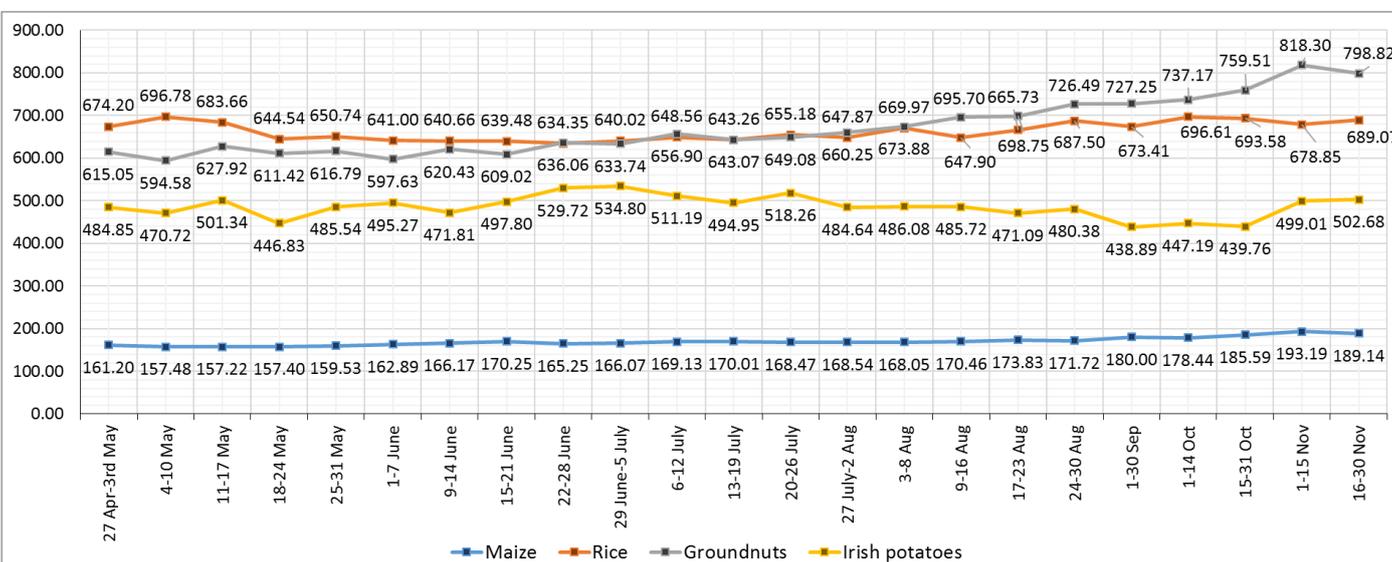


Figure 5: Average price in MK of various commodities at the market

RESULTS

The dropping in maize prices could be because of ADMARC has opened their markets and are buying maize at MK100,00 per 50kg bag resulting in many vendors opting to sell the maize at reduced prices before **ADMARC** start selling their maize. Furthermore, this may also be due to some vendors who were holding the maize started selling it in fear of anticipated low maize prices next year due to increased coverage of subsidized farm inputs. Overall, the average prices for ground nuts, Irish potatoes, maize and rice have stabilized during the month of November (Fig 5).

At regional level, the southern region continues to record high maize prices per kg estimated at MK206.9 down from MK218.5 in the first half of November 2020, a drop of 5.3 percent. In the central region, the maize prices dropped from MK174.0/kg in the first half of November to MK173.8, dropping by 0.1 percent. In the northern region, the maize prices increased by 3.1 percent from MK171.3 per kg in the first half of November to MK176.7 per kg. The average maize prices in the northern region is slightly higher than the central region.

Table 1 provides a summary of average crop commodities prices by district for selected crops. Average crop prices per kg were MK689.07 up from MK678.85 for rice, MK838.38 up from MK796.07 for beans, MK798.82 down from MK818.30 for ground nuts, MK502.68 up from MK499.01 for Irish potatoes, and MK367.64 up from MK345.30 for sweet potatoes compared to the first half of November 2020.

District	Maize	Rice	Beans	Ground nuts	Irish potatoes	Sweet potatoes
Chikwawa	200.91	558.00	865.00	862.27	506.25	417.27
Chiradzulu	230.00	725.00	900.00	900.00	725.00	500.00
Chitipa	157.00	250.00	650.00	486.00	100.00	140.00
Dedza	166.25	693.75	754.38	814.29	315.71	325.00
Karonga	181.50	400.57	631.00	621.50	394.25	310.75
Kasungu	145.45	765.00	931.25	633.33	840.00	291.67
Mangochi	216.00	633.33	800.00	790.00	500.00	416.67
Mchinji	152.27	759.38	800.00	738.89	378.13	330.00
Mulanje	200.00	650.00	1000.00	950.00	365.00	500.00
Mwanza	182.22	775.00	904.17	1020.83	327.78	300.00
Mzimba	190.00	906.25	833.33	660.00	666.67	250.00
Nkhata Bay	178.17	737.50	791.67	725.00	425.00	282.14
Nkhotakota	201.29	737.50	892.31	816.67	833.33	374.38
Ntcheu	183.71	806.25	637.14	624.29	641.67	400.00
Phalombe	206.67	675.00	906.25	933.33	354.00	322.22
Salima	194.00	695.00	880.00	920.00	492.86	425.00
Thyolo	216.67	900.00	985.71	1014.29	475.00	533.33
Zomba	202.40	735.71	928.57	868.13	707.57	499.17
Average	189.14	689.07	838.38	798.82	502.68	367.64

Table 1: Average crop prices in Malawi Kwacha per kilogram for the selected crops in September 2020

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 have 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 has been projected that the situation might have a significant impact on agriculture and food supply chains.

To monitor the situation during this period, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (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 on weekly basis to help track the evolving dynamics in the country.

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 weekly basis and they include:

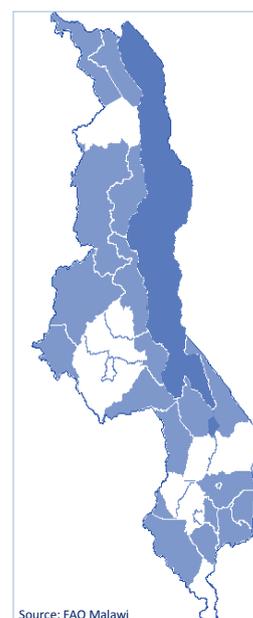
- * Percentage of households reporting any form of post-harvest losses
- * Percentage of households whose main source of food is from own production
- * Percentage of households whose main source of food is purchase
- * Percentage of households reporting suspected livestock diseases
- * Percentage of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

METHODOLOGY

Data is being collected from 18 districts which have been 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 have been 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 weekly basis. The villages and markets were sampled in late April and will be tracked for the next four months.

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.



For further information contact:

MoA: (PS MoA: ericamaganga@yahoo.com or Acting Director, DAPS: rmosopolep@gmail.com)

FAO: (FAOR: Zhijun.Chen@fao.org or Deputy FAOR: James.Okoth@fao.org)

