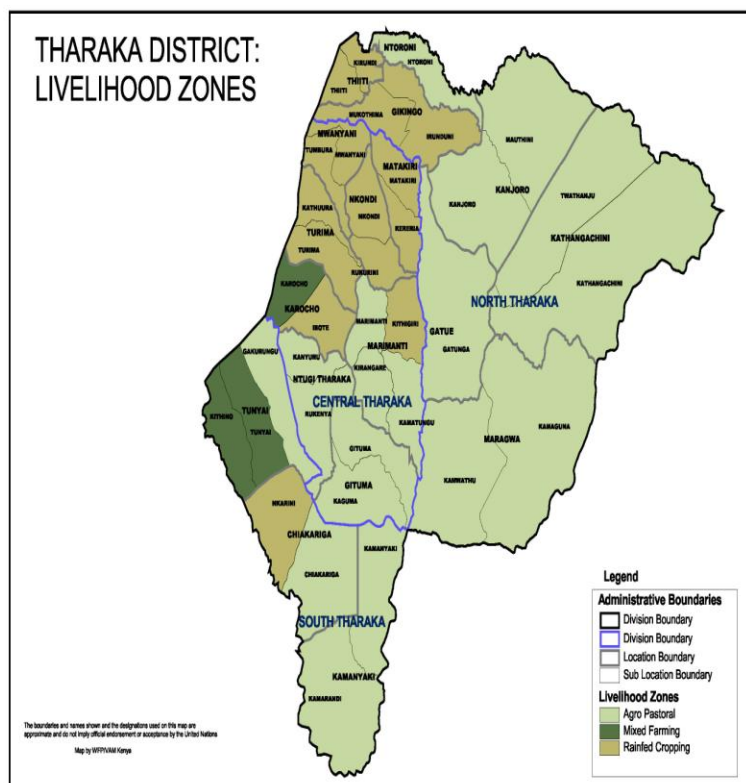




**NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY
EWS DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN JULY 2013**

Livelihood Zone Map



Warning Phases for County

Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Mixed Farming	Alert	Worsening
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert	Worsening
RainFed Cropping	Alert	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening

Livelihood zones monitored by EWS

SEASONAL CALENDAR

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH Food Stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stocks High kidding rate(Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation Overview:

- There were no rainfalls received during the reporting month in the larger Tharakanithi County.
- The browse and pasture quality and quantity is fair but has continued to diminish as compared to the month of June.
- Natural rivers remained as the main source of water in the month of July given that seasonal rivers, water pans and shallow wells have dried up. Distance of livestock access to water increased by 13.75% while household access to water increased by 4.76% in comparison to the month of June.
- The Livestock body condition was fair to good across livelihood zones, but with a declining trend. This is attributed to declining pasture, browse quality and quantity, and increased distance to both pasture and watering point.
- Cattle price in the month of July recorded 11.41% decrease compared to the previous month while prices for goats decreased by 3% in July as compared to June.
- There was reduction of milk availability at household level across all livelihood zones, with average household consumption decreasing by 16.36 % during the period under. This could be attributed to deteriorating pasture quality and quantity and increased distance to grazing and water sources that severely affected livestock productivity.
- The average price per kg of maize increased by 9.99 % to Ksh. 28.60 in the month of July compared to Ksh. 26.00 recorded in June .The increasing prices could be attributed to declining house hold food stocks and limited on farm crop harvests.
- A larger percentage of households (32%) relied upon casual labour as the main source of income in the month of July.
- The average daily wage rate was Ksh. 221.30 fairly comparable to Ksh. 223.30 recorded last month.
- There were suspected cases of measles outbreak in Twanathanju sub location, Kathangachini location, suspected to be from Mwingi Sub County, with the number of people infected having increased in July in comparison to what was registered in the previous month.
- Health facilities in the County registered an increase in the number of children who are underweight in the month of July as compared to June.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was 8.30% in July. This a relatively high percentage compared to 5.63% which is the norm at this time of the year

- ***The overall Early Warning System phase for July is alert with a deteriorating trend.***

On-going interventions by Non-Governmental Organizations, Government Agencies, Churches and Community Based Organizations

Non-food aid

- Completed and operational projects for support to water supply to the community by the National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with the Ministry for the development of Northern Kenya targeting:
 - Mutonga- Gituma water scheme
 - Kibung'a -Kakimiki Water scheme
 - Rugucwa-Kanyaga school pipeline and Kang'utu school water kiosk.
 - Support to Turima Tweru water irrigation project of Nkondi in Tharaka south.
- Upgrading of Goats for Milk and meat production in Tharaka South sub county, Poultry for eggs and meat production by the livestock department
- Construction of water pan in kathangachini (Gatue Division) by NWPC
- Construction of water storage tank in kieraka to increase water coverage by Ministry of Water and Irrigation.
- There is Livestock Insect Pests Management and Control being done in Tharaka North and South sub-counties by 27 Community Livestock Spraying groups on getting support of Livestock Sprayer pump and acaricides/ insecticides from Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council (KenTTEC) through Veterinary Department.
- Veterinary Department is currently carrying out Vaccination of Dogs against Rabies after receiving 900 doses for both Tharaka North and South sub-counties from Kenya Veterinary Vaccine Production Institute (KeVeVaPI). In Tharaka South, 226 Dogs have been vaccinated in Gituma, Karocho, Ntugi locations, Mwanyani and Nkondi locations. In Tharaka North, 120 dogs have been vaccinated. Subsequently baiting of Stray dogs will be carried out.

2) Food- aid

- No food aid has been received in the month of July

Recommendations:

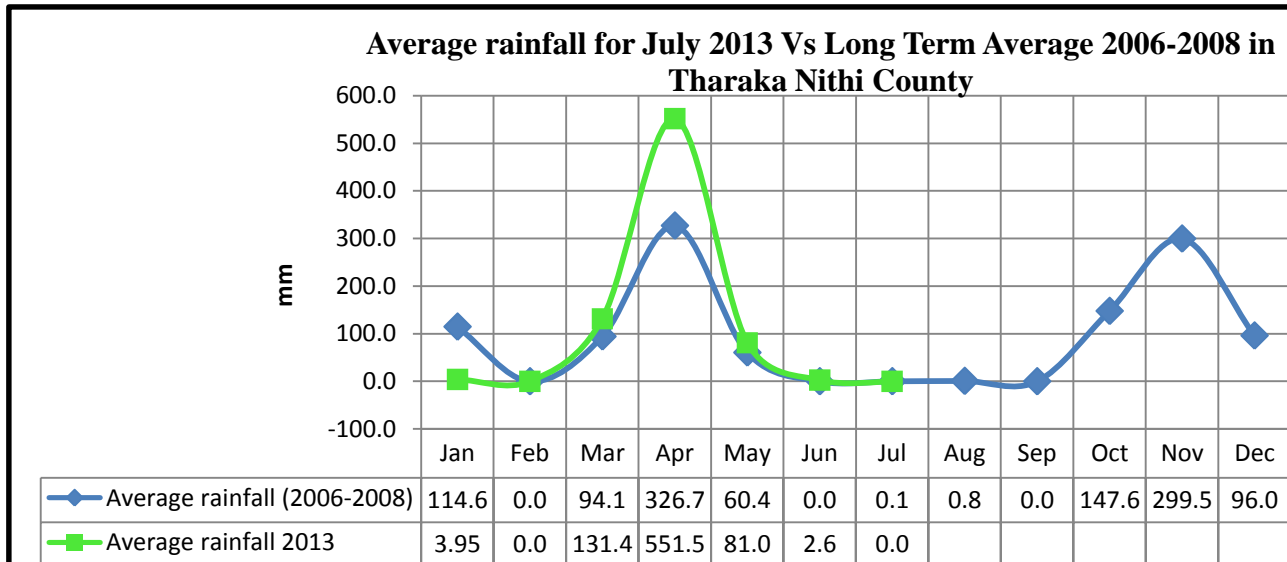
- Initiating irrigation schemes to boost crop production
- Health and sanitation programme establishment
- Training of value addition of produce in Tharakanithi area
- Sensitization on the importance of storing the produce.
- Training on water harvesting and soil conservation.
- Training of farmers to establish sustainable market linkages.
- Livestock vaccination and pasture conservation training at the community level.
- Surveillance on the disease outbreaks and availing supplements to malnourished under five years children
- Strengthening Integrated livestock production and diversification
- Community resilience through crop dynamics , training on post harvest management of produce and natural resources conservation
- Promotion of natural resource management to boost tourism.

1.0 Environmental Stability Indicators

1.1 Rainfall.

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall

- No rainfall received in the larger county during reportig month as indicated by the graph below .
- This is normal during this time of the year as the long rains ended mid May while short rains are expected to fall on mid October as per the seasonal calender.



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1.2. Natural Vegetation and Pasture condition.

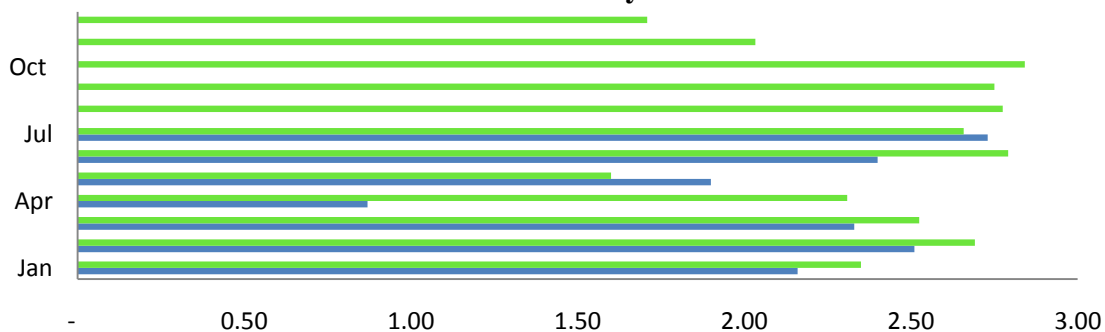
1.2.1 Quality and quantity.

- There is fair pasture and browse in the entire county with a worsening trend especially in the Marginal mixed farming livelihood zone as compared to Mixed farming livelihood zone and Rain-fed livelihood zone.
- The situation is normal at this time of the year.

1.2.2 Distance to Grazing Areas.

- The average distance to grazing areas for the month of July increased to 2.73 km from 2.4 km that of the previous month.
- Households in the Marginal mixed farming livelihood zone covered more distances to grazing points (5 km) than in mixed farming livelihood zone (1.1 km) and Rain-fed cropping livelihood zone (2.1 km).
- Return distances for the month of July (2.73km) were slightly higher than the long term average distance (2.66km).

Average Distance to Grazing Area in July 2013 Vs Long Term Average 09-12 in Tharaka Nithi County



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
■ Long Term Average 09-12	2.35	2.69	2.53	2.31	1.60	2.79	2.66	2.78	2.75	2.84	2.03	1.71
■ Average Distance 2013	2.16	2.51	2.33	0.87	1.90	2.40	2.73					

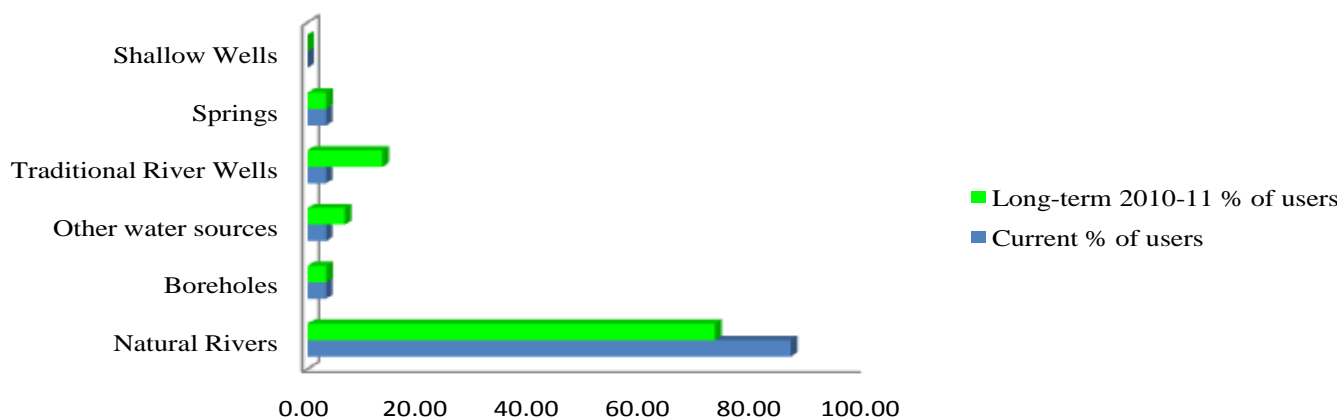
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1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Main sources of water

- The main source of water for the larger county was natural rivers. Others included boreholes, springs and traditional river wells.
- The volume of water has immensely decreased due to the continuing dry spell.

Access to water in Tharaka Nithi County July 2013



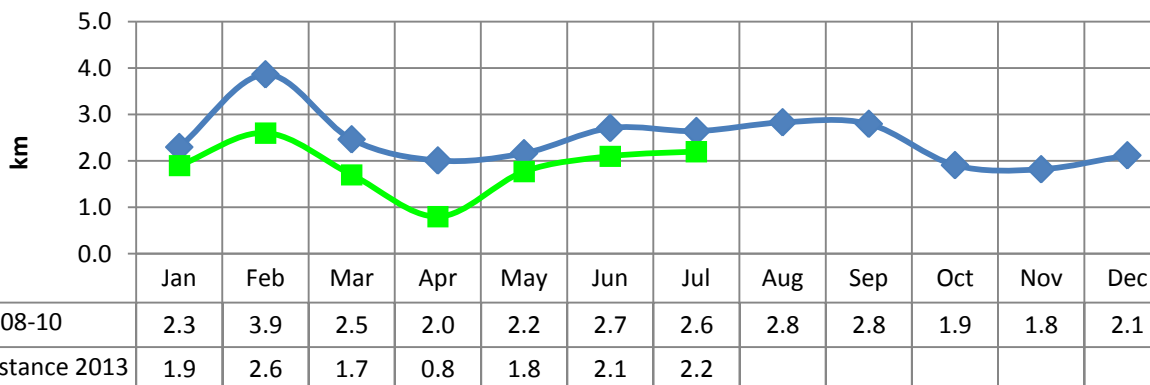
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1.3.2 Household access to water.

- Distances of house hold access to water increased in the month to 2.2 km from 2.1km in June indicative of 4.76 % increase. The increase is due to discharging of water due to the current dry spell.

- The marginal mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the farthest return distances at 3.9 km while the least distance was recorded in the mixed farming livelihood zone at 1.1km while Rainfed livelihood zone recorded 1.6 km.
- The observed distances of household access to water were however below normal for this time of the year

Average distance in km for households' access to water in July 2013 vs long-term average 08-10 in Tharaka Nithi County



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1.3.3 Livestock access to water.

- The major water source for livestock in the month of July was natural rivers. The average distance for livestock to water points was 2.73km compared to June 2.4 km
- The distance of livestock access to water is slightly above normal for this time of the year.

1.4. Implication on food security.

- Following the ongoing dry spell with no rainfall, coupled with increasing distances to water for household and livestock, worsening pasture situation is likely to have a negative impact on household food security.

2.0 Food Availability

2.1. Livestock production.

2.1.1. Livestock body condition.

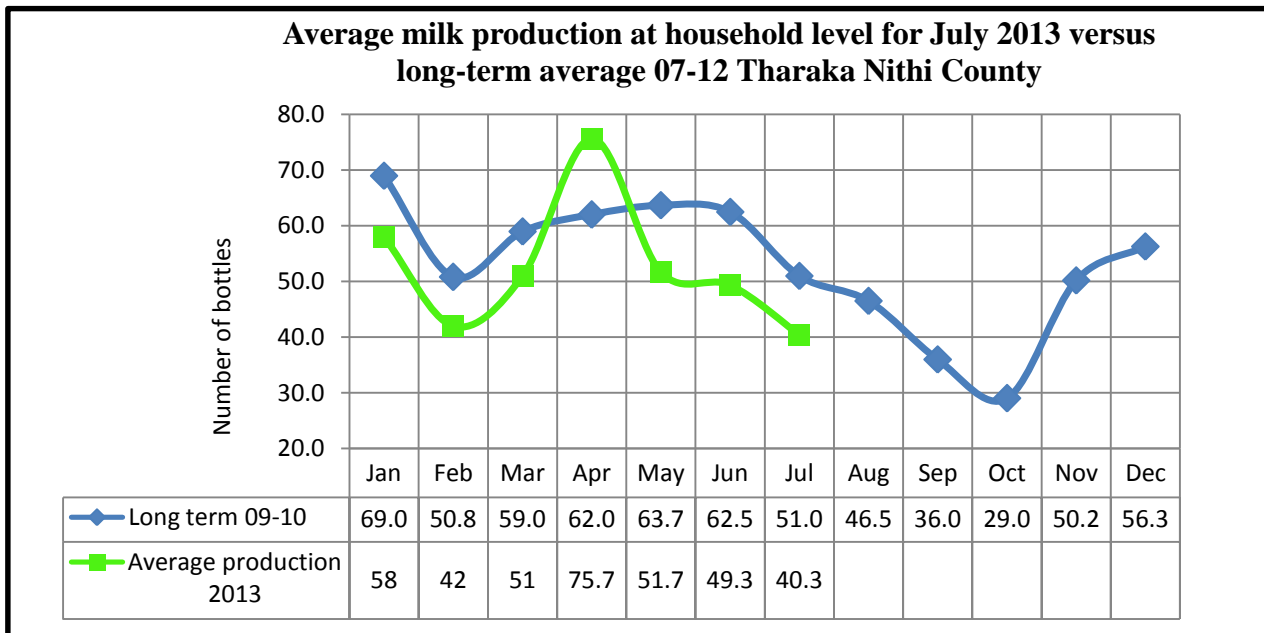
- The body condition for livestock was fair to good in all livelihood zones attributed to the increasing distances to pasture, and water.
- Livestock condition is expected to worsen as the dry spell progress.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases.

- The main endemic diseases in the two districts are Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Trypanosomiasis commonly in Marginal Mixed farming zones affecting Cattle, sheep and goats. Other common diseases include Helminthiasis, Pneumonia and Anaplasmosis. In Poultry, the common diseases are Fowl Typhoid and Infectious bronchitis.
- Dog's vaccination against rabies is ongoing.

2.1.3 Milk production.

- There was a sharp decrease of 18.26 % in milk production for July compared to previous month at an average of 40.33 (750ml) bottles per livelihood zone.
- The highest production was recorded in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone with 83 bottles down from 94 bottles while the least was recorded in the mixed farming zone at an average of 8 bottles.
- Decrease in milk production could be attributed to the increasing distances to water, pasture and dilapidated browse quality and quantity.
- Milk production level is below normal for this time of the year.



n=300

2.2 Crop production.

2.2.1. Timeliness and status of crops.

- Currently household are harvesting pigeon peas and green grams.
- There is very insignificant harvest for marginal mixed farming livelihood zone compared to Rainfed livelihood zone and mixed farming livelihood zone.

2.2.2. Pests and diseases.

- Incidences of storage pest (weevils) were reported.

2.2.3. Crop harvest

- Harvesting of pigeon peas is ongoing especially in the Rain-fed livelihood zone and Mixed farming livelihood zone.

2.3 Implication on food security

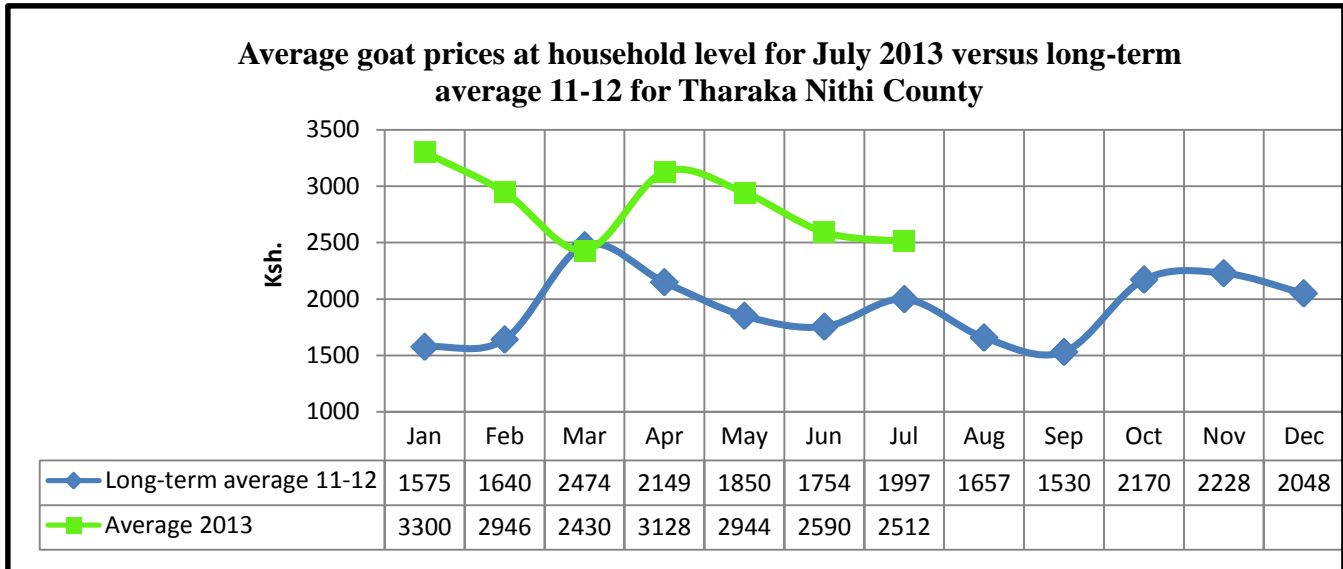
- There is a decline in average milk production, coupled with insignificant harvest, incidence of pest and diseases all these factors are likely to have a negative impact on the household food security.

3. Access to Food.

3.1 Livestock marketing.

3.1.1 Goat prices.

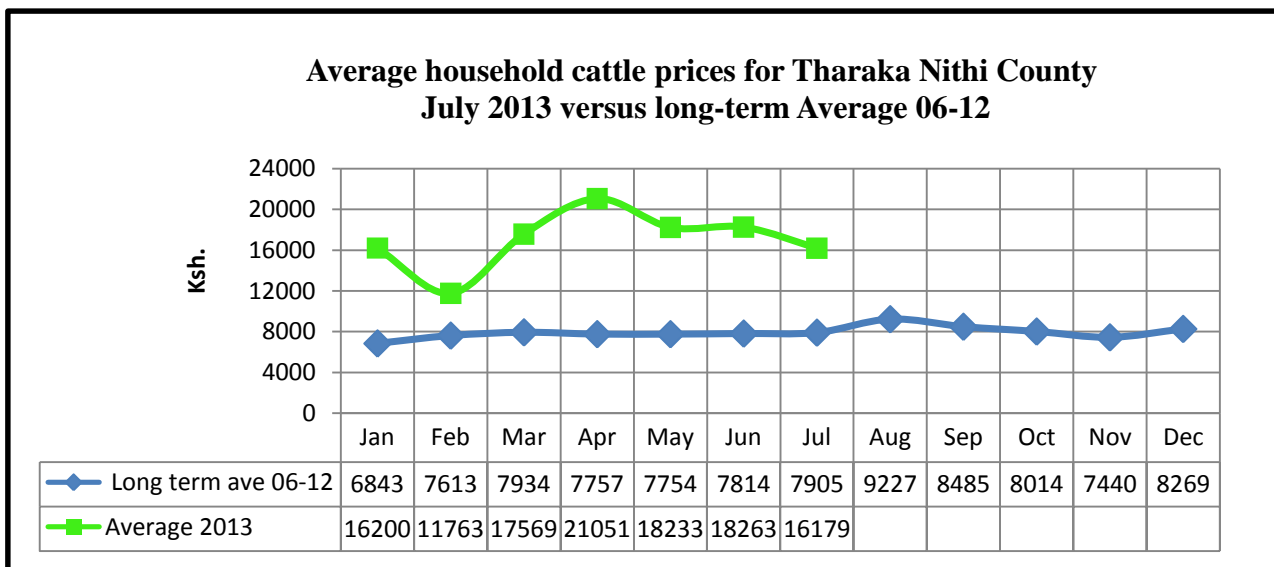
- Average household goat prices decreased from Ksh. 2590.27 recorded last month to Ksh. 2512.20 in July indicative of 3% decrease
- The mixed farming zone reported the highest price at Ksh. 3,061.60 while the mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the lowest price at Ksh. 2,000.00
- The decrease in goat's prices is attributed to increased distance to both browse and water in addition to declining pasture and browse quality and quantity.
- The average prices are higher than normal at this time of the year.



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3.1.2 Cattle prices

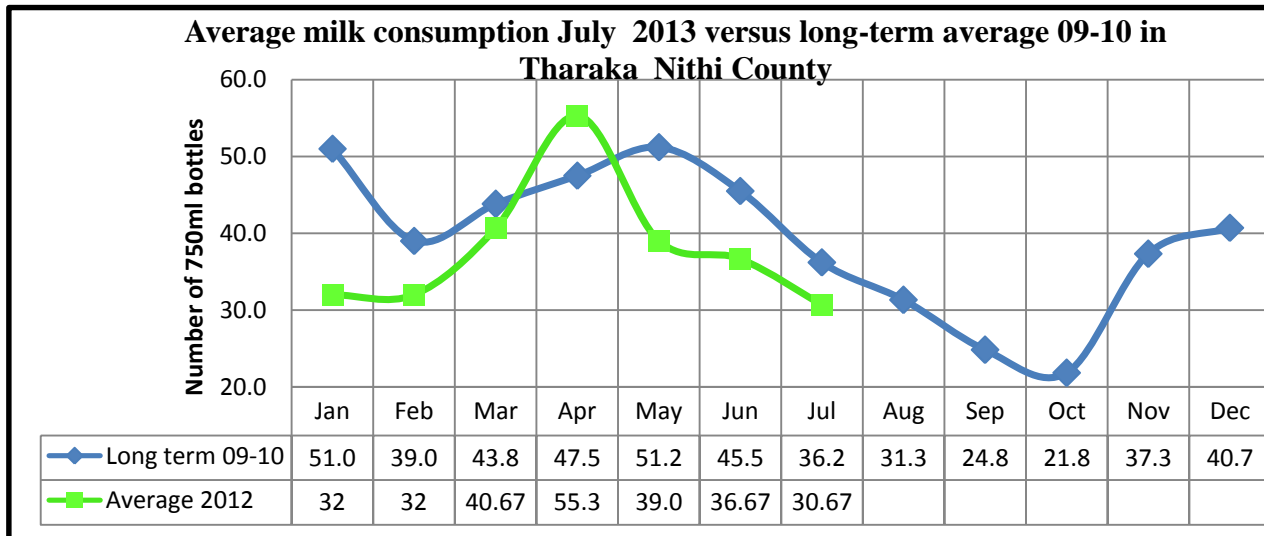
- The average price of cattle was Ksh.16, 179.15 in July indicative of 11.41% decrease compared to Ksh. 18,263 the previous month.
- The highest price was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone at Ksh. 17,333 while the Rain-fed cropping recorded an average price of Ksh. 15,025.
- The average price of cattle was much higher than what is expected for this time of the year.



n=300

3.2 Milk consumption.

- The average milk consumption was 30.67 bottles in July, indicative of 16.36 % decrease compared to June. This could be attributed to deteriorating pasture condition and increasing distance to water sources hence reduced yields.
- The highest milk consumption at household level was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone at 61 bottles while mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the 8 bottles.
- The average consumption was below normal for this time of the year.

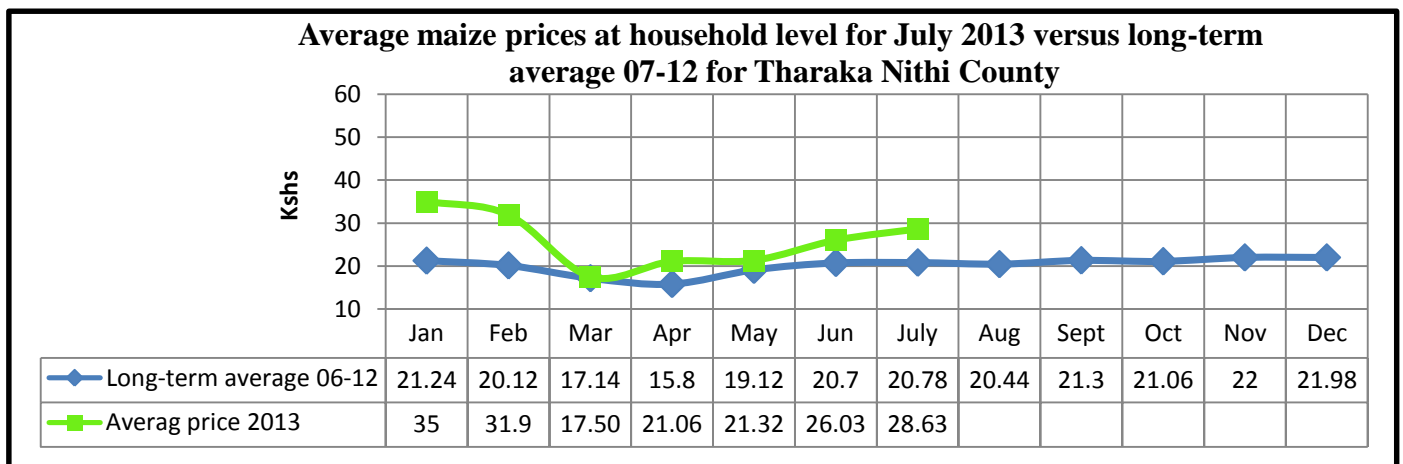


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3.3 Grain Marketing.

3.3.1 Market price of maize

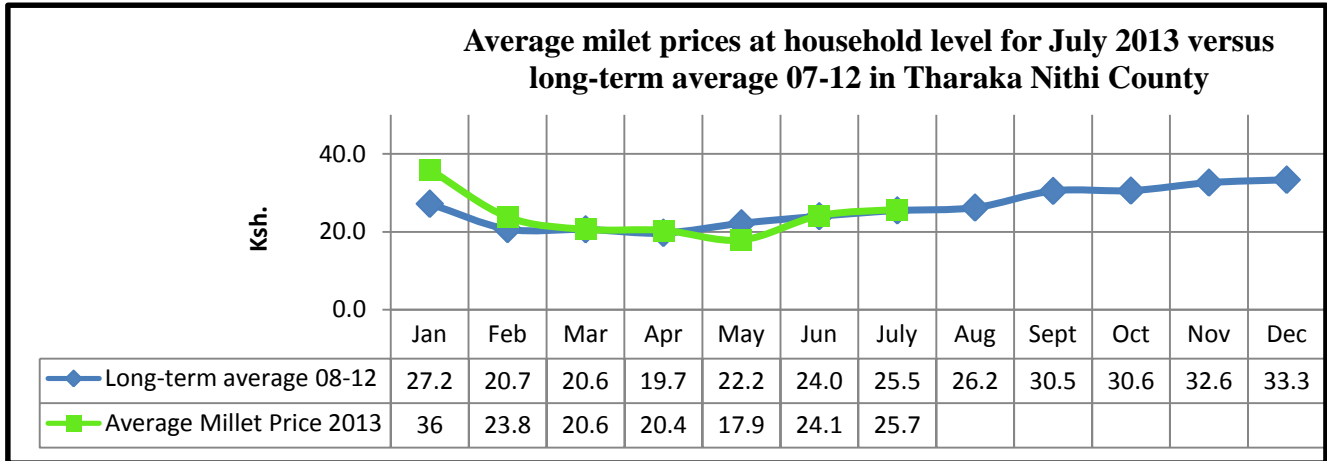
- The average price of Maize per kilogram was Ksh. 28.63 compared to Ksh. 26.03 in June indicative of 9.99 % increase. This could be attributed to declining house hold food stocks as the dry spell progress.
- The highest prices were recorded in the Rainfed cropping livelihood zone at Ksh.31.20 while the least was recorded in the Mixed Farming zones at Ksh. 25.00.
- The price of maize per kilogram was higher than normal for this time of the year.



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3.3.2. Market price of Millet

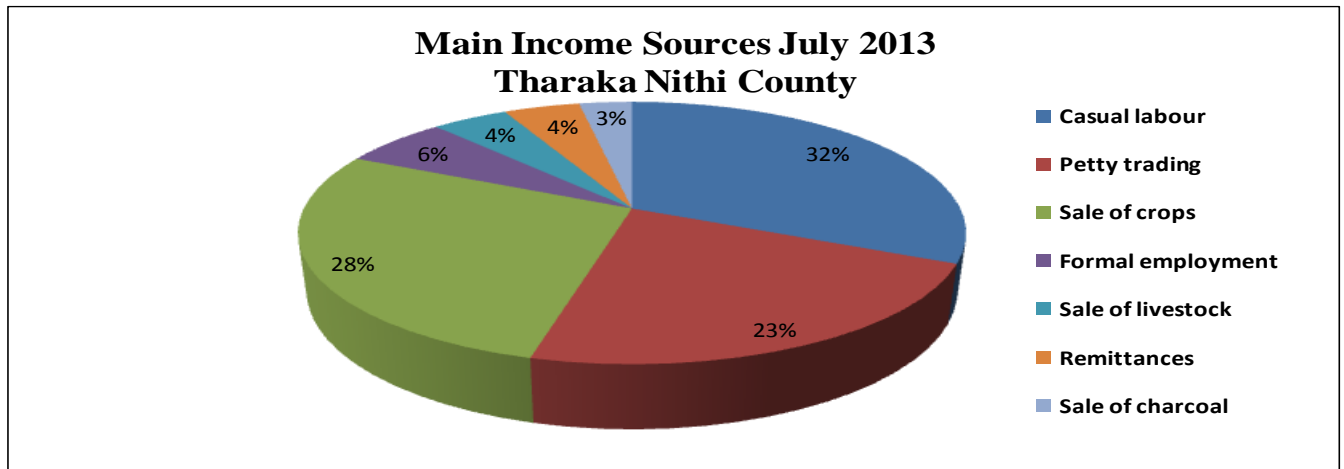
- The average price of millet per kilogram was Ksh. 25.70 in the month of July indicating a price increase of 6.64% compared to Ksh. 24.10 in the previous month. This could still be attributed to insignificant on farm harvest and declining household stocks.
- The highest prices were recorded in the Rainfed livelihood zone at Ksh. 28.30 while the lowest price was in the mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh. 23.30
- The price for Millet was normal for this time of the year.



n=300

3.4. Income.

- Larger percentage of households (32%) relied upon casual labour as the main source of income for in the month of July. This was followed by sale of crops which was recorded at 28% and Petty Trading at 23% compared to previous month casual labour at 34%, Petty Trading at 23% and the sale of crops at 19%, listed as top three income sources respectively.
- There was an increase of house hold income from sale of crops from 19% in the month of June to 28% in the month under review. This could be attributed to ongoing crop harvest.
- Other sources of income were sale of livestock, formal employment, remittances and sale of charcoal.
- The average daily wage rate for July was Ksh. 221.33 indicative of 0.90% decrease compared to the previous month which recorded Ksh. 223.33. This is indicative of relatively stable wage rate for the June and July.
- The highest wage rate was recorded in the Marginal Mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh. 228.00 and the lowest in the Rain Fed cropping livelihood zone at an average of Ksh. 209.00



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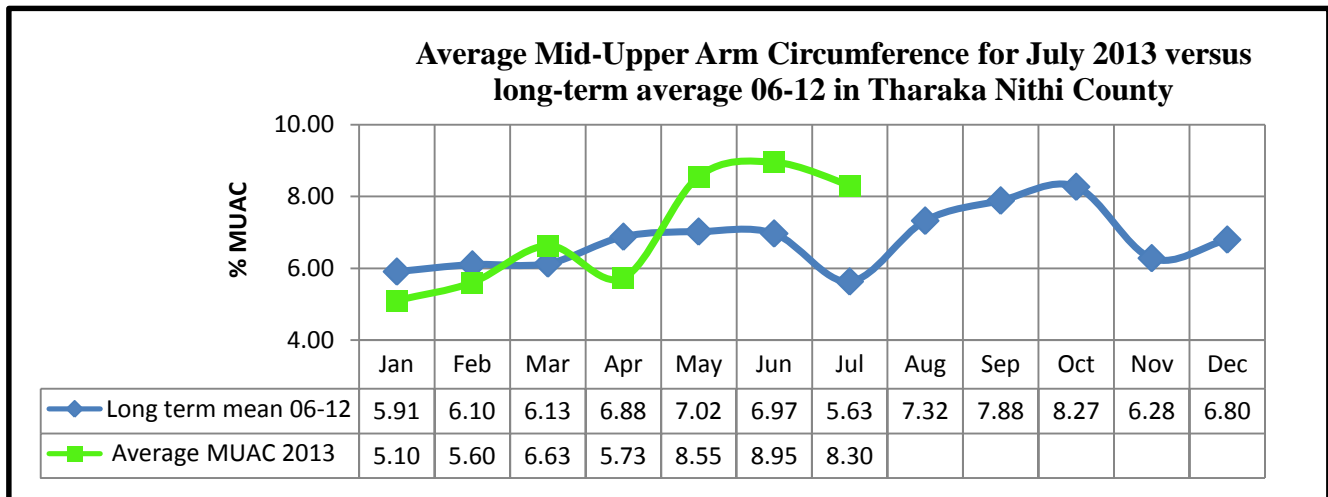
3.5. Implications on food security.

- Decrease in milk production and consumption at house hold level, coupled with decrease in cattle prices , increased market price on cereals and a relatively stable wage rate income all these factors are likely to impact negatively on household food security.

4.0 Utilization of Food.

4.1 Nutrition Status.

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was 8.30% this month compared to 8.95% in June. This is relatively stable in the number of children at risk of malnutrition.
- The highest proportion of children at risk was recorded in the marginal mixed farming at 17.7% while mixed farming livelihood zone at 3.4%.
- The percentages of children at risk of malnutrition were above normal for this time of the year.



n =300

4.2 Health.

- Suspected cases of measles outbreak in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone which are on increase.
- Underweight children below five years are also on increase.

5.0 Current Intervention Measures and Coping Strategies

5.1 On-going Non-Food Aid interventions by Non-Governmental Organizations, Government Agencies, Churches and Community Based Organizations

Non-food aid

- Completed and operational projects for support to water supply to the community by the National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with the Ministry for the development of Northern Kenya targeting:
 - Mutonga- Gituma water scheme
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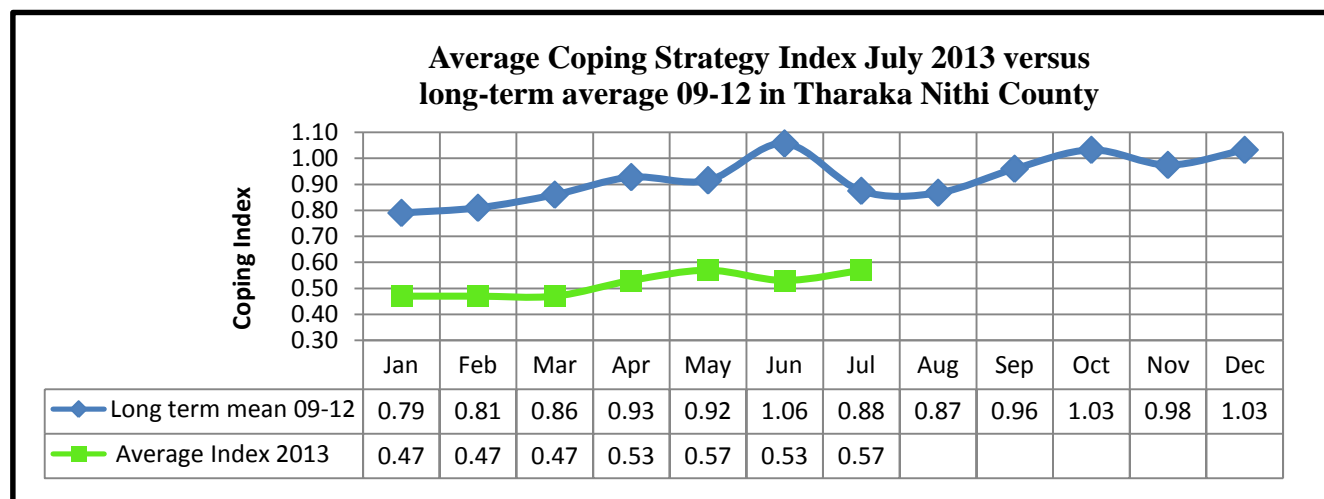
- Veterinary Department is currently carrying out Vaccination of Dogs against Rabies after receiving 900 doses for both Tharaka North and South sub-counties from Kenya Veterinary Vaccine Production Institute (KeVeVaPI). In Tharaka South, 226 Dogs have been vaccinated in Gituma, Karocho, Ntugi locations, Mwanyani and Nkondi locations. In Tharaka North, 120 dogs have been vaccinated. Subsequently baiting of Stray dogs will be carried out.

2) Food- aid

- No food aid has been received in the month of July

5.3 Coping Strategies

- Coping strategy index for July is 0.57 in comparison to previous month which was 0.53 thus relatively stable for the past four month.
- The common coping mechanisms included increased reduction in number and meal rations, skipping of meals and the purchase of food on credit this is similar for the four month as indicated above.
- The coping strategy index was highest in the Rain Fed cropping livelihood zone at 0.7 and the least in mixed farming livelihood zone at 0.4.



n =300

6.0 Recommendations:

- Initiating irrigation schemes to boost crop production
- Health and sanitation programme establishment
- Training of value addition of produce in Tharakanithi area
- Sensitization on the importance of storing the produce.
- Training on water harvesting and soil conservation.
- Training of farmers to establish sustainable market linkages.
- Livestock vaccination and pasture conservation training at the community level.
- Surveillance on the disease outbreaks and availing supplements to malnourished under five years children
- Strengthening Integrated livestock production and diversification
- Community resilience through crop dynamics , training on post harvest management of produce and natural resources conservation
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The overall Early Warning System phase for July is alert with a deteriorating trend.