Southern Africa Region: ENSO, Rainfall, and Harvest Patterns

Neutral

**2012/13**
El Niño-like poor season with late onset and erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells in southern areas. This combined with cyclones and flooding compromised crop production in several countries.

Neutral

**2013/14**
Normal to above-normal rainfall in most parts of the region led to overall good crop production.

Weak El Niño

**2014/15**
Very late start to the season in parts of the region, abnormally high rainfall and flooding in the eastern and north-eastern part of the region; reduced crop production and depressed regional stocks.

Very Strong El Niño

**2015/16**
One of the strongest El Niño on record, comparable with the 1982-83 and 1997-98 events; worst drought in 35 years.

Weak La Niña

**2016/17**
High rainfall in many parts of the region resulted in overall good crop performance year of Cyclone Dineo

Weak La Niña

**2017/18**
Delayed onset and erratic rainfall followed by mid-season dry spells resulted in mixed seasonal performance

Weak El Niño

**2018/19**
Driest season since at least 1981 in central & western parts of the region; quick succession of Cyclones Idai and Cyclone Kenneth; widespread reduction in crop production

End-of-Season Post Harvest Conditions

Rainfall, % of Average (6 months Oct – Mar)

Water Requirement Satisfaction Index

Cereal Production

Total cereal production (million tons) in selected SADC Member States; Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Excludes: Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles.