agriculture, land reform & rural development
Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National Agro-meteorological Committee (NAC) Advisory on the 2022/23 summer season
Statement from Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
05 DALRRD 2022

09 February 2023

Considering the seasonal climate watch as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences, and farming systems. Depending on the region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk, optimize soil water availability and to manage the renewable resources (rainwater and grazing) to uphold sound farming objectives. Long-term mitigation strategies should be considered by implementing techniques to enhance in-field water harvesting by reducing run-off and improving infiltration. Reduced tillage methods are very important in this regard, as is basin tillage, to capture rainwater in the drier areas. **The provinces should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible, use local media and farmers' days to disseminate the information. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory.**

I. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Figure 1

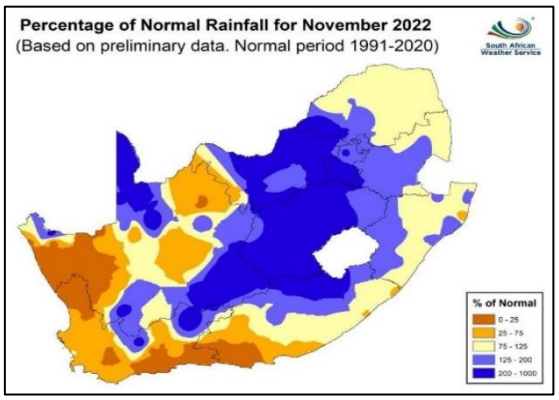


Figure 2

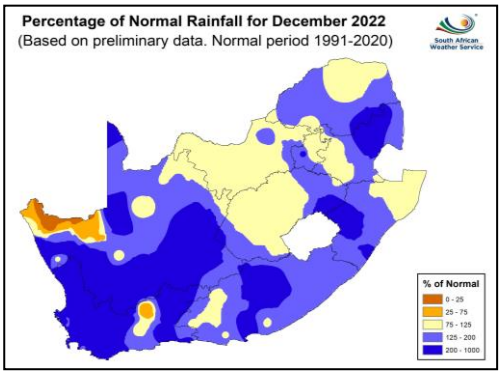


Figure 3

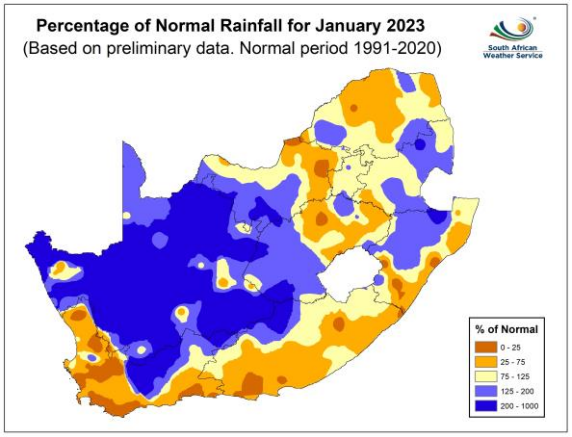
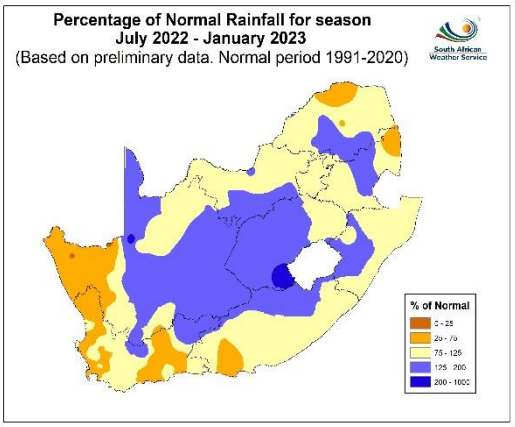
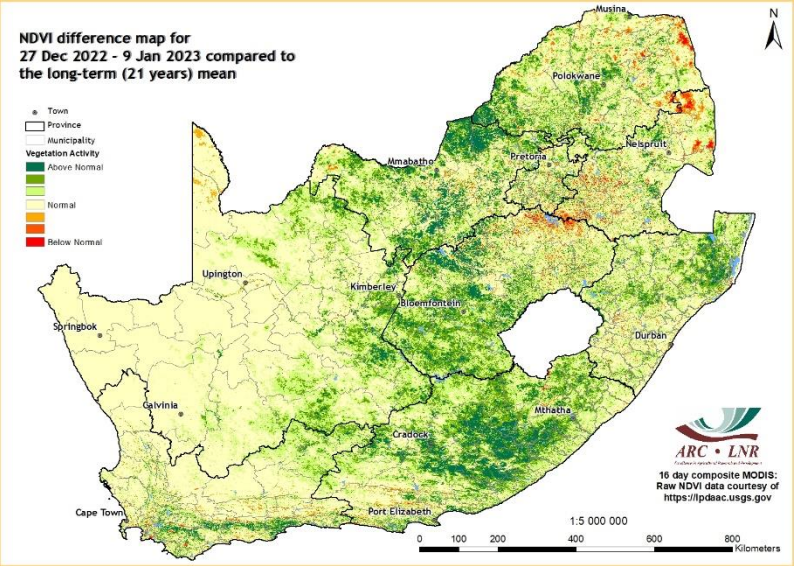


Figure 4



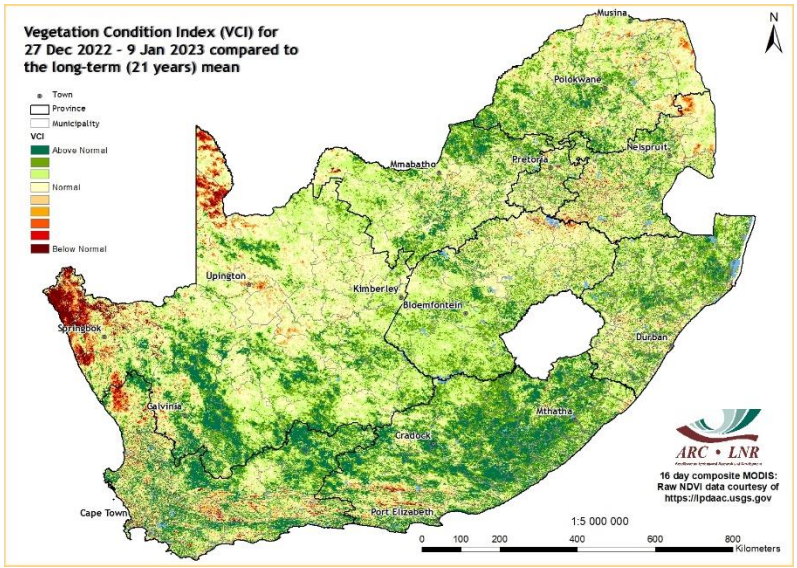
During November 2022, above-normal rainfall was received mainly in the central parts of the country while the eastern parts received near-normal rainfall (**Figure 1).** The western parts of the country received below-normal rainfall. In December 2022, most of the central interior of the country received near-normal rainfall while the remaining parts of the country received mostly above-normal rainfall (**Figure 2**). In January 2023 above-normal rainfall was received over the central and western parts of the country, becoming normal to below-normal over the remainder of the country. **(Figure 3)**. For the season July to January 2023, the central parts of the country received above-normal rainfall but near-normal for the remainder of the country **(Figure 4)**. There were patches of below-normal rainfall in the far western parts of the Northern Cape, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces.

NDVI map: 27 December 2022 – 09 January 2023 compared to the long-term mean



Compared to the historical averaged vegetation conditions, the 13-day NDVI map for late December 2022 to early January 2023 shows that areas of poor vegetation activity were restricted to the periphery and the north-eastern parts of the country and northern Free State. Most of the central regions of the country experienced above-normal vegetation activity.

VCI map: 27 December 2022 – 09 January 2023 compared to the long-term mean



During mid-December 2022 to early January 2023, the western and northern parts of the Northern Cape and isolated areas in the eastern parts of Limpopo and Mpumalanga experienced below normal vegetation conditions. The remainder of the country experienced above-normal vegetation conditions.

(**The VCI is a better indicator of water stress than the NDVI**).

II. CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCES DURING DECEMBER/ JANUARY

Eastern Cape
NIL REPORT.

Free State
Normal rainfall was received, and the veld and livestock are in very good condition. Farmers have been advised to treat flocks against internal parasites and pulpy kidney especially sheep. The situation has improved in the central and southern parts of the province. Water restriction continue to remain in place in most municipalities. Summer pastures are in excellent condition especially those that are under irrigation. They are green and have developed good growth and bulk. Planting of summer crops has been completed. Very hot conditions damaged maize especially the one at tassling stage as it requires a lot of moisture. The province continues to monitor the situation. A swarm of brown locusts was spotted between Bloemfontein and Petrusburg and was controlled. The average level of major dams has decreased as compared to the previous year during the same period (100% in 2023; 104% in 2022).

Gauteng
Most parts received normal to above-normal rainfall. Heavy rains in December and the intense heat in January raised a concern that vegetable production may be interrupted. Maize is in good condition. The veld has improved due to rainfall and the livestock condition is reasonable to good. African Swine Fever outbreaks were reported, the farms have been quarantined and further investigations are underway. The average level of major dams has decreased as compared to the previous year during the same period (100% in 2023; 107% in 2022).

KwaZulu-Natal
Above-normal rainfall was received over most parts of the province. However, the 6 months Standard Precipitation Index map indicates that uMkhanyakude in the Big Five Hlabisa and Mathuba local municipalities are experiencing mild drought and the province is continually monitoring. Summer pastures are growing well. Many farmers have started bailing. Summer crops have been planted, however, due to excessive rains farmers had challenges accessing land that resulted in late planting. In uMzinyathi there are lands that have not been planted. At various locations across the province the crops have been affected by waterlogging. There were signs of water stress in some of the fields in the northern parts of the province because of very hot conditions in early January. The veld and livestock conditions are good due to the extended rains and warm temperatures. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to the previous year during the same period (92% in 2023; 83% in 2022).

Limpopo
The province received normal to above-normal rainfall. Most farmers under irrigation have harvested inter seasonal crops such as tomatoes, while dryland farmers have planted summer field crops such as maize. The livestock condition ranges from fair to good and very good in some areas. The condition of grazing in most parts of the province is improving, especially in communal areas due to good rains received. However, in some areas of Capricorn and Mopani districts the condition is yet to improve. The outbreak of foot and mouth disease was reported in Vhembe district and the veterinary service is controlling to prevent spreading. The average level of major dams has decreased to 87% in 2023, as compared to 89% of 2022.

Mpumalanga
Normal to above-normal rainfall was received. Planted crops such maize, sunflower and soya beans are in good conditions, while in Gert Sibande district grain crops are growing well due to the rain received. The veld and livestock are in fair to good condition. The average level of major dams has increased to 98% 2023 compared to 93% in 2022.

Northern Cape
Above-normal rainfall was received, and most parts continued to experience improved vegetation conditions, except for the far western and northern parts. The conditions of the veld and livestock is still fair to good. The average level of major dams has decreased as compared to previous year (95% in 2023, as compared to 101% of 2022).

North West
The province received normal to below-normal rainfall. Infrastructure was damaged by severe thunderstorm and caused soil erosion in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati district. The grazing and livestock conditions are excellent due to good rains received. Summer dryland crop farmers planted, and in some areas, they had delayed due to late rainfall and in other areas excessive rainfall. The average level of major dams has increased as compared to previous year during the same period (84% in 2023 and 77% in 2022).

Western Cape
The province received above-normal rainfall in December. Severe thunderstorms with heavy rain, hail and lightning led to flash flooding and localised damage to property, crops, and infrastructure across the province. Temperatures were normal, with only a few days of above-normal temperatures recorded. The stone fruit and table grape harvest are underway. Veld and planted pasture conditions improved due to the good rainfall, but veld conditions in the West Coast, Central Karoo and Little Karoo remain poor. Livestock is in a reasonable condition as farmers continue to provide supplementary fodder. Incidences of brown locust swarms were reported, controlled, and monitored in the Central Karoo. The average level of major storage dams within the Western Cape has decreased to 53%, compared to 72% in 2022.

Information on level of dams is obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation

Available: https://www.dwa.gov.za/Hydrology/Weekly/Province.aspx
Dam levels as at 2023/02/06

III. AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Livestock domestic markets

ABSA stated that Class A beef carcass prices recorded a substantial decrease. Industry role-players note that this is due to a short-term increase in supply and that prices are likely to return to a band of R58.00 to R60.00 per kg in the coming weeks. Pressure on local prices for lamb and mutton continues to build due to constrained economic circumstances, curbing demand. Local pork prices decreased compared to the highs of above R38.00 per kg seen in December 2022. This is likely a result of lower red meat and chicken prices due to economic pressure on consumers. The cost of load-shedding is currently a key factor weighing on margins in intensive livestock industries. Local poultry prices decreased marginally over the past week. The view is that this is likely a result of constrained demand towards the end of January.

Producer prices for selected livestock commodities	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Poultry
Open market: Class A / Porker / Fresh whole birds (R/kg)	56.8	-	36.70	34.53
Open market: Class C / Baconer / Frozen whole birds (R/kg)	51.6	64.94	36.31	34.70
Contract: A2/A3* / IQF (*includes fifth quarter) (R/kg)	56.84	85.32	-	31.70
Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs (R/kg)	37.50	37.28	-	-

ABSA: 2023/01/30

Major grain commodities

According to ABSA, local maize prices decreased by 5.7% and 1.6% month on month for white maize and yellow maize respectively. The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) published the 2023 Summer Crops Preliminary Area Planted Estimate on 26 January which showed a 3.01% decrease in the area planted for maize compared to the previous season because of high costs. Wheat prices traded sideways and decreased by 1.4% month on month following global price decreases. The CEC published the 2022 Winter Cereals Sixth Production Forecast which indicated a 3.21% decrease in the production forecast for wheat with the most notable decrease from the Western Cape. Soybean prices decreased by 5.0% and 10.7% month on month respectively. SAFEX soybean prices had traded above the R10 000 per ton mark since October 2022 and are now trading around the R6 600 per ton mark.

	Future Prices (2023/01/31) R/ton				
Commodity	Feb-23	Mar-23	May-23	Jul-23	Sep-23
White maize	4 506.00	4 440.00	4 444.00	4 386.00	4 453.00
Yellow maize	4 539.00	4 563.00	4 540.00	4 521.00	4 583.00
Wheat	6 749.00	6 782.00	6 808.00	6 860.00	6 749.00
Sunflower	11 518.00	11 030.00	10 018.00	10 142.00	n/a
Soybeans	9 600.00	9 360.00	8 748.00	8 908.00	9 085.00

SAGIS: 2023/02/02

IV. SADC REGION

The December 2022 Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to persist in southern Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique, as well as areas of Angola and Lesotho, and much of Zimbabwe, as the lean season progresses and high food prices and below-average wages limit household purchasing power. Food security outcomes are expected to be most severe in southwestern Madagascar, where humanitarian assistance is supporting Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes. The population in need is likely to increase steadily until the start of the 2023 harvest in March or April. Timely and well-distributed rainfall across most of central and eastern southern Africa is increasing the demand for agricultural labor, particularly land preparation and planting. The effective onset of rainfall is also improving water and pasture conditions. However, in northern Mozambique and northern Madagascar, below-average rainfall is limiting planting which is expected to start in December or January. However, cumulatively average to above-average rainfall is still forecast through the 2022/23 production season. Across most of southern Africa, average crop production is anticipated as high regional prices for agricultural inputs and global

supply chain disruptions are resulting in shortages and delayed deliveries, which may impact the harvest in 2023.

As the lean season progresses in most parts of the region, many poor households in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, DRC, Angola, and Lesotho are now reliant on market purchases for food. While supplies are flowing normally, domestic food prices have surged in response to declining stock-to-use ratios, increasing transport costs, high fertilizer prices, and global supply disruptions. Headline inflation levels in Mozambique are declining but remain above pre-pandemic levels, while in Malawi, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, and the DRC, food and transport inflation levels are continuing to rise. In the last quarter of 2022, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Lesotho tightened monetary policy to control inflation, leading to increased costs of servicing debts and cutbacks in public sector spending for agricultural support programs.

FEWS NET further reported that conflict continues to disrupt livelihood activities in areas of DRC and northern Mozambique, driving Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in affected areas. In the DRC, the M23 crisis in the territory of Rutshuru has disrupted the area's supply chain for imported and local products, increasing prices by 10-67 percent over the last three months. As of December 13, humanitarian partners estimate that around 510,000 people have been displaced by the conflict since March 2022, with nearly half in Nyiragongo territory. In Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, sporadic attacks by insurgents continue to prevent households from settling or fully engaging in typical economic activities. The IOM reported around 38,000 people were on the move in November, with attacks and fear of attacks being the primary driver for movement. Most IDPs remain reliant on humanitarian assistance to fill food consumption gaps.

[The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardized tools that aims at providing a "common currency" for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity.]
Source: http://www.fews.net/southern-africa

Summary of the reports
Summer crops have been planted; however very hot conditions resulted in water stress on some crops in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. There was waterlogging on crops in parts of KwaZulu-Natal. Severe thunderstorms damaged infrastructure in North West and the Western Cape. The veld and livestock are in reasonable condition. Locust outbreaks were controlled in the Free State and Western Cape. In Limpopo the veterinary service is monitoring and controlling foot and mouth disease. Gauteng province reported outbreaks of African Swine Fever, quarantine has been implemented and further investigations are underway. The average level of major dams has increased in 4 provinces and decreased the other 5 provinces. Over SADC, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to persist in southern Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique, as well as areas of Angola and Lesotho, and much of Zimbabwe, as the lean season progresses and high food prices and below-average wages limit household purchasing power.

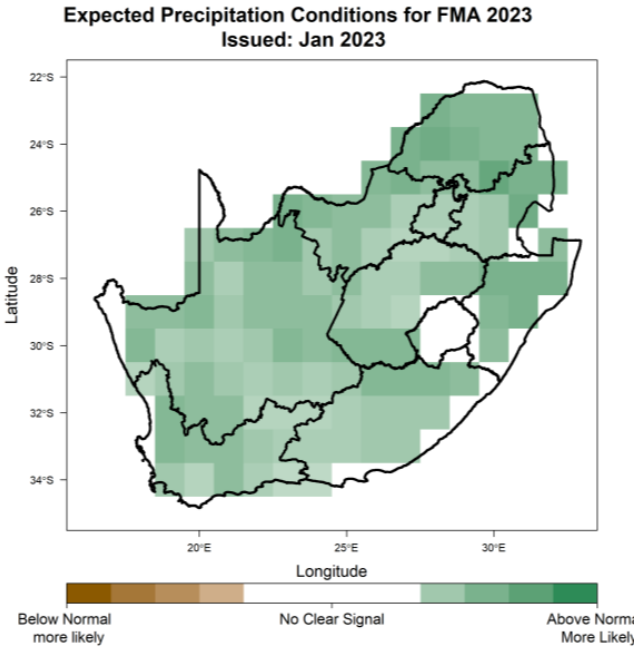
IV. MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Seasonal Climate Watch: February to June 2023

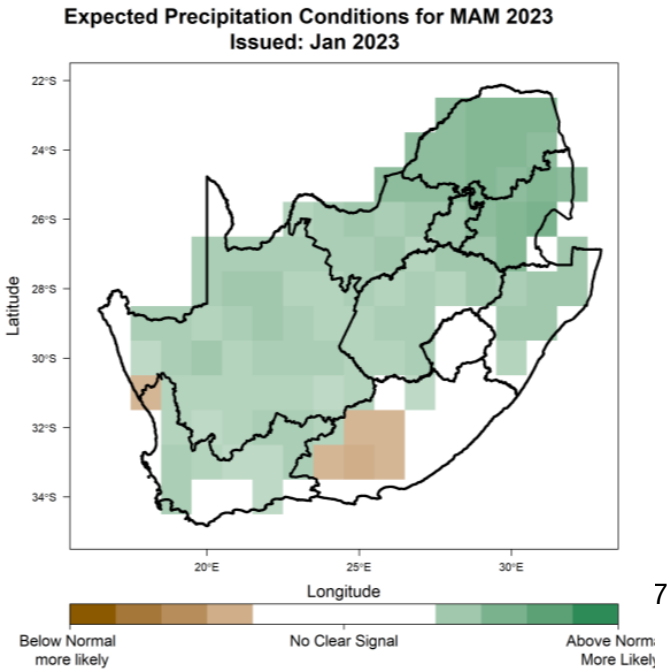
State of Climate Drivers

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a La Niña state, and forecasts indicate that it will likely return to a neutral state by autumn (Mar-Apr-May). As ENSO remains in a La Niña state, late-summer and early autumn rainfall remains likely for above-normal rainfall over the summer rainfall areas. However, as summer comes to an end so does the typical impact of ENSO and it is to be monitored for the next summer season.

Figure 1 – Rainfall



The multi-model rainfall forecast indicates above-normal rainfall for most parts of the country for all predicted seasons.



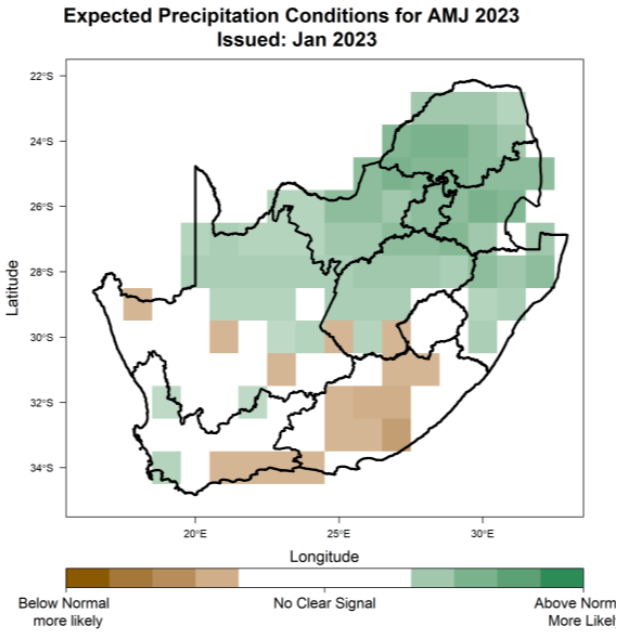
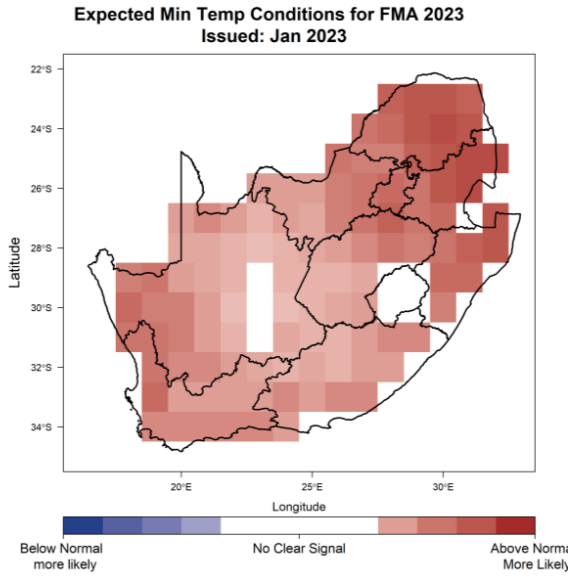
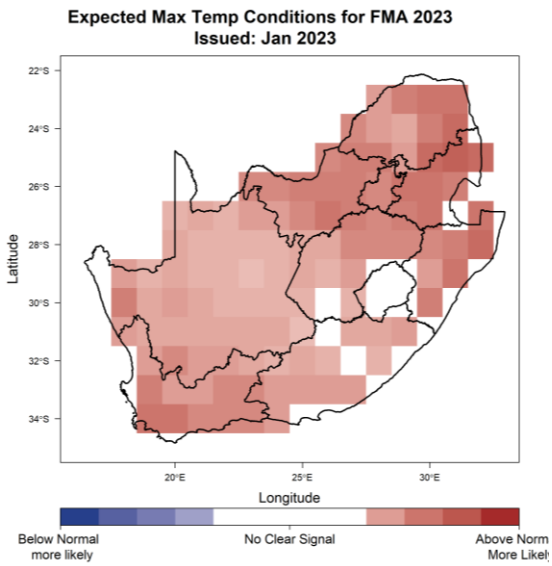
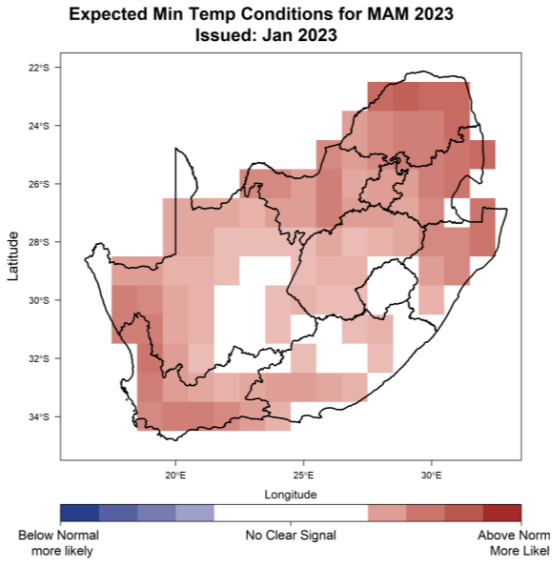
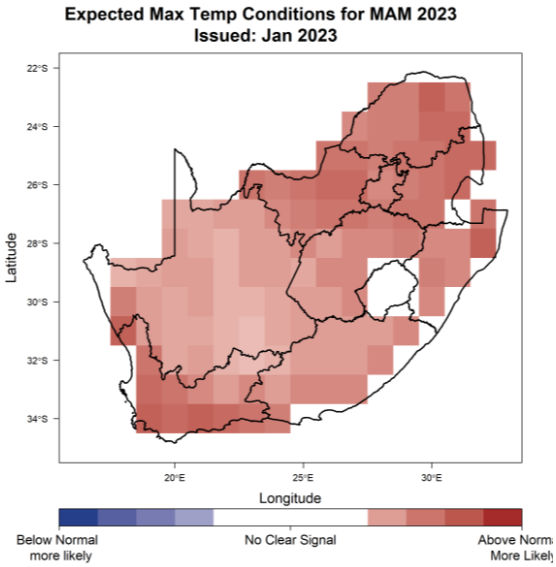


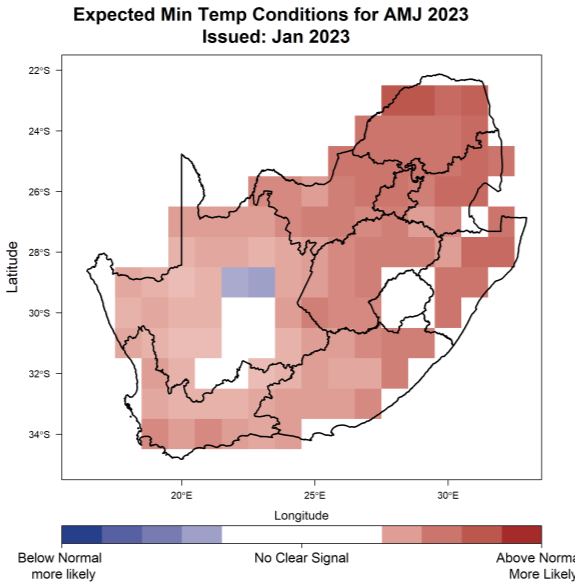
Figure 2 – Minimum and Maximum temperatures

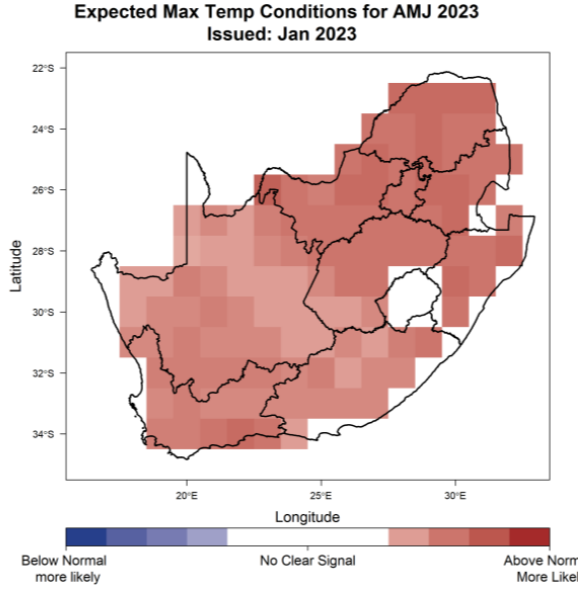












Minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to be mostly above-normal countrywide for the forecast period.

In summary, above-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures are anticipated during the remainder of summer into autumn. Farmers are encouraged to continually check updates i.e., seasonal forecasts and utilize 7-day weather forecasts for short term planning.

With the above forecast in mind, the following strategies are recommended:

V. SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

A. Rain-fed crop production

Crop management:

- Adjust planting density accordingly.
- Consider mulching to minimise evaporation.
- Control weeds regularly.
- Consider a conservative fertilizing strategy during dry conditions.
- Consider organic fertilization.
- Scout for pests and diseases regularly and control where necessary.
- Wheat: The strategy proposed is to scout the plants regularly, correctly identify any pests or diseases and make informed decisions regarding reaction.

B. Irrigation farming

- Remove all weeds containing seeds but keep other vegetative rests on the land because that will reduce evaporation.
- Check and repair all tools and machinery especially where there are water leaks.
- Be aware of the state of regional water resources and whether it will be adequate for irrigation.
- Timing of irrigation - rather late afternoon or early evening to reduce evaporation.
- Manage irrigation so that the plant receives water only when needed.
- Consider using drip irrigation as it saves water by allowing it to drip slowly straight to the roots.
- Avoid over irrigation because that can create problems e.g., water logging and diseases.
- Adhere to water restrictions when issued.

C. Domestic and home garden water use

- Conserve existing water supplies.
- Eradicate water weeds.
- Limit water waste and losses.
- Repair leaking pipes.
- Re-use water and retain high quality.
- Harvest water during rainy days.

D. Stock farming

- Keep stocking rates conservative and even lower to protect grazing.
- Never exceed carrying capacity of plant associations.
- Provide lots of drinking points where possible.
- Provide additional fodder and enhance nutritional value of dry grazing/feed with licks:
    - Phosphorous deficiency is a major problem.
    - Licks should (in most cases) provide:
      - Phosphorous.
      - Urea (to help with the break-down of dry vegetation).
      - Salt.
      - Molasses.
- Deficiencies differ according to vegetation composition/soil properties/climate.
- Analysis of vegetation/soil samples can benefit the decision for supplement composition.
- Sell mature, marketable animals (to help prevent overstocking/ overgrazing).
- If grazing is in danger, herd animals into pens where different animals can be segregated and fed separately.

E. Grazing

- Subdivide your grazing area into camps of homogeneous units (in terms of species composition, slope, aspect, rainfall, temperature, soil and other factors) to minimise area selective grazing as well as to provide for the application of animal management and veld management practises such as resting and burning.
- Determine the carrying capacity of different plant associations.
- Calculate the stocking rate of each, and then decide the best ratios of large and small animals, and of grazers or browsers.
- Provide periodic full growing-season rests (in certain grazing areas) to allow veld vigour recovery to maintain veld productivity at a high level as well as to maintain the vigour of the preferred species.
- Do not overstock at any time to avoid overgrazing.
- Eradicate invader plants.
- Periodically reassess the grazing and feed available for the next few months and start planning.
- Spread water points evenly.

F. Pests and diseases

Crops

- Fruit crop farmers should regularly scout for pests and diseases and contact the local agricultural office for advice on best control measures. Farmers should further implement phytosanitary measures.

Livestock

- Follow the vaccine routine and consult with the local veterinarian.

G. Veld fires

Provinces and farmers are advised to maintain firebreaks in all areas. An owner of the land who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the

weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, the following is taken care of in terms of installing firebreaks (Chapter 4 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998):

- It must be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veld fire from spreading to or from neighbouring land.
- It does not cause soil erosion and
- It is reasonably free of flammable material capable of carrying a veld fire across it.
- Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent.
- Firebreaks should consist of fire-resistant vegetation, non-flammable materials, bare ground or a combination of these.
- Firebreaks must be in such a way as to minimize risk to the resources being protected.
- Erosion control measures must be installed at the firebreak.

Firebreaks can be made through the following methods:

- Mineral earth firebreak:
    - Through ploughing, grading, other earth movement.
- Use of herbicides.
- Use animals to overgraze specifically to minimise fuel.
- Strategic placement of burned areas,
    - Not to be done on days with fire hazard (windy and dry/hot).
- Plant fire resistant plants.
- Plant species selected for vegetated firebreaks must be non-invasive and capable of retarding the spread of fire.

Maintaining firebreaks:

- Mow, disk, or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect all firebreaks for woody materials.
- Inspect firebreaks at least annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary.
- Repair erosion control measures as necessary.
- Access by vehicles or people must also be controlled.
- Bare ground firebreaks, which are no longer needed must be stabilized i.e.
    - Sow grass.
    - Mulch.

What to do when conditions favorable for veld fire are forecast:

- Prohibit fires in the open-air during periods of high fire hazard and establish a fire control committee.
- To control fires, an alarm system, firefighting teams, and beaters must be organized in advance and plans prepared.
- Livestock should be moved out of grazing land to a safe place.

What to do during a veld fire:

- Water is generally not available in sufficient quantities or at adequate pressure for the control of major fires; however, sand, or other loose mineral soil material can be an effective method of control.
- Tree branches can be used to beat fire.

H. Flooding

Heavy rainfall raises the water level. When the water level is higher than the riverbanks or the dams, water flows out from the river and flooding occurs.

Preventive measures:

- Construction of proper drainage systems. Drains must be cleaned constantly as they ensure proper water irrigation.
- Mechanical land treatment of slopes such as contour ploughing or terracing to reduce the runoff coefficient.
- Construction of small water and sediment holding areas.
- Construction of floodways (man-made channels to divert floodwater).
- Terracing hillsides to slow flow downhill.
- Water pumps in rivers likely to be affected should be lifted from the riverbanks when a warning for heavy rain has been issued.

What to do when flooding is forecasted:

Avoid:

- Cutting grass in the rainy season as this can result in nutrient depletion.
- Appling fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
- Applying Nitrogen fertilizer as this can burn plants. Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burnt and die.
- Irrigation, this can result in waterlogging leading to nutrient depletion.

Other measures to implement:

- Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
- Provide shelter for animals (young ones can die easily).
- Leave cultivated areas coarse.
- Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.
- Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and high temperatures may trigger these.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.
- Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is especially necessary if it is already raining.

Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of soil and rocks by the action of natural forces, for example, water and wind. The loose and dissolved materials move from one location to another. Erosion therefore may reduce agricultural production potential.

Preventative measures for erosion:

- Do not burn vegetation.
- Keep vegetation cover – e.g., shrubs, grass, small trees; a cover crop may be used to increase organic material and increase soil structure.
- Plant permanent vegetation e.g., perennial grasses where possible.

- Maintain any remaining vegetative cover, e.g. maize stubble during winter wheat sowing, as it acts as a blanket, traps eroded particles and reduces the wind speed at ground level.
- Plant evergreen trees growing densely and perpendicular to the typical wind direction during winter and spring as wind breaks.
- Increase water infiltration by correct management of soil e.g. reduce frequency of plough and use minimum tillage.
- Mulch: to increase infiltration, reduce evaporation, and reduce raindrop impact as well as wind erosion.
- Construct retaining walls around gardens.
- Avoid soil compaction by roughening the soil surface,
    - Furrows and tillage ridges can trap loose soil.
- Farm along contours as this reduces slope lengths.
- Prevent overgrazing.
- Practice conservation farming
    - Maximize retention of crop residues.

I. Heat stress – bad for productivity

- Signs of heat stress:
  Bunching in shade, high respiratory rates, open mouth breathing.
- What to do:
    - Offer shade.
    - Offer water- keep good quality water in front of animals.
    - Wet with sprinklers/fire hose.
    - Water ground.
    - Avoid overworking animals.
    - Control insects. Biting insects, such as flies can further stress livestock and interrupt their cooling. If pastures or buildings draw insects to livestock during times of extreme heat, provide proper insecticides or considering relocating your livestock.

Poultry

- Provide cool, clean, quality drinking water to your poultry. Water will help keep your birds cool.
- Always make sure your poultry is in a well-ventilated area in which there is nothing to obstruct the airflow.
- Provide feed during the coolest part of the day.
- Supplement drinking water with electrolytes.
- Reduce the number of birds kept in a house or in an area.
- Avoid excessive activity during the hottest part of the day.

J. Severe thunderstorms/flash floods

Building resilience:

- Identify resources/facilities within 50 km that can be utilized and can be of help during emergencies.
- Be sure to have legal and adequate markings to identify your livestock.
- Stay well informed about livestock in your possession and conduct an inventory after the event.

- Monitor television and local radio stations for information regarding severe storms/flash floods in your region.
- Identify natural or built areas/shelters where animals can be kept during such conditions
    - Sufficient height to be above water level,
    - Sheltered from strong winds and wetness,
- Restrict access to high-risk areas such as low-lying fields close to streams.
- Store food in safe areas sheltered from wetness to be used after storms/flash floods.
- Keep pesticides and other chemicals in areas where water will not be contaminated during extreme rainfall/storm events.
- Inspect/repair farm dams before rainy season, and after each event.

Crops are in reasonable condition, however, in January very hot conditions affected some crops. The veld and livestock are in reasonable to good condition in most areas. Above-normal rainfall is expected for the remainder of summer into autumn. Maximum temperatures are expected to be above-normal in many areas.

With the seasonal forecast in mind, farmers are advised to put measures in place for pests and diseases associated with wet and hot conditions. Moreover, it is important for farmers to follow the weather forecasts regularly to make informed decisions. Farmers using irrigation should comply with water restrictions in their areas. Farmers must continually conserve resources in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983, (Act No. 43 of 1983).

Farmers are advised to keep livestock in balance with carrying capacity of the veld and provide additional feed such as relevant licks. Livestock should be provided with enough water points on the farm as well as shelter during bad weather conditions. Winter rainfall areas are dry, and conditions remain favourable for veld fires. Therefore, the creation and maintenance of fire belts should be prioritized as well as adherence to veld fire warnings. Episodes of flooding resulting from rain bearing weather systems have occurred and will continue; precautionary measures should be in place. Heat waves may occur during the remainder of summer and therefore measures to combat these should be in place. Farmers are encouraged to implement strategies provided in the early warning information issued.

The users are urged to continuously monitor, evaluate, report, and attend to current Disaster Risk Reduction issues. It is very important and mandatory for farming communities to always implement disaster risk measures and maintain good farming practices.

The climate advisory should be disseminated widely. Users are advised to be on the look-out and act on the daily extreme weather warnings as well as the monthly advisory. Information sharing groups are encouraged especially among farming communities for sustainable development. In general, effective communication among all stakeholders in the sector will enhance effective implementation of risk reduction measures/early warning services. It is the responsibility of farmers to implement disaster risk measures.

The Disaster Management Act 2002, (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals, and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information. The current advisory can be accessed from the following websites: https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/.

For more information contact:-

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