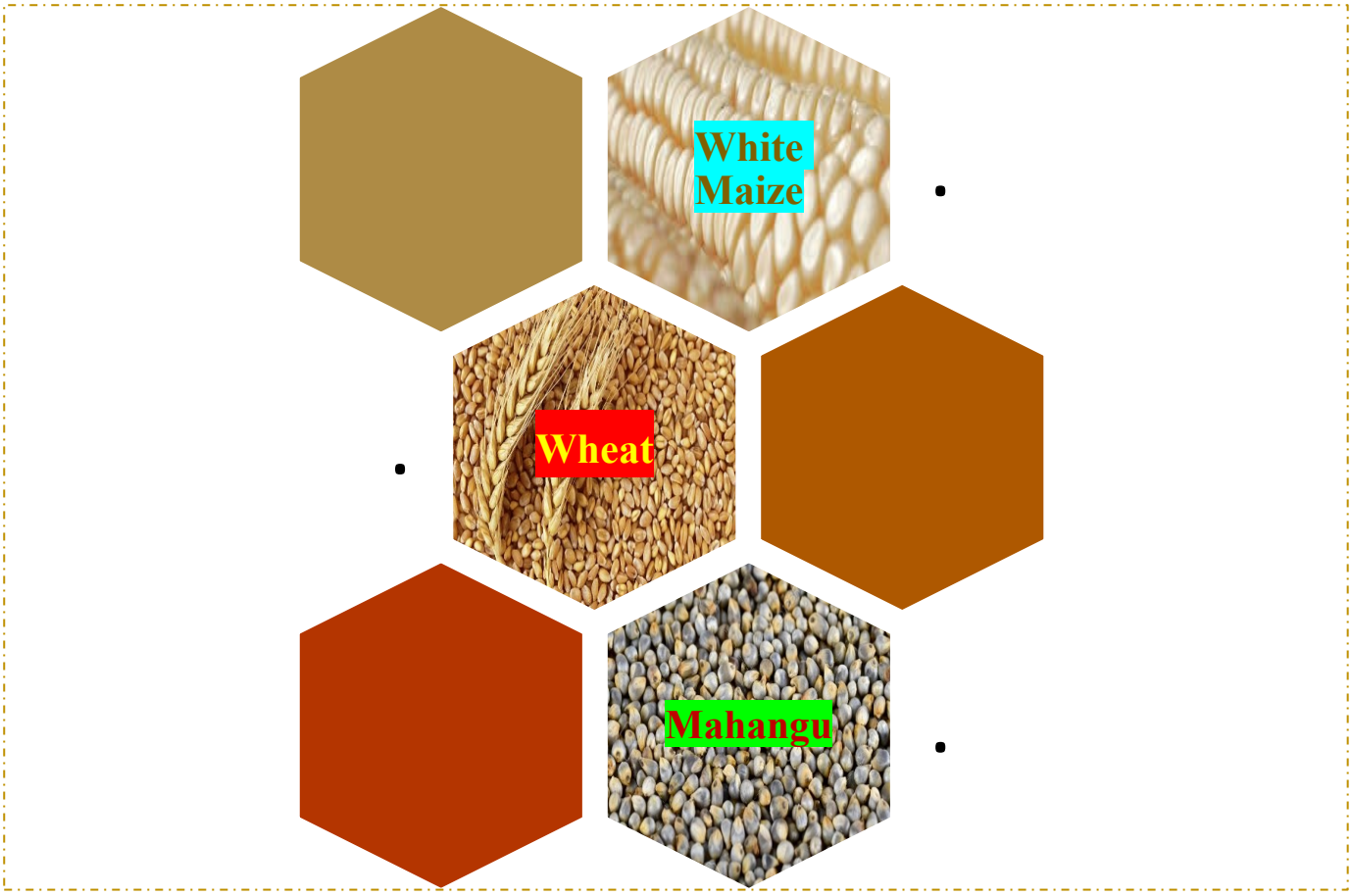
NAMIBIAN
AGRONOMIC BOARD

AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

AGRONOMY DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION

GRAIN MARKETING REPORT

01 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024



Last Updated: 14 October 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The drought and below-normal rainfall during the 2024 planting season had a significant impact on the agricultural sector, which contributed to the underproduction of the three staple crops, namely white maize, wheat, and mahangu.

The grain market report covering the period from 01 April to 30 September 2024 and provides insight into the volumes of white maize, wheat, and mahangu that were imported and purchased locally. This data will be crucial for understanding how the drought has impacted both local production and the reliance on imports during that quarter.

In terms of white maize production, the agronomy sector experienced underproduction of white maize from all the production areas, with only **30,168** tons marketed out of an estimated **37,872 tons**, which highlights the impact of the drought on local yields. With significant imports of **105,775 tons** during the reporting period, it suggests a heavy reliance on external sources to meet local demands.

The marketing season for Mahangu and wheat starts on the 1 June and 1 November respectively and before that, the country depends on imported grain to meet local demand. As for mahangu, a total of **2,449 tons** was imported by registered millers and small-scale traders mainly from Angola and India and only **382 tons** was bought locally.

Furthermore, as for wheat, a total of **86,655** tons was imported between 1 April to 30 September 2024, from South Africa and Deep-sea.



2. MONTHLY GRAIN TRADE STATISTICS

2.1 White maize tonnage

The marketing season for white maize commenced on 1 May and this year, due to the expected shortfall in local maize harvest, the border did not close for the importation of white maize grain.

Figures 1 show that the biggest portion of white maize grain was imported in April 2024 (24,960 tons) On the other hand, the bulk of the white maize grain was purchased locally in May 2024 (15,624 tons), coinciding with the start of the marketing season for white maize.

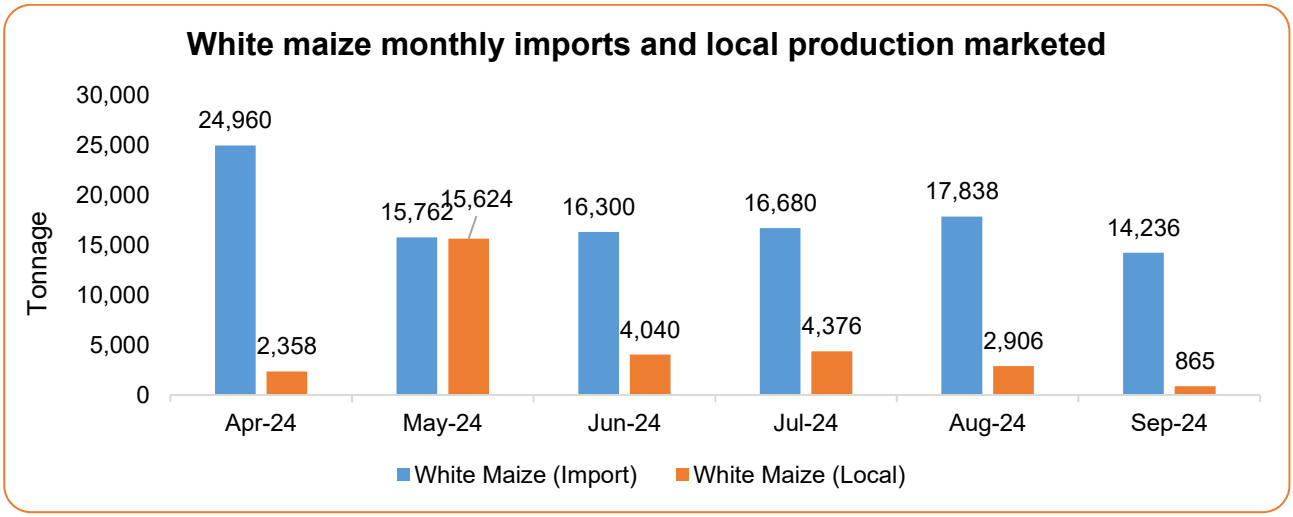


Figure 1, White maize grain imports and local purchases (Source: NAB data, 2024)

2.2 Wheat tonnage

The marketing of wheat officially starts from 01 October to 31 January each year. To satisfy the gap between production (supply) and demand, 100% of the wheat traded during the reporting period was imported and a total of 86, 655 ton was imported.

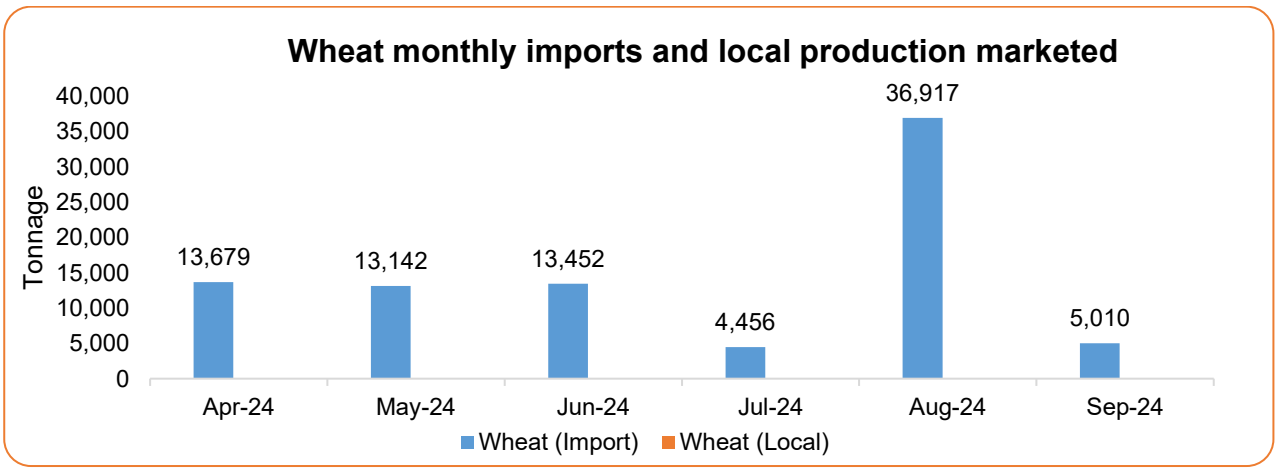


Figure 2, monthly wheat grain imports and local purchases (Source: NAB data, 2024)

2.3 Mahangu tonnage

This season the production of mahangu in the North Central Areas (NCA) and Zambezi region was affected by the drought, resulting in a low harvest for this year.

Figure 3 shows the total tonnage imported and bought locally for mahangu since the start of the of the marketing season on 1 June 2024. A total o**f 382 tons** was purchased locally and **2,245 tons** was imported, mainly from Angola (90%) and India (10%).

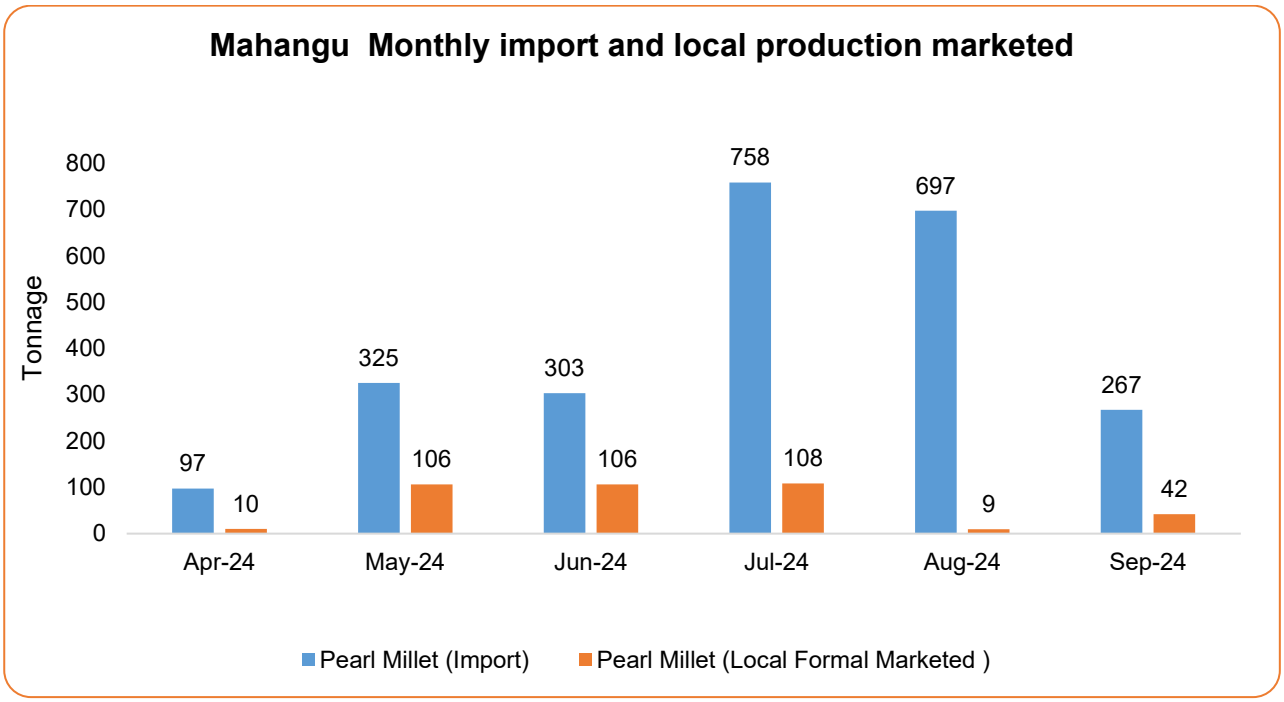


Figure 3, Mahangu: monthly grain imports and local purchases (Source: NAB data, 2024)

3. AGGREGATED GRAIN TRADE STATISTICS

3.1 Total tonnage imported and locally purchased

According to figure 4, the total domestic demand for white maize by millers and silos for the reporting period stood at 135,943 tons, of which 22% (39,168 tons) was local purchase and 78% (105,775 tons) was imported. In terms of mahangu, the local production marketed stood at 382 tons, representing 13% of total demand.

Furthermore, 86,655 tons of wheat were imported on a 100% basis during the reporting period, since local production is only expected from mid October 2024.

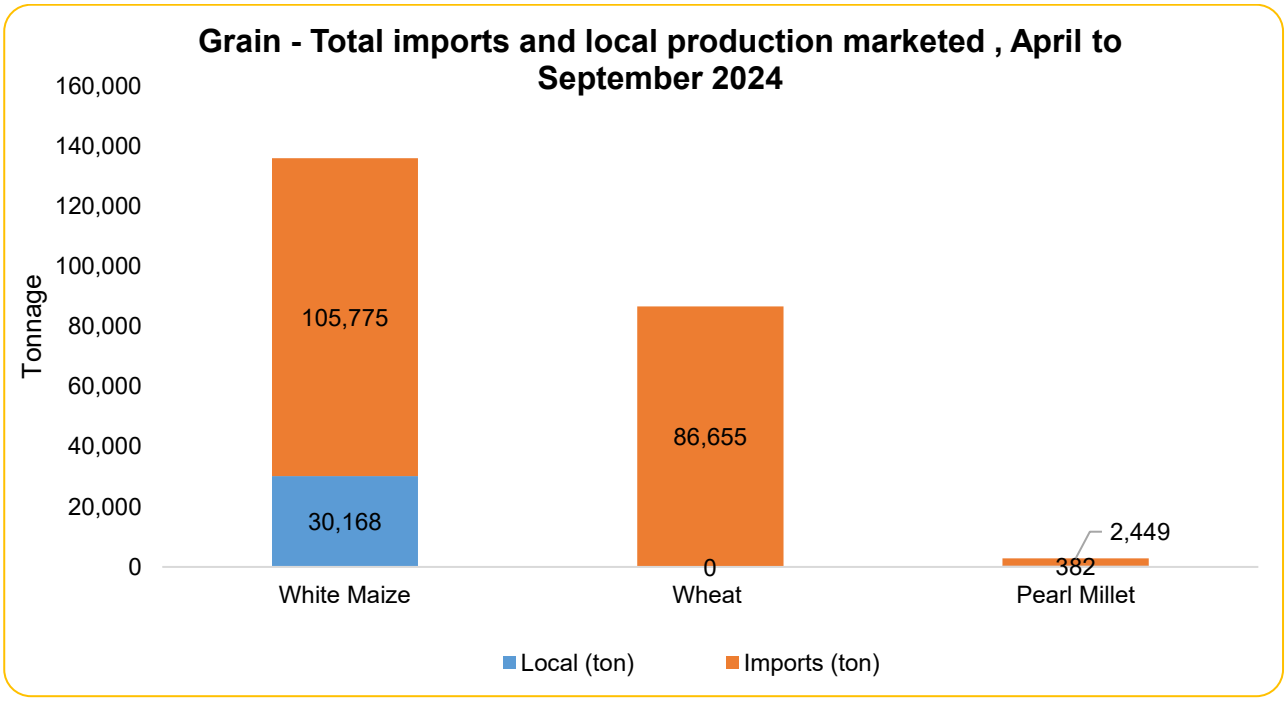


Figure 4, total imports and local purchases of grain (Source: NAB data, 2024)

4. AGRONOMY PERFORMANCE 2023 VERSUS 2024

According to figure 5, the total grain (white maize, wheat & pearl millet) traded from April to September 2024 is slightly high than the same periods in 2023, with a difference of -994 tons.

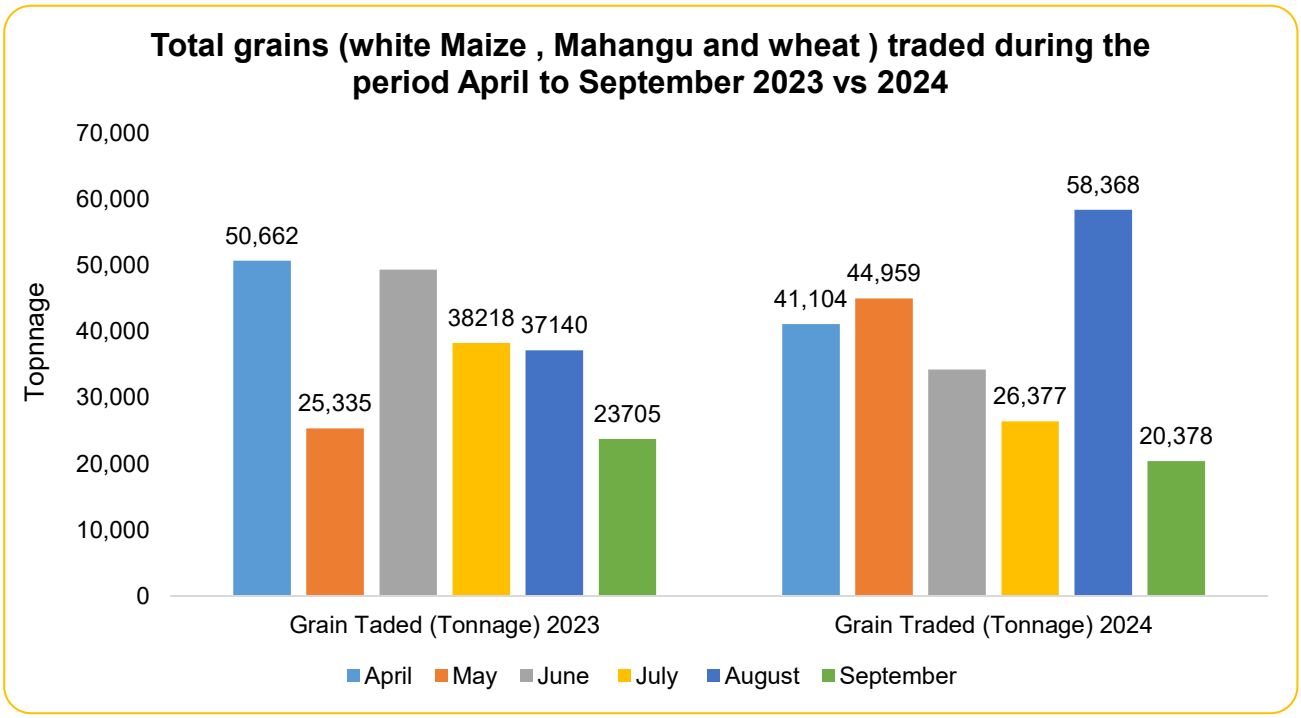


Figure 5, Total grain volume traded (Source: NAB data, 2024)

Figure 6 shows that the monthly tonnage of wheat and mahangu traded from April to September 2024 versus 2023 varies significantly, while for white maize there is insignificant variation.

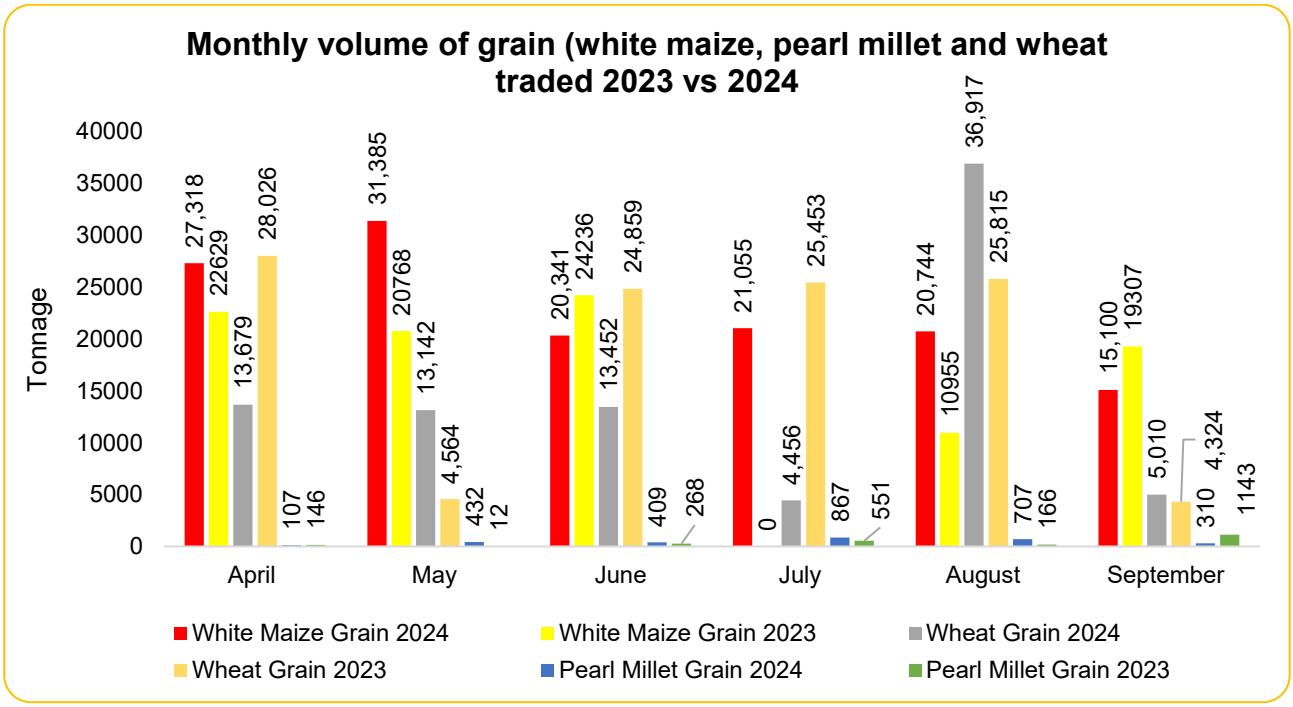


Figure 6, Monthly volume traded per grain type for the period April to September 2023 versus 2024(Source: NAB data, 2024)

5. GRAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY ANALYSIS

The total demand for white maize during the first quarter of 2024 stood at 135,943 tons, of which 30,168 tons were produced in the country and 105,775 tons imported, making Namibia's self-sufficiency rate in white maize production at 22%.

During the reporting period, the national self-sufficiency for grains stood at 14%, with white maize constituting the biggest portion of self-sufficiency (22%), followed by mahangu (13%) and zero for wheat which is a winter crop harvested only from October each year.

Table 1: Total grain imports and local purchases proportion (Source: NAB data, 2024)

	Local (ton)	Imports (ton)	Total	Local %	Import %
White Maize	30,168	105,775	**135,943**	**22%**	**78%**
Wheat	0	86,655	**86,655**	**0%**	**100%**
Pearl Millet	382	2,449	**2,831**	**13%**	**87%**
Total	**30,550**	**194,879**	**225,429**	**14%**	**86%**

6. TOTAL LOCAL VOLUME EXPECTED VERSU MARKETED

6.1 White maize: Total tonnage marketed per month per production area

Figure 7 shows that the biggest portion of the white maize marketed during the reporting period was from the Karst area (10,436 tons), followed by the Kavango area (8,747 tons) and the lowest tonnage was marketed in the Zambezi region (78 tons).

Figure 8 shows that as of 30 September 2024, **80% of the estimated national harvest of white maize** has been marketed. The remaining **20% is yet to be marketed** from the Green Scheme, primarily due to late planting in the Kavango region.

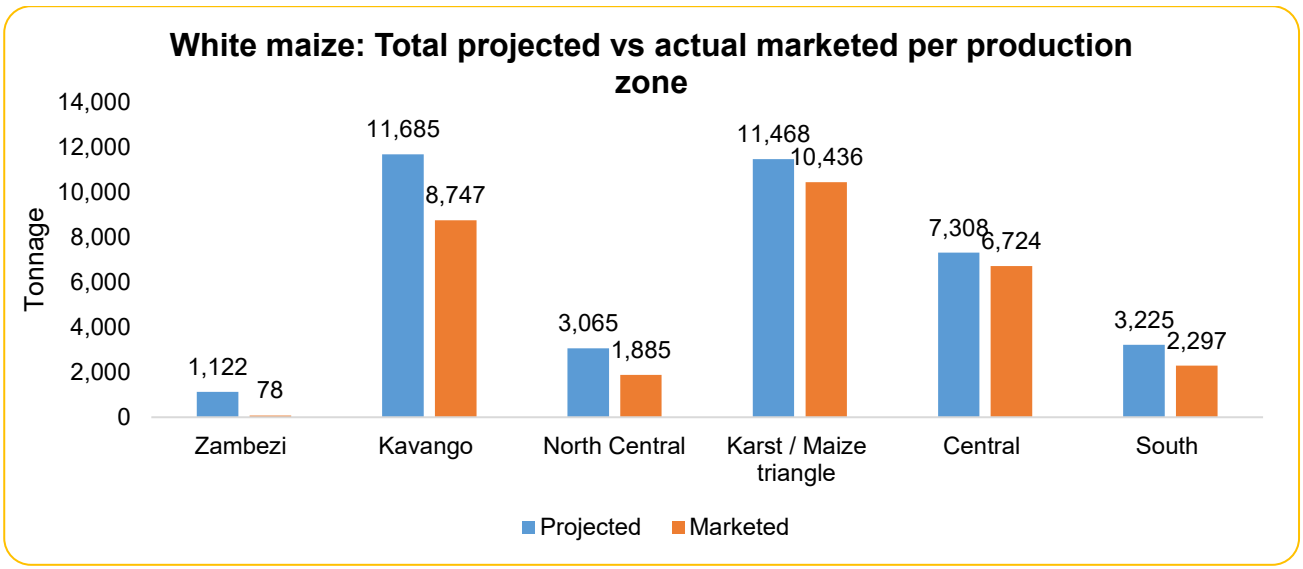


Figure 7, White maize: total tonnage expected vs marketed per month per production area (Source: NAB data, 2024)

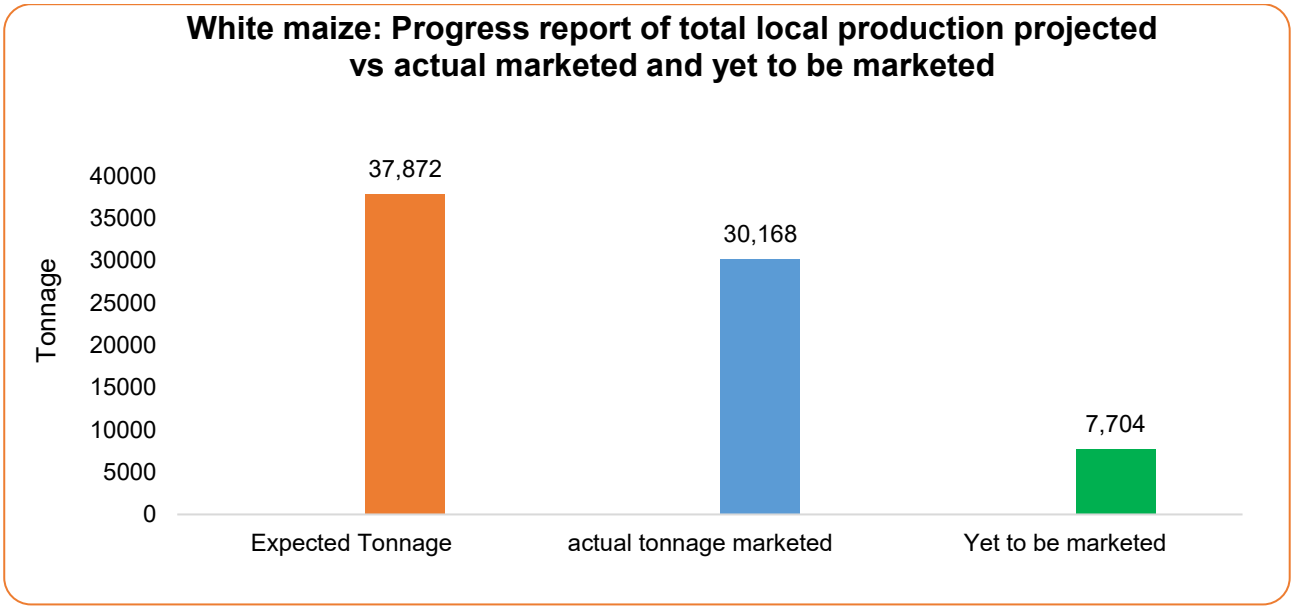


Figure 8, White maize: total tonnage expected vs marketed (Source: NAB data, 2024)

7. GRAIN DOMESTIC FLOOR PRICE PER TON

Table 2 shows that, since 1 May 2024, the applicable floor price for white maize for the reporting period is the SAFEX weighted Average floor price as it was higher than the Staggered Floor Price.

Table 2: White Maize domestic floor prices (Source: NAB data, 2024)

Fortnights (Weeks)	White Maize -Otavi N$ (fortnight SAFEX WEIGHTED AVERAGE SPOT PRICE (2024/2025)	White maize staggered floor price (mill door) 2024/2025 (N$)
01-14 May 243	**7,554**	5,884
15-28 May 2024	7,089	5,918
29 May to 11 Jun 24	**6,936**	5,952
12-25 Jun 24	**7,265**	5,986
26 Jun to 09 Jul 24	7,120	**6,020**
10 Jul -23 July 24	**7,181**	6,054
24 Jul -06 Aug 24	**7,315**	6,088
07-20 Aug 24	**7,471**	6,122
21 Aug-03 Sept 24	**7,382**	6,156
04 – 17 Sept 24	**7,495**	6,190
18 Sept -01 Oct 24	**7,640**	6,224
02-15 Octr 24	**7,548**	6,258

As for Mahangu floor price, the applicable floor price came into effect on the 1 June 2024 as in the table below.

Table 3: Mahangu domestic floor prices (Source: NAB data, 2024)

FARMERS' FLOOR PRICE	PRICE PER TON	PER KG	PER 50KG BAG
MILL-DOOR FLOOR PRICE	**N$7,531.22**	**N$7.53**	**N$376.5**
FARM GATE/ COLLECTION CENTER FLOOR PRICE	**N$7,249.10**	**N$7.25**	**N$362.5**

In line with the Grain Marketing mechanism, the wheat floor price will come into effect when the marketing season starts on 1 November respectively.

8. CONCLUSION

In terms of white maize grain, out of the national harvest of 37,872 expected to be marketed during the 2024 marketing season, a total of 31,168 tons (80%) have been marketed as of 30 September 2024, and 7,704 tons (20%) is yet to be marketed to millers and silos in the country.

The report also indicates that due to the **drought conditions** in 2024, which caused a decline in the expected harvest, Namibia will continue to rely heavily on imported grains such as **white maize, wheat, and mahangu** to meet local demand.

As a result, imports will play a crucial role in filling the gap and ensuring food security in the country during this period of reduced local grain output. This reliance on imports is expected to continue until the next crop harvest in 2025, provided the country receive above normal rainfall.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**END**<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<