



AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

AGRONOMY DEVELOPMENT SUBDIVISION

WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST REPORT

HARVESTING/MARKETING SEASON: 2024/2025



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Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	2
2. METHODOLOGY.....	2
3. EXPECTED PRODUCTION FORECAST	3
3.1 Wheat tonnage forecasted per production zone per month	3
3.2 Expected availability of wheat per month per producer.....	4
3.3 Hectares planted per production zone	5
3.4 Expected yield per hectare from each production zone	6
3.5 Expected supply versus average domestic demand	7
3.6 Tonnage expected in 2024 versus tonnage marketed in 2023	7
4. CONCLUSION.....	8

1. INTRODUCTION

Wheat, scientifically known as *Triticum aestivum*, is a winter cereal crop cultivated under irrigation production system in Namibia. The planting season typically starts in May or June, with the harvest occurring between October and January. Wheat production is concentrated in five zones: Kavango, North Central, Karstland, Central/East, and the Southern region. The largest quantity of wheat is produced in the Southern zone, particularly at the Hardap cooperative, followed by the Kavango, Central, and Karstland regions.

Once harvested, the wheat is transported to milling facilities located in Windhoek and the Southern zones for processing. The marketing of Namibian-grown wheat is governed by the Wheat Marketing Mechanism/Agreement, a pact signed between producers and millers, ensuring the marketing of locally produced wheat grain. The official marketing period is from November 1st to January 31st. Although there are no strict open or closed border periods for wheat, allocations to millers ensure the prioritization of local production in the market.

According to the production and trade statistics for the 2023/2024 financial year, Namibia's total domestic wheat grain demand reached 191,024 tons, averaging 15,919 tons per month. Of this total demand, only 18,328 tons (about 10%) were produced locally, while a significant 172,696 tons (90%) had to be imported to meet the nation's demand.

Looking ahead to the 2024/2025 wheat marketing season, it is estimated that 4,021 tons of wheat will be harvested from 692 hectares spread across four production zones: North Central, Central, Karstland, and Kavango. These wheat volumes will be harvested between October 2024 and January 2025 and marketed accordingly, in line with the Wheat Marketing Mechanism/Agreement.

This report outlines the forecasted wheat production for the upcoming season, underscoring the relatively small local contribution compared to overall national demand, with the majority of supply still reliant on imports.

2. METHODOLOGY

The data was collected using the subjective crop yield estimation, which relies on the expert's (producer's) experience to estimate crop yield that combines sending expected/actual grain crop production forms to producers via email. Producers based on their experience, provided estimates of expected yield by completing the forms and send them back to the NAB via email. Producers who did not respond via email were contacted and provided information over the phone.

The collected data was processed in Microsoft Excel for analysis through graphs and tables.

3. EXPECTED PRODUCTION FORECAST

This section covers the analysis of demand, expected tonnage, planted hectares, expected average yield per hectare, and expected monthly wheat availability per producer.

3.1 Wheat tonnage forecasted per production zone per month

Figures 1 and 2 provide insights into the wheat production distribution across Namibia's zones for the 2024 marketing season. The majority of the wheat is expected to be harvested from the North Central, Kavango, and Karstland regions, with the largest share projected for October 2024, followed by November 2024.

Figure 1 shows that 2,185 tons (or 54% of the total wheat production) are anticipated to come from the Green Scheme Irrigation Projects (GSIPs) located in the Kavango and North Central zones.

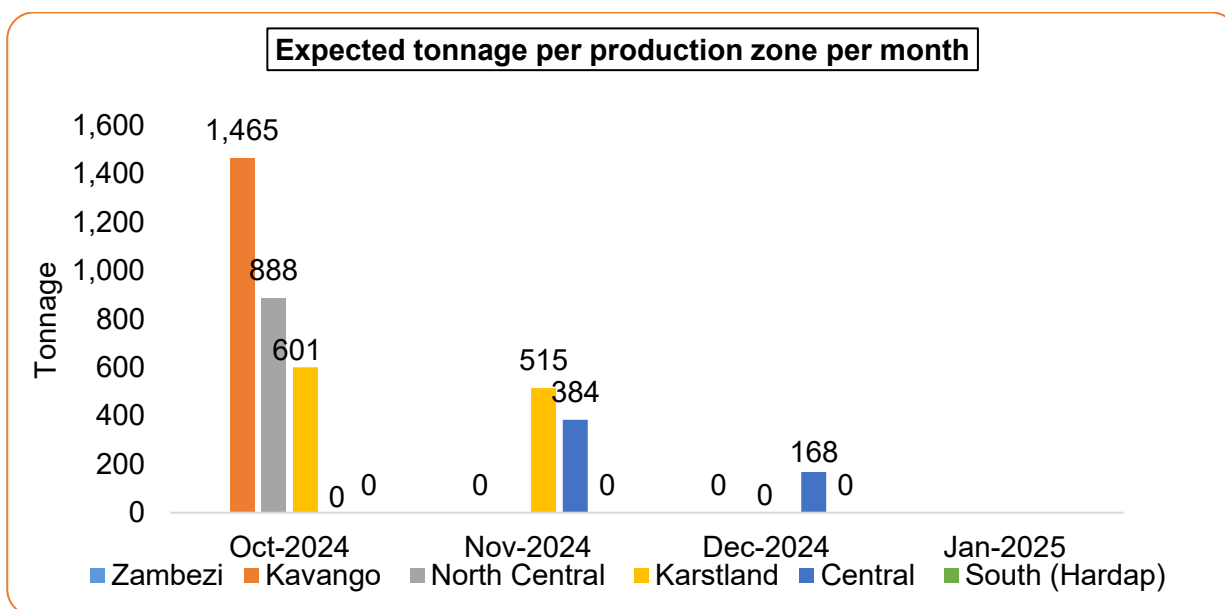


Figure 1: Wheat: Expected tonnage per production zone per month

Furthermore, Figure 2 highlights the expected tonnage from each production zone, with the **Kavango zone** predicted to lead production at 1,465 tons (36% of the total harvest). Following Kavango, the **Karstland zone** is expected to produce 1,116 tons (28%), the **North Central zone** 888 tons (22%), and the **Central zone** 552 tons (14%). No wheat harvest is expected from the Southern zone (Hardap) in 2024 due to the drought that has significantly impacted production in that area.

Lastly, **Figure 3** indicates that the majority of the wheat is expected to be marketed in October, attributed to early planting that occurred in May and June.

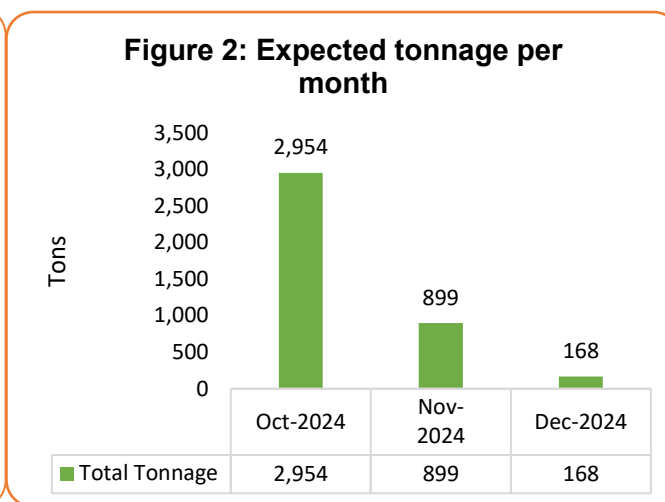
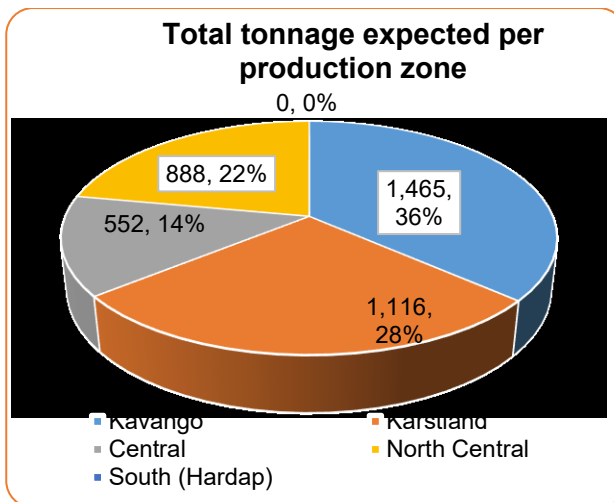


Figure 2: Total tonnage expected per production zone

Figure 3: Monthly total tonnage Wheat

3.2 Expected availability of wheat per month per producer

According to the information in Table 1 below, 15 producers expect to harvest and market wheat during the 2024 marketing season, with the majority situated in the Karstland production zone.

Table 1 shows the list of producers expected to harvest wheat during the 2024/2025 season.

Expected availability of wheat per producer per month - 2024/2025 marketing season							
	Registration No	Farm/Business name	Contact person	Contact No	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
North Central							
1	NCW-F0176	Etunda GSIP	SackyThobias	081 1453138/ 065 258844	🌾		
2	NCT-F0046	Zhukov COS (762)	Dirk Cotzee	811296928	🌾		
Kavango area							
3	KAV-F0061	Uvhungu Vhungu GSIP	Floris Smith	081-1274998	🌾		
4	KAV-F0068	Sikondo GSIP	John Milanda	081-1599132	🌾		
5	KAV-F0064	Ndonga Linena	Janno Rentel	081-6877280	🌾		
Central Area							
6	CEN-F0235	Okatombaka(266)	Ockert Steyn	081-2612803		🌾	
7	CEN-F0091	Rika(266)	Rudolf Steyn	081-2966517		🌾	
8	CEN-F0256	Vergenoeg(402)	K.F.Eichhoff	081-8281910			🌾
Karst Area							
9	KST-F0044	Cuxhaven(1278)	Louw M. Potgieter	081 1486910	🌾		
10	KST-F0205	Fam Goab Pforte(1246)	Ulf Diemer	081 7492790		🌾	
11	KST-F0359	Okosondumbe(500)	David Botha	081-1284844		🌾	
12	KST-F0410	Warthog Farming(1249B)	R.Himmel	081-1243245	🌾		
13	KST-F0332	Bombay(670)	Cobus Coetzee	081- 4355616		🌾	
14	KST-F0232	Farm Batavia	H. van Eeden	081-1246383		🌾	
15	KST-F0206	Huttenhof (425)	Ralf von Maltzahn	081-2749500	🌾		
South Area							

3.3 Hectares planted per production zone

Figure 4 below shows that a total of 692 ha was planted for Wheat production between May and July 2024. Out of this total, 237 ha (34%) is planted in the Kavango production zone under GSIPs, 208 ha (30%) in the North Central zone, 171 ha (25%) in the Karst zone, and 76 ha (11%) in the Central zone.

The total hectares planted for wheat in 2024 decreased by -1,902 hectares (73%) compared to the total hectares planted in 2023. This decrease may be attributed to the drought experienced during the 2022 and 2023 planting seasons, which reduced the production of white maize. As a result, producers may not have had the capital to subsequently plant wheat. Furthermore, the drought has significantly lowered the water level of the Hardap dam, affecting wheat producers in the South and leading to a decrease in wheat production this year.

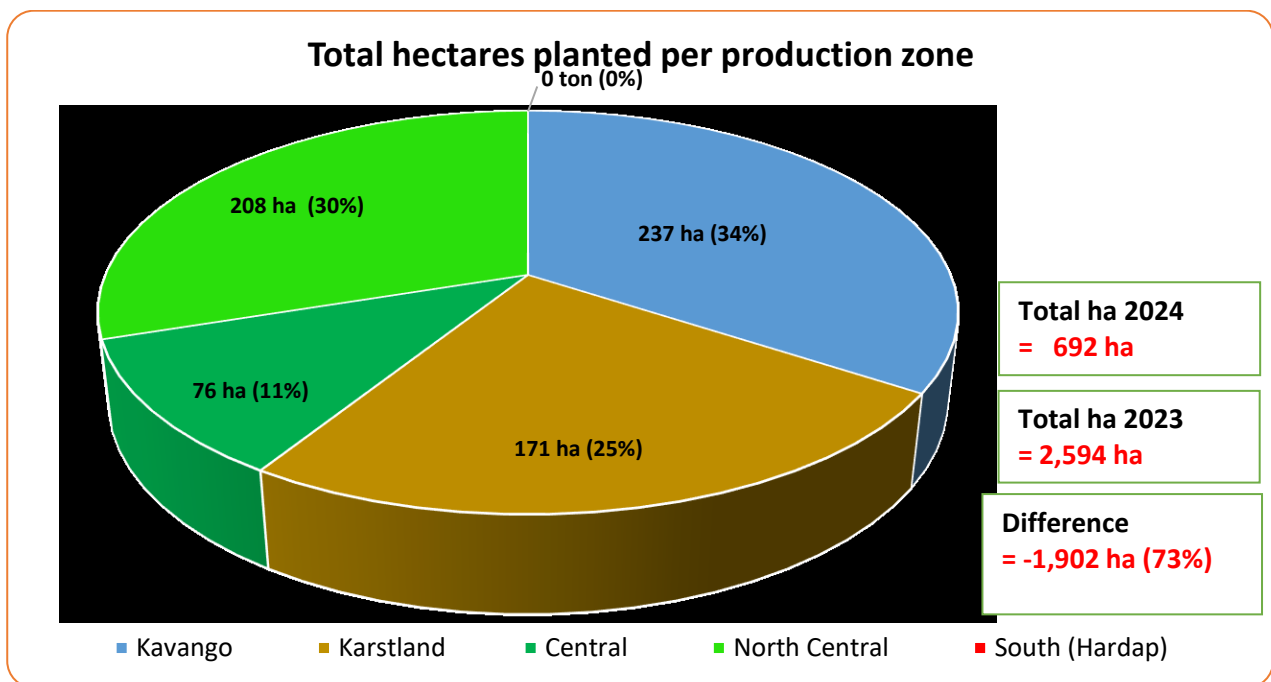


Figure 4: Total hectares of wheat planted during the 2024 season per production zone.



3.4 Expected yield per hectare from each production zone

Figure 5 below shows that the Central production zone expected to have the highest average yield per hectare of 7.3 tons/ha, while the North Central zone is expected to have the lowest average yield per hectare at 5.0 tons/ha. The national average yield per hectare is projected to be around 6.3 tons/ha.

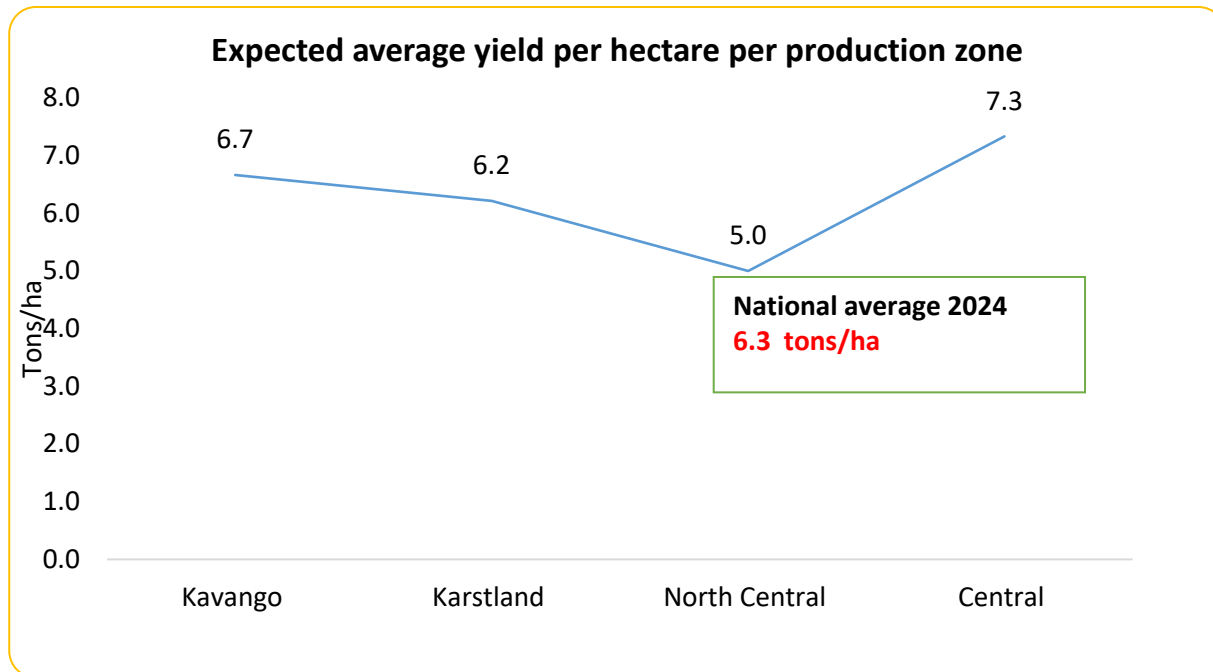


Figure 5: Expected average yield per ha (tons/ha)



3.5 Expected supply versus average domestic demand

Figure 6 highlights the disparity between the national total wheat production and domestic demand for the 2024 marketing season. While 4,021 tons of wheat are expected to be produced locally, the average domestic demand remains significantly higher at 15,919 tons per month. This marks a sharp decline in local production compared to the previous year.

Specifically, local wheat production for 2024 is projected to decrease by 14,307 tons, which translates to a 78% reduction compared to 2023. The primary reason for this drastic drop in production is the reduced number of producers planting wheat this year, which has resulted in a substantial decline in the total planted area. Consequently, Namibia will likely rely even more on wheat imports to meet its domestic needs for the 2024 marketing season.

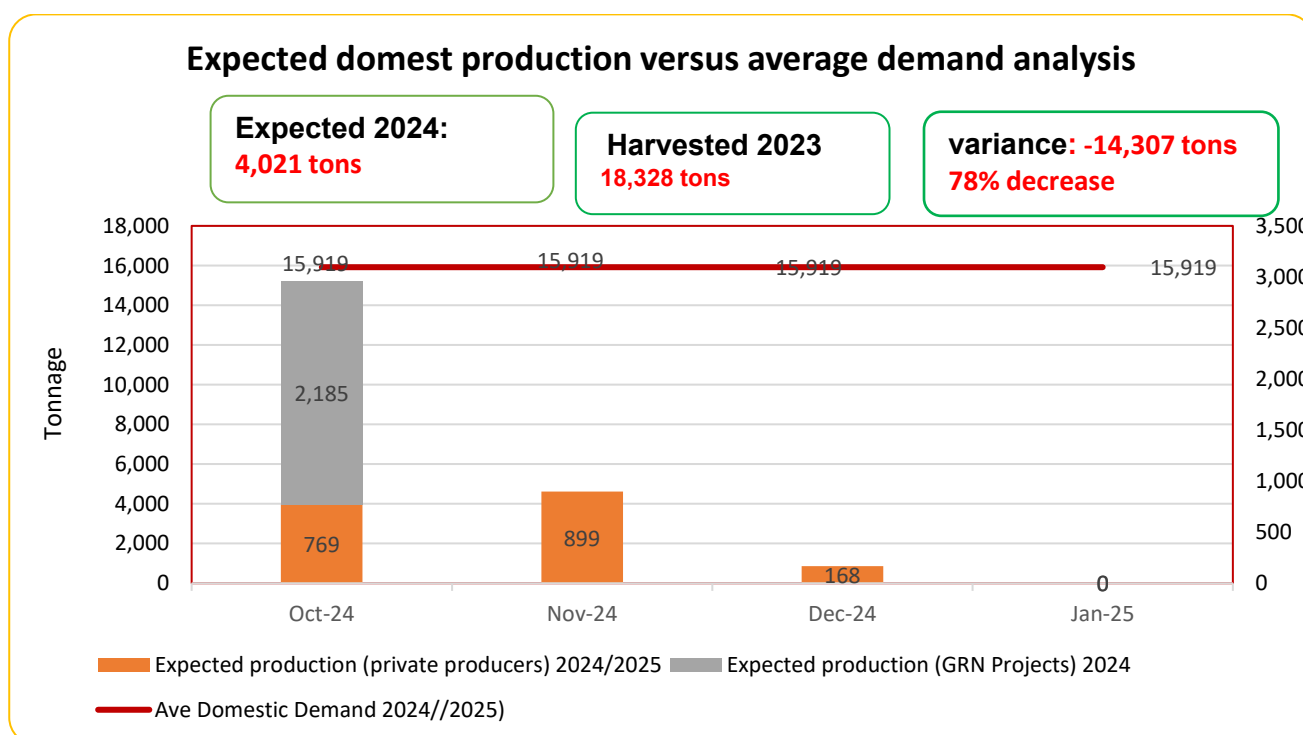


Figure 6: Wheat expected production to be marketed versus the domestic demand.

3.6 Tonnage expected in 2024 versus tonnage marketed in 2023

Figure 7 shows a projected decrease in wheat harvest tonnage across all four production zones—Kavango, Central, Karstland, and South—compared to the previous year. A key detail is that while the Kavango production zone is expected to yield a wheat harvest this year, the Southern production zone will not see any wheat harvest in 2024.

The absence of wheat production in the South is primarily due to a severe drought, which has significantly lowered the water levels in the Hardap Dam. This has had a direct negative impact on wheat producers in the region, contributing to the overall decline in wheat production for the year.

Additionally, no wheat was planted in the Zambezi region for 2024, further affecting the country's overall wheat output. This situation underscores the growing challenges posed by environmental factors, particularly water scarcity, in maintaining consistent wheat production.

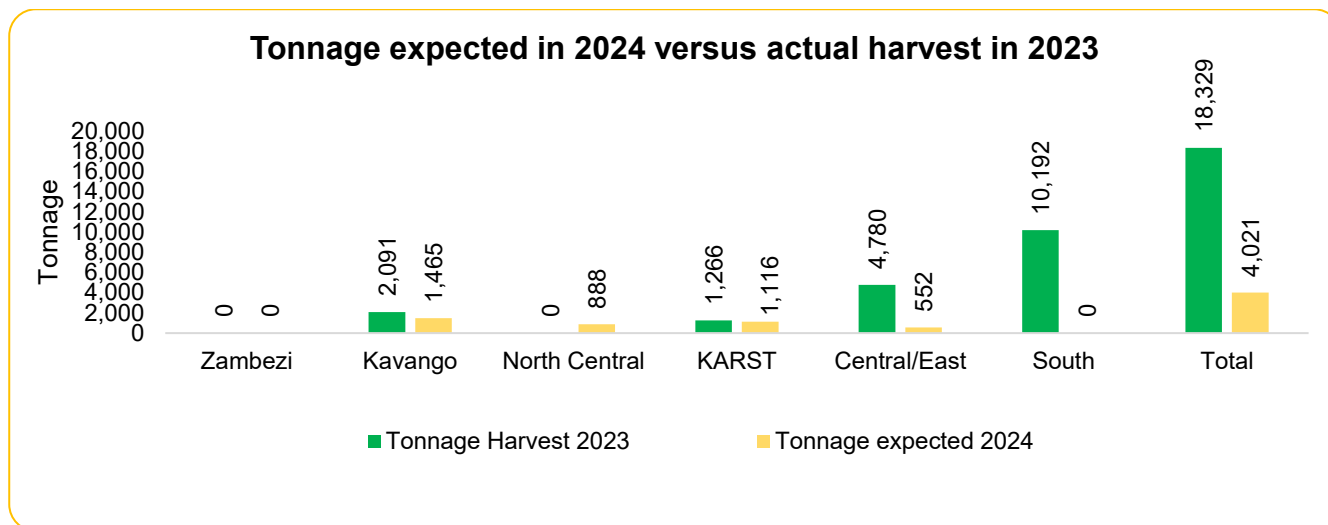


Figure 7: Total tonnages expected in 2024 versus tonnage marketed in 2023

4. CONCLUSION

The production data presented in this report highlights a significant drop in wheat output for 2024, with only 4,021 tons expected to be harvested, a sharp 78% decrease from the 18,328 tons marketed in 2023. This production volume will cover a mere 2% of Namibia's total domestic wheat demand of 191,024 tons.

Given this limited supply, it is anticipated that local millers will absorb the available wheat easily, and no close border period will be implemented. From October 2024 to January 2025, the total domestic wheat supply will fall drastically short of the monthly average domestic demand of 15,919 tons. As a result, approximately 97% of the total wheat required, or 187,003 tons, will need to be imported to meet Namibia's annual demand.

The primary reason for this drastic decline in wheat production is the prolonged drought experienced in both 2023 and 2024. This drought has not only reduced white maize harvests but also caused capital losses for producers, preventing many from planting wheat this year. Additionally, the drought has significantly lowered the water levels of the Hardap Dam, severely impacting wheat producers in the Southern region. The number of wheat producers for 2024 has sharply declined, resulting in a considerable reduction in the total land area planted with wheat compared to the previous year.

THE END