Kingdom of Lesotho

Bureau of Statistics

Statistical Report
NO: 25 of 2023

2022/2023 AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF CEREALS REPORT

Bureau of Statistics
PO Box 455, Maseru 100, Lesotho
Tel: +266 22 323 852,+266 22 326 393
Fax: +266 310177
E-mail: agric@bos.gov.ls
Website: www.bos.gov.ls

Mission: To coordinate among the national statistical system, and with users, in an effective and efficient manner that ensures the integration of the national data ecosystems and the inclusion of a gender perspective in the production and dissemination of official statistics to drive the development of agenda.

Table of Contents

List of Tables ii
List of Figures ii
1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 Background 1
1.2 Objectives 1
1.3 Methodology 2
1.3.1 Sampling Method 2
1.3.2 Data Collection 2
2.0 Results and Findings 3
2.1 Availability of Cereals 3
2.2 Utilization of Cereals 4
3.0 Production, Surplus and Deficit of Cereals 6
3.1 Maize 6
3.2 Sorghum 7
3.3 Wheat 8
4.0 Food Balance Sheet 9
Annex 10

List of Tables

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Total Availability of Cereals by Type of Cereal, 2022/2023 Marketing Year 3
Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Total Utilization of Cereals and Type of Cereal, 2021/2022 Marketing Year 5
Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Total Utilization of Cereals by District and Type of Cereal, 2021/2022 Marketing Year 5
Table 4: Maize Forecasted Production, Expected Consumption and Surplus/Deficit of Maize by District, 2022/2023 Marketing Year 6
Table 5: Sorghum Forecasted Production, Expected Consumption and Surplus/Deficit of Sorghum by District, 2022/2023 Marketing Year 7
Table 6: Wheat Actual Production, Expected Consumption and Surplus/Deficit of Wheat by District, 2023/2024 Marketing Year 8
Table 7: Annual Cereal Balance Sheet for the 2023/2024 Marketing Year 9

List of Figures

Figure 1: Percentage Distribution of Total Availability of Cereals by District and Type of Cereal, 2021/2022 Marketing Year. 4

1.0 Introduction

Cereals have been the staple human food from historic time because of their wide cultivation, good keeping qualities and blend flavor. The three common cereals in Lesotho are Maize, Sorghum and Wheat.

1.1 Background

The Bureau of Statistics (BOS) is mandated to collect, process, analyze and disseminate statistical information. It conducts Annual Agricultural Production Survey (APS), which provides data on agriculture that include availability and utilization of cereals. Data collection on cereals is done every marketing year, which commences on the 1st April and ends on the 31st March of the following year. The Report on the availability and use of cereals is produced annually. The report focuses on the activities that contribute to the supply and demand of food during the marketing Year, and the cereals that are covered are maize, sorghum and wheat.

1.2 Objectives

The 2022/2023 Availability and Utilization of Cereals Report presents information on available cereals within farming households, expected consumption and surplus/deficit of the available cereals. The main objective of the report is to provide data for the government and other stakeholders for policy formulation and decision-making regarding food security. This is also to alert Government about food situation in Lesotho, so as to permit timely and orderly planning of cereal imports in cases where there will be a shortage and exports in cases where there will be a surplus.

1.3 Methodology

The section covers sampling methods and data collection.

1.3.1 Sampling Method

A stratified multi-stage sampling scheme was adopted for the selection of the sample for 2022/2023 Agricultural Year. Two or more enumeration areas were combined to constitute Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) and agricultural holdings (farming households) constitute Secondary Sampling Units (SSUs). Agricultural Production Survey covered 100 PSUs in the rural areas. The PSUs have been selected with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) where number of households were taken as measure of size.

1.3.2 Data Collection

Data collection on availability and utilization of cereals in the households was obtained through face-to-face interviews with the selected farming households from the selected PSUs on the 1st of April 2023.

2.0 Results and Findings

The chapter covers detailed information on available and utilized cereals (Maize, Sorghum and Wheat) in the farming households during 2022/2023 Marketing Year.

2.1 Availability of Cereals

Availability of cereals includes; closing stock attained from the past Marketing Year, production, cereals purchased by the households, those received as gifts and incoming exchange of cereals with other commodities during the current Marketing Year.

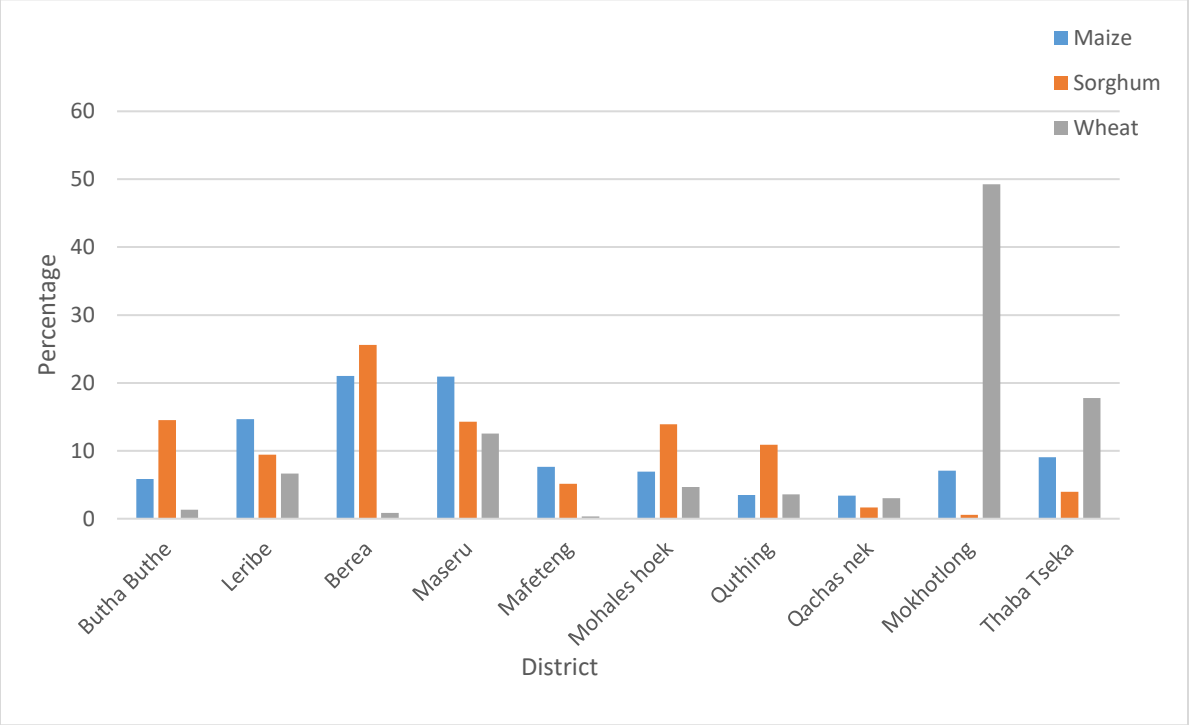
Table 1 presents three major cereals available at households in 2022/20223 Marketing Year. The highest proportion of available stock was due to production for all cereals with 66.5 percent of Maize, 58.1 percent of Sorghum and 68 percent of Wheat.

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Total Availability of Cereals by Type of Cereal, 2022/2023 Marketing Year

	Type of Cereal		
Stock availability	**Maize**	**Sorghum**	**Wheat**
Previous Stock	14.1	31.4	19.9
Production	66.5	58.1	68.0
Purchases	13.9	5.7	7.2
Received as gifts	3.3	2.8	2.5
Incoming Exchange with other commodities	2.1	2	2.3
Total	100	100	100

Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of total availability of cereals by district and type of cereal 2022/2023 Marketing Year. Berea recorded the highest percentage of Maize available (21 percent) followed by Maseru with 20 percent while Qacha's nek was lowest with 3.4 percent. The highest percentage of Wheat available was in Mokhotlong with about 49.3 percent followed by Thaba-Tseka with 17.8 percent. The least record wheat available (0.3 percent) was observed in Mafeteng. Sorghum availability in Berea was the highest with 25.6 percent while Mokhotlong was lowest (0.6 percent).

Figure 1: Percentage Distribution of Total Availability of Cereals by District and Type of Cereal, 2021/2022 Marketing Year.



2.2 Utilization of Cereals

Utilization of cereals includes; sales of cereals, those given to friends or relatives, outgoing exchange of with other commodities, other uses of cereals (seeds and feeds) and current stock available at the date of interview. Please take note that, values for cereals consumed as food have been calculated by subtracting Total Utilization from Total Availability.

Table 2 presents percentage distribution of total utilization of cereals by type of cereal during 2022/2023 Marketing Year. It is observed that all three major cereals were mostly consumed as food, with 99.29 percent, 98.68 percent and 99.33 percent for Maize, Sorghum and Wheat respectively. Although a small percentage of all cereals were sold, given to friends, given as outgoing exchanges and used as feeds and seeds, sorghum was the most sold cereal (0.74 percent) while wheat was the least sold cereal (0.03 percent). Maize was least utilized as an outgoing exchange, with 0.07 percent.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Total Utilization of Cereals and Type of Cereal, 2021/2022 Marketing Year

	Type of Cereal		
Stock Utilization	**Maize**	**Sorghum**	**Wheat**
Sold	0.12	0.74	0.03
Given to friends	0.17	0.12	0.09
Outgoing Exchanges	0.07	0.10	0.17
Other Uses (Seeds and Feeds)	0.26	0.28	0.28
Closing Stock	0.10	0.10	0.10
Consumed as food	99.29	98.65	99.33
Total	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**

Table 3 presents the percentage distribution of total utilization of cereals by district and type of cereals in 2022/2023 Marketing Year. Maseru recorded the highest percentage of Maize utilized (18.1 percent) followed by Berea with (11.4 percent). Qacha's Nek was the lowest with 3.6 percent. Leribe utilized the largest quantity of Wheat (28.9 percent) followed by Mokhotlong with (27.8 percent). The table further revealed that Sorghum was mostly used in Leribe and Berea with (27.8 percent and 19.1 percent) respectively. Qacha's nek had the lowest with 2.2 percent.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Total Utilization of Cereals by District and Type of Cereal, 2021/2022 Marketing Year

	Type of Cereals		
District	**Maize**	**Sorghum**	**Wheat**
Butha Buthe	5.5	5.2	1.4
Leribe	13.9	27.8	28.9
Berea	11.4	19.4	15.1
Maseru	18.1	12.7	6.6
Mafeteng	10.2	5.0	1.4
Mohale's hoek	9.3	9.0	3.0
Quthing	8.8	7.2	3.8
Qacha's nek	3.6	2.2	2.6
Mokhotlong	10.5	7.4	27.8
Thaba Tseka	8.7	4.1	9.4
Lesotho	**100**	**100**	**100**

3.0 Production, Surplus and Deficit of Cereals

The section covers information on forecasted production for 2021/2022 Agricultural Year, expected consumption and surplus or deficit for 2022/2023 Marketing Year.

3.1 Maize

Table 4 shows forecasted production, expected consumption and surplus/deficit of Maize by district in metric tons(mt). The forecasted production of Maize in 2022/2023 Agricultural year was estimated at 55,566mt and the expected consumption is 44,585mt, indicating that there will be a surplus of 10,981mt within the farming households.

It is observed that Berea had the highest forecasted production of 30,670mt and expected consumption of 10,019mt showing a surplus of 20,651mt. Qacha's nek also had 44mt of Maize forecasted production with 1,575mt of expected consumption, indicating a deficit of 1,531mt.

Table 4: Maize Forecasted Production, Expected Consumption and Surplus/Deficit of Maize by District, 2022/2023 Marketing Year

District	2022/2023 Agricultural Year Forecasted Production (mt)	Expected Consumption(mt)	Surplus/deficit(mt)
Butha Buthe	1,813	2,356	-543
Leribe	8,991	7,585	1,406
Berea	30,670	10,019	20,651
Maseru	4,303	8,769	-4,466
Mafeteng	2,670	3,065	-395
Mohale's hoek	1,749	3,308	-1,559
Quthing	2,813	1,628	1,185
Qacha's nek	44	1,575	-1,531
Mokhotlong	1,059	1,974	-915
Thaba Tseka	1,454	4,306	-2,852
Lesotho	**55,566**	**44,585**	**10,981**

3.2 Sorghum

Table 5 presents the expected consumption, forecasted production and surplus/deficit of Sorghum in metric tons(mt) by district. The overall forecasted production of Sorghum is 753mt while expected consumption is 5,355mt, showing a deficit of 4,602mt. The table further shows that Maseru had the highest forecasted Sorghum production of 178mt. The highest expected consumption was recorded in Berea (1,425mt) followed by Mohale's hoek with 865mt.

Table 5: Sorghum Forecasted Production, Expected Consumption and Surplus/Deficit of Sorghum by District, 2022/2023 Marketing Year

District	2022/2023 Agricultural Year Forecasted Production (mt)	Expected Consumption(mt)	Surplus/deficit(mt)
Butha Buthe	63	489	-426
Leribe	82	624	-542
Berea	59	1,425	-1,366
Maseru	178	647	-469
Mafeteng	91	325	-234
Mohale's hoek	97	865	-768
Quthing	168	581	-413
Qacha's nek	5	81	-76
Mokhotlong	1	35	-34
Thaba Tseka	9	282	-273
Lesotho	**753**	**5,355**	**-4,602**

3.3 Wheat

Table 6 illustrates the expected consumption, actual production and surplus/deficit in metric tonnes of Wheat by district. The total Wheat production for the year 2022/2023 was 6,312mt, with expected consumption of 6,047mt, implicating a surplus of 265mt. The highest production of Wheat was observed in Mokhotlong (2,556mt) followed by Thaba-Tseka and Qacha's Nek with 1,411mt and 616mt respectively. The highest consumption of 2,671mt is expected in Mokhotlong followed by Thaba Tseka with 1,165mt.

Table 6: Wheat Actual Production, Expected Consumption and Surplus/Deficit of Wheat by District, 2023/2024 Marketing Year

District	2022/2023 Agricultural Year Actual Production (mt)	Expected Consumption(mt)	Surplus/deficit(mt)
Butha Buthe	7	47	-40
Leribe	233	427	-194
Berea	424	37	387
Maseru	348	817	-469
Mafeteng	0	16	-16
Mohale's hoek	287	403	-116
Quthing	429	236	193
Qacha's nek	616	227	389
Mokhotlong	2,556	2671	-115
Thaba Tseka	1,411	1165	246
Lesotho	**6,312**	**6047**	**265**

4.0 Food Balance Sheet

Food balance sheet gives a brief picture of the pattern of a food supply in a country. It provides a sound basis for policy analysis and decision making needed to ensure food security. It also provides the basis for national estimates that are used for estimating the overall shortages or surplus in the country. This section covers domestic availability, requirements and shortfall or surplus of Maize, Wheat and Sorghum together with their planned imports.

Table 7: Annual Cereal Balance Sheet for the 2023/2024 Marketing Year

ANNUAL CEREAL BALANCE SHEET FOR THE 2023/24 MARKETING YEAR

Annual Balance sheet as at 1st June 2023

Figures in (000)

	Maize	Wheat	Sorghum	Total
1.**Domestic Availability**	**82.553**	**21.966**	**3.405**	**107.924**
1.1 Opening stock (01/04/2023)	26.987	15.654	2.652	45.293
Formal (Monitored)	16.701	13.155	0.000	29.856
On farm (monitored)	10.286	2.499	2.652	15.437
1.2 Gross Harvest	55.566	6.312	0.753	62.631
2. Gross Domestic Requirements	**272.347**	**88.950**	**26.795**	**388.092**
2.1 Human consumption	267.299	88.398	25.257	380.954
2.2 Feed, seeds, other uses	5.048	0.552	1.538	7.138
3. Domestic Short fall/Surplus	**-189.794**	**-66.984**	**-23.390**	**-280.168**
4.Total Planned Imports	**284.712**	**25.244**	**0.265**	**310.221**
4.1 Commercial Imports	150.000	24.000	0.000	174.000
4.2 Food Aid - Agency	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4.3 Food Aid - Government	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4.4 Other Commercial Imports	134.712	1.244	0.265	136.221
5. Imports Received	**24.472**	**2.172**	**0.040**	**26.684**
5.1 Commercial Imports Received	4.061	0.930	0.000	4.991
5.2 Food Aid - Agency	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
5.3 Food Aid - Government	0.000	1.053	0.000	1.053
5.4 Other Commercial imports	20.411	0.189	0.040	20.640
6. Expected Imports	**260.240**	**23.072**	**0.225**	**283.537**
6.1 Commercial Imports Expected	145.939	23.070	0.000	169.009
6.2 Food Aid - Agency	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
6.3 Food Aid - Government	0.000	0.000	0.000	-1.053
6.4 Other Commercial Imports Expected	114.301	1.055	0.225	115.581
7. Uncovered Shortfall/import Gap	-	-	-	-
8. Current Stock Level on 31st April 2023	**15.257**	**20.388**	**0.074**	**35.719**

Annex

Table I: Total Availability and Utilization of Cereals by type of cereal, 2021/2022 Marketing Year

	Type of Cereals			
Stock Availability/Utilization	**Maize**	**Sorghum**	**Wheat**	**Total**
Previous stock (31/03/2022)	8,367	2,462	1,958	12,787
Production	39,343	4,552	6,676	50,571
Purchases	8,238	445	711	9,393
Received as Gifts	1,952	218	245	2,415
Incoming Exchanges with other commodities	1,263	159	230	1,652
Total Availability	**59,162**	**7,836**	**9,820**	**76,818**
Sold	2,252	1,441	187	3,880
Given to Friends or Family	3,222	240	484	3,946
Outgoing exchanges	1,380	205	942	2,527
Other Uses (Feeds and Seeds)	5,048	552	1,538	7,138
Closing Stock (31/03/2023)	1,919	190	541	2,650
Total Utilization	**13,703**	**2,377**	**3,655**	**19,734**
Consumed as Food	45,460	5,460	6,165	57,084
Consumption per Week	874	105	119	1,098
Expected Consumption	**44,585**	**5,355**	**6,047**	**55,987**
Forecasted Production	55,566	756	6,312	62,634
Surplus/Deficit	**10,981**	**-4,602**	**265**	**6,644**