

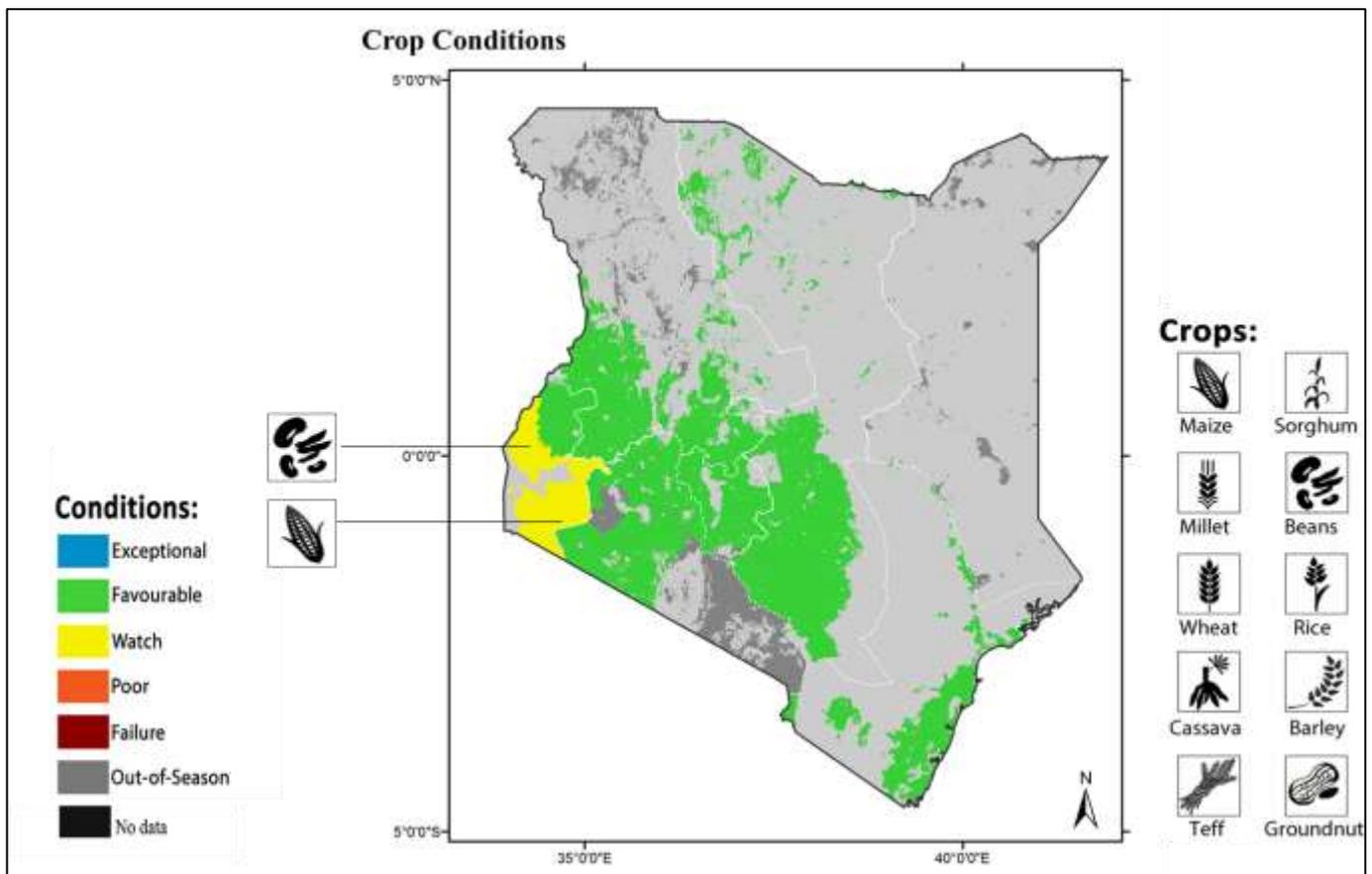


# CROP CONDITIONS BULLETIN: October 2018

## National Synthesis (Maize, Beans and Wheat)

### SUMMARY

In parts of Western and Nyanza regions, poor distribution of the short rains resulted in crop stress and the areas are under watch. Conditions are expected to improve especially with the forecasted enhanced rainfall in the month of November. Overall a reduction in average prices was observed in the markets for maize and beans, however wheat prices recorded an increase. In the northern rift, areas around Mt Elgon harvesting of the long rains season crop is ongoing. In other parts of the country the onset of the short rains has delayed and land preparation is still ongoing with minimal dry planting especially upper and lower eastern, central.



Map showing regional crop conditions information in Kenya as at 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 for maize, wheat and beans. The crop Monitor map is based on a combination of several variable including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. **Crops with conditions that are other than favorable are labeled on the map with their driver.**

### OUTLOOK (Kenya Meteorological Services (KMS)/State Department of Crops Development (SDCD)

Despite the delayed onset in the short season rains, the conditions are expected to improve with the November forecast indicating the likelihood of enhanced rainfall in the Western, Nyanza, Rift valley and Central Regions. In the Eastern parts of the country near average rainfall is expected. The forecasted enhanced rainfall especially in the Lake Victoria Region is expected to improve the conditions for crop production especially in areas where the late onset had resulted in crop stress.

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## Assessment by Region

In **central region**, harvesting for the long rain season is complete in the region with favorable maize and wheat yields realized. Beans production was affected was below average due to waterlogging and rotting. Planting is in progress for the short rains season, with the crop being in germination to first weeding stage.

**Outlook:** Conditions are favorable for the short rains season crops.

In **Coast Region**, maize production was favourable in most areas in the region except for Kwale and Tana River, where enhanced rainfall resulted in flooding and crop loss. The long rains season has ended and planting for the short rains commenced with the crops (maize and beans) being in germination stage.

**Outlook:** Conditions will be favorable for maize and beans production in the short rains season which has commenced and crop will be from planting to germination.

In **North Rift**, harvesting is ongoing in most parts of the region with over 90% of the maize crop harvested in the region. In Uasin Gishu substantial post-harvest losses of the long rains season maize crop is expected due to poor storage facilities. While harvesting for the long rains rainfed maize crop is complete in Baringo, the irrigated crop is yet to be harvested. In West Pokot, the irrigated maize crop is in vegetative stage. The acreage under wheat production reduced during the long rains season especially in Trans Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet. 90% of wheat planted during the long rains in Baringo and Laikipia has been harvested. In Elgeyo Marakwet, the wheat crop is in different stages. Harvesting for the long rains beans is complete and planting for the short rains has commenced with the crop in germination to flowering stages in Elgeyo Marakwet, Laikipia, Baringo and West Pokot. In Nandi and Samburu, beans are in the early vegetative stage while in Trans Nzoia it's in the early reproductive stage. In Uasin Gishu, the beans are between germination and podding stages.

**Outlook:** Favourable yields were realized for maize during the long rains. Beans production in the long rains was affected by the wet conditions resulting in a reduction in yields. Favourable conditions for wheat production are expected to result in normal yields if prevailing rainfall conditions continue being experienced in the region. Favourable production is expected for the short rains crops, however, in Samburu, area under beans production is below 5% and therefore low production is expected.

In **South Rift region**, conditions were favorable for maize and wheat production during the long rains and harvesting is ongoing. Harvesting of long rains beans crop is complete but wet conditions during the season resulted in approximately 30% reduction in yields. Harvesting for the long rains maize crop is ongoing Kericho where 60% of the crop has been harvested; and Nakuru where 40% of the crop has been harvested. Harvesting of the wheat crop for the long rains season is in progress in Narok where 85% of the crop has been harvested, while 50% of the crop has been harvested in Nakuru.

**Outlook:** Normal maize yields were realized in the region, however in Kericho, a reduction of yields by approximately 10% is expected due to wet conditions that resulted in leaching of soil nutrients. Normal wheat yields are expected in Nakuru but a reduction in yields is expected in Narok due to enhanced rainfall during the growing period.

In **Lower Nyanza region**, maize and beans are under watch due to delayed onset of the short rains season and poor distribution in some areas which resulted in late planting.



**Outlook:** Normal maize yields were realized in the region during the long rains, however, it is hoped that despite the late onset of the short rains, the conditions will stabilize resulting in normal yields. In all counties, average to below average beans production was achieved during the long rains due to the heavy rains that did not favor crop development during the season. However in the short rains the conditions are expected to improve resulting in normal beans yields.

In **Upper Nyanza region**, conditions are favourable for maize production during the short rains season, but beans are under watch due to delayed onset of the rains in Kisii and Nyamira. Conditions are favourable for the short rains maize crop in Kisii and Nyamira

**Outlook:** Normal maize and beans yields are expected during the short rains season if favourable conditions continue.

In **Western region**, conditions were favourable for maize production in the long rains and harvesting is complete in most parts of the region, except in Bungoma where only 80% of the crop has been harvested. Delayed onset of the short rains resulted in prolonged dry spells that affected the growth of the maize crop in Busia. Conditions are under watch for beans production in Vihiga, Kakamega and Busia. In Bungoma, conditions are favourable for beans production with harvesting on-going in the lower zones of Bumula, Sirisia and Kanduyi while in the higher zones, planting is on-going. In Vihiga conditions are favourable for maize production with the early planted crop already in silking stage while approximately 50% of the crop is in late vegetative phase.

**Outlook:** While normal maize yields were attained during the long rains, beans production was low due to rotting and other post-harvest losses. With the late onset in short rains, maize and beans production is expected to be below normal in most areas. However, in Vihiga where normal maize yields are expected and normal beans yields in Bungoma if the favourable conditions continue.

In the **Lower Eastern region**, favourable maize and beans yields were realized during the long rains season and harvesting was completed. Planting for the short rains has commenced with favourable conditions being experienced. The maize and beans crops are in the germination stage for the minimal number of farmers who planted early. Most farmers are still preparing the land for the delayed short rains season.

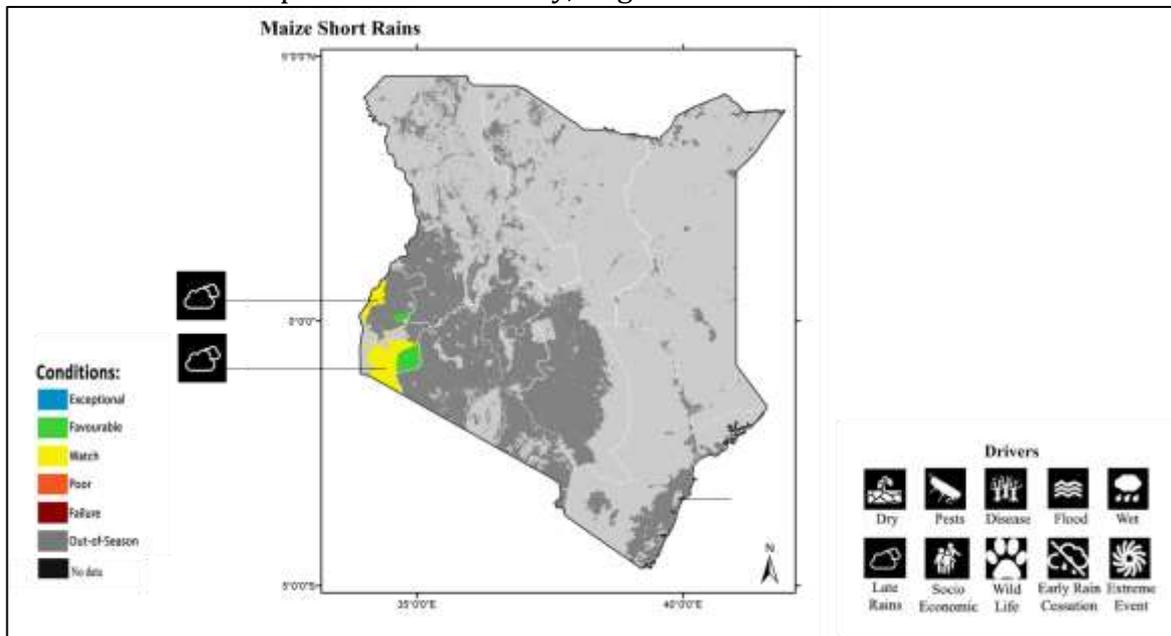
**Outlook:** Normal maize and beans yield expected due to the prevailing favourable conditions.

In the **Upper Eastern region**, favourable maize and beans yields were realized during the long rains season and harvesting was completed. Planting for the short rains has commenced with favourable conditions being experienced. The maize and beans crops are between germination and first weeding stages.

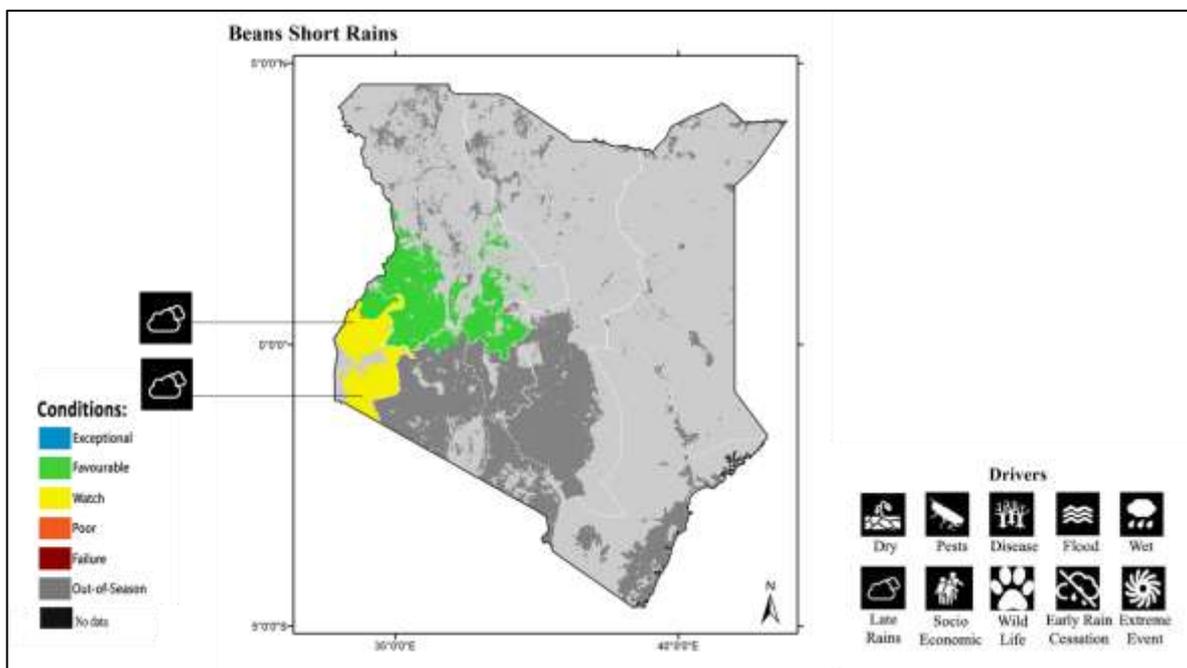
**Outlook:** Normal maize and beans yield expected due to the prevailing favourable conditions.

## Assessment by Crop

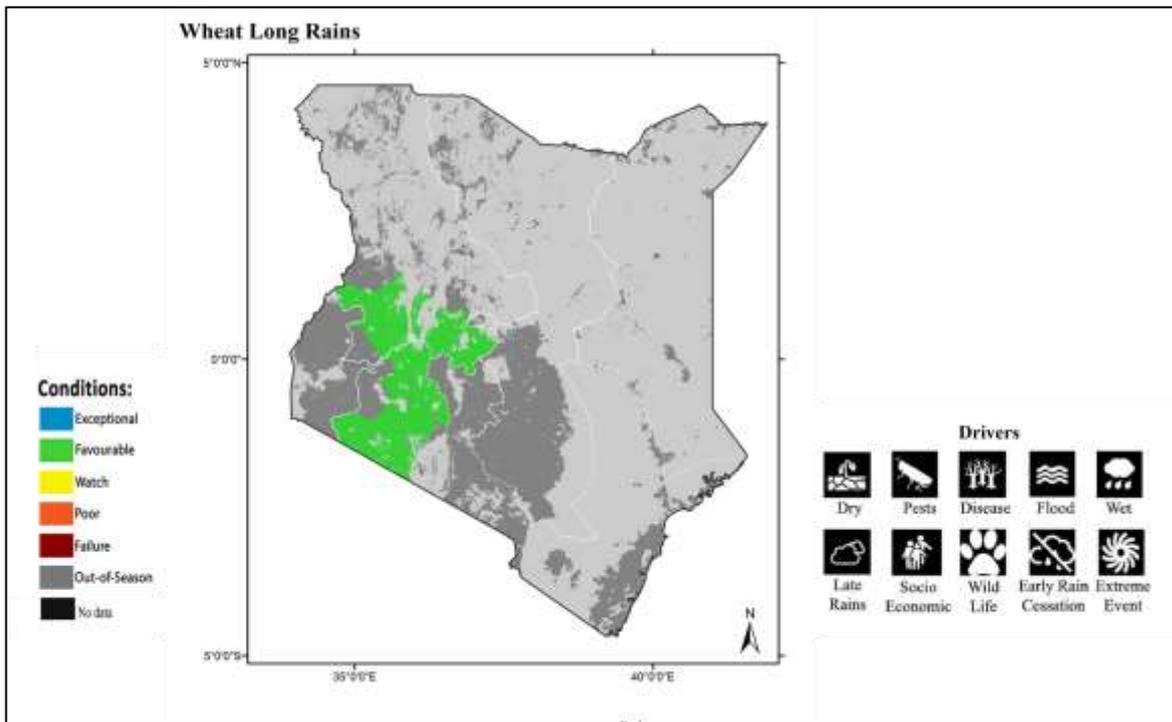
This section provides crop specific assessments for the three major crops that were reported; namely maize, bean and wheat. Most parts of the country are transitioning from the long rains season into the short rains season. Planting for the short rains has commenced in most areas but late onset of the short rains resulted in crop stress in Homa Bay, Migori and Busia where maize is under watch.



During the long rains', beans production was poor in most parts of the country. Land preparation for the short rains season and weeding of the early planted crop is ongoing. Late onset of the short rains affected beans and the crop is under watch in parts of Nyanza and Western regions.

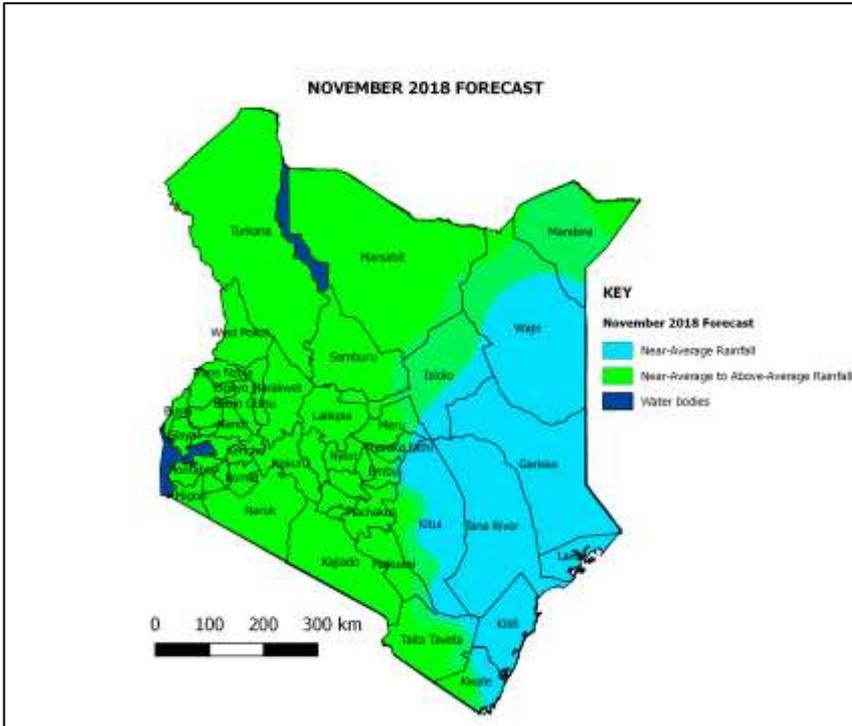


Harvesting is ongoing for the Long rains wheat crop. Conditions are favourable for wheat production but achieved acreage is lower than the long term average in some areas. Favourable yields are expected.

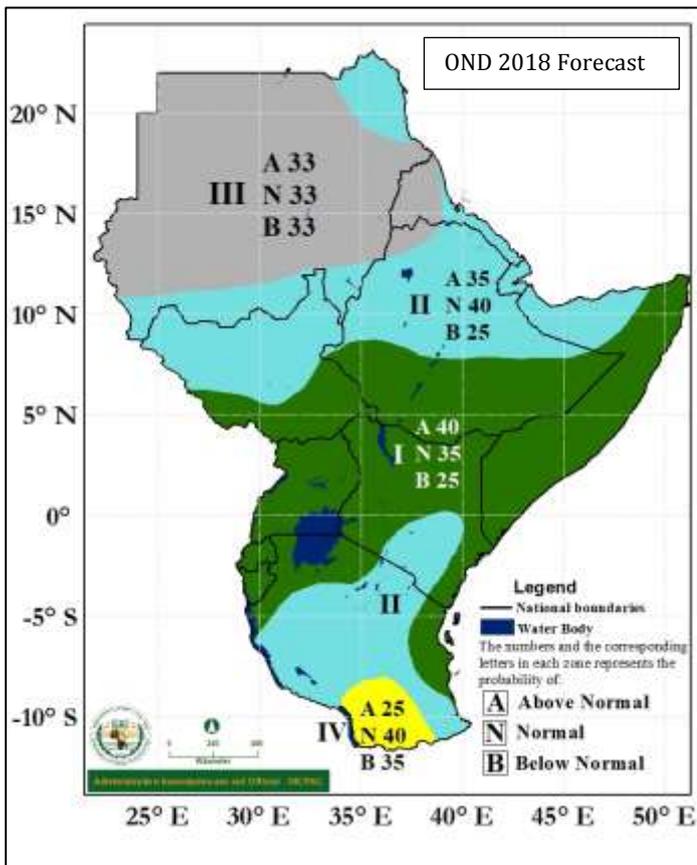




### Climate outlook



**National Forecast**  
**September 2018**  
 According to the Kenya Meteorological Services, the November forecast indicates that most parts of the country are likely to receive enhanced rainfall especially in Western, Nyanza, Central and parts of the coastal region. However near average rainfall is expected in eastern parts of the country.



**GHACOF Climate Outlook for the Short Rains Season (OND)**  
 In the greater part of Kenya there is increased likelihood for above to near normal rainfall. The consensus report also indicated that there is a higher likelihood of a shorter than normal OND season.

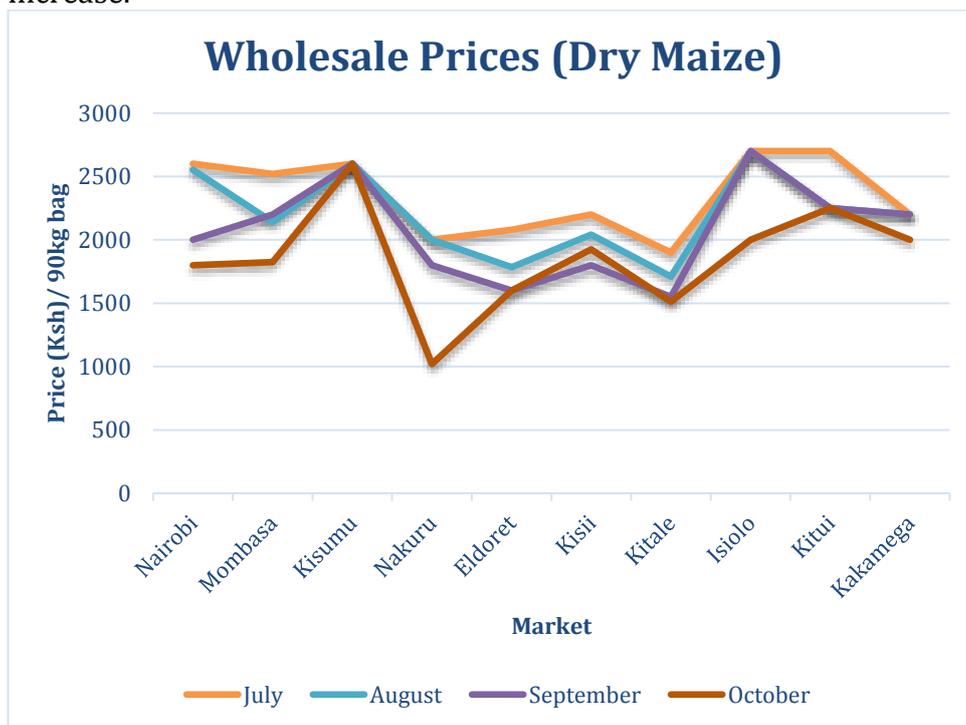


## Market information

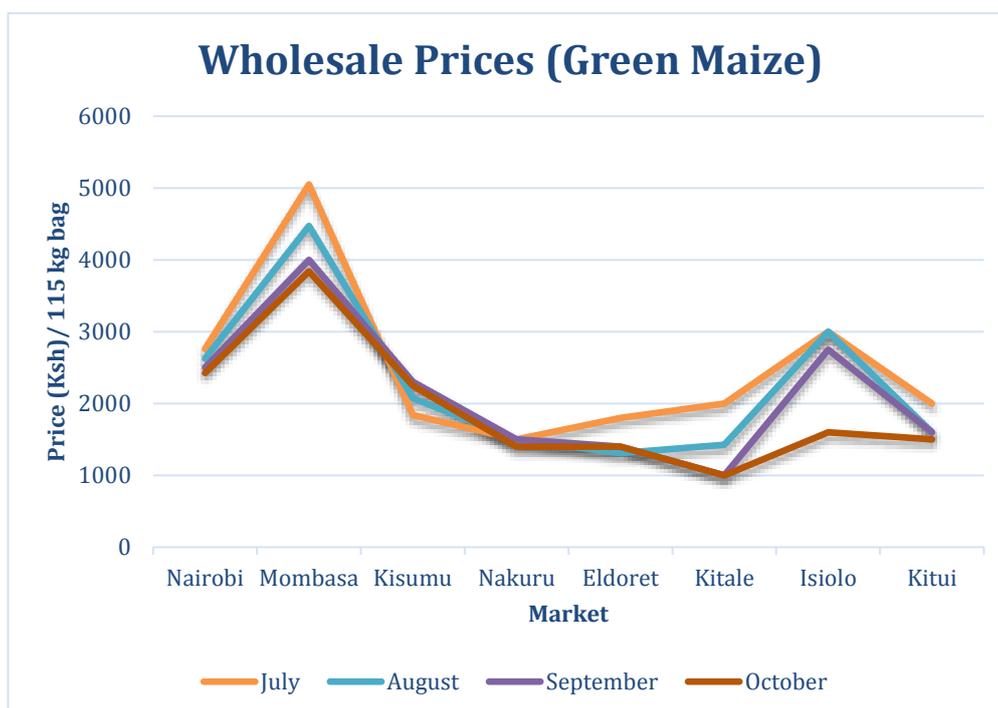
The section provides the early morning wholesale monthly average prices of Maize, beans and wheat in major markets across the country.

### 1. Maize

Average maize prices from selected markets demonstrated an overall decline from Ksh. 2070 in September to Ksh. 1850 in October. Lowest prices for maize were recorded in Nakuru at Ksh. 1020 while the highest price of Ksh. 2600 was reported in Kisumu. Overall a reduction in prices from September was observed in the markets for maize and beans, however wheat prices recorded an increase.



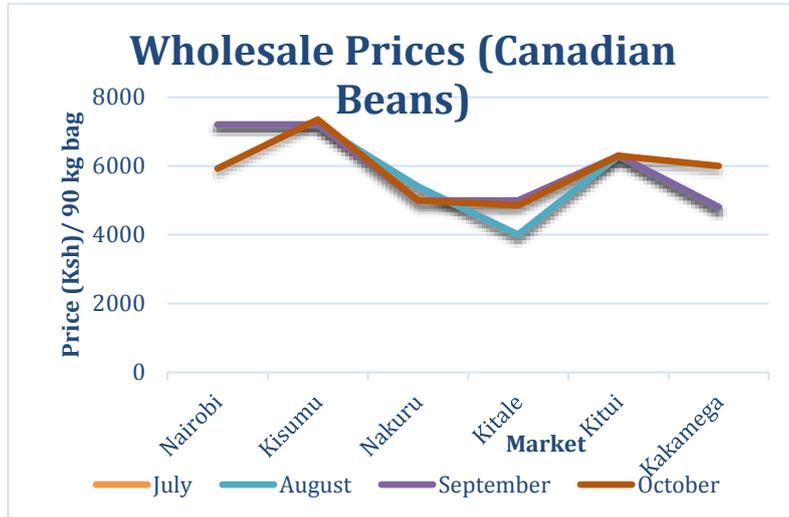
Green maize was selling at an average price of Ksh1920 per 115kg bag registering a reduction from the average price of Ksh. 2090 in September. The highest prices were recorded in Mombasa at Ksh. 3840 while the prices were lowest in Kitale at Ksh. 1000.



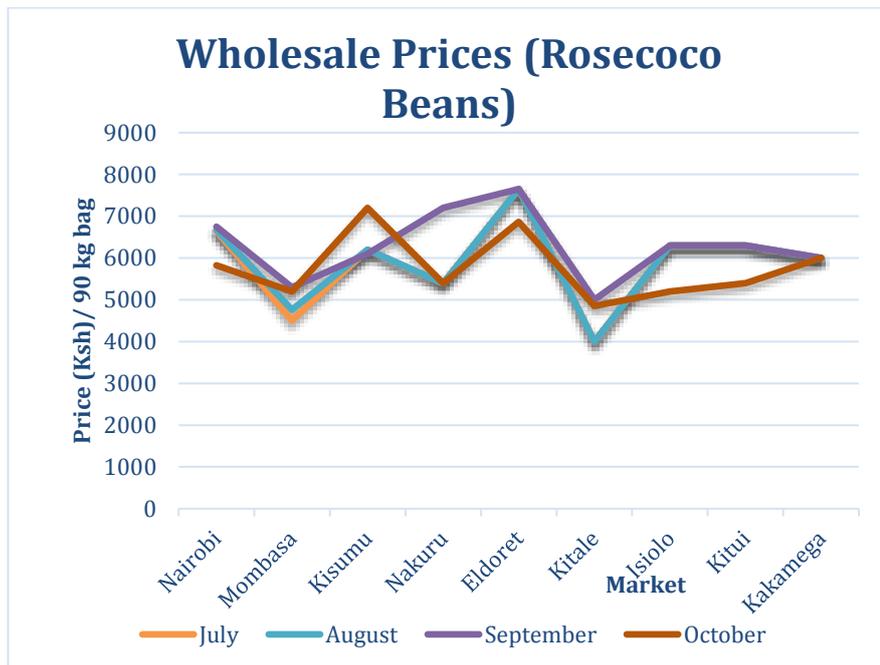


## 2. Beans

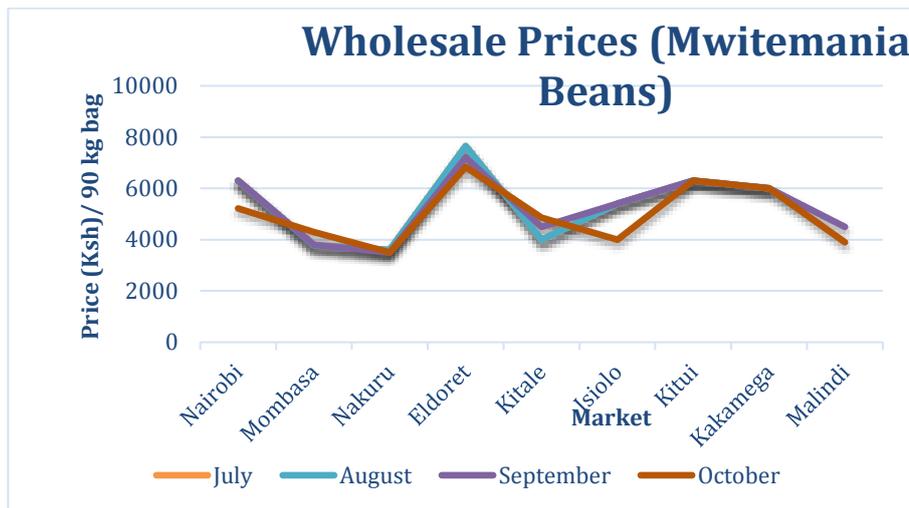
In October beans were selling at an average price Ksh. 5900 for the Canadian Wonder variety, Ksh. 4980 for Mwitemia beans and Ksh5770 for the Rosecoco variety per 90Kgs bag. This represented a decrease in prices for for the Rosecoco and Mwitemia varieties but a slight reduction in the Canadian variety when compared with prices in September.



Kisumu recorded the highest prices for the Canadian Wonder Variety at Ksh. 7350 with the lowest prices being observed in Kitale at Ksh.4850.



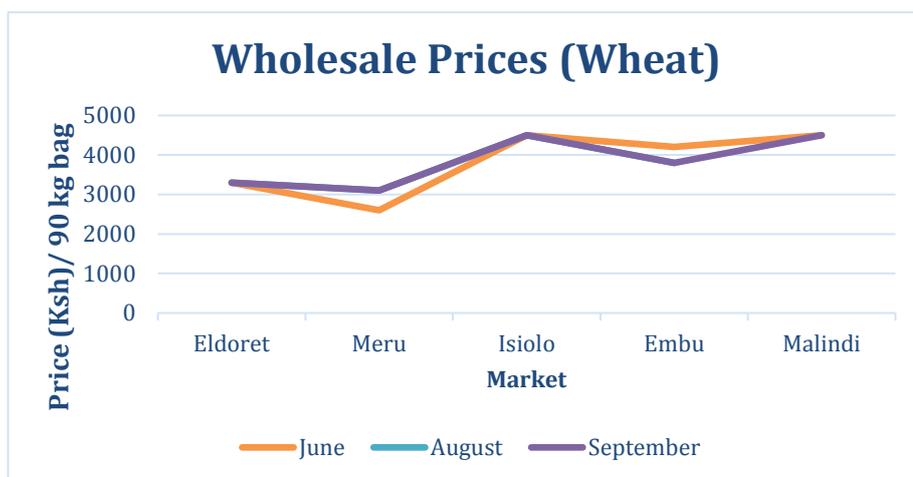
Kisumu recorded the highest prices for the Rosecoco Variety at Ksh. 7200 with the lowest prices being observed in Kitale at Ksh. 4850



Eldoret recorded the highest prices for the Mwitmania variety at Ksh. 6830 while the lowest prices were observed in Nakuru at Ksh. 3500.

### 3. Wheat

Wheat was selling at an average price of Ksh. 3800 which represented a slight reduction from September prices which were averaging Ksh. 3840. Malindi recorded the highest average prices at Ksh. 5000 and the lowest prices were experienced in Meru at Ksh. 3100. Prices were unavailable from most markets.





## Definitions

### Crop Conditions:

**Exceptional:** Conditions are much better than average\* at time of reporting. This label is only used during the grain-filling through harvest stages.

**Favourable:** Conditions range from slightly lower to slightly better than average\* at reporting time.

**Watch:** Conditions are not far from average\* but there is a potential risk to final production. The crop can still recover to average or near average conditions if the ground situation improves. This label is only used during the planting-early vegetative and the vegetative-reproductive stages.

**Poor:** Crop conditions are well below average. Crop yields are likely to be 10-25% below average. This is used when crops are stunted and are not likely to recover, and impact on production is likely.

**Failure:** Crop conditions are extremely poor. Crop yields are likely to be 25% or more below average.

**Out of Season:** Crops are not currently planted or in development during this



### Drivers:

These represent the key climatic drivers that are having an impact on crop condition status. They result in production impacts and can act as either positive or negative drivers of crop conditions.

**Wet:** Higher than average wetness that results in destruction ie due to water logging and leaching of nutrients

**Extreme Events:** This is a catch-all for all other climate risks (i.e. frost, hailstorms, mudslides etc.)

**Late rains:** Late start of the season. **Flood:** Area is flooded

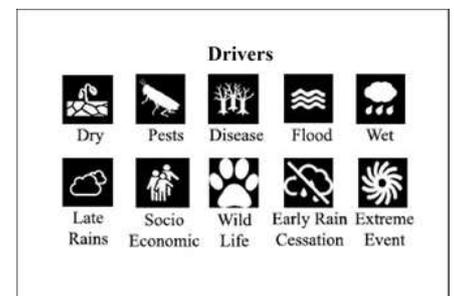
**Early Rains Cessation:** Rains end earlier than expected in the season

**Pests:** Destructive insects, birds or animals. **Diseases:** Destructive plant diseases. **Dry:** Drier than average

**Socio-economic:** Social or economic factors that impact crop conditions (i.e. policy changes, agricultural subsidies, government intervention, etc.)

**Conflict:** Armed conflict or civil unrest that is preventing the planting, or harvesting of the fields by the farmers.

**Wildlife Damage:** Crop destruction by wildlife



## Partnerships

