

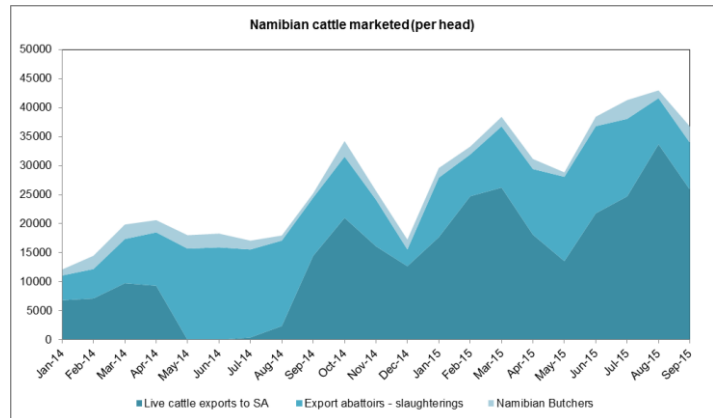
Namibia

The Namibian ministry has controlled the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and according to the chief veterinarian of the ministry, Milton Maseke, Namibia will be declared free of FMD if no new cases are reported by 22 January 2016. On a 100 hectare piece of land in the Ohangwena region 2 Chinese firms are planning to build a research and production facility for a foot-and-mouth disease vaccine.

The total number of cattle marketed from January to August in 2015 was 270 000 head

of cattle and for the same period in 2014, 111 000 head of cattle were marketed. A large number of weaners have been exported to South African feedlots in 2015, which highlights the opportunity for Namibia feedlots to expand. There were also less significant increases in goat and sheep exports than cattle, however there was a significant increase in the number of non-slaughterable small stock as a result of being too lean or small.

The Namibian Meat Board is currently trying to establish exports into South Africa without including the animal health status of South Africa through the South African restricted export destination scheme. The conditions of the scheme have had to become stricter in order to reduce the misuse of the scheme and protect the South African market for all Namibian livestock. The foundation of the scheme is to ensure that Namibian livestock are directly exported to approved abattoirs and feedlots whilst not coming into contact with South Africa's livestock en route to their destination.

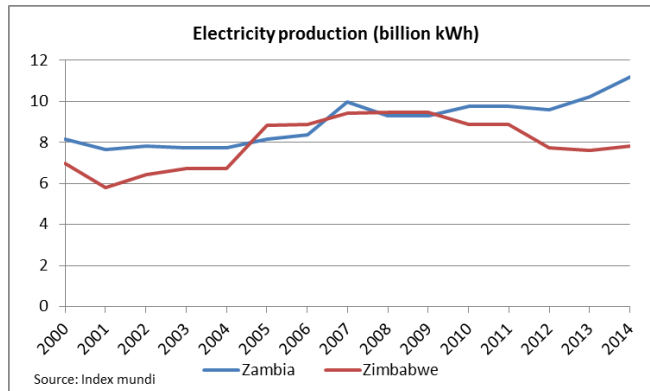


Egypt and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is currently being constructed on the Blue Nile which is a tributary to the Nile River. The GERD is expected to produce 6 000 megawatts of power. The Nile River supports agriculture in both Sudan and Egypt. The Tripartite National Committee (TNC) which is comprised of representatives from Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia has been set up to established the impact of the GERD on the economies of the countries downstream from the GERD. As a result of Sudan and the DRC lacking adequate funding and expertise the government in Sudan has allocated roughly 81 000 ha of land to Egyptians to grow sunflower and cotton. The Egyptian government is in talks to have a similar arrangement in the DRC.

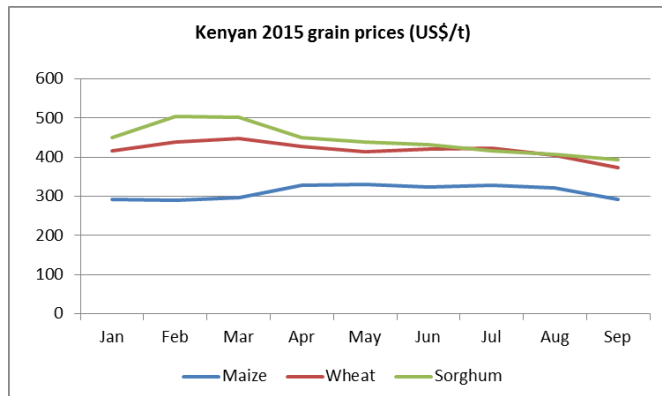
Zambia and Zimbabwe

Sufficient electricity flow is one of the main requirements in running a successful agriculture operation, and recently, it hasn't been all good news. In Zambia, power shortages have deepened, as the decreasing water levels restrict hydropower generation. Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Electricity and Distribution Company (ZETDC) have put in place a schedule of considerable power cuts. This is following the development to low water levels at the Kariba Dam, and some generation constraints at other power stations. Possible reasons for the decline in the water levels include overuse of the water to generate electricity, the dry conditions following an El-Nino period or a combination of the two. There has been a growing demand in electricity in Zambia mostly as a result of growth in its economy. Zambian electricity demand has grown rapidly as new customers have been connected to the grid. These have included residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and mining customers. As a result of the growing demand for electricity, both Zesco and ZPC, overstretched the limits of the water they draw from Kariba Dam and the countries have been forced to cut electricity generation, which has led to rotating power cuts. Farmers will have to familiarize themselves with the load shedding schedule, and also try to find alternative ways as a source of their power.



Kenya

El Nino related rains have started in parts of Kenya and some of the maize farmers are starting with their planting preparations in order to benefit from the showers. Maize prices have declined significantly hitting new lows and putting some pressure on prices mainly as a result of increased harvest coming through. This is as farmers in the past weeks have rushed to harvest in order to avoid the El Nino rains from destroying their maize in the fields, which has led to an oversupply in the market. Producers have a lack of quality storage facilities which means that the grain will not be stored properly. Normally, farmers lose approximately 10% of their produce to pests and diseases that arise as a result of poor handling of the grain after harvest. There has also been an increase in cheap imports from Tanzania and Uganda.



Tea performance in Kenya was positive this year, and the main drivers for this performance were better tea prices a favourable exchange rate, steady sales volumes as well as the austerity measures which were implemented to control the cost of production. Tea prices increased by 7% compared to last year. The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) last month indicated that this year, it would pay its farmers Sh64 billion (R8,371 billion), which is an increase by 21% from last year's Sh52 billion (R6,8 billion) that the growers earned. An increase in tea production in the previous year led to significant declines in tea prices by up to 30%, which greatly impacted producer's earnings. Performance improved considerably in the year ended June 2015.

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