



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
 MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
 ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MAY, 2008**

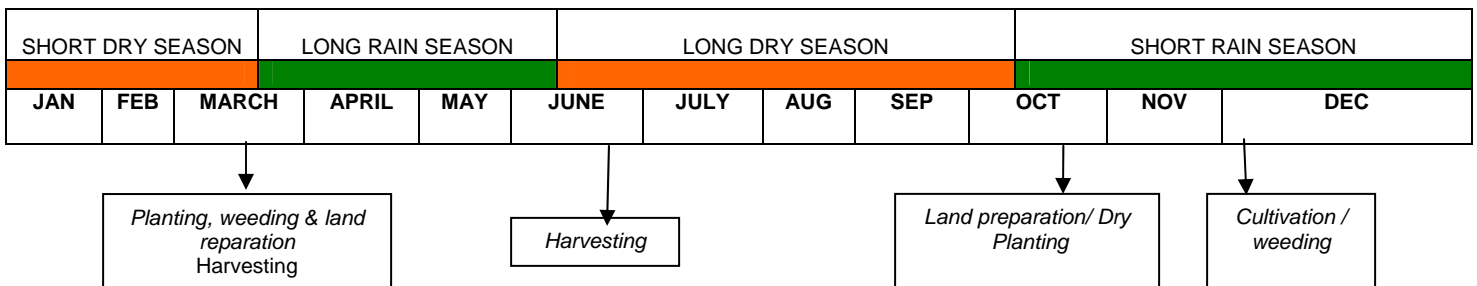
**MAKUENI DISTRICT**

**WARNING STAGES**



LIVELIHOOD ZONE	WARNING STAGE	TREND
Mixed farming coffee/dairy	ALERT	Worsening
Mixed farming food crops (Agro Pastoral Zone I)	ALERT	Worsening
Marginal mixed farming (Agro Pastoral Zone II)	ALERT	Worsening
<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ALERT</b>	<b>Worsening</b>

**TIME LINE**



**Situation Overview**

- The weather condition was hot and dry.
- Most of the farm activities had stopped due to lack of rains.
- Pastures declined in quality and quantity over the month indicating the onset of the long dry season.
- Livestock health and body condition was good.
- Signs of water scarcity were evident in most parts of the District.
- The distances to and from water sources slightly increased from 3Km to 3.6Km (average).
- Main water sources were natural rivers, traditional river wells, springs, boreholes, water pans and dams.
- Nutritional status for the under fives slightly improved over the month (11.9%), compared to last month (13.3%).
- No major human disease outbreaks were reported in the District.

**RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS.**

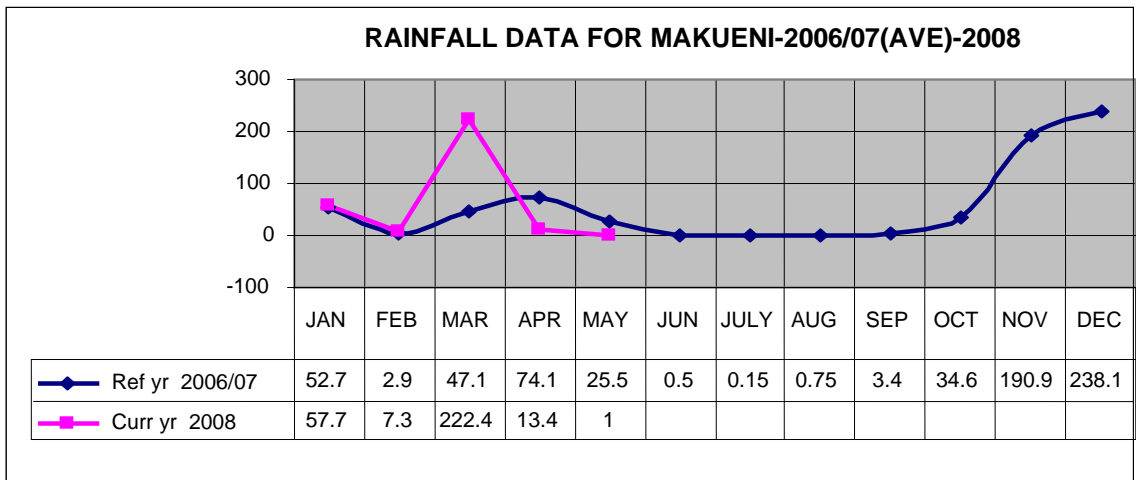
- Livestock prices generally increased over the month.
- These prices were higher compared to the same period last year.
- Milk and its products remained constant in supply and prices (Ksh 28/litre).
- All food prices increased over the month.
- Casual labour was the main source of income in many households.

**Recommendations from the DSG to KFSSG**

- There is a great need to put all primary schools under regular school feeding programme.
- Food-for-work programme should be introduced to the hardy hit divisions like Mtitio-andei, Kibwezi, Makindu, Nguu, Kee, Kathonzweni, Kalawa, Wote and parts of Mbitini and Matiliku Divisions.
- Close monitoring for PPR and vaccination for foot and mouth disease should be enhanced all over the District.

**1. Environmental indicators**

**1.1 Rainfall**



*Courtesy of Makindu meteorological weather station*

- A total of 1.0mm was recorded in Makindu meteorological weather station. This amount was lower than that of the same month last year.
- Crops in all the agro ecological zones withered and dried up following the failure of the long rains in the District.
- This phenomenon has adversely affected the pastures and other fodder crops in the District.
- This was a normal situation since the long rains are not reliable in the District.

## **1.2 Forage cover (pasture and browse)**

- Pastures were deteriorating in quality and quantity indicating the onset of the long dry spell.
- Vegetation cover was ranging between 25-40% all over the District.

## **1.3 Access to water**

### **1.3.1 Water sources**

- Signs of water scarcity were evident in most parts of the larger district.
- Main water sources were natural rivers, traditional river wells, springs, boreholes, water pans and dams.
- The distances to and from water sources slightly increased by 0.6Kms i.e., from last months 3Km to 3.6km this month.

### **1.3.2 Implications on food security:-**

- Increased distances to water points are likely to impact negatively on food security since more time is being spent looking for water.

## **2. Rural economy indicators**

### **2.1 Livestock body condition**

- Livestock body conditions were good in all parts of the District.
- This is a normal occurrence at this time of the year.

### **2.2 Livestock health**

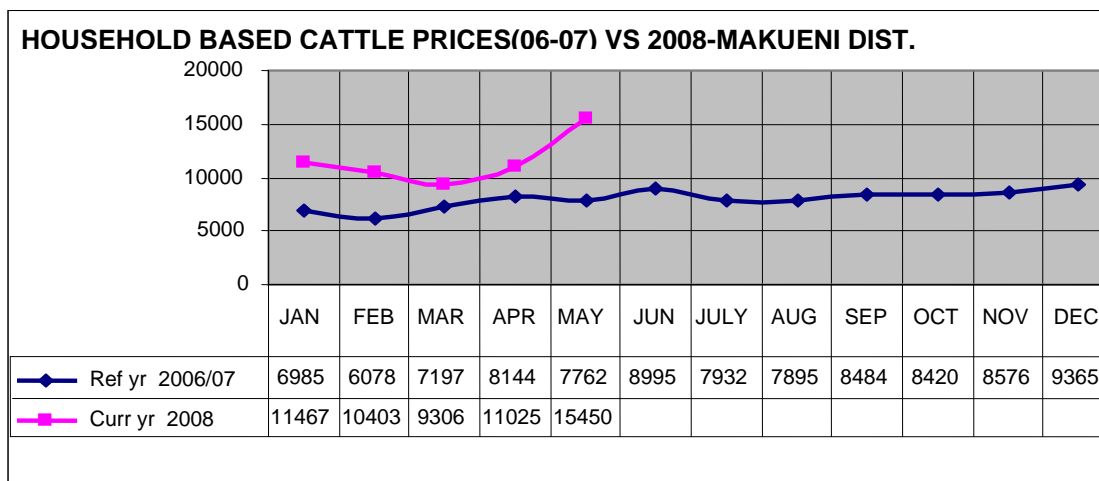
- Newcastle disease in poultry has been persistent in most parts of District.
- Foot and mouth disease outbreak was reported in Kathonzweni Division.
- The veterinary department reported a threat of PPR due to uncontrolled livestock movement.

## **2.3 District average livestock prices at household level (May 2008)**

### **2.3.1 Cattle prices**

- Cattle prices increased compared to last month and they were higher than the same period last year. This is as a result of low supply in the local markets.
- This is a normal trend at this time of the year.

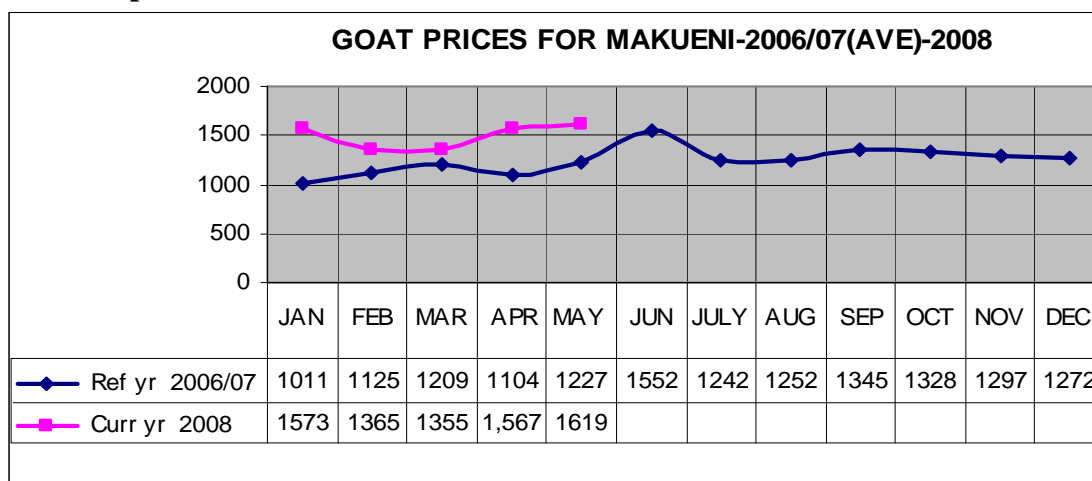
### Cattle Prices



### 2.3.2 Goat prices

- Prices of goats increased slightly to Kshs 1619 from last months Kshs 1567 and remained higher than the same period last year.
- This is a normal occurrence and is attributed to low supply in the local markets.

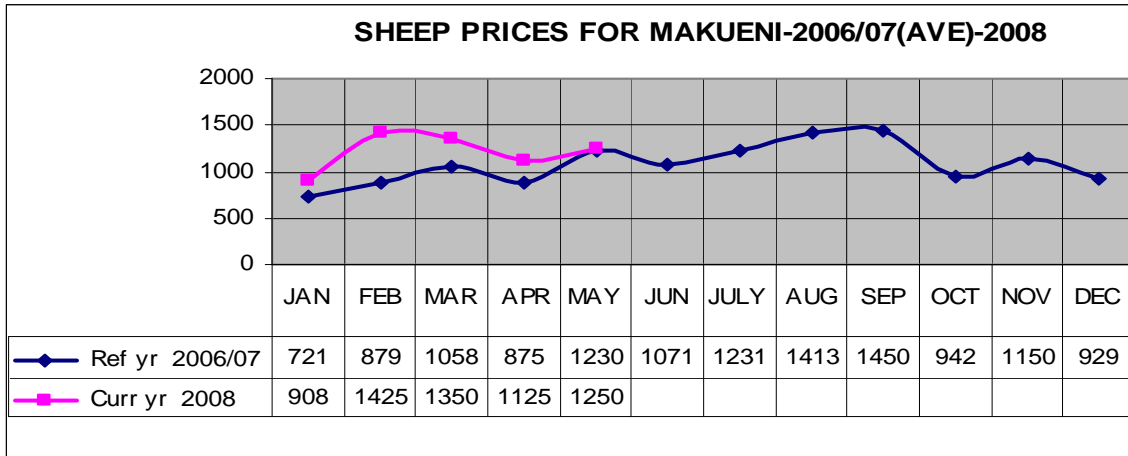
### Goat prices



### 2.3.3 Sheep prices

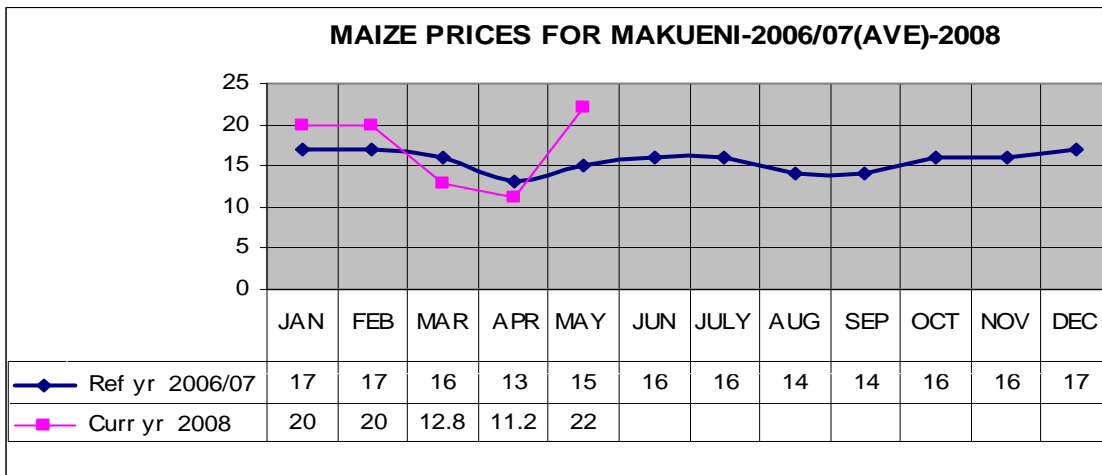
- Sheep prices increased compared to last month, and the prices were slightly higher than the same period last year.
- This is a normal price fluctuation since the supply was low.

## Sheep prices



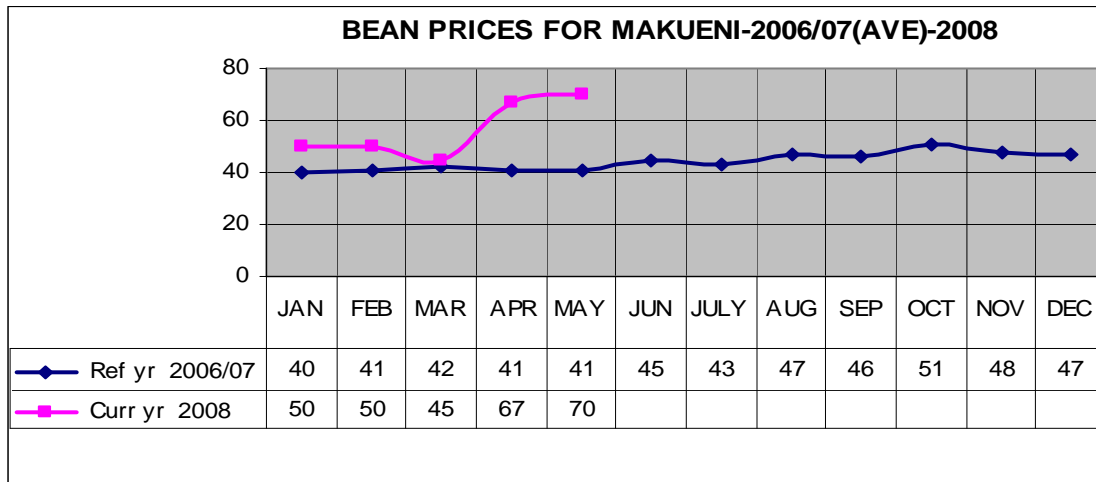
## 2.2 Crop production

### 2.2.1 Maize prices



- Maize price exhibited a sharp increase over the month and this was way above the same period last year.
- This is an abnormal occurrence but the phenomenon can be attributed to low supply in the market.
- The price is projected to increase further in the coming months if there is no change in the trend of supply of the commodity.

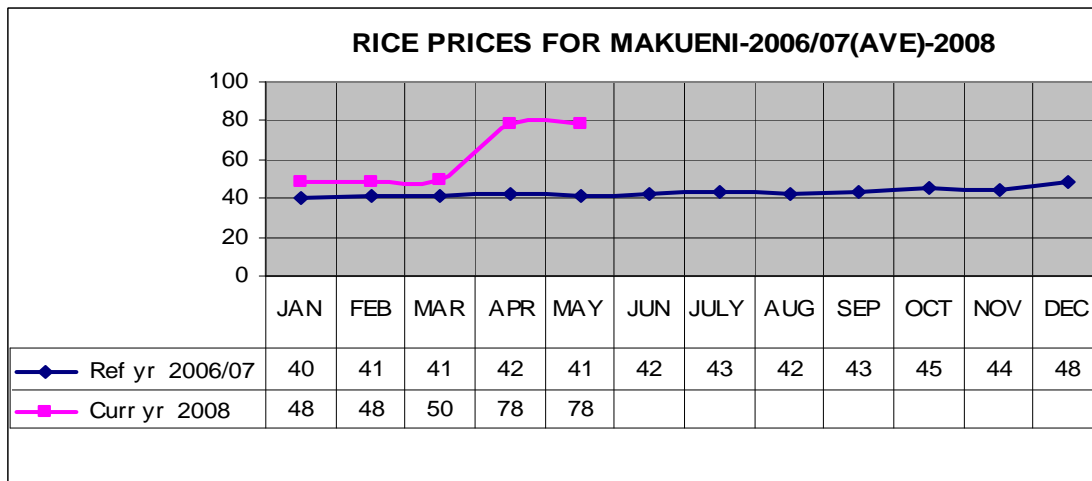
### 2.2.2 Bean prices



- Bean price increased compared to that of last month.
- This was way above the same period last year as a result of the current scarcity.
- This is an abnormal occurrence at this time of the year.

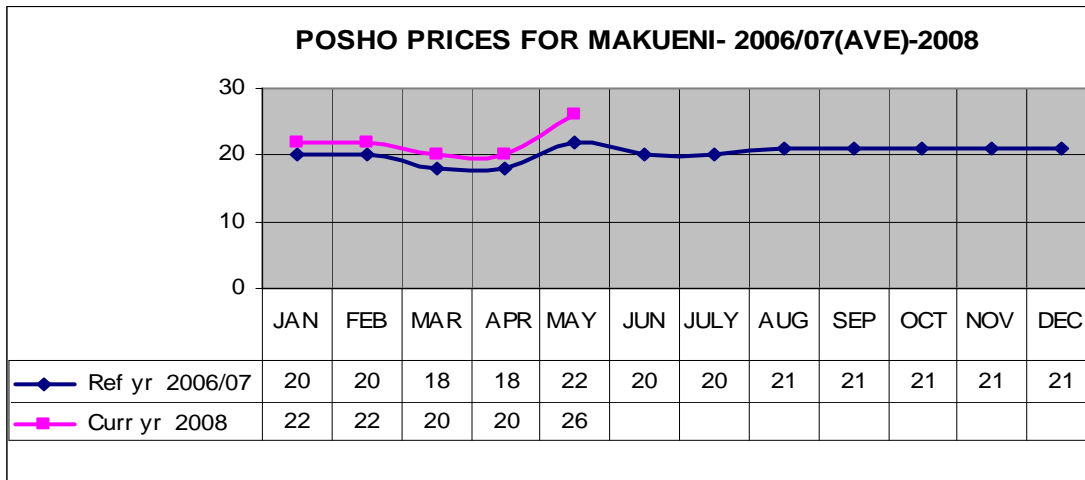
### 2.2.3 Other foodstuffs

#### Rice prices



- Prices of rice remained high compared to that of the previous months, and it was way above that of last year.
- This was an abnormal occurrence at this time of the year and can be attributed to the current food price fluctuations in the national /international markets.

## Posho prices



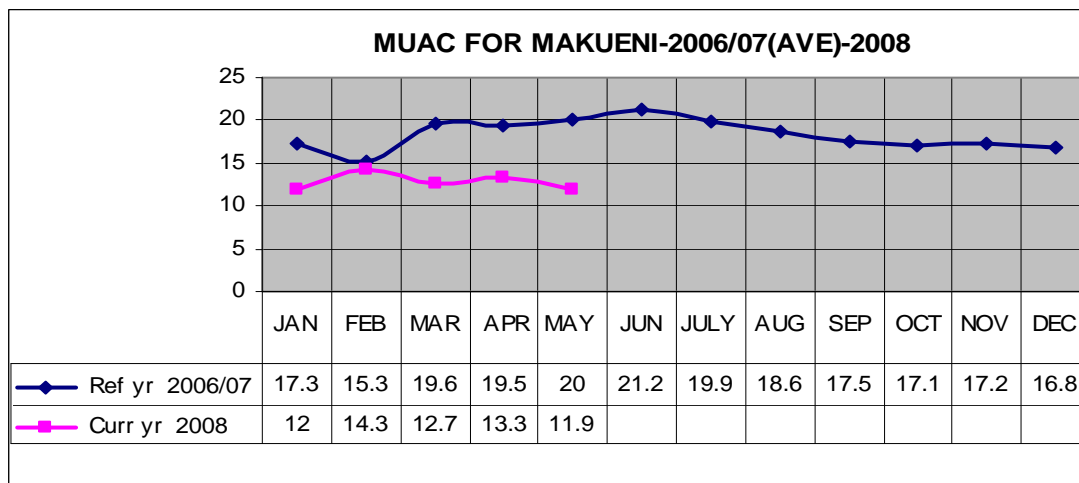
- Prices of posho increased considerably compared to last month and was a bit higher than the same period last year. This is an abnormal occurrence.

### 3. Human welfare indicators

#### 3.1 Milk consumption

- Milk and its products remained constant in supply and prices (Ksh 28/750 ml bottle).
- This is a normal occurrence at this time of the year.

#### 3.2 Nutritional status (MUAC measurements)



- Nutritional status for the under fives further improved compared to that of last month.
- It was also better than the same period last year.
- The status was however still poor in the following divisions; Kee, Kalawa and Kathonzweni Divisions. This can be attributed to the failure of both short rains and the current long rains in the District, scarcity in milk and its products in the worst hit Divisions, and shortage of green vegetables during the time of monitoring.

- The improvement was a normal occurrence since most households had green pigeon peas on their farms.

### **3.3 Livestock Migration**

- No livestock migrations reported in the District, but it is expected in the subsequent months.

## **4. Interventions in the District (DSG)**

- Field days on aflatoxin awareness are being conducted in all the Locations of Kibwezi District.
- Introduction of drought tolerant crops is being carried out in both the mid and upper zones of the District.
- The veterinary department is planning to carry out a ring vaccination against FMD to prevent it from spreading to other areas of the District.