

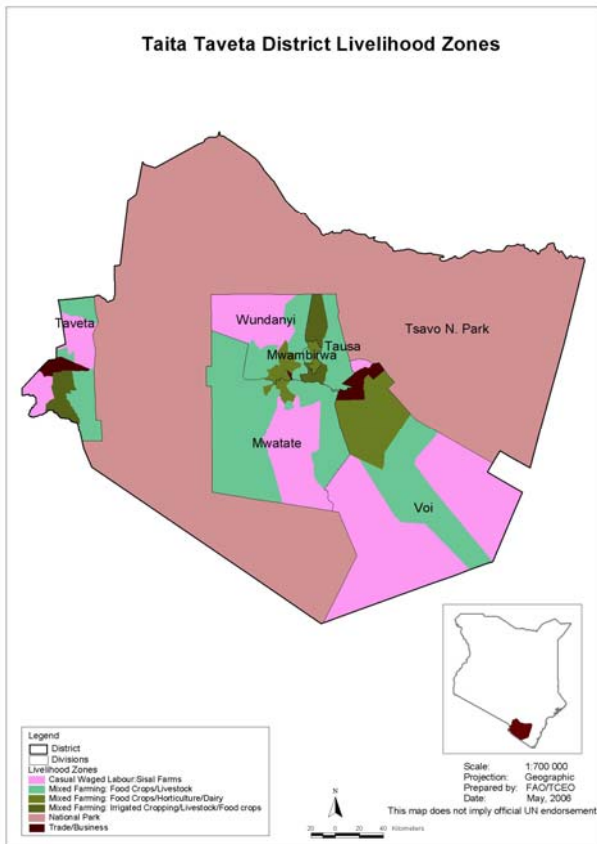


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2009

Taita/Taveta Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Casual Waged Labour: Sisal Farms	Alert	Deteriorating
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/Livestock	Alert	Deteriorating
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/Horticulture/Dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/Livestock/Food Crops	Alert	Deteriorating
National Park	Alert	Deteriorating
Trade/Business	Normal	Stable
District	Alert	Deteriorating

SEASONAL CALENDAR

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maize	Harvesting	Planting	Weeding				Harvesting	Planting	Weeding			
Beans	Harvesting		Planting	Weeding		Harvesting				Planting	Weeding	
Vegetables						Sowing Transplanting	Top dressing		Harvesting			
Cattle	Milking											
Goats	Weaning		Mating/Kidding					Weaning		Mating/Kidding		
Rainfall			Long rains							Short rains		

Situation overview

- In the month of July the hill masses of Taita district received little showers, coupled with low temperatures. The average amount of rainfall recorded was 44mm compared to 216mm recorded the previous month.
- Low water levels resulted in drying up of shallow wells, seasonal and major rivers. For instance lower Voi River and Mzazala River in Mashangi sub-location. Also irrigation schemes in the two districts were not fully operational.
- Iyombonyi/Sinai water project in Mwatate was expected to be operational for only two more weeks after its source dried up.
- From sampled sentinel sites, average distances to and from the water sources for households remained at 4.8 km while time taken to fetch water increased from 2.0 hrs to 2.5 hrs due to overcrowding.
- In Dighai, Kamtonga and Mkengerenyi in Mwachabo and Msorongo, Kwa-Mnengwa and Mwashuma in Mwakitau location household members trekked for about 12 km to fetch water.
- Long trekking distances to fetch water and overcrowding at water points deprived household members time to engage in other economic activities.
- Condition of natural vegetation and pasture deteriorated at a high rate due to overgrazing in both the ranches and Tsavo West National Park. Herders from Kajiado district and Somali community from North Eastern continued to dominate the ranches, resulting in overgrazing.
- Overgrazing in the park led to destruction of wildlife habitats, resulting in elephants moving to community land in search of pasture and water.
- In both districts, cattle body condition was not good due to long trekking distances in search of pasture and water. Areas mostly affected were lower Sagalla, Kishushe, Mwakitau, Mwachabo, Ghazi, Paranga, Kidong, Salaita and Mahandakini.
- Although livestock deaths were reported in Mbulia, Kishushe, Makamenyi and Marungu sub locations in Taita district, most of the livestock was from Kajiado and North Eastern province.
- Conflict arose between Kishushe community and herders from Kajiado district over drinking water for livestock where community members accused the latter of overgrazing on their land.
- Households in the rain-fed lowlands in both districts should be targeted through Food for Assets. However, Government of Kenya pipeline uses general food distribution to target vulnerable groups.
- Although prices of food stuffs were still very high, resulting in increased poverty, Kazi Kwa Vijana programme improved food security in the two districts.
- Areas still facing acute food shortage and requiring immediate attention were Mwakitau in Mwatate division, Kasigau and lower Sagalla in Voi division, Tausa division, Wongonyi in Mwambirwa, Paranga, Sangenyi, Nyache, Kishamba, Njawuli, Mwaroko, Mlechi, Choke, Wanganga, Irido and Saghasa in Wundanyi division, Taita district.
- Others were Nakruto, Kasokoni, Chokaa, Kidong'u, Challa kati, Uthiani, Kijijini, Vikwatani, Chumvini A & B, Langata, and Ulawani in Challa division, Njoro, Mtakuja, Kazamoyo, Kachero, Mata village, Nasaini in Jipe division and Lessessia, Kasarani, parts of Mjini, Langata, Chewa, Mahoo, Salaita, parts of Vikwatani, Mwakine, Riata, Madarasani, Lotima A & B, Riata Ndogo/Kubwa in Bomeni division of Taveta district.
- Based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement, the nutrition status of children below five years improved, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping from 4.5 in June to 3.7 in July. Higher rates were reported in Wongonyi location at 10.7% while in Mwakitau/Mwashuma location a significant drop was observed from 14.7% in June to 8.4%.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Ministry of Water to upgrade inefficient water projects to curb water shortage, especially in Mwakitau and Mwachabo locations.
- Protect existing springs either through fencing or planting trees given that springs are the only source of water in the two districts.
- Kenya Wildlife Services to excavate water pans inside the National Park to harvest runoff water for use by wildlife during the dry spell.
- Kenya Wildlife Services to increase surveillance to address the problem of marauding elephants and address the problem of overgrazing in the National park.
- Ministry of Livestock development in collaboration with ranchers to stop overgrazing in the ranches.
- District Peace Committees to be put in place in the newly created districts.

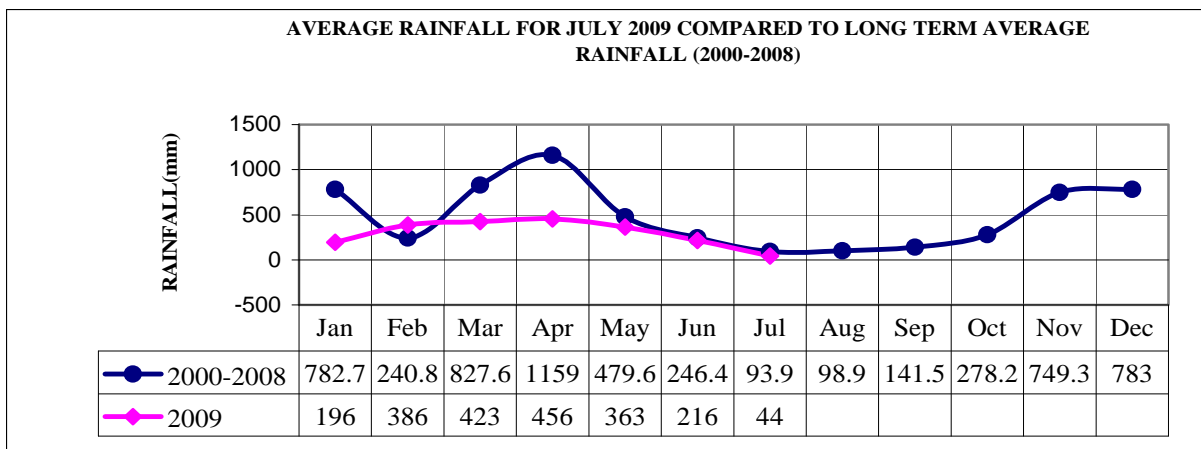
Current interventions

Non-food Interventions

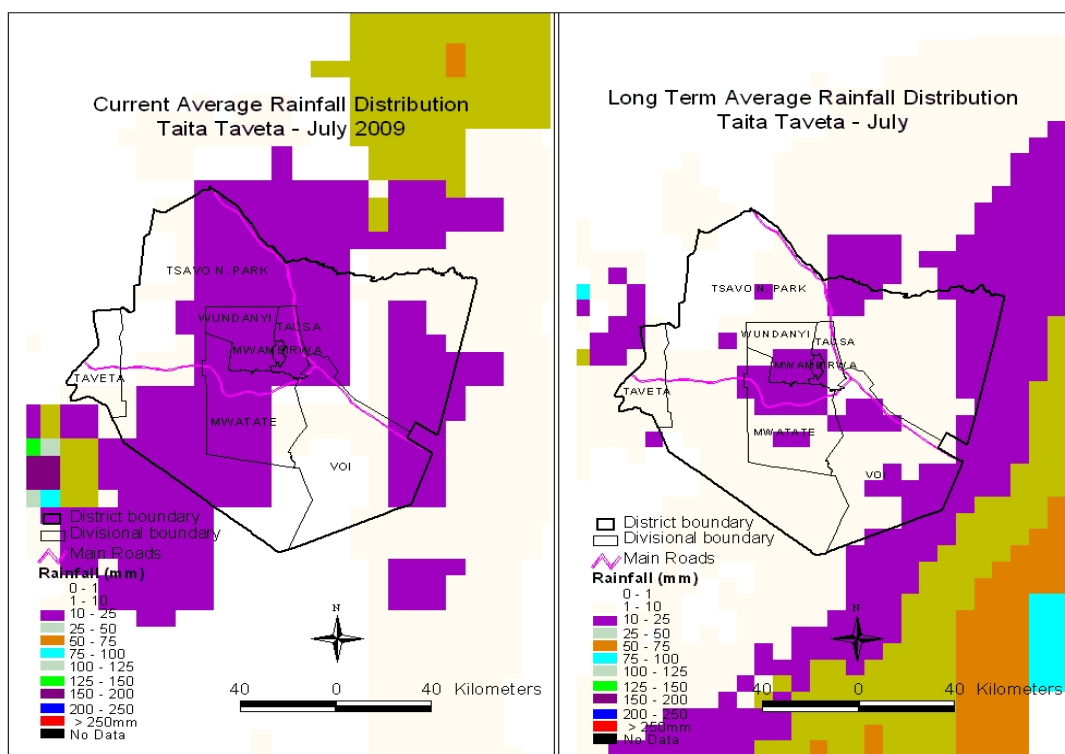
- Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Sector projects
 - Construction of Ore irrigation in-take in Taita district is complete – Arid Lands Resource Management Project.
 - Equipping of Marapu borehole is on going - Arid Lands Resource Management Project/ Ministry of Water.
 - Water trucking to areas experiencing acute water shortage for instance Tausa, Kasigau and Mwatate is on going - Arid Lands Resource Management Project/ Ministry of Water.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- In the month of July the hill masses of Taita district received little showers, coupled with low temperatures.
- The average amount of rainfall recorded was 44 mm compared to 216 mm recorded the previous month.
- Compared to the long term average rainfall for 2000-2008 the trend was normal and the amount of rainfall was low.

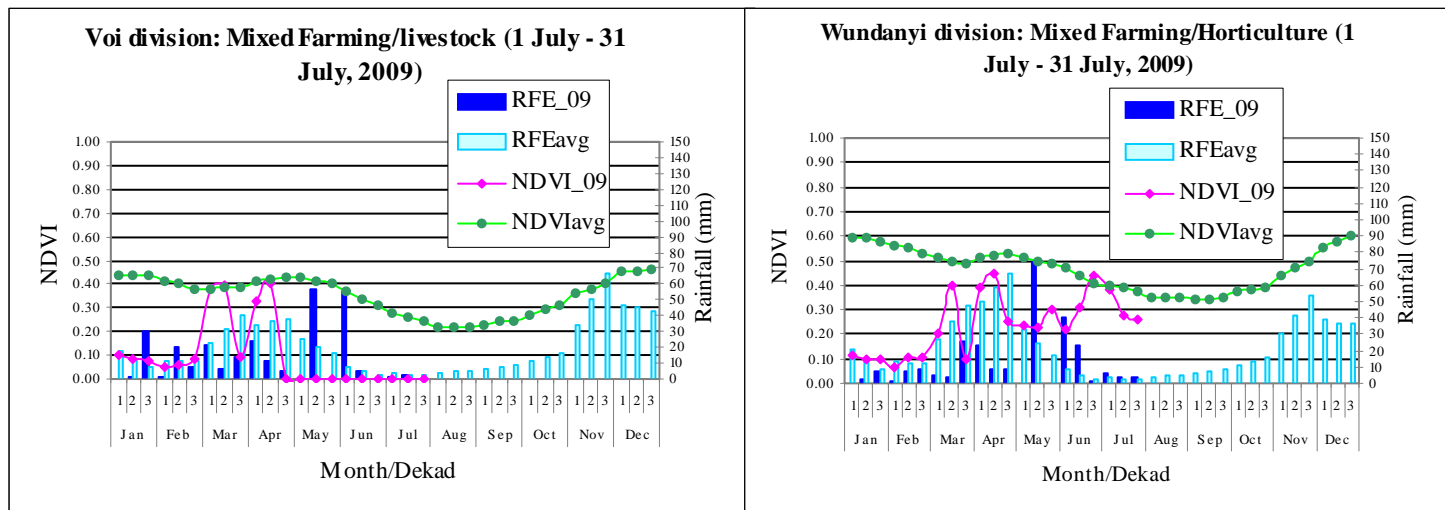


SGS Satellite images –Figure illustrate Comparison of Current July 2009 Rainfall Distribution with the Long Term Averages for Taita Taveta.

- The United States Geological Survey satellite images above indicate that little showers were received in the month of July.

- The rains ranging between 1 – 25 mm were recorded on the hill masses of Wundanyi and areas of Kamtonga in Mwatate division.
- Compared to Long Term rainfall map it is clear that rainfall patterns really changed. Southern coast recorded high rainfall ranging between 25 – 100 mm while the current map show very low amount ranging between 1 – 25 mm.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture



NDVI – Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

RFE – Rainfall Estimates

- Condition of natural vegetation and pasture deteriorated rapidly due to overgrazing in both the ranches and Tsavo West National Park.
- Voi division continued to record null vegetation index, while Wundanyi recorded 0.38, 0.27 and 0.26 in dekad 1, 2 and 3 respectively compared to 0.22, 0.31 and 0.44 in June.
- This could be attributed to thick forest cover, light showers received and cool temperatures in Wundanyi and also its location on the hill masses compared to Voi located on the rain fed lowlands with increased cases of overgrazing and charcoal burning and drying of vegetation.
- Compared to the long term vegetation index averages, Voi division exhibits an abnormal trend.
- Average grazing distance analyzed from sampled sentinel sites increased from 6.1 km to 7.0 km due to depleted pasture and drying up of water sources.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- During the month under review water sources for both human and livestock use were tap water, springs, natural rivers, dams and boreholes.
- Low water levels resulted in drying up of shallow wells, seasonal and major rivers, for instance lower Voi River and Mzazala River in Mashangi sub-location. Also irrigation schemes in the two districts were not fully operational.
- Iyombonyi/Sinai water project in Mwatate will be operational for only two more weeks due to its source drying up.
- From sampled sentinel sites households' average distance to and from the water sources remained at 4.8 km while time taken to fetch water increased from 2.0 hrs to 2.5 hrs due to overcrowding.
- In Dighai, Kamtonga and Mkengerenyi in Mwachabo and Msorongu, Kwa-Mnengwa and Mwashuma in Mwakitau location household members are trekking for about 12 km to fetch water.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement

- Conflicts arose between Kishushe community and herders from Kajiado district over drinking water for livestock, where community members accused the latter of overgrazing on their land.
- Overgrazing in the park led to destruction of wildlife habitats, resulting in elephants moving to community land in search of pasture and water.
- Although livestock deaths were reported in Mbulia, Kishushe, Makamenyi and Marungu sub locations, Taita district most of these livestock belong to herders from Kajiado and North Eastern.

1.4.2. Migration

- Herders from Kajiado district and North Eastern continued to dominate the ranches, resulting in overgrazing.
- Large herds of cattle continued to graze in the Tsavo West National Park.

1.4.3. Implications on food security

- Households in the rain-fed lowlands in both districts should be targeted through Food for Assets. However, Government of Kenya pipeline uses general food distribution to target vulnerable groups.
- Long trekking distances to fetch water and overcrowding at water points deprived household members' of time to engage in other economic activities.
- Overgrazing in the park will increase cases of human/wildlife conflict. Elephants will move to irrigated farms in search of pasture and water, resulting in crop destruction.
- Areas still facing acute food shortage and require immediate attention are Mwakitau in Mwatate division, Kasigau and lower Sagalla in Voi division, Tausa division, Wongonyi in Mwambirwa, Paranga, Sangenyi, Nyache, Kishamba, Njawuli, Mwaroko, Mlechi, Choke, Wanganga, Irido and Saghasa in Wundanyi division, Taita district.
- Others were Nakruto, Kasokoni, Chokaa, Kidong'u, Challa kati, Uthiani, Kijijini, Vikwatani, Chumvini A & B, Langata, and Ulawani in Challa division, Njoro, Mtakuja, Kazamoyo, Kachero, Mata village, Nasaini in Jipe division and Lessessia, Kasarani, parts of Mjini, Langata, Chewa, Mahoo, Salaita, parts of Vikwatani, Mwakine, Riata, Madarasani, Lotima A & B, Riata Ndogo/Kubwa in Bomeni division of Taveta district.

2.0 Rural Economy Indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Cattle body condition was not good in both districts due to long trekking distances in search of pasture and water.
- Areas mostly affected were lower Sagalla, Kishushe, Mwakitau, Mwachabo, Ghazi, Paranga, Kidong, Salaita and Mahandakini.
- Compared with a normal year, livestock body condition, especially for cattle was not good.

2.1.2 Milk production

- Milk yields from 360 sampled households in both districts increased from 6,349 litres in June to 7,748 litres in July.
- Mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone continued to dominate the dairy sector recording 64% situated in the wetlands, mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone 31% and casual waged labour: sisal farms 5% found in the rain fed lowlands.
- Casual waged labour: sisal farms and mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zones low milk production could be attributed to deteriorating body condition of cattle due to long trekking distances in search of pasture and water in these livelihood zones.

2.2 Crop production

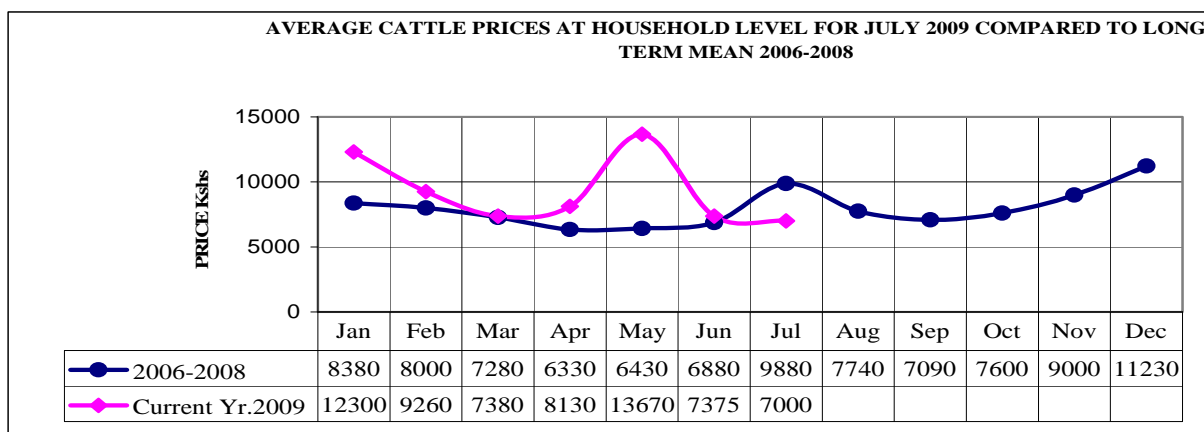
2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- In the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone no crop production activity was ongoing.
- However, in the casual waged labour: sisal farms livelihood zone some casual waged labourers were busy preparing land for planting sisal crop.
- In the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone farmers are harvesting vegetables and maize.
- In the mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zone most farmers were harvesting tomatoes, bananas and maize.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

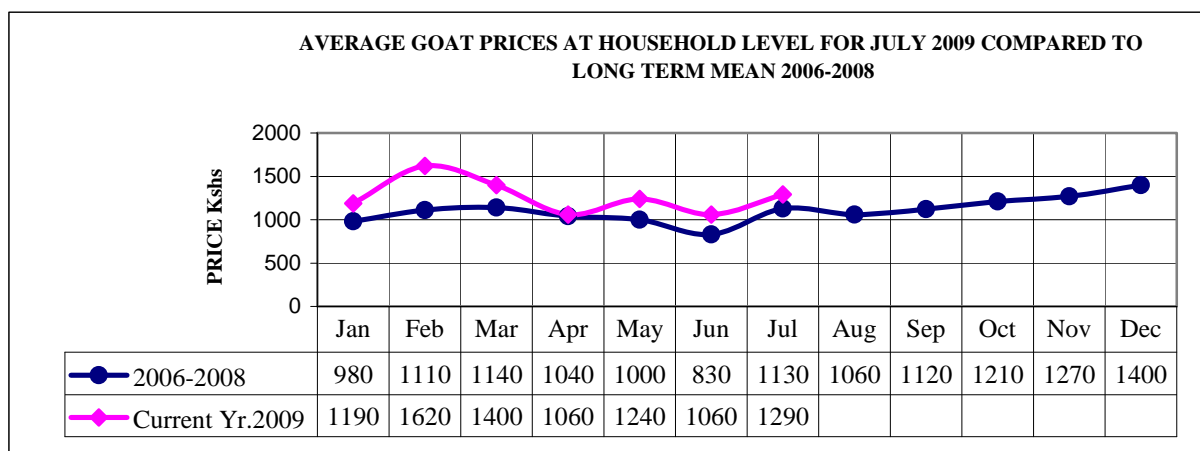
3.1.1 Cattle prices



N = 360 households

- The average cattle prices at household level decreased from Ksh7,375 in June to Ksh7,000.
- Higher prices were recorded in Mwarungu, Wundanyi division, where cattle were sold at Ksh 23,000.
- Otherwise most cattle prices at market level were ranging between Ksh4,000 – 12,000.
- High prices were reported in the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone at Ksh12,000 while low prices prevailed in the casual waged labour: sisal farms at Ksh6,000 and Ksh6,500 in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zones.
- Compared to the long term mean the trend was abnormal and the price was low.

3.1.2 Goats prices

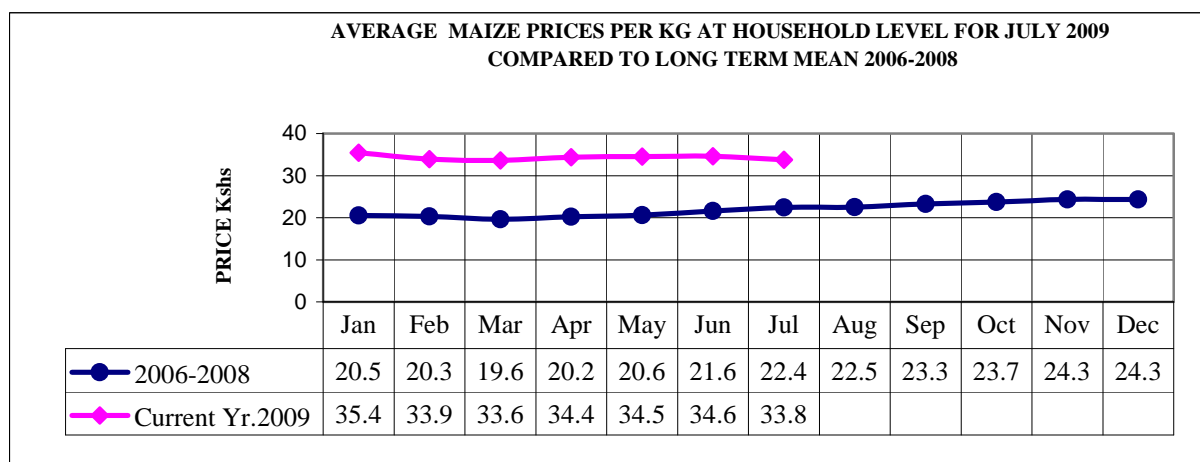


N = 360 households

- The average goat price at household level increased from Ksh1,060 in June to Ksh1,290.
- Higher prices were recorded in Njukini at Ksh1,400.
- The fluctuating price could be attributed to effects of prolonged drought and changes in body condition.
- Prices remained higher in the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone at Ksh 1,400 than in both the casual waged labour: sisal farms livelihood zone at Ksh1,000 and Ksh750 in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone.
- Compared to the long term mean trend is normal but the price was high.

3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

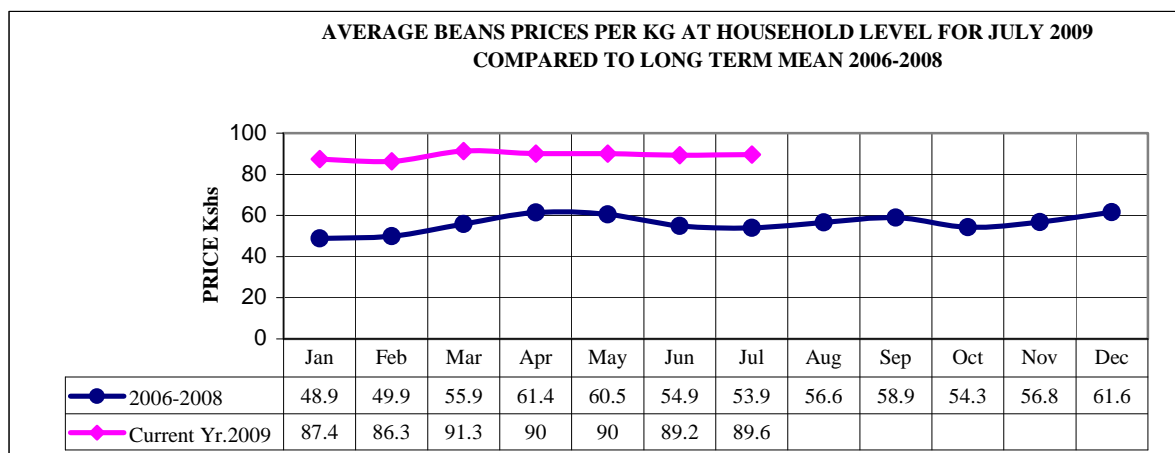


N = 360 households

- The average maize price at household level decreased from Ksh34.6 per kilo in June to Ksh33.8.
- The prevailing high prices were due to depleted maize stocks at household level and lack of sufficient stocks at national level.
- In the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy, mixed farming: food crops/livestock and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zones average beans prices at market level are still ranging from Ksh 35 - 50.

- Compared to the long term mean, the trend was normal but the price was still very high.

3.2.2 Beans prices



N = 360 households

- The average beans price at household level increased from Ksh 89.2 per kilo in June to Ksh 89.6.
- The high price in both districts was due to shortage of beans both at market and household levels.
- In the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy, mixed farming: food crops/livestock and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zones average beans prices at market level are still ranging from Ksh80 - 100.
- Compared to the long term mean, the trend was normal but the price extremely high.

3.3 Income

3.3.1 Livestock income

- Livestock income obtained from 360 sampled households increased significantly. Sale of 3 cattle @ Ksh 23,000; 17 goats @ Ksh 1,290 and 108 chickens @ Ksh 190 realized Ksh 111,450 compared to Ksh 69,210 in June.
- In the rain-fed lowlands this increase in livestock income could be attributed to an increase in prices of livestock and increased sales given that farmers depend on sale of livestock as the only source of income.

3.3.2. Other income sources

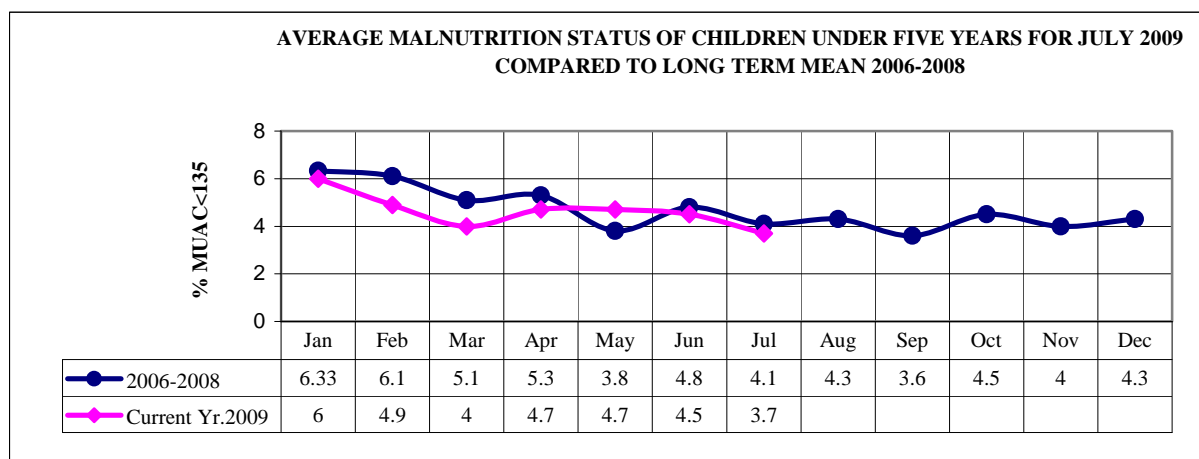
- In Taveta district, Bomeni division, most household members depended on sales of ballast, which they break manually.
- Others were casual labour, petty trade, formal employment, remittances, sand and brick selling, charcoal selling, miraa selling, fishing and small-scale mining.

3.4 Implications on food security

- Although prices of food stuffs were still very high resulting in increased poverty, Kazi Kwa Vijana programme improved food security in the two districts.
- Availability of milk impacted positively on food security, especially on the hill masses given that it was of great essence to growth of children under five years.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



N = 360 households

- Based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement, the nutrition status of children below five years improved.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition decreased from 4.5 in June to 3.7 in July.
- Out of 1,513 children under-five sampled in 12 sample sites areas, 58 were found with MUAC < 135mm.
- High rates were reported in Wongonyi location at 10.7% while in Mwakitau/Mwashuma location a significant drop was observed from 14.7% in June to 8.4%. This was attributed to distribution of Unimix in areas with high levels of malnutrition.
- Compared to long term mean the trend was normal and at a low level.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Sector projects.
 - Construction of Ore irrigation in-take in Taita district is complete – Arid Lands Resource Management Project.
 - Equipping of Marapu borehole is on going - Arid Lands Resource Management Project/ Ministry of Water.
 - Water trucking to areas experiencing acute water shortage for instance Tausa, Kasigau and Mwatate is on going - Arid Lands Resource Management Project/ Ministry of Water.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

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- Protect existing springs either through fencing or planting trees given that springs are the only source of water in the two districts.
- Kenya Wildlife Services to excavate water pans inside the National Park to harvest runoff water for use by wildlife during the dry spell.
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