National Drought Management Authority
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY (THARAKA)
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2017

A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

OCTOBEER 2017 EW Phase

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Onset of the short rains was on the 2nd dekad of October which was normal onset however, the rainfall amount was below the long term average for the month of October.
- The Vegetation Condition Index (VCI3M) decreased from 27.76 to 19.87 indicating a severe agricultural drought in October.
- The water recharge level was fair with most of the rivers impounding water to up to 30% of their normal level. However, silting caused poor quality of water due to contamination hence the risk of water borne disease outbreak. This calls for enhanced water treatment.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- The condition of pasture and browse remained poor in October but is expected to improve due to the onset of rains.
- Livestock body condition for cattle remained poor while that for goats improved slightly due to availability of leaf droplets for goats.
- Farming activities reported in the month of October were planting and kidding for goats.

Access Indicators

- There was a drop in cattle price and an increase in goat price. Maize prices also decreased due to increased supply from outside the county.
- Milk production and consumption per household level increased from that of the previous months mainly from goats.

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children at risk of malnutrition decreased due to increased consumption of milk from goats.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	EW PHASE	TRENDS
Mixed Farming	Alarm	Improving
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alarm	Improving
Rainfed cropping	Alarm	Improving
County	Alarm	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	**Value**	**Normal Ranges**
VCI-3month (Tharaka)	19.87	>35
Water Sources	Fair	Normal
Production Indicators	**Value**	**Normal Ranges**
Livestock Migration Pattern	Migration	No Migration
Livestock Body Conditions	Fair to Poor	Fair
Milk Production	1.10Litres	>1.13 Litres
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	**Value**	**Normal**
Terms of Trade	87	<76
Milk Consumption	1 Litres	>0.90Litre
Water for Households	Fair	Good
Utilization indicators	**Value**	**Range/Value**
MUAC	8.2	<8.7
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	15	<52
Food Consumption (Marginal Mixed Farming)	86.2 Percent Acceptable	>80 Percent Acceptable

▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Land preparation	▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase	▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks	▪ Short rains ▪ Planting /weeding

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Seasonal Calendar

BIOPHYSICAL INDICATORS

1.0 MEASURING DROUGHT HAZARD

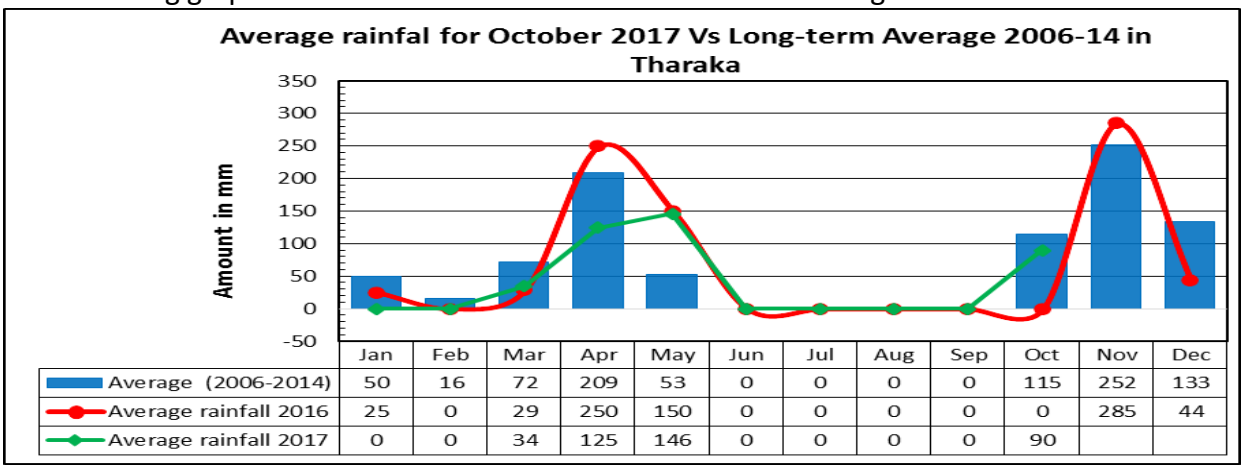
1.1 METEOROLOGICAL DROUGHT

1.1.1 Actual Rainfall

- Onset of the short rains was on the second decade of October (from 13th October). An average of 90.36 mm of Rainfall was received in the county for the month of October.
- With reference to the long-term average, rainfall performance for October of 90.36mm was lower than the long term average of 115 mm for October.

1.1.2 Rainfall Station data

- The following graph shows the actual rainfall received in mm during the month of October.



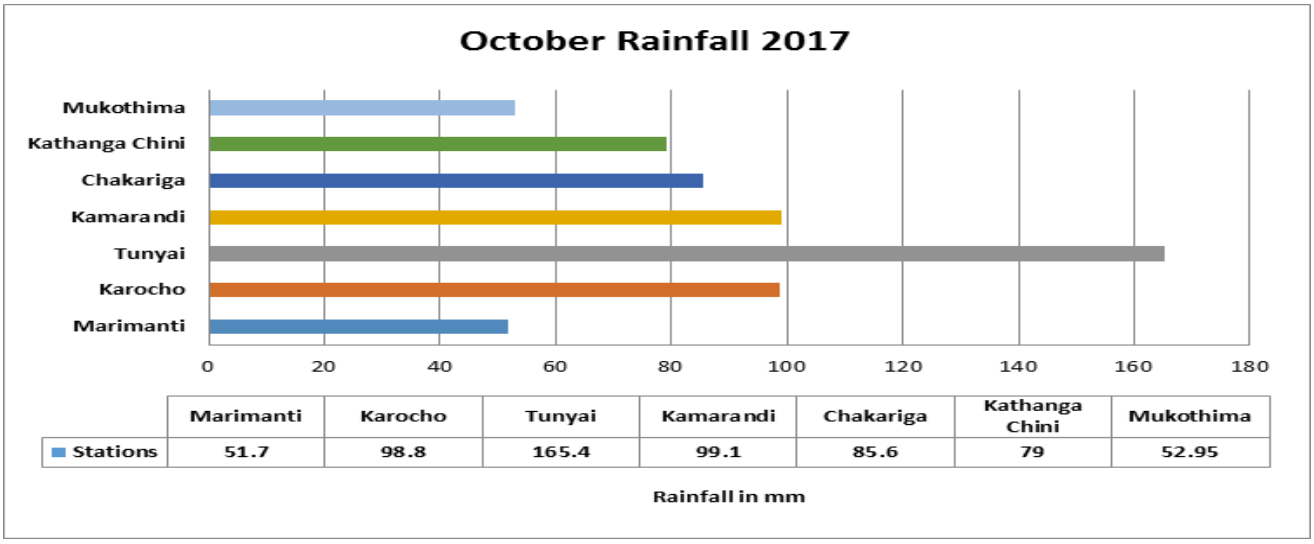
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average (2006-2014)	50	16	72	209	53	0	0	0	0	115	252	133
Average rainfall 2016	25	0	29	250	150	0	0	0	0	0	285	44
Average rainfall 2017	0	0	34	125	146	0	0	0	0	90		

1.1.3 Spatial and Temporal Distribution

- The spatial distribution of rainfall across the County was fair and even in all the 7 recording stations across all the three livelihood zones.
- The amounts of rainfall received per stations were as follows: Marimanti received 51.7 mm for 5 days, Karocho 98.8 mm for 6 days, Tunyai 165.4 mm for 8 days, Chakariga 85.4mm for 4 days, Kamarandi 99.1mm for 4 days, Kathanga Chini 93.9 mm for 4 days while Mukothima received 52.95mm of rainfall for 3 days.
- Rainfall was received for an average of 5 days in 7 stations for the month of October across all the livelihood zones from the second week of October (13th October 2017).

1.1.5 Rainfall per stations

The graph below illustrates the rainfall amount received per the 7 rainfall recording stations.



	Marimanti	Karocho	Tunyai	Kamarandi	Chakariga	Kathanga Chini	Mukothima
Stations	51.7	98.8	165.4	99.1	85.6	79	52.95

1.2 AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT

1.2.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The vegetation condition of Tharaka Nithi for the month of October was below normal compared to the long term average for the month of October. The October VCI for Tharaka was 19.87 compared to the Normal index of 35.This depicted a severe vegetation deficit in October.
- The matrix below shows the vegetation condition for the month of October 2017 classified based on VCI thresholds.

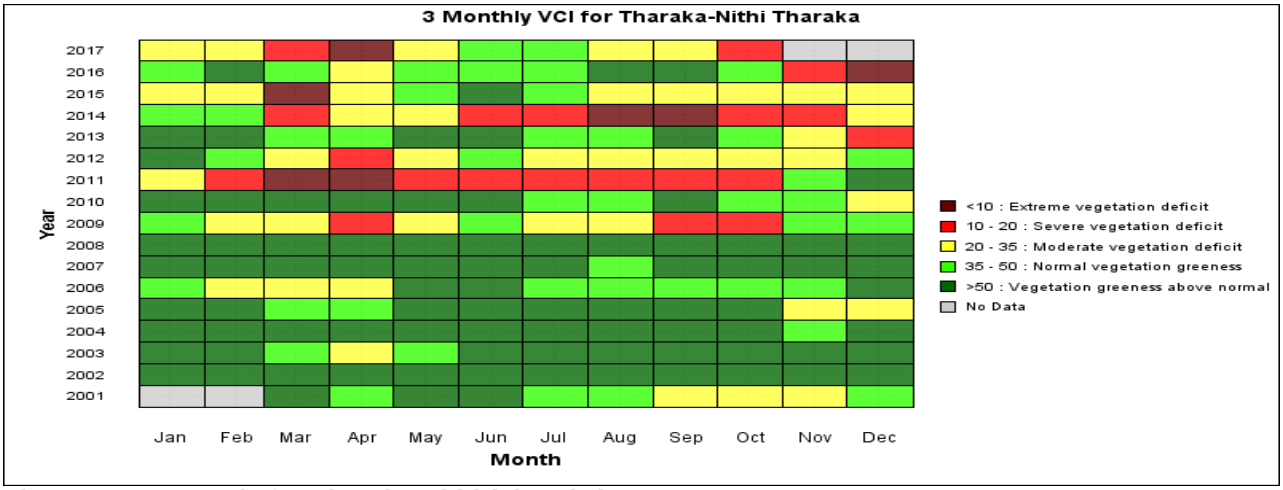


Figure 1 : VCI Matrix for Tharaka Nithi (Tharaka)

- The chart below illustrates the VCI trend for Tharaka Nithi from January to October 2017.

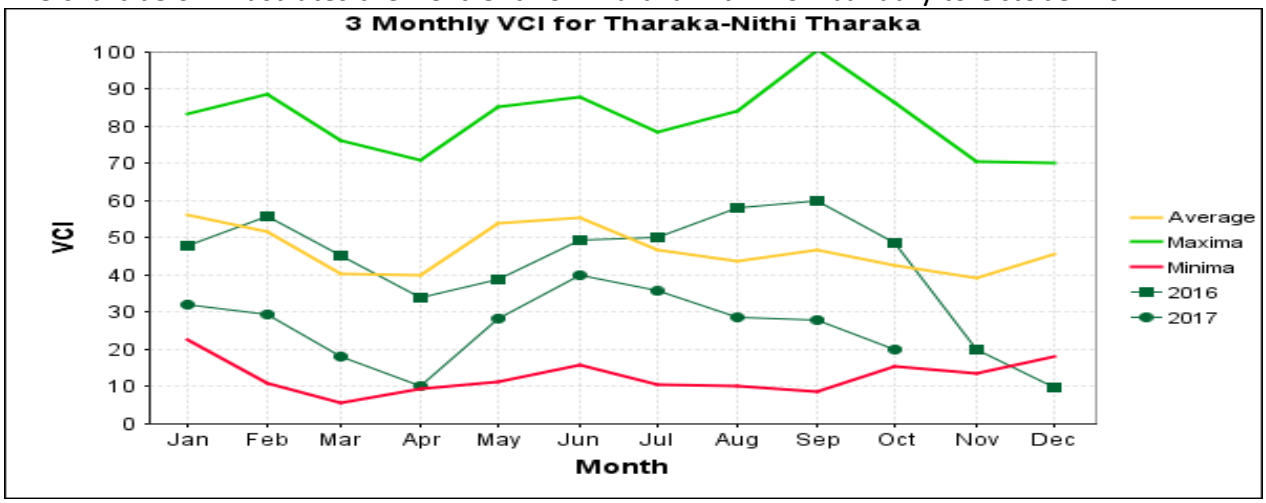


Figure 2: VCI Chart for Tharaka Nithi (Tharaka)

1.2.2 NATURAL VEGETATION AND PASTURE CONDITION

Field Observations (Pasture and Browse Conditions)

Pasture Condition

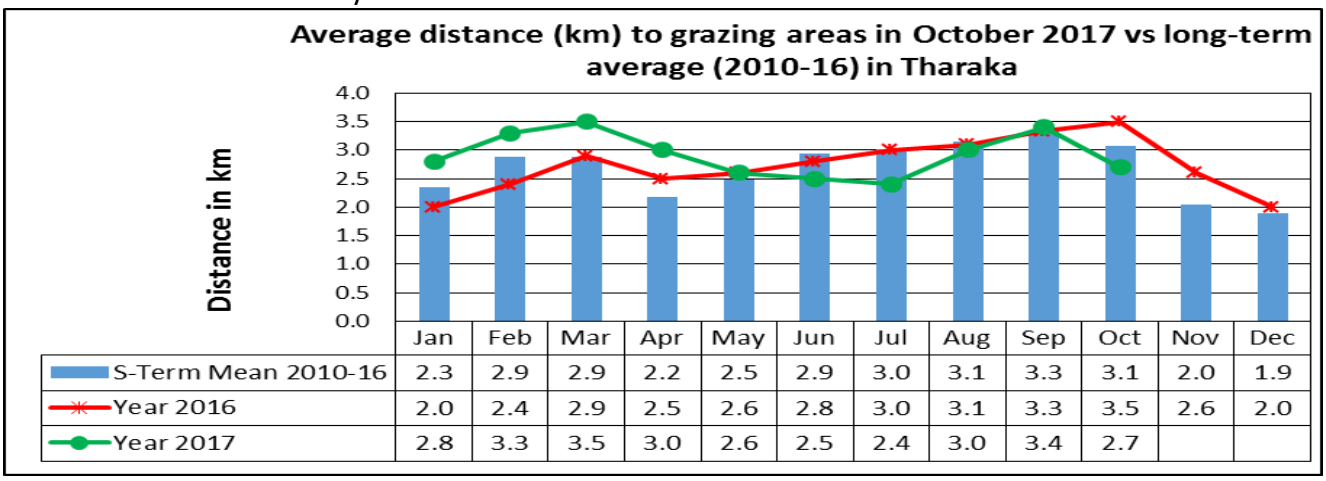
- Pasture condition in terms of quantity and quality was poor in the 1st and 2nd week of October but is expected to regenerate due to onset of rains. The pasture condition was below normal compared to the long term average for the month of October.
- Regeneration of pasture is expected in most grazing fields across all the livelihood zones.
- Internal migration was still high in the month of October with most livestock in the Marginal Mixed farming zones moving towards the Mixed Farming and the Rain fed Zones. However, these movements are expected to reduce due to regeneration of pasture in most grazing fields across the County.
- Resource based conflicts cases on pasture during the month of October reduced from that witnessed in September. Tran's boundary livestock diseases are also likely to decrease due to minimal movement of livestock if the situation improves.

Browse Condition

- Browse condition in terms of quantity and quality remained poor but the condition is likely to improve due to the onset of the short rains.
- The browse condition was below normal in the 1st dekad of October compared to the long term average. However, there were plenty of leaf droplets which availed food for goats which attributed to their fair body condition and enhanced milk production.

1.2.3 Distance to Grazing Areas

- The average distance to grazing areas decreased from 3.4Km recorded in September to 2.67 Km October which was attributed to regeneration of pasture in some areas and plenty of leaf droplets which availed food for goats.
- The longest return distance to grazing areas was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming at 3.35 Km, Rain fed Cropping at 2 Km and Mixed Farming livelihood zones at 1.83 Km.
- The distance to grazing areas was 12.9 percent lower than the long term average of 3.1 km for this time of the year.



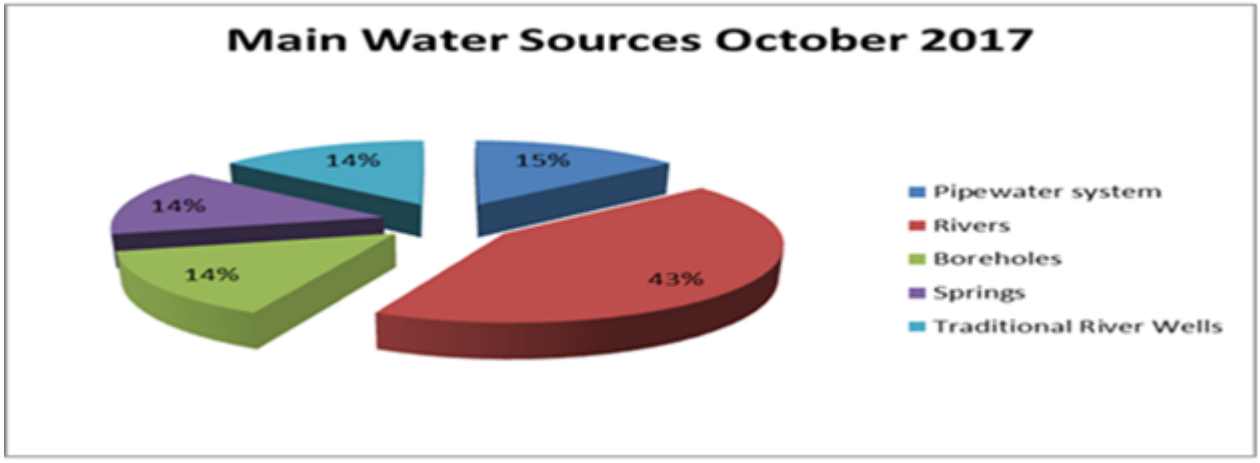
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
S-Term Mean 2010-16	2.3	2.9	2.9	2.2	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.0	1.9
Year 2016	2.0	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.5	2.6	2.0
Year 2017	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.4	3.0	3.4	2.7		

HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHT

1.3 Water Sources and Availability

1.3.1 Main Sources of Water

- The major sources of water for livestock and domestic use in Tharaka County were Rivers, springs, boreholes, piped water system and traditional river wells. Rivers accounted for 43%, Piped water system 15% while Boreholes, springs and Traditional River Wells accounted for 14% each.
- The state of water sources was ranked at index 3 in reference to the scale below implying the water availability was still inadequate for the month of October. The chart below shows percentage water sources as described above.



INDEX	STATE OF WATER	DESCRIPTION
1	EMERGENCY SITUATION	All main water sources have dried up; only few boreholes still yielding significant amounts
2	STRONGLY INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding very little amounts of water. Breakages of boreholes contribute to worsen the situation. Acute water shortage in many areas within the livelihood
3	INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding modest amounts of water. Concentration of livestock around few water points contribute to spread communicable diseases and to degradation of rangeland
4	DECLINING	The water availability is below normal for the period, but showing declining trends.
5	NORMAL	The water availability is normal for the period
6	GOOD	The water availability is above normal for the period

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

2.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

2.1 Livestock Production

2.1.2 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition for cattle remained poor while that for shoats was fair across all the livelihood zones. This was attributed to poor state of pasture and browse condition. However, plenty of leaf droplets were a substitute food for goats leading to their fair body condition. This led to improved goat price and milk production for goats.

BODY CONDITIONS	SCORE	WARNING STAGE
Emaciated, little muscle left	**1**	**Emergency**
Very thin no fat, bones visible	**2**	
Thin fore ribs visible	**3**	**Alert Worsening/Alarm**
Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12th & 13th ribs visible	**4**	**Alert**
Moderate. Neither fat nor thin	**5**	**Normal/Alert**
Good smooth appearance	**6**	
Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head	**7**	**Normal**
Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible	**8**	
Very Fat Tail buried in fat	**9**	

- For most livestock, current body condition can be rated at index 5 as per the threshold scale above

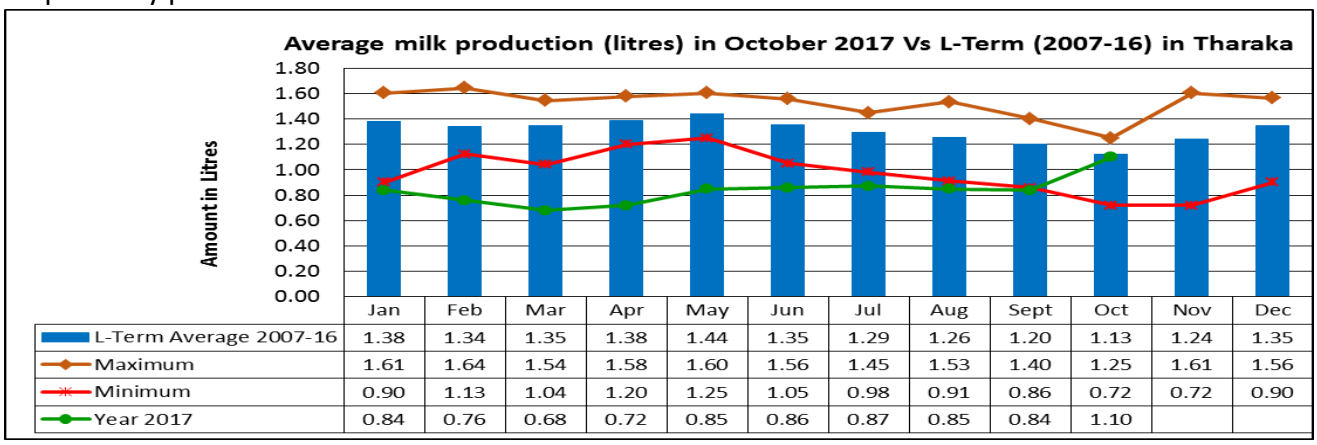
2.1.3 Livestock Diseases and Migration

- Infection and death of goats from sheep and goat pox has continued to spread from Tharaka North sub-county to Tharaka South. This spread was exacerbated by cattle rustling which made farmers to move their livestock to safer regions away from areas surrounding the National Park.
- Other diseases reported during the period under review were Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Trypanosomiasis, and Heart Water diseases, which are endemic across all livelihood zones.

2.1.4 Milk Production

- Milk production increased from an average production of 0.84 of a litre in September to 1.10 litre per household in October.

- The highest milk production was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at 1.2 litre while Mixed Farming livelihood and Rain fed livelihood zone had 1.1 litres and 1.0 litre respectively per household.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
L-Term Average 2007-16	1.38	1.34	1.35	1.38	1.44	1.35	1.29	1.26	1.20	1.13	1.24	1.35
Maximum	1.61	1.64	1.54	1.58	1.60	1.56	1.45	1.53	1.40	1.25	1.61	1.56
Minimum	0.90	1.13	1.04	1.20	1.25	1.05	0.98	0.91	0.86	0.72	0.72	0.90
Year 2017	0.84	0.76	0.68	0.72	0.85	0.86	0.87	0.85	0.84	1.10		

- Milk production per household was 2.65 percent lower than the 10-year average attributed to poor condition of pasture and browse due to prolonged dry spell.

2.2 Crop Production

2.2.1. Timeliness and Status of Crops

- Farming activities for the month under review included planting for the short rainy season commencing mid-October to December.
- Crops planted during the month of October were: green grams, sorghum, millet,maize, cowpeas and pigeon peas.

2.2.2. Pests and Diseases

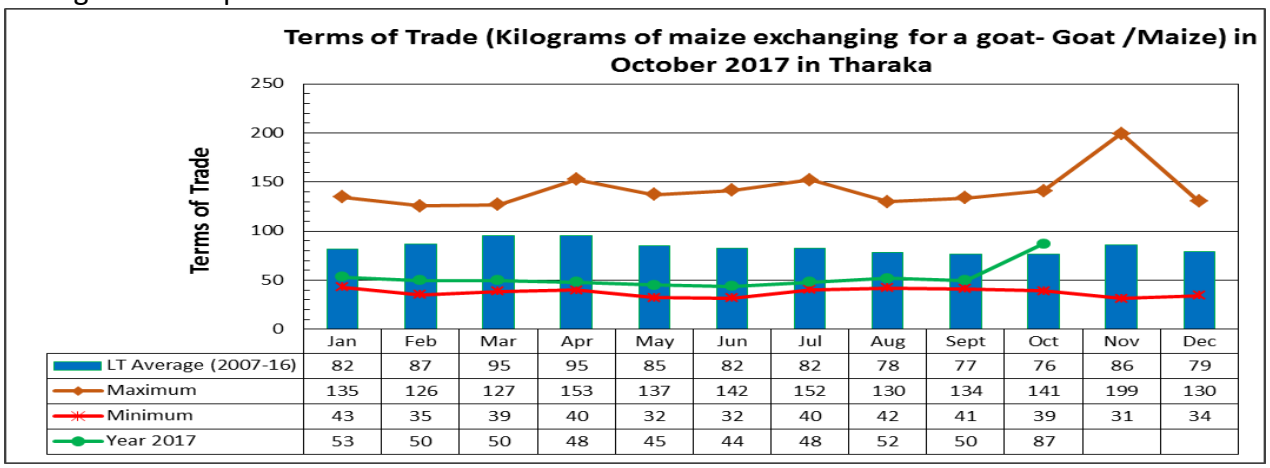
- There were no major reports of pests' infestation across all the livelihood zones.

3.0 ACCESS INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Prices

3.1.1 Terms of Trade

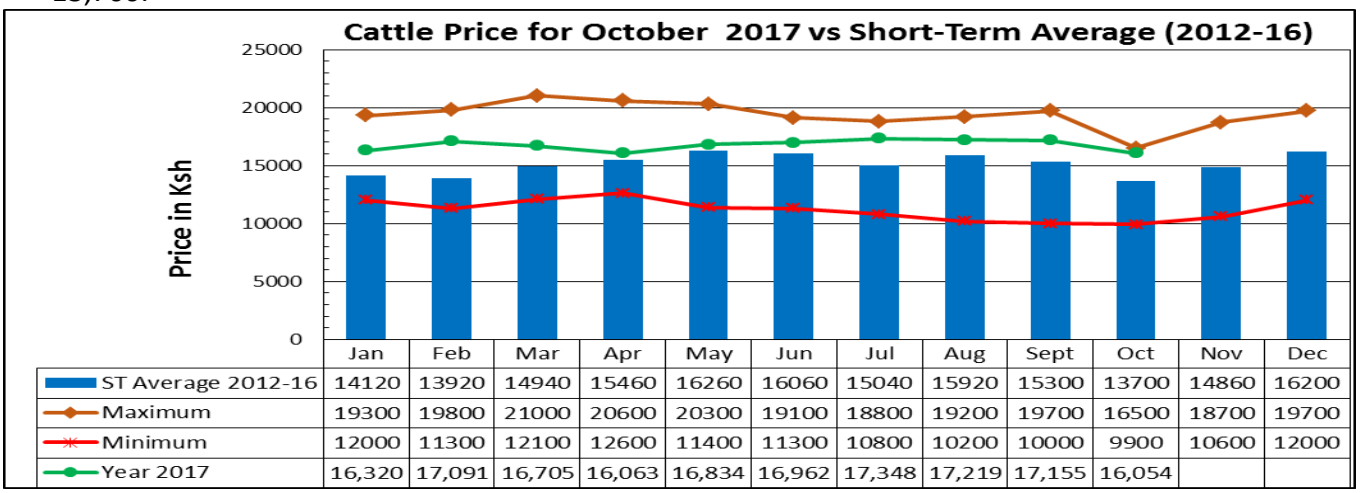
- The Terms of Trade increased from 48 in the previous month to 87 in October, 2017 due to a decrease in maize price in relation to an increase in goat price.
- The highest ratio was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone at 95.01; Rain fed cropping at 55.56 while Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone had ToT value of 76.32.
- The ToT for the period under review was 14.5 percent higher than the long-term average value during the same period.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
LT Average (2007-16)	82	87	95	95	85	82	82	78	77	76	86	79
Maximum	135	126	127	153	137	142	152	130	134	141	199	130
Minimum	43	35	39	40	32	32	40	42	41	39	31	34
Year 2017	53	50	50	48	45	44	48	52	50	87		

3.1.2 Cattle Prices

- The average household cattle price decreased from Ksh.17, 155 recorded in the previous month to Ksh. 16,054 in the month under review. Cattle prices dropped both at the farm gate and market levels, a factor that was attributed to the poor body condition following the poor quality and quantity of pasture in all livelihood zones.
- The Rain fed Cropping had the highest average price of Ksh 19,500, the Marginal Mixed Farming cattle price was Kshs 15,547 while that for the Mixed Farming livelihood zone was Ksh 16,258.
- The current price was 17.18 percent higher than the five-year short-term average of Kshs 13,700.

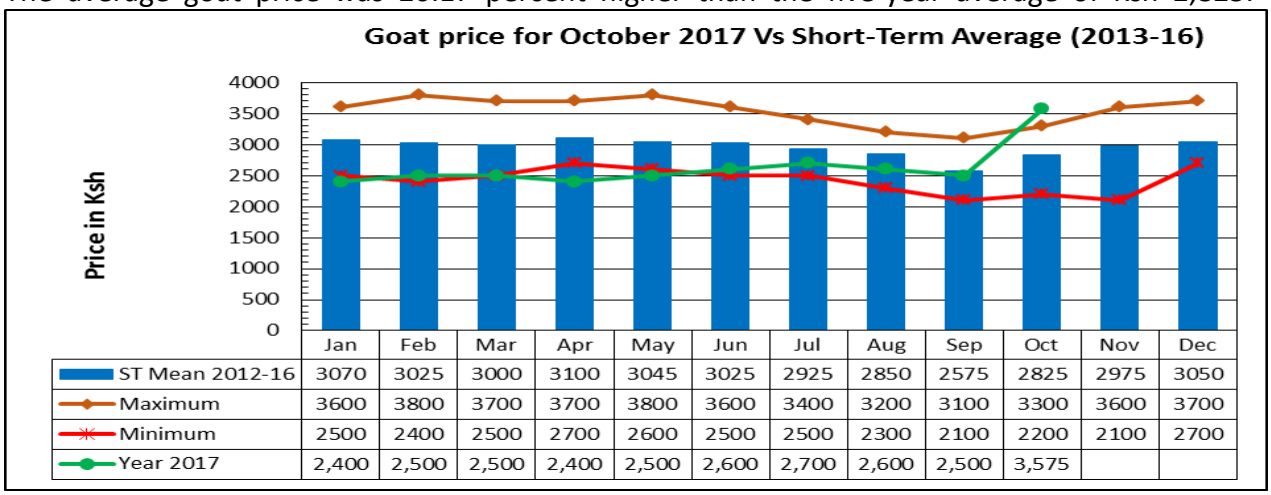


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
ST Average 2012-16	14120	13920	14940	15460	16260	16060	15040	15920	15300	13700	14860	16200
Maximum	19300	19800	21000	20600	20300	19100	18800	19200	19700	16500	18700	19700
Minimum	12000	11300	12100	12600	11400	11300	10800	10200	10000	9900	10600	12000
Year 2017	16,320	17,091	16,705	16,063	16,834	16,962	17,348	17,219	17,155	16,054		

Goat Prices

- The average goat price increased from Ksh. 2,500 in September to Ksh. 3,575 in the month of October. The increase in goat price was mainly attributed to the numerous droplets of dried leafs which were fed by goats hence providing plenty of goats' feed during the 1st dekad of October, leading to improved goats' body condition which in turn led to increased goat price.

- The Marginal Mixed Farming recorded the highest average goat's price of Ksh. 3,943; Mixed Farming livelihood zone had the price of Ksh. 2,900 while the Rain fed Cropping livelihood zone goat price was Ksh 2,500.
- The average goat price was 20.17 percent higher than the five-year average of Ksh 2,825.

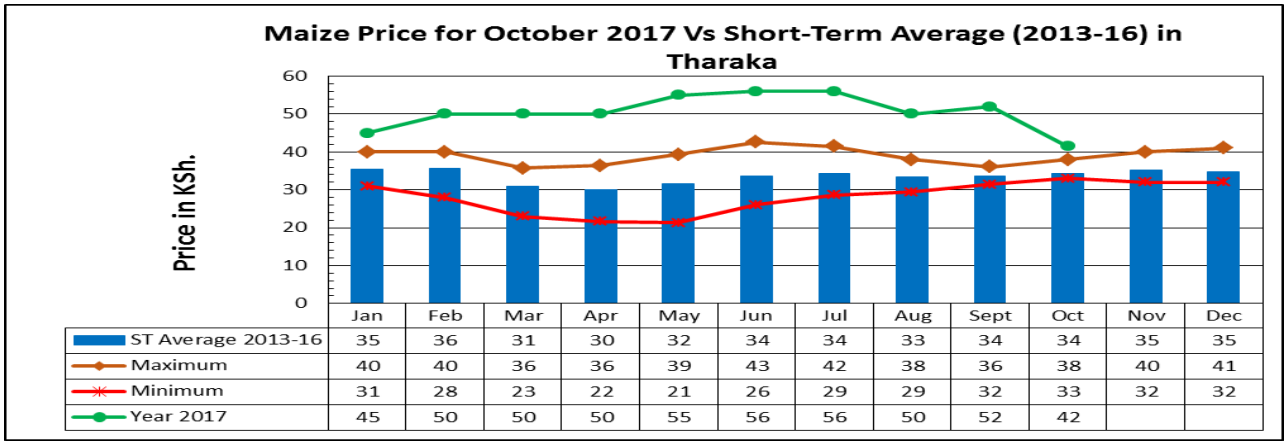


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ST Mean 2012-16	3070	3025	3000	3100	3045	3025	2925	2850	2575	2825	2975	3050
Maximum	3600	3800	3700	3700	3800	3600	3400	3200	3100	3300	3600	3700
Minimum	2500	2400	2500	2700	2600	2500	2500	2300	2100	2200	2100	2700
Year 2017	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,500	3,575		

Price of Cereals and Other Food Products

3.2 Maize Prices

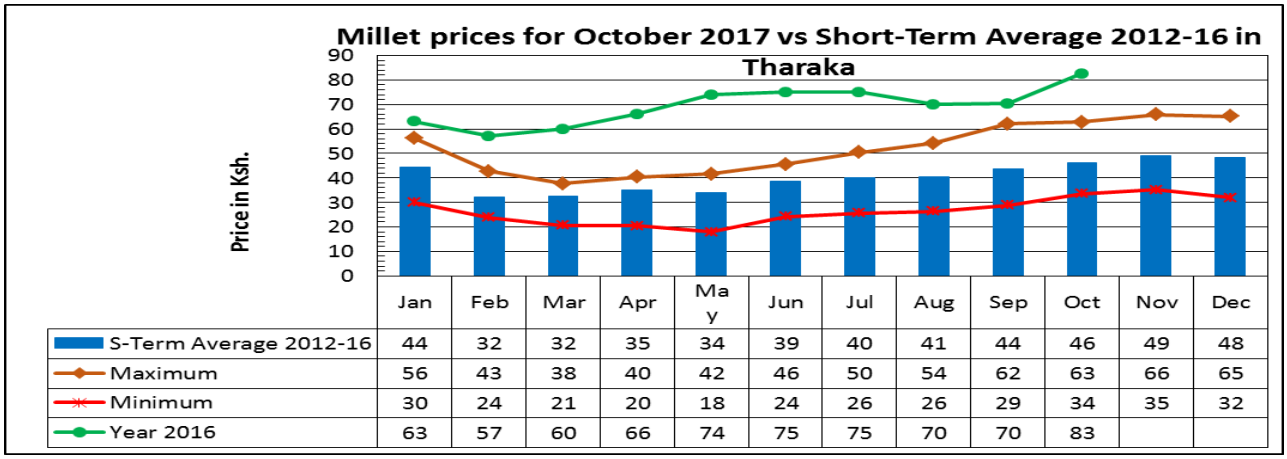
- The average market price of a kilogram of maize decreased from Ksh.52 in September to Kshs. 42 in October per Kg of maize**.** This was attributed to increased supplies of maize from other Counties leading to decreased market prices.
- The highest maize price was recorded in Rain Fed Cropping Zone at Kshs 41.50 per Kilogram, followed by Marginal Mixed Farming Zone at Kshs 41.5 per Kilogram while Mixed Farming Zone recorded the lowest price of Kshs 38 per Kilogram.
- The average maize price was 23.53 percent above the five-year average of Ksh 34.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
ST Average 2013-16	35	36	31	30	32	34	34	33	34	34	35	35
Maximum	40	40	36	36	39	43	42	38	36	38	40	41
Minimum	31	28	23	22	21	26	29	29	32	33	32	32
Year 2017	45	50	50	50	55	56	56	50	52	42		

3.3 Millet Price at Market Level

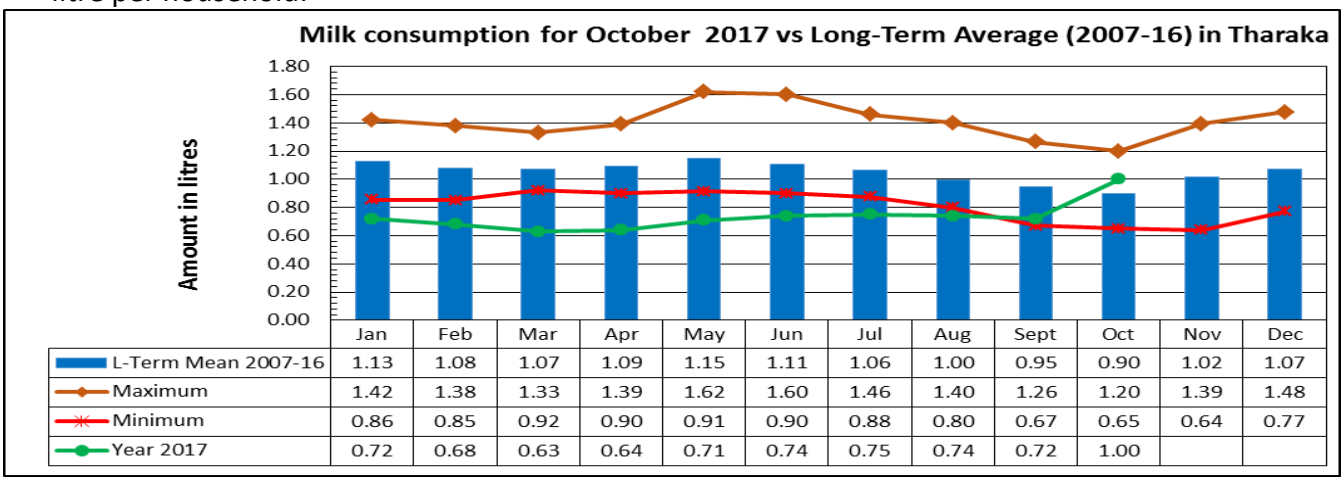
- The average market price of millet increased from Ksh.70 in the month of September to Kshs. 83 in the month of October. The increase in Millet price was mainly attributed to the just diminishing stocks from the concluded long rain harvest leading to increased price.
- The highest market prices were recorded in Rain Fed Livelihood Zone at Kshs 80/Kg, Followed by Marginal Mixed Farming Zone at Kshs 78.5/Kg while Mixed Farming livelihood Zone recorded the price of Kshs 70/Kg.
- The cereal's price was 80.43 percent above the short-term average of Kshs.46 per Kg.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
S-Term Average 2012-16	44	32	32	35	34	39	40	41	44	46	49	48
Maximum	56	43	38	40	42	46	50	54	62	63	66	65
Minimum	30	24	21	20	18	24	26	26	29	34	35	32
Year 2016	63	57	60	66	74	75	75	70	70	83		

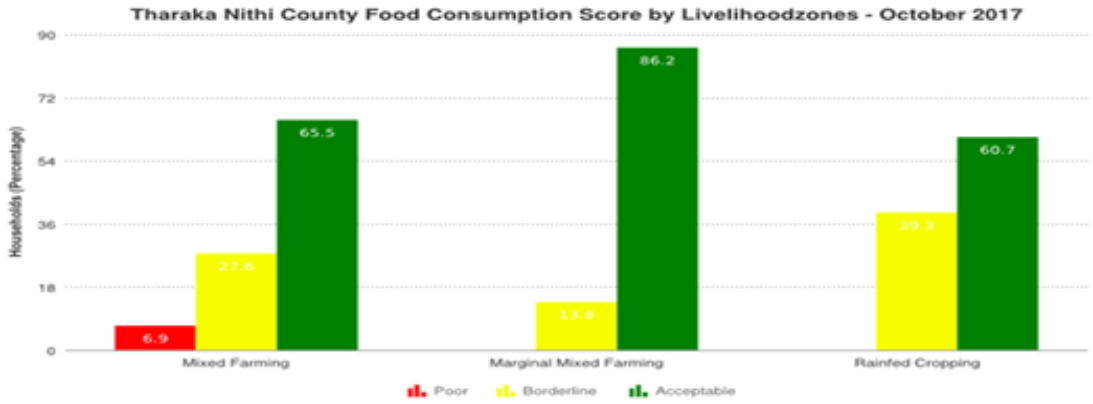
3.4 Milk Consumption

- The average milk consumption per household increased from 0.72 of a litre in the month of September to 1 a litre per household in the month of October, 2017. The increase was attributed to the slight increase in milk production recorded in all livelihood zones mainly from goats due to plenty of leaf droplets leading increased production of milk.
- The highest milk consumption was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming at 1.2 litre while households in Rain fed and Mixed Farming livelihood zones consumed 1 litre and 0.80 of a litre respectively.
- The average milk consumed was 11.1 percent above the 10-year long-term average of 0.9 of a litre per household.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
L-Term Mean 2007-16	1.13	1.08	1.07	1.09	1.15	1.11	1.06	1.00	0.95	0.90	1.02	1.07
Maximum	1.42	1.38	1.33	1.39	1.62	1.60	1.46	1.40	1.26	1.20	1.39	1.48
Minimum	0.86	0.85	0.92	0.90	0.91	0.90	0.88	0.80	0.67	0.65	0.64	0.77
Year 2017	0.72	0.68	0.63	0.64	0.71	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.72	1.00		

3.4.1 Food Consumption Score



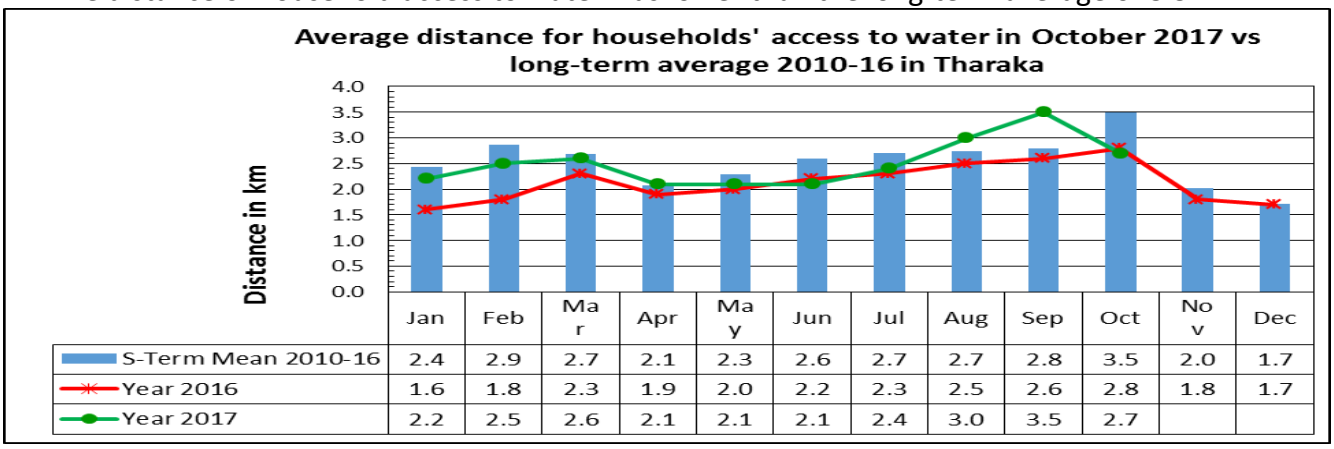
- An average of about 29.1 percent of the households were food insecure with poor and borderline food consumption scores, attributed to low stock and low purchasing power at house hold levels resulting to a decline in food access during the month of October. The majority of them were in the Mixed Farming and Rain Fed Livelihood Zones.

Period	Acceptable (%)	Borderline (%)	Poor (%)
February, 2017	31	53	16
March, 2017	30	52	18
April, 2017	27	53	20
May, 2017	26	52	23
June,2017	28	52.5	19
July,2017	30	65	15
August	26	56	18
September	26	52.33	21.666
October	70.8	26.8	2.3

- The poor food consumption score implies household are not consuming staples and vegetables every day and rarely consuming protein rich food, borderline imply household consuming staple, vegetable every day accompanied by oil and pulse a few times in a week while the acceptable imply households consuming staples, vegetables every day, and frequently accompanied by pulses.

3.5 Availability of Water for Household Consumption

- Average Household water distance decreased from 3.5 km in September to 2.7 Km in the month of October. The decrease in water distance was due to the onset of the short rains in mid-October which led to the recharge of water sources especially Rivers leading to decreased distance to water sources.
- The Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood recorded an average distance of 3.67 km , Rain Fed Cropping zone 2 Km while Mixed Farming livelihood zone 1.33 Km.
- The distance of household access to water was lower than the long-term average of 3.5 km.



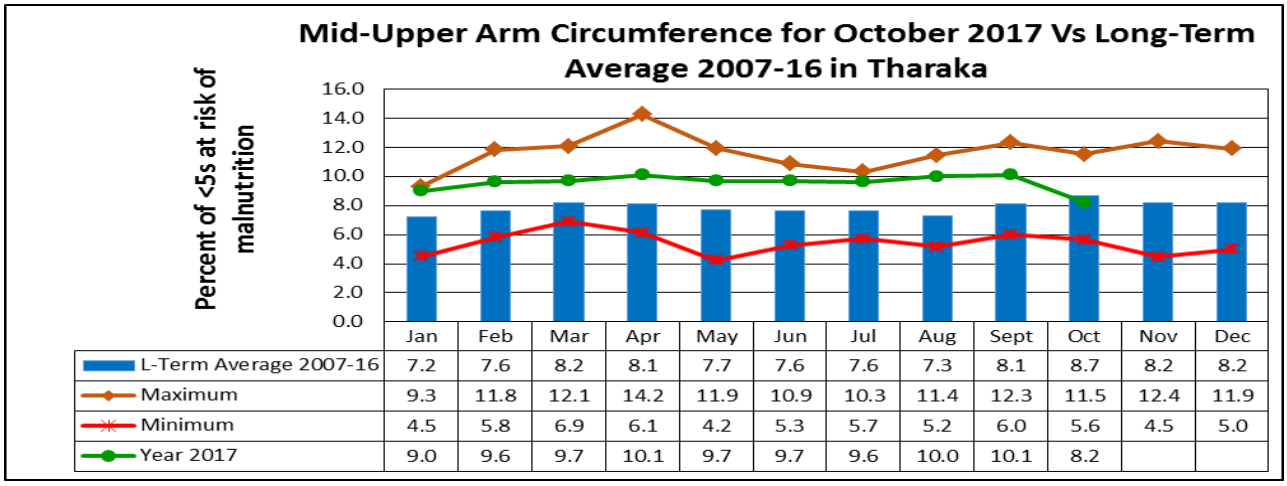
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
S-Term Mean 2010-16	2.4	2.9	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.5	2.0	1.7
Year 2016	1.6	1.8	2.3	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	1.8	1.7
Year 2017	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.4	3.0	3.5	2.7		

4.0 UTILISATION INDICATORS

4.1 Health and Nutrition Status

4.1.1 MUAC

- The proportion of children between 6 to 59 months at risk of malnutrition whose MUAC measurement was below 135 mm for the month of October decreased from 10.1 percent in September to 8.2 percent in October. This decrease in MUAC percentage is attributed to a slight increase in milk production and consumption.
- The highest proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was recorded in the Rain Fed Livelihood zone at 11.0 percent compared to 7.2 percent and 6.4 percent in the Mixed Farming and Rain Fed livelihood zones respectively.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition whose MUAC percentage measurement was below 135mm was above the long-term average of 8.7 percent.

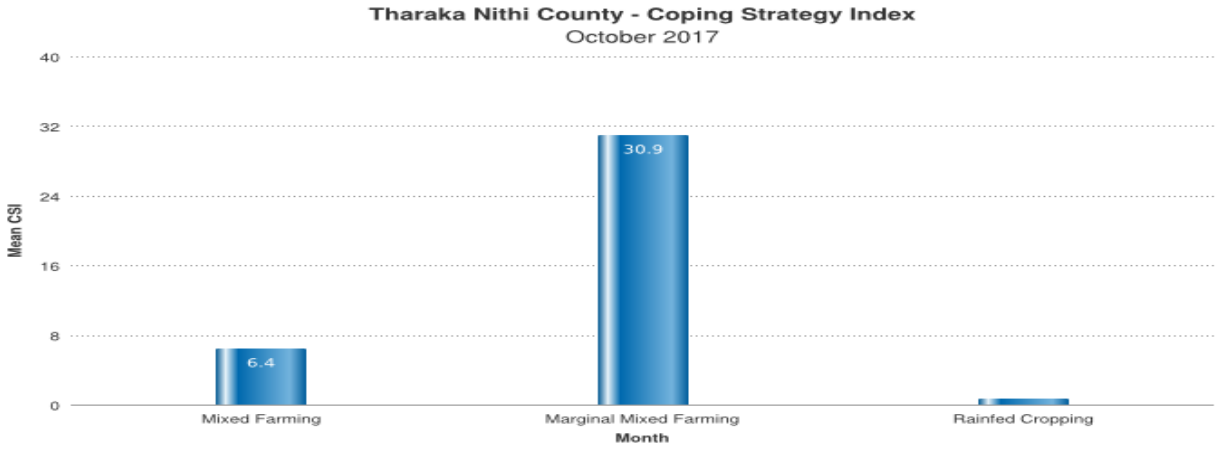


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
L-Term Average 2007-16	7.2	7.6	8.2	8.1	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.3	8.1	8.7	8.2	8.2
Maximum	9.3	11.8	12.1	14.2	11.9	10.9	10.3	11.4	12.3	11.5	12.4	11.9
Minimum	4.5	5.8	6.9	6.1	4.2	5.3	5.7	5.2	6.0	5.6	4.5	5.0
Year 2017	9.0	9.6	9.7	10.1	9.7	9.7	9.6	10.0	10.1	8.2		

4.1.2 Health

- The prevalence of most common diseases for the general population in Tharaka Nithi County include diseases of the respiratory system, malaria, skin disease, urinary tract infections and rheumatism while those mainly affecting children under five years include: diseases of the respiratory system, pneumonia, malaria, intestinal worms and skin diseases.

4.2 Coping Strategy Index



- The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) decreased from 15 in September to 12.63 in October which indicated a slight reduction in household stress due to lack of food or money to buy food during the month of October.
- The highest CSI was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone at 30.9, followed by Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone at 6.4 while Rain Fed Cropping had the lowest CSI of 0.6.
- The most commonly employed coping strategy mechanisms during the month of October included: - Reliance on less preferred and or less expensive food, reduction of the number of meals and reduction in portion or size of meals.
- A considerable proportion of households were noted to employ livelihood based coping strategies such as sale of some household assets, spending of savings as well as borrowing of short term loans.

5.0 Food Security Prognosis

- There was onset of the short rains during the second week of October (13th October 2017) as predicted by the Kenya Meteorological Department which was normal onset for Tharaka Nithi County. The temporal and spatial distribution of the rains was good during the 1st two weeks of the onset with most of the livelihood Zones receiving rainfall for an average of 5 days. Planting has been completed in most of the Livelihood Zones and most of the farmers are preparing for weeding.

- Recharge of ground water especially permanent rivers was up to 30% of normal level which was fair while that of the underground water was still poor at about 10% however, water recharge is expected to improve if the short rains persist. Water sources are expected to improve leading to reduced distance of both household and Livestock watering distance.
- Within a few weeks, browse and pasture is expected to regenerate hence shorter grazing distance, improved milk production, improved livestock body condition and prices. Internal livestock Migration is expected to reduce along the park due to pasture and browse regeneration. Resource based conflicts emanating from competition for pasture and water is likely to decrease in the Marginal and Mixed Farming livelihood Zones due to reduced migration of Livestock into the County from the neighbouring counties of Isiolo and Garissa.
- Levels of Global Acute Malnutrition are also expected to reduce across most of the livelihood Zones due to increased milk production.
- The short rains is expected to perform well resulting to higher yield and good harvest which will in turn lead higher food stocks at household level, low commodity prices hence improved household food security. This will however be realised at the end of the three months should the rains perform well.
- Terms of Trade was favourable to Livestock farmers compared to crop farmers due to improved performance of livestock markets for goats during the month of October. Deprived food availability at the household level may significantly affect school attendance and performance of food insecure households in Igambang'ombe, Kamanyaki, Kamarandi, Maragwa, Usueni, Gatunga, Gituma, Nkarini and Kanjoro locations all found in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones.
- Households in the County are likely to remain in the stressed phase (IPC Phase 2) across all livelihood zones until the short rains harvest.

6.0 EMERGING ISSUES

6.1 Insecurity

- Increased theft of livestock from the neibouring pastoralist's community of Somalia and Borana from Garissa and Mbalambala along the Meru National park has made the area a potential conflict zone.

- Theft and small crimes have also increased as a way of obtaining food due to lose of livelihoods due to the ongoing drought resulting to increased insecurity in the county.

7.0 CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Food Interventions

7.1.1 September, Gok Relief Food Intervention Due To Drought

Location	Maize (50kgs)	Beans (90kgs)	Rice (50kgs)	Cooking Oil (24x0.5litres)
Gikingo	160	12	100	30
Thiiti	160	12	100	30
Ntoroni	160	12	100	30
Gatunga	300	90	150	30
Maragwa	250	70	120	30
Kathangachini	300	70	140	30
Kanjoro	250	70	120	30
Schools	20	70	70	20
DCC's office	100	60	100	20
Total	1700	466	1000	250

7.1.2 Relief Food Allocated to 60 Schools in 4 Sub Counties by the County Commissioner's Office

Food commodity	Quantity Available for distribution	No of Schools	No. of bags per school	Beneficiary Sub County
Beans	197Bags of 90kg each	60	3Bags	**Tharaka North-** 11 schools **Maara-** 10 Schools **Chuka Igambang'ombe-**29 **(Meru South)** **Tharaka South-** 10 Schools
Rice	498Bags of 50kg each	60	8Bags	
Maize	790Bags of 50kg each	60	13Bags	
Cooking Oil	100 Carton	60	**7** Carton	

7.2 Non-Food Interventions by County Department of Agriculture

- Distribution of relied food to 1,115 household by Caritas through the voucher based approach in Kathangachini, Kanjoro, Kajuki and Kamaindi. Each household was getting 5 vouchers worth 500 each (Total 2,500/=).
- Supply of 3,000 improved kienyeji poultry breeds by Caritas in locations where 300 families had earlier on received 10 poultry breeds each.
- Tonnes of green grams were distributed to farmers in Tharaka North by the County department of Agriculture.
- Supply of seeds i.e. Sorghum (Gadam 1200kgs) and green grams (1200kgs) in the same locations by Caritas.
- Tonnes of Sorghum seeds were distributed to farmers in Tharaka North by the department of Agriculture.
- 1 Tonne of Cowpeas seeds were distributed to farmers in Tharaka North by the department of Agriculture
- 5,000 cartons of cassava were distributed to farmers by the department of Agriculture.
- 2,500 sweet potato vanes were distributed to farmers by the department of Agriculture.
- Support of Vaccinations of goats against CCPP and sheep and goats against goat pox by Caritas. A total of 8000 doses of CCPP for goats and 8700 doses for sheep and goats were procured and used for the vaccination exercise.- 9,000 goats were vaccinated, 3,000 sheep and donkeys against rabies.
- 80 bags of range cubes for livestock awaiting distribution in at least 4 locations at Marimanti livestock department buildings.

7.3 Recommendations

- Activation of the Drought Contingency plan and to support the rapid response team to carry out drought interventions during this drought alarm period by NDMA.
- Support of Range Cube distribution by provision of 150 litres of fuel and facilitation of livestock Officers by NDMA during this drought alarm period.
- Provision of livestock survival marsh and additional range cubes for livestock in the two sub counties during this drought alarm period by NDMA.
- Provision of 10 Water storage tanks for vulnerable local institutional and schools to promote water harvesting.

- Upscale Intra and inter county livestock vaccination, deworming, vector control and treatment of the sick animals; 79,000 goats and 8,000 sheep are in need of protection and treatment during this drought alarm period.
- Provision of water treatment chemicals at household level and at piped water reservoirs to minimise the risk of outbreak of water borne diseases.
- Peace Meeting and sensitisation on conflict resolution methods and common resource use in order to minimise resource based conflicts.