

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock	Alert	Deteriorating
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops	Normal	Stable
Casual Waged Labour: Sisal Farms	Normal	Stable
National Park	Alert	Deteriorating
Trade/Business	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	112	80 - 120
SPI-3Month (TAMSAT)	-0.04	-1.0 to 1.0
VCI-3Month	41.27	35-50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Ploughing	Ploughing
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production	10.5	18 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Ranches	Ranches
Livestock deaths (drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	105.4	83
Milk Consumption	8.8	10 litres
Return distance to water sources	3.1	<5 Km
Return distance to grazing areas	4.5	<6 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	7	< Kshs 5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	1.7	<6.6

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The county received off season rains in the month under review.
- The rains were moderate and were recorded on the 19th and 20th.
- Though unevenly distributed the rains promoted pasture regeneration and recharge of water sources.
- Vegetation condition index stood at 41.27 depicting normal vegetation greenness.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Land preparation continued in most parts of the county.
- Livestock body condition was fair to poor especially for cattle.
- Milk production has remained the same but still below normal.

Access Indicators

- Milk consumption was below normal.
- Return distances to water sources and grazing areas remained within the normal range.
- There were reduced cases reported of human wildlife conflict.
- Terms of Trade remained favourable and above normal range.

Utilization Indicators

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was within normal range.

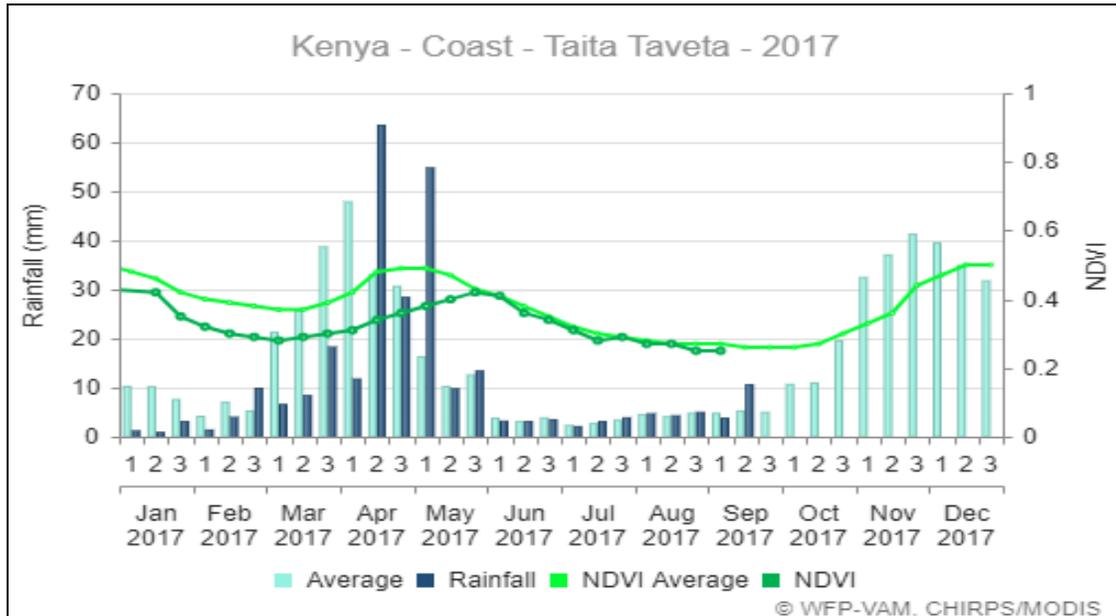
Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Increased HH Food Stocks Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests Increased HH Food Stocks A long dry spell Land preparation Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received off season rains except lowlands of Taita Sub County and Mwakitau sub location.
- Mwarungu station in mixed farming; horticulture/ dairy livelihood zone recorded two days moderate rains totalling 30.0 mm,
- According to WFP-VAM, CHIRPS/MODIS chart below, current NDVI averages are below the LTM while rainfall estimates in the second dekad was above the LTM.

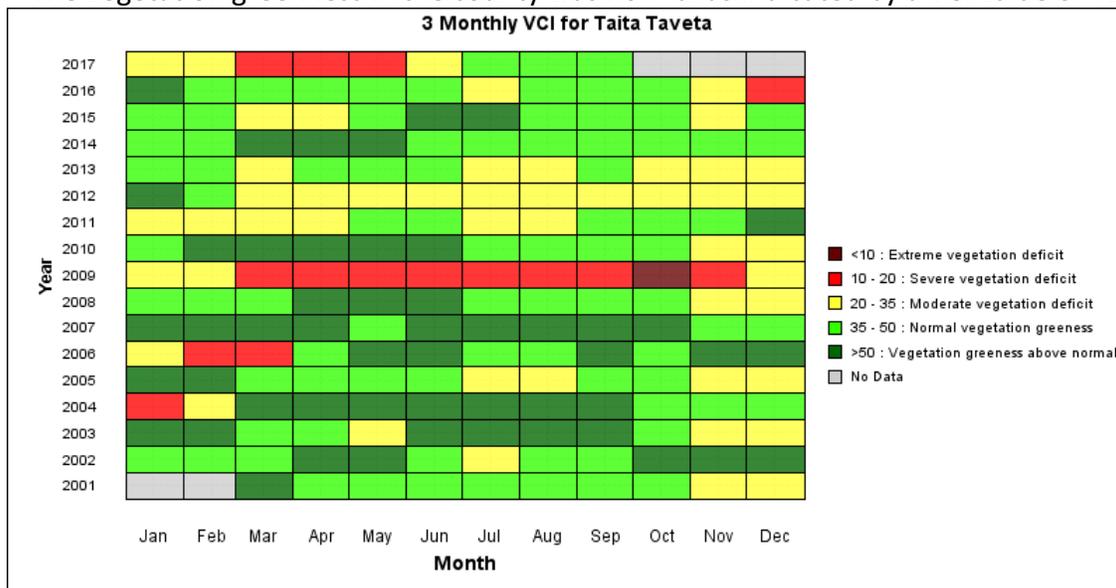


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The vegetation greenness in the county was normal as indicated by a VCI value of 41.27.



2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews and observation the pasture condition ranged from fair to poor and the available quantities were generally to last for 2 weeks.
- During the month 26.1 and 73.9 percent of the communities interviewed reported the pasture condition to be in fair and poor conditions respectively and the situation had slightly deteriorated compared to the previous month. Relatively, the situation was better in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock and mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zones where all communities reported pasture condition to have been fair while in the mixed farming: food crop/livestock zone 85 percent reported pasture to have been poor and the main affected areas included. Kasigau Ward, Mbulia, lower Sagalla, Jipe, Mahoo and Mata wards, Mgeno, Mwakitau, Msorongu, Mwachabo, Kishushe, Sangenyi and Mwaroko.
- Access to pasture in parts of mixed farming: food crop/livestock zone was constrained by unavailability of water near grazing areas.

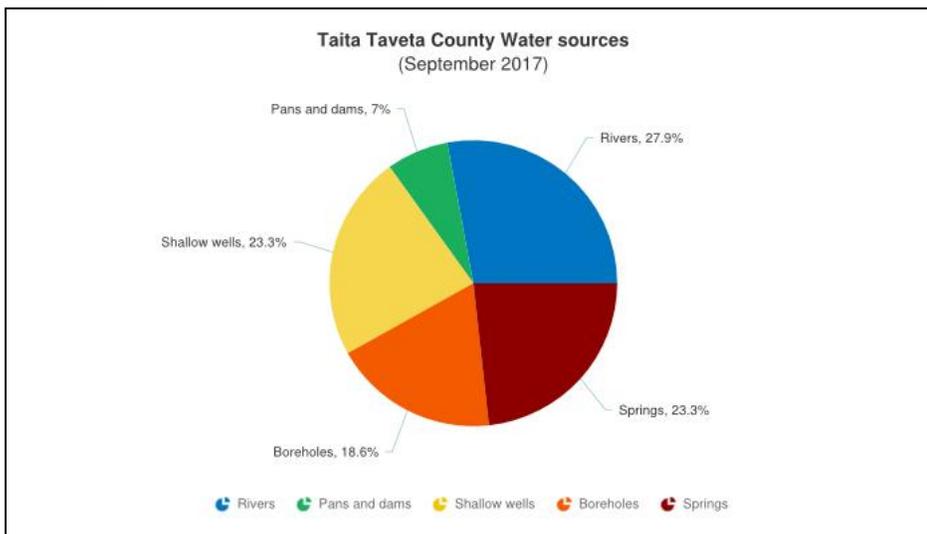
2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition was generally poor. Approximately 26.1 and 73.9 percent of the communities reported browse to be in fair and poor condition respectively and the situation is normal for this time of the year. Poor browse situation was reported in mixed farming; food crop/ livestock livelihood zone and this was mainly attributed to poor regeneration during the long rains season.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

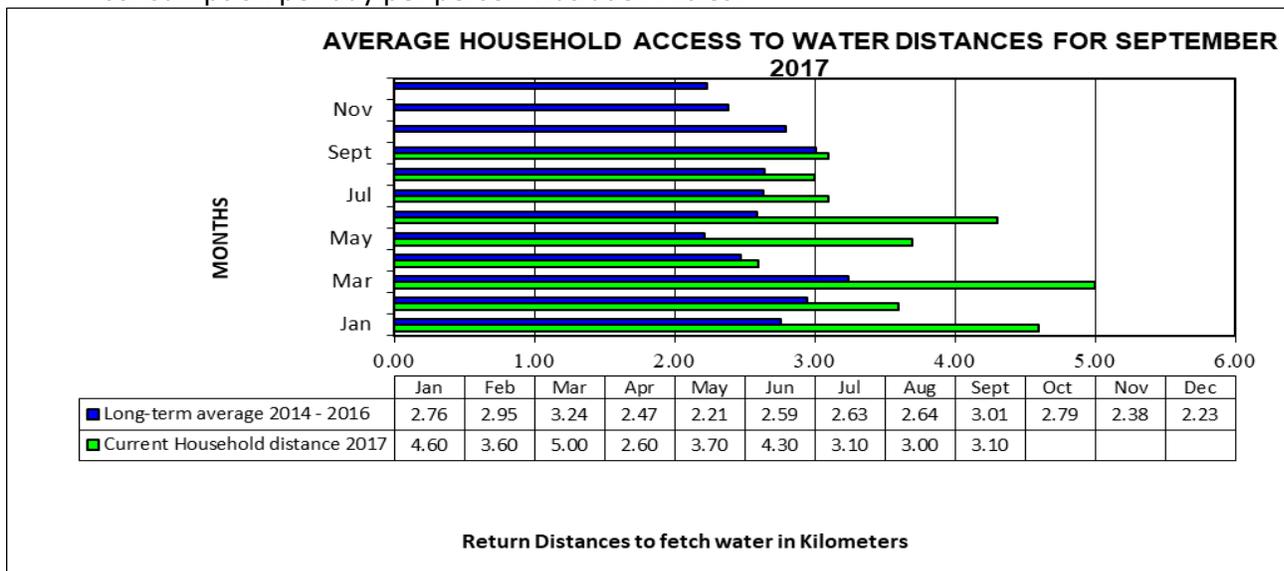
2.2.1 Sources

- The main water sources were rivers, springs, bore holes, shallow wells and Pans & Dams at 27.9%, 23.3%, 18.6%, 23.3 % and 7.0% respectively.
- Areas that experienced water stress in the month under review were Lessesia, Malukiloriti, Ndara, Rahasi, Kajire, Kisimenyi, Rukanga, Jora, Zungulukani, Mgeno, Mwakitau, Mwachabo, Mwaroko, Sangenyi, Kishushe, Paranga, Mlilo, Ngongodinyi and Mbulia.



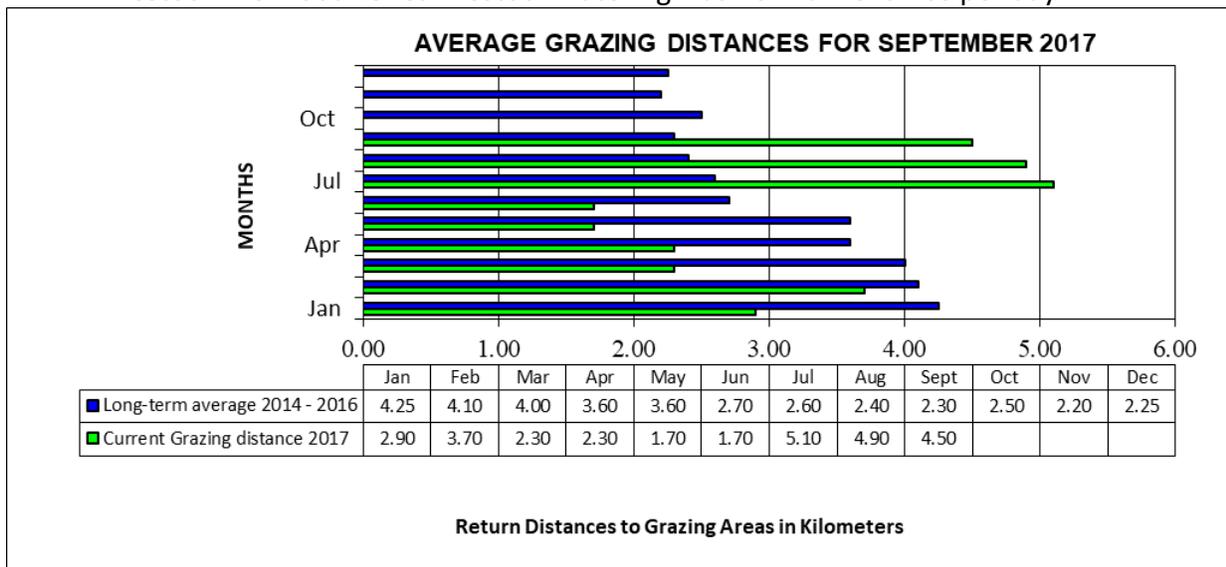
2.2.2 Household access to Water.

- The return distance to water sources increased to 3.1 km from 3.0 km compared to the previous month and longer than the long term average by 2.9 percent. Communities majorly relied on their normal sources of water at this time of the year.
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can in the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone was above normal at Kshs 8 at source and Kshs 20 from vendors.
- Approximately, 71 percent of the households purchased water while water consumption per day per person was at 9.4 litres.



2.2.3 Livestock Access to Grazing Areas

- Average return distance by livestock to grazing areas reduced to 4.5 km compared to 4.9 km during the previous month.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone, the return distances was recorded at 8km due to increased distances from the grazing areas to the water points following depletion of forage in the normal grazing areas.
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones livestock watering was normal i.e. twice per day.



3. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

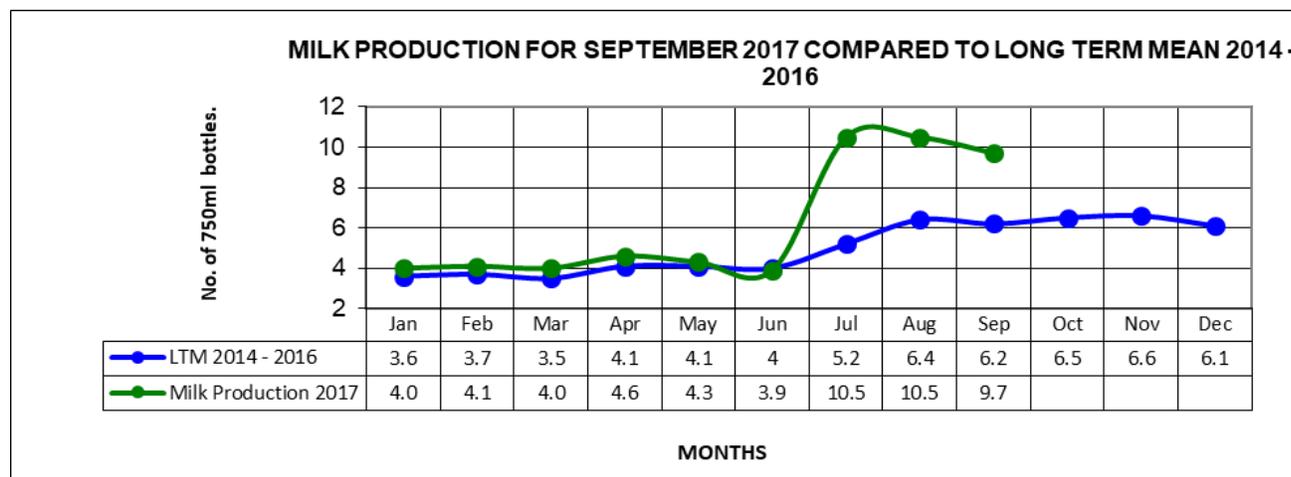
- The body condition for cattle ranged from good to fair in the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zone the condition ranged from fair to poor.
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones forage and water is available while in the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zone forage condition was poor.
- The body condition for goats and sheep was generally good across the county and this was attributed to availability and access to browse and the situation is likely to prevail until the onset of the short rains in October.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No major cases of livestock diseases were reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production per day reduced to 9.7 litres from 10.5 litres posted in the previous month.
- In the highlands of Taita Sub County, farmers in the dairy zone areas of Wumingu Ward registered near normal milk production.
- Average milk price per litre at household level increased to Kshs 57.0 from Kshs 50.0.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

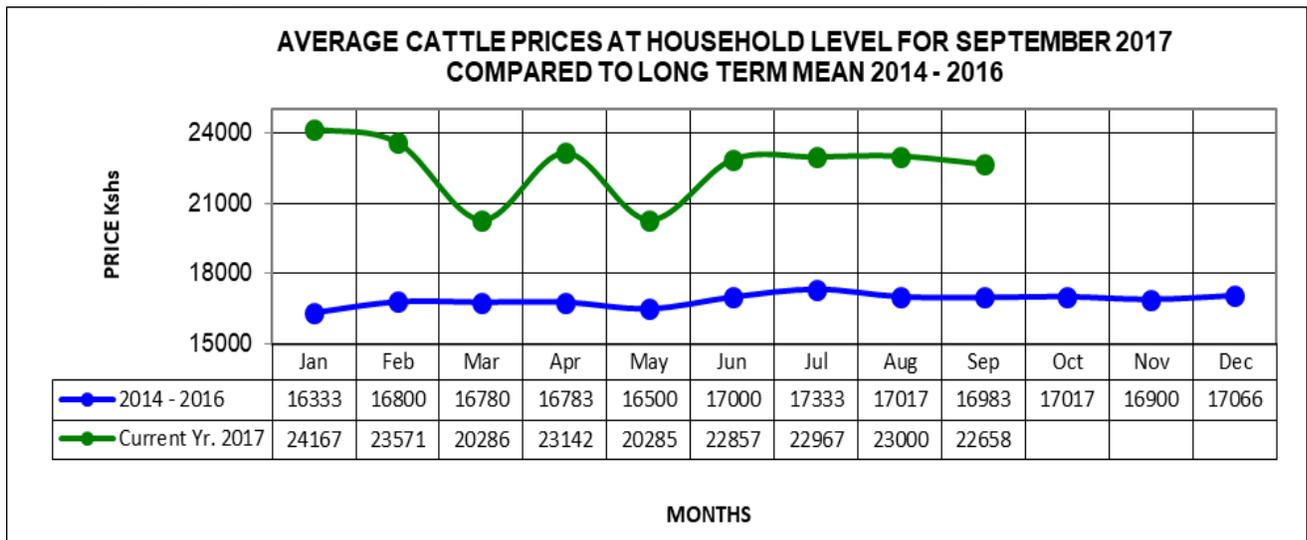
- No crop was available in the field under rain fed agriculture. However in the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were busy harvesting beans, tomatoes and bananas.
- Other crops included; onions and kales that were at various stages of growth and the crop condition were good.
- No pest and diseases reported so far.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

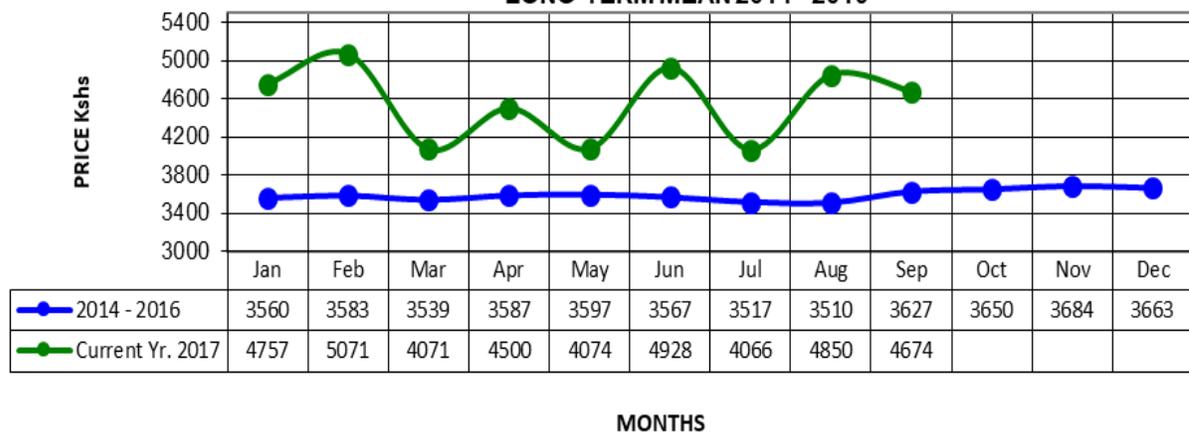
- The average market price of a three year old bull decreased to Kshs 22,658 from Kshs 23,000 recorded in the previous month.
- The trend is normal at this time of the year.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 33.4%.
- Comparatively, in the horticulture/dairy livelihood zone cattle prices ranged between Kshs 25,000 to Ksh 38,000 while in hotspot areas mainly in food crops/livestock livelihood zone prices ranged between Kshs 9,000 to Kshs 18,000 and this was mainly attributed to variation in body condition with the latter reporting fair to poor body condition.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The average price decreased to Kshs 4,674 from Ksh 4,850 in the previous month at household level which is normal during this time of the year.
- The price is expected to remain the same given that most farmers will be forced to sell goat to get income to purchase food like maize and pulses.
- Livelihood variations were notable, in the horticulture/dairy livelihood zone goat prices ranged between Kshs 3,000 to Kshs 6,000 while in hotspot areas mainly in the mixed farming: food crops/ livestock livelihood zone prices ranged between Kshs 2,500 to Kshs 4,000. This is due to varying browse quantity and distances to water sources.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 28.9%.

AVERAGE GOAT PRICES AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 COMPARED TO LONG TERM MEAN 2014 - 2016

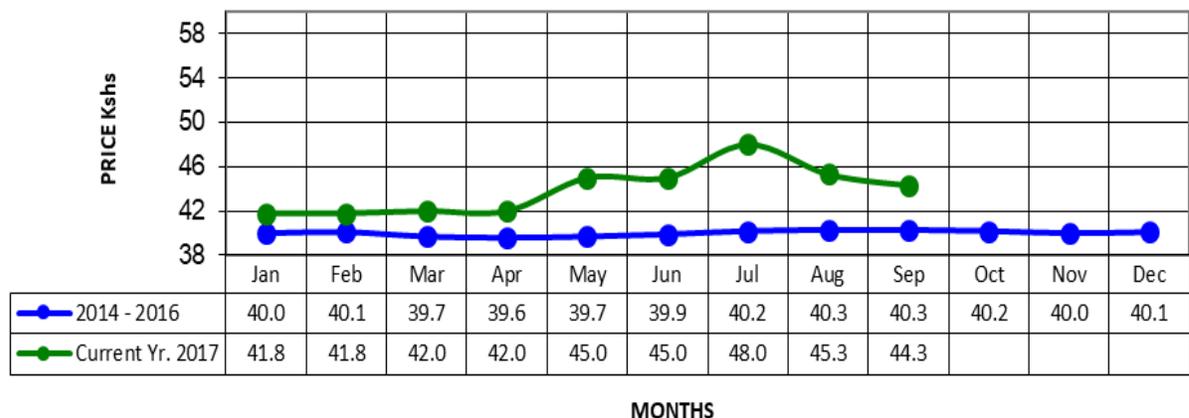


4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

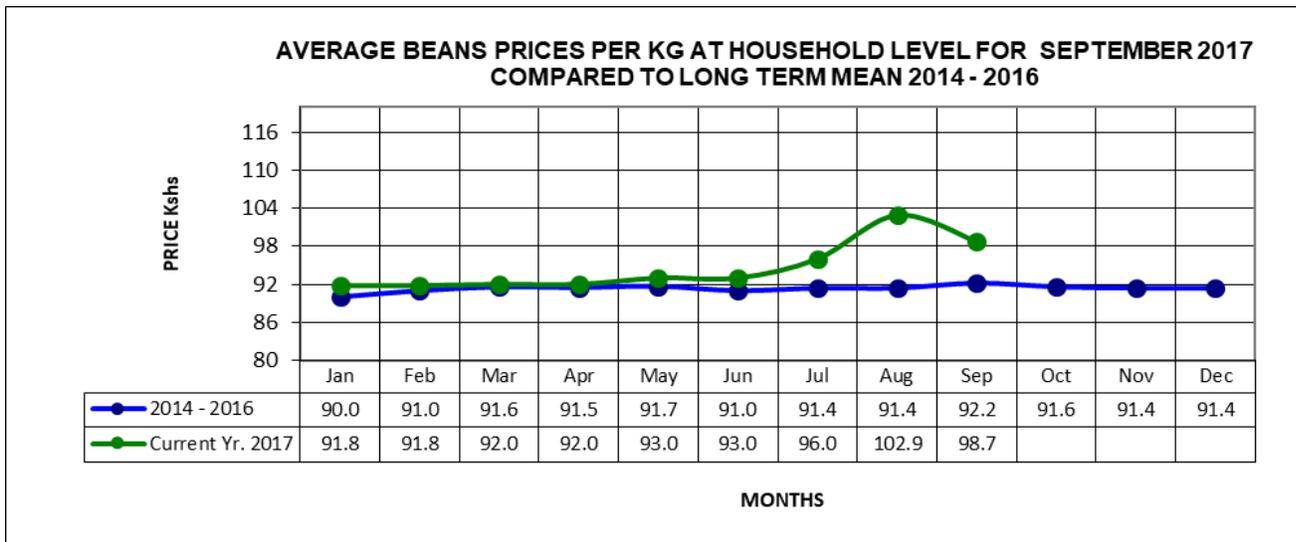
- The average price of a kilo of maize retailed at Kshs 44.3 which represents 2.2% drop compared to the previous month. The fall in price was attributed to increased supplies from crop harvest in Taveta irrigated zone and imports from Tanzania.
- The prices ranged from Kshs 42.00 to Kshs 45.00 in the mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock livelihood zone, areas of Challa and Eldoro in Taveta Sub County.
- Highest prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone, Mghange Dawida, Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza at Kshs 48.00 to Kshs 54.00 in Taita, Voi and Mwatate Sub Counties.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 9.9%.

AVERAGE MAIZE PRICES PER KG AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 COMPARED TO LONG TERM MEAN 2014 - 2016



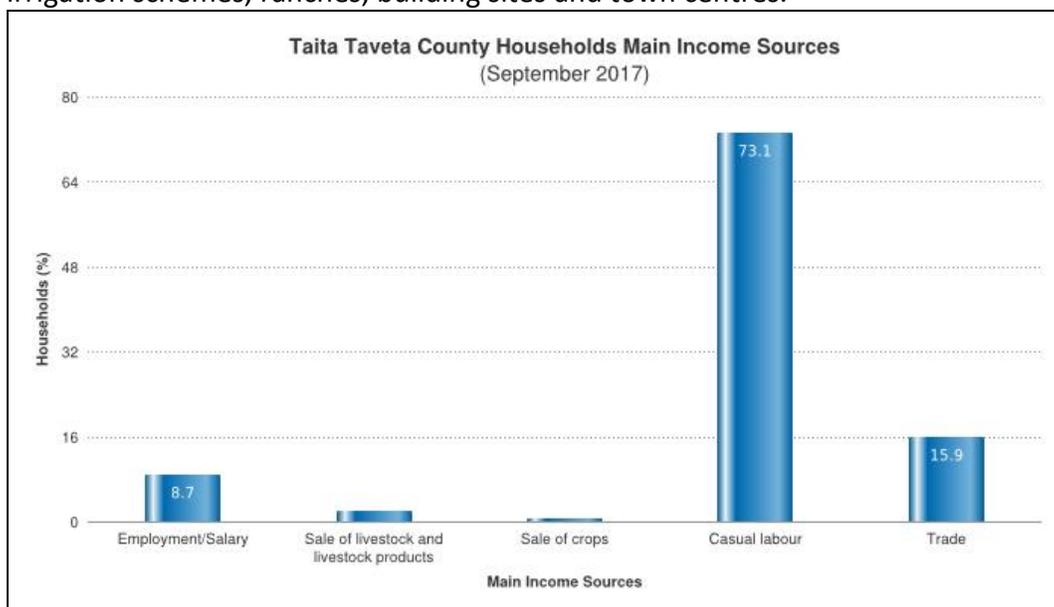
4.2.2 Beans

- Average price of a kilo of beans retailed at Kshs 98.7 which represents a 4.1% decline compared to the previous month. The drop was attributed to harvests being realized in Taveta irrigated zone and imports from neighbouring country Tanzania.
- Lowest prices were recorded in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zone; Challa at Kshs 70- 90 due to harvests from irrigation schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 90 to 120 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 7.0%.



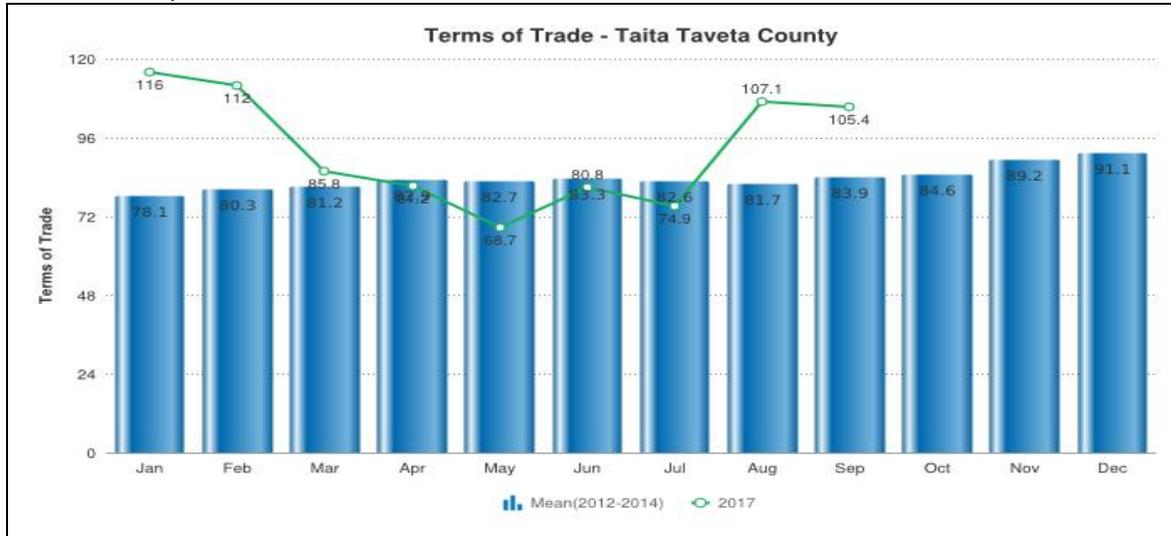
4.3 INCOME

- Household main sources of income were casual labour, trade, and employment/salary at 73.1%, 15.9% and 8.7% households respectively.
- Casual labour opportunities were available in the sisal plantation, mining sector, irrigation schemes, ranches, building sites and town centres.



4.4 TERMS OF TRADE

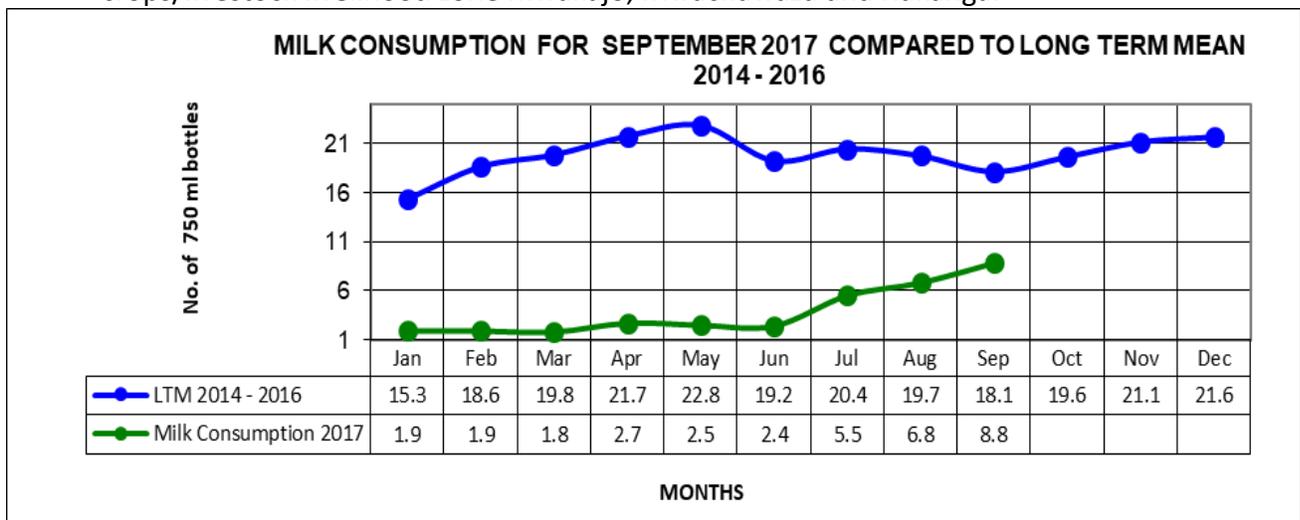
- Terms of trade remained favourable and above the LTM. Proceeds of a sale of goat purchased 105.4 kg of maize compared to 107.1 kg during the previous month.
- This was attributed to prevailing high price of goats and decline in the market price of maize.
- The situation is expected to remain the same given that goat body condition is expected to improve due to onset of short rains in mid October.



5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

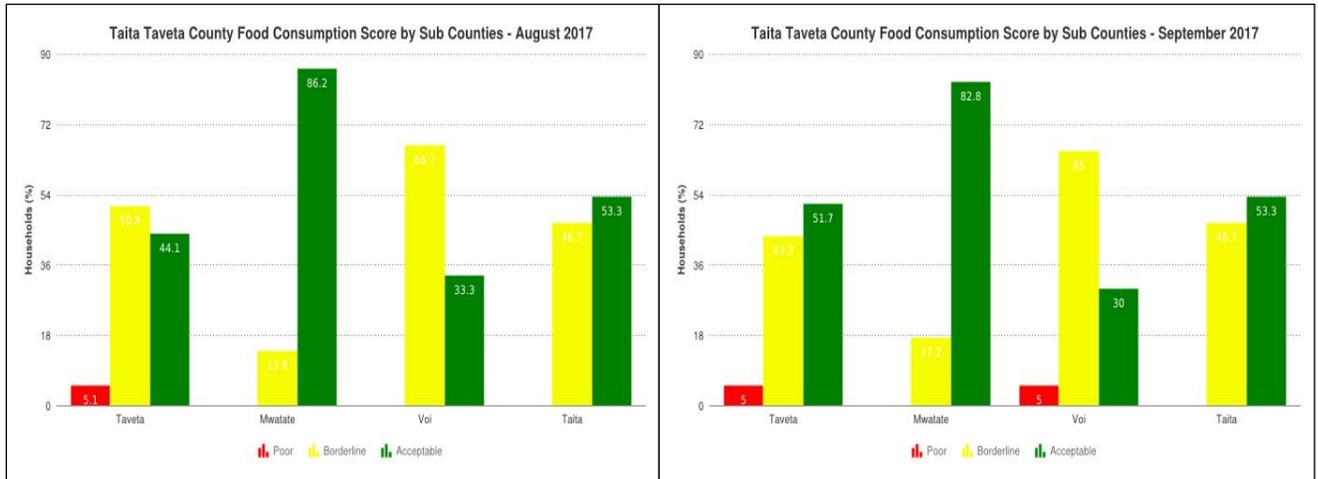
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The milk consumption per day increased to 8.8 litres from 6.8 litres as posted in the previous month.
- The increment in milk consumption was attributed to good body condition of cattle in the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy livelihood zone which dominates milk production.
- The quantity of milk consumed was high in mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy livelihood zone areas of Mwarungu; while low consumption in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

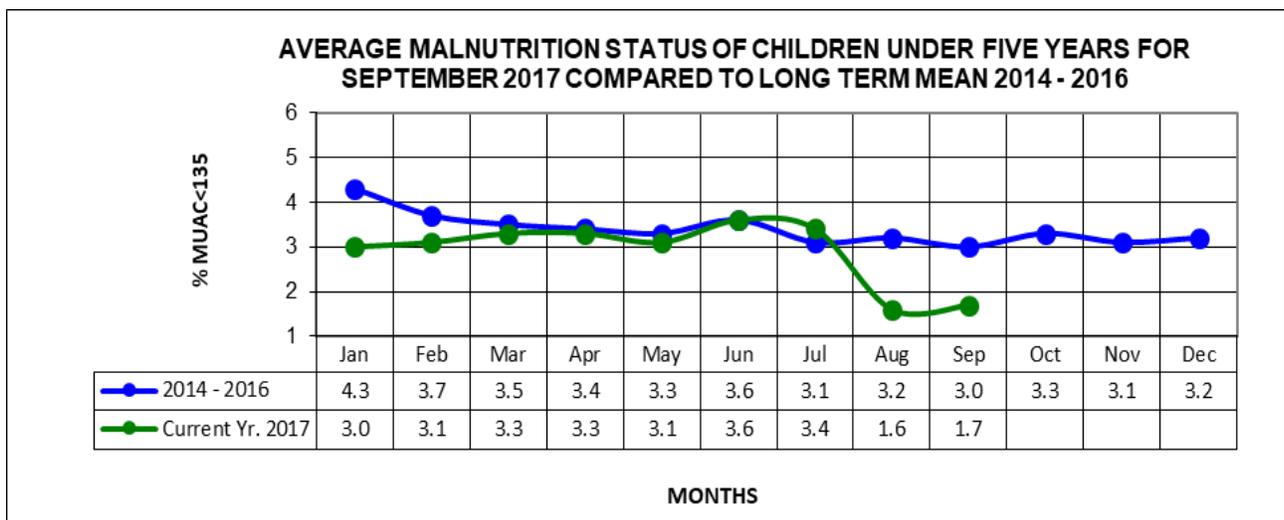
- The number of households with acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score during the month was 54.4, 42.8 and 2.8 percent respectively.
- Main meals consumed in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone were two food groups that are ugali and vegetables.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Compared to the previous month, Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for nutrition status of children below five years percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition increased to 1.7 from 1.6.
- Compared to long term mean, MUAC level is lower by 43.3%.

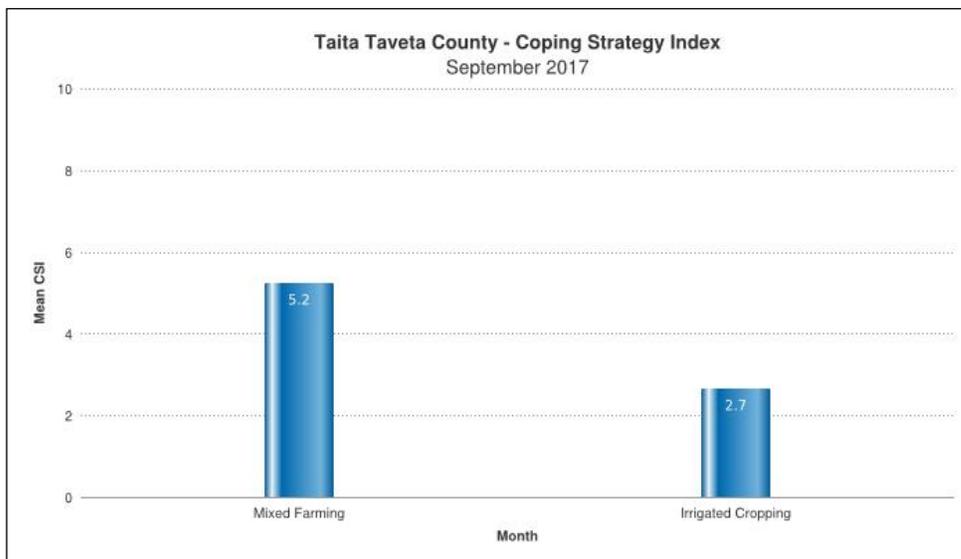


5.3.2 Health

- Fever with breathing difficulties and fever with chills were reported.

5.3.3 Coping Strategies.

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 4.87 compared to 4.56 posted in the previous month. This illustrates that more households employed more coping strategies especially in the mixed farming: food crop / livestock livelihood zone.



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Achievements in August 2017
Social Protection	
Chakula Kwa Jamii	Unconditional National Government funded project - Enrolment of 10,325 beneficiaries under Chakula Kwa Jamii (CKJ) was finalized and first batch of disbursement of Ksh. 2,327 per registered house hold was released by use of scratch cards totalling Kshs 23,234,600.
Asset Creation Project	WFP and National government are the main donors in partnership with County government and World Vision - 6 Farm ponds of 250m ³ capacities were equipped with dam liners, tanks and drawing pumps. Funding sources was from NDMA and about 80 farm ponds of 80.3 m ³ and 5 of 250 m ³ remained unequipped.
Safety Nets	A total food value cash of Kshs 12,959,165.99 was disbursed to 5,848 Cash for Asset beneficiaries to compensate the work norm achieved in the month of July and Kshs 13,398,848.54 for the month of August.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 HOTSPOTS

- Areas that have experienced long dry spell since December 2016 and require constant food or non food assistance are Kishushe, Mwaroko, Sangenyi, Mlilo and Mbulia.

7.2 MIGRATION

- No major in or out migration was reported in the month under review.

7.3 CONFLICT

- Predation of livestock by wild cats remain a challenge in areas of Ngolia Ward, Buguta, Sasenyi, Makwasinyi, Rukanga, Jora, Kajire, Ndara, Talio, Mazola, Marapu and Zongwani.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The Meteorological department has forecasted the onset of short rains in the third and fourth week of October.
- Off season rains prompted farmers to plant in the rain fed lowlands.
- The rains have enhanced pasture regeneration and recharge of water sources.
- Livestock body condition is expected to improve due to shorter distances covered in search of water, pasture and browse.
- High prices of food stuffs have reduced household purchasing power.
- Drought response activities to continue mainly in the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zone.
- Early implementation of preparedness activities in the county will reduce severity of drought during the dry spell.
- Overgrazing, human wildlife conflict and deforestation remains a threat to food security in the county.
- LRA 2017 population in need of food assistance was at 77,694 (2009 census KNBS).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS.

Social Protection Sector

- Upscale CFA and General Food Distribution beneficiaries especially in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone.

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

- Crop protection especially in irrigated zone.
- Provision of supplementary feed in areas experiencing pasture stress.
- Promotion of pasture and browse management through bailing.

Water and Irrigation Sector

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.
- Promotion of water harvesting structures at household level.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen malnutrition screening and active case search and integrated management of acute malnutrition especially in the lowlands of the county.
- Incorporate 'Beyond Zero' facility during outreaches.

Education

- Upscale and expand School Meals Program especially in Taita Sub County.