National Drought Management Authority
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY (THARAKA)
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2021

March 2021 EW Phase

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- There was false onset of rainfall during the 2nd week of March. An average Rainfall of 24.2 mm was recorded in March which was below normal. Status of water sources realised a slight decline but still remained normal. The overall vegetation cover across the County showed some reduction but still remained normal, this was enhanced by the use of crop residue to supplement forage. Farming activities in March were land preparation and planting.
- From the weather forecast and participatory scenario planning, onset of rainfall was expected from 3rd to 4th week of March. Enhanced rainfall was also expected in the upper parts of Tunyai, upper Gakurungu, Thiiti and upper Ntoroni while depressed rainfall was expected in Chakariga, Kamanyaki, Gituma, Marimanti, Gatue , Maragwa and Kathangachini.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Livestock body condition was fair while food stocks at household levels was improving due to the short rains harvest. Markets operation was normal both for commodities and Livestock while the trading volumes was normal.

Access Indicators

- Livestock prices were high while commodity prices were fairly stable due to good pasture condition and the availability of short rain stock. Household water distance was normal due normal status of water. Milk production and consumption was normal range.

Utilization Indicators

- Following all the above prevailing conditions, the overall drought phase in March was normal but deteriorating.

Early Warning Phase Classification

	EW PHASE	TRENDS
Mixed Farming	Normal	Stable
Marginal Mixed Farming	Normal	Stable
Rain Fed Livelihood Zone	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	**Value**	**Normal Ranges**
Rainfall % of Average	**24.2%**	**80-120**
VCI-3month	35.91	>35
Water Sources	Normal	Normal
Production Indicators	**Value**	**Normal Ranges**
Livestock Migration Pattern	No Migration	No Migration
Livestock Body Conditions	Fair	Good
Milk Production	1 Litre	Above 1.17 of a Litre
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	**Value**	**Normal**
Terms of Trade	142	Above 126
Milk Consumption	0.9Litres	Above 1 Litre
Water for Households	Normal	Normal
Utilization indicators	**Value**	**Range/Value**
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	2.7	Below 4.86
Food Consumption (Acceptable FCS)	87.23%	Above 24.43%
MUAC	0.6	Below 2.5

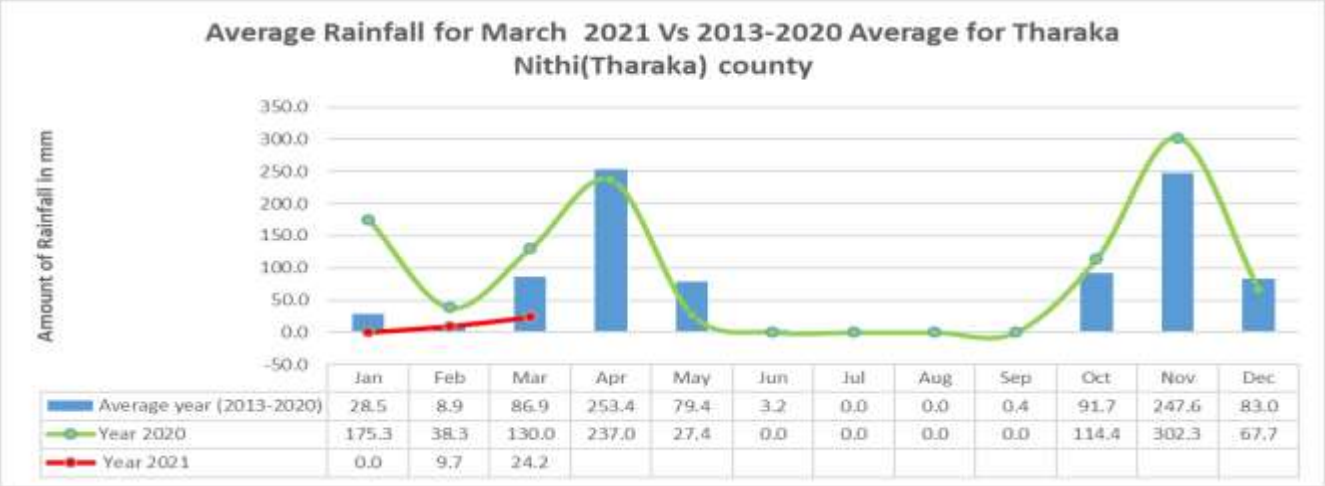
Seasonal Calendar

▪ 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**

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The month of March was characterised with a mixture of hot, wet and dry weather conditions. False onset of rainfall was realised in the 2nd week of March. An average of 24.2 mm of Rain was recorded during the month of March which was below normal compared to the Long term average precipitation of year 2013 to 2020 of 86.9 mm for March.
- From the participatory scenario planning for March and April by a number of stakeholders, onset was expected from the 3rd to 4th week of April while cessation is expected from the 3rd to 4th week of May.
- In the upper zone enhanced rainfall is expected in upper Chogoria,karingani and Mugwe; in the middle zone ,enhanced rainfall is expected in Mariani,Itugururu,Kamwimbi,Upper Tunyai,upper Gakurungu,Thiiti and Ntoroni;In the lower zone enhanced rainfall is expected in Kamaindi,Kajuki,Mutino,Lower Tunyai,Kamarandi,Nkarini,mid Gakurungu,Upper Ntugi, upper Karocho,Turima ,Manyani,upper Nkondi,upper Matakiri,upper Gikingo, and mid Ntoroni.
- Depressed rainfall is expected in Chakariga,Kamanyaki,Gituma,lower Gakurungu, Lower Ntugi, Marimanti,Gatue,LowerKarocho,lower Nkondi, lower Matakiri,lower Gikingo, Kanjoro, lower Ntoroni, Maragwa and Kathangachini
- The precipitation condition for March 2021 was lower than that of the previous year of 2020 which was 130 mm. Figure 1 below shows the rainfall trend for 2021 compared to the long term average and that of the previous year of 2021.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average year (2013-2020)	28.5	8.9	86.9	253.4	79.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	91.7	247.6	83.0
Year 2020	175.3	38.3	130.0	237.0	27.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	114.4	302.3	67.7
Year 2021	0.0	9.7	24.2									

Figure 1 : Rainfall trend for 2021 Vs 2013-2020 Average

Tharaka Nithi (Tharaka) Temporal and Spatial Rainfall Distribution

The spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall for the month of March is as shown below.
Tunyai received an amount of 52.2mm for 3 days; MarimantiKarocho received 26.2mm for 2 days; Marimanti received 20.8mm for 3 days; Chakariga received 20mm for 2 days; Kathangachini received 15.5mm for 1 day; Kamanyaki received 14.6 mm for 1 day,Mukothima received 11.4mm for 2 days while Irunduni received the least amount of 8.4mm for 2 days as shown by figure 2

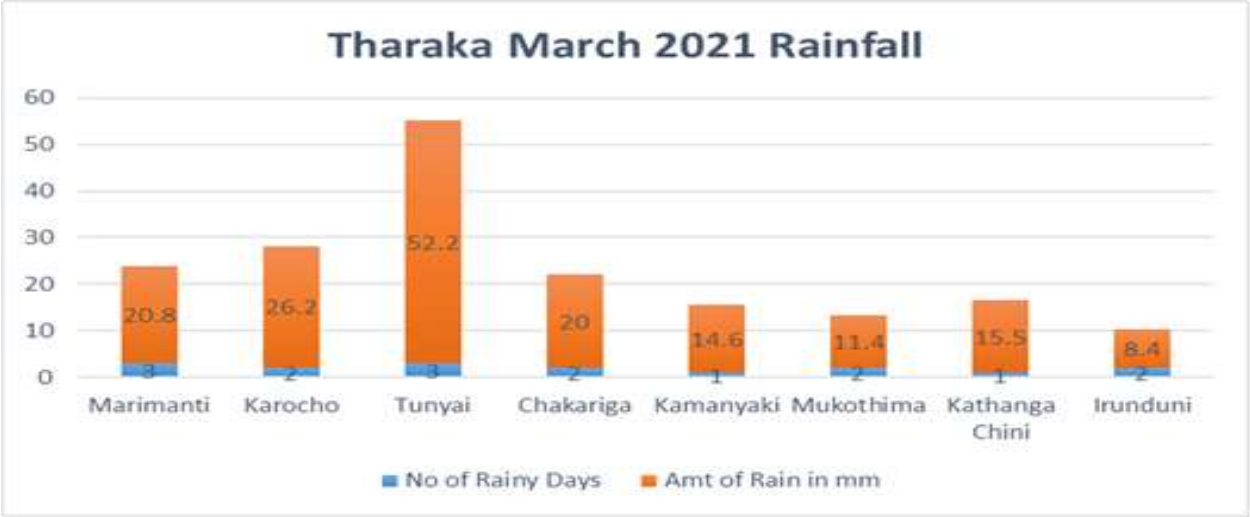


Figure 2 : Tharaka Nithi Rainfall Distribution

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The cumulative 3 month vegetation cover for Tharaka Nithi County (Tharaka) for the month of March was 35.91 from 45.39 in February indicating an overall normal vegetation greenness.
- Pasture and browse reduced from that of the previous month of February but still remained normal across most of the livelihood zones due to average performance of the short rains and some showers which were received in the month of March.
- The matrix in figure 3 below shows vegetation cover classification based on the drought phases and the monthly vegetation cover trends of the vegetation condition index for Tharaka Nithi (Tharaka) County.

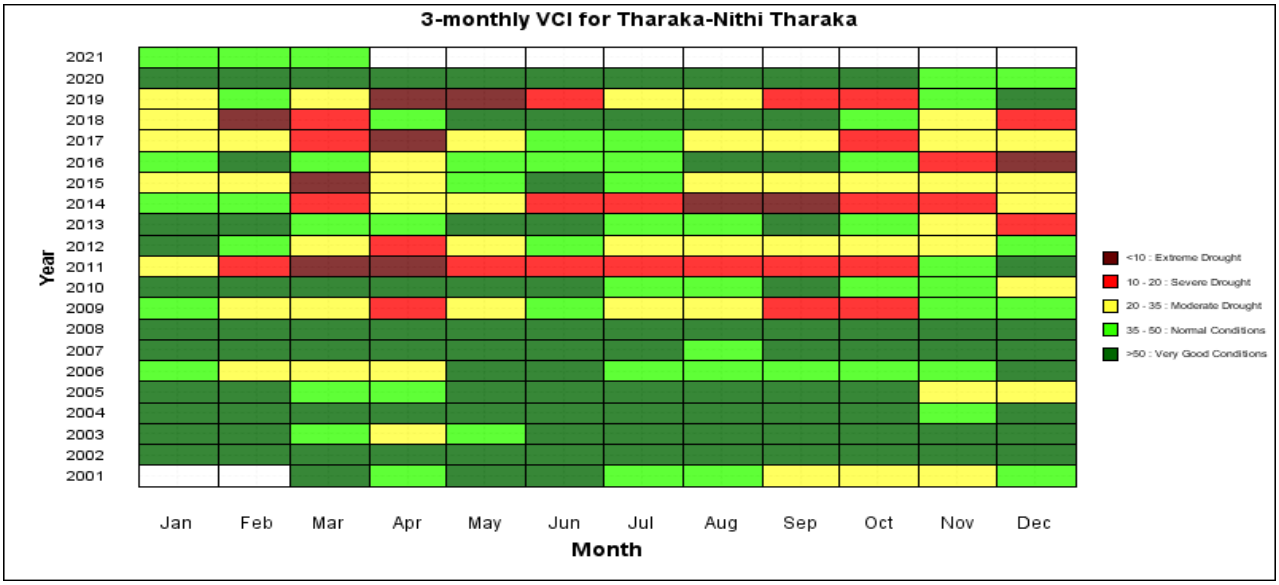


Figure 3: Matrix of VCI Classification

Table 1: March 2021 Vs February 2020 VCI (3M)

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS		VCI as at 28th February 2021	VCI as at 31st March 2021
County	**County/Sub County**		
Tharaka Nithi	County	56.18	50.01
	Tharaka	45.39	35.91
	Chuka Igambang'ombe	70.67	68.33
	Maara	72.88	72.56

2.2 Natural Vegetation and Pasture Condition

Pasture Condition

- Pasture quantity and quality slightly reduced and was fair across most of the Livelihood zones during the month of March due to false onset of the long rains. However, the condition is expected to improve with the onset and the continuation of the long rains.
- Some parts of the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones still had below normal pasture due to poor short rains performance and the situation will remain such till the onset of the long rains. Those areas include Gaceuni, Kiamiramba, Mpuku, Nkiruni and Maragwa areas.

Browse Condition

- Browse condition in terms of quantity and quality was fair across most of the livelihood zones in the month of March with a declining trend from that of the previous months. This downward trends was due to delays in onset of the long rains compared to the previous season.

2.2 Water Sources and Availability

2.2.1 Main Sources of Water

- The main sources of water for livestock and domestic use in Tharaka Nithi County for the month of March was: Rivers, Traditional River wells, Pans &Dams and Boreholes as shown by figure 4 below.
- In some trading centres, there was use of piped water system which is mainly abstracted from rivers. Such centres include: Marimanti, Mukothima,Gatunga, Chakariga and Nkondi.

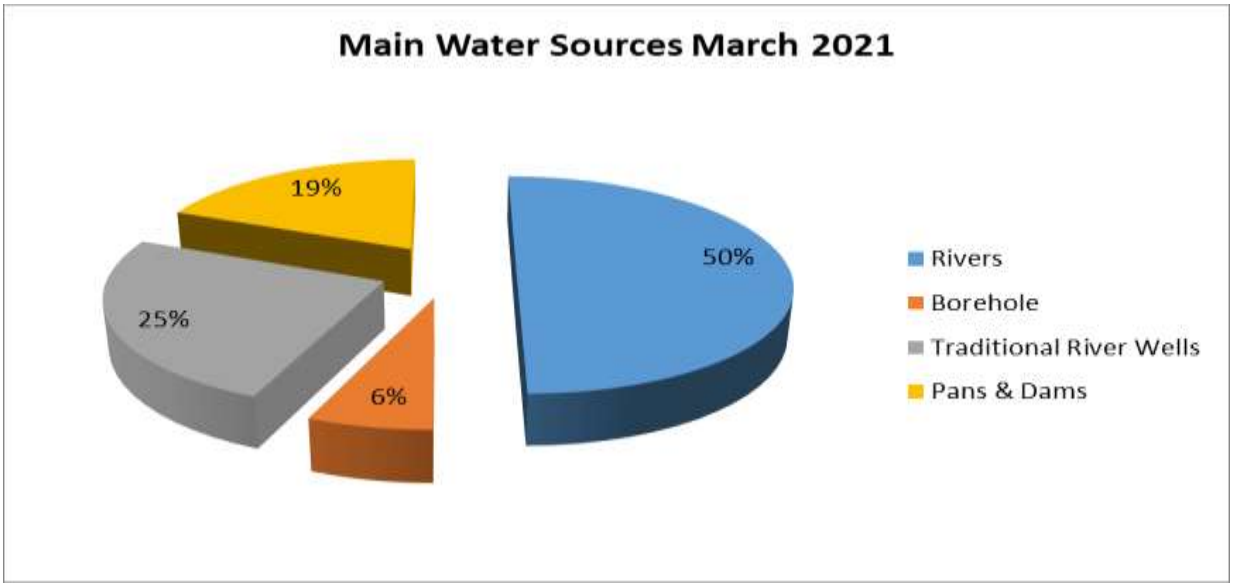


Figure 4: Main Water sources Tharaka Nithi County

2.2.2 State of Water Sources

- The state of water sources for the month of March remained within the normal range. However, the trend was declining in March due to false onset of the long rains which was below normal compared to the previous months of March. The water recharge level both for the surface and underground sources was below the normal range.
- Status of water sources across all the Livelihood Zones was ranked as normal which is at index 5 in reference to the scale below:

Table 2: State of Water Sources

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

2.2.3 Household Water Access

- Average Household water return distance decreased from 4.2 Km in February to 3.4 Km in March. This decrease in Household water distance was attributed to recharge of water sources from the rainfall which was received in March, leading to shorter distances especially from rivers. However, there was false onset of the long rains in the second week of March and the rainfall received was much lower than the long term average. Household return water distance in Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone was 5.6 Km, 3.4 Km in Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone while the Rain Fed Livelihood Zone had the least household water distance of 1.2 Km.
- The average distance of household access to water was 32% lower than the long-term average of 5.0 Km for the month of March.

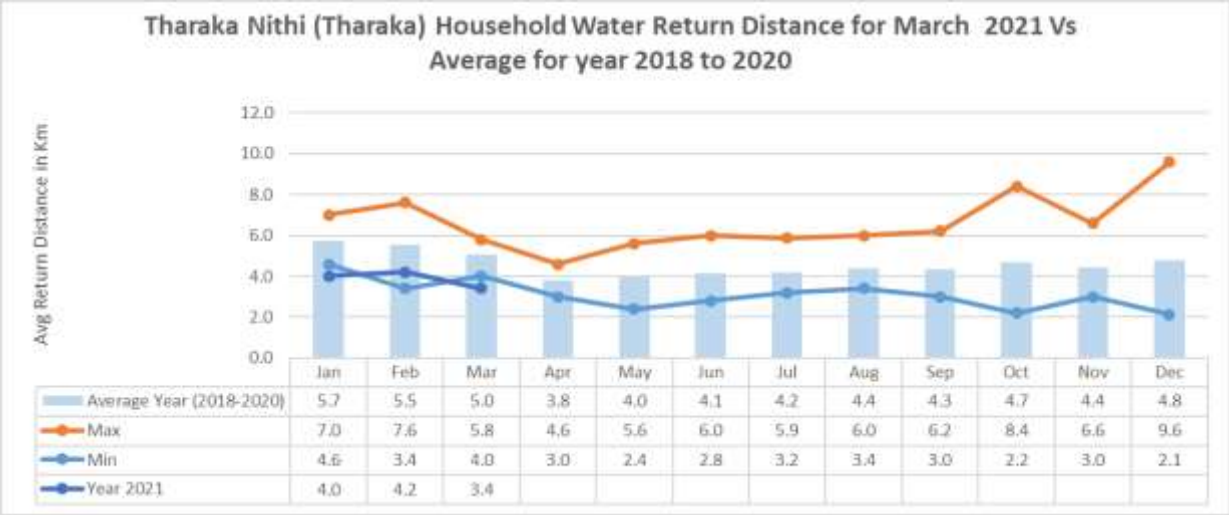


Figure 5: Household Water Distance

Livestock Access to Water

- Average return water distance from grazing area decreased from 4.2 Km in February to 4.0 Km in March. The decrease in distance of livestock access to water was attributed to high recharge level of water sources leading to a increase of access to water by livestock.
- The longest return water distance to grazing areas was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming Zone at 5.4 Km, followed by Mixed Farming Zone at 4 Km while Rain Fed Cropping Zone recorded the least distance of 2 Km.
- The average return water distance from grazing areas was 20% lower than the long term average distance of 5.0 Km for this time of the year.

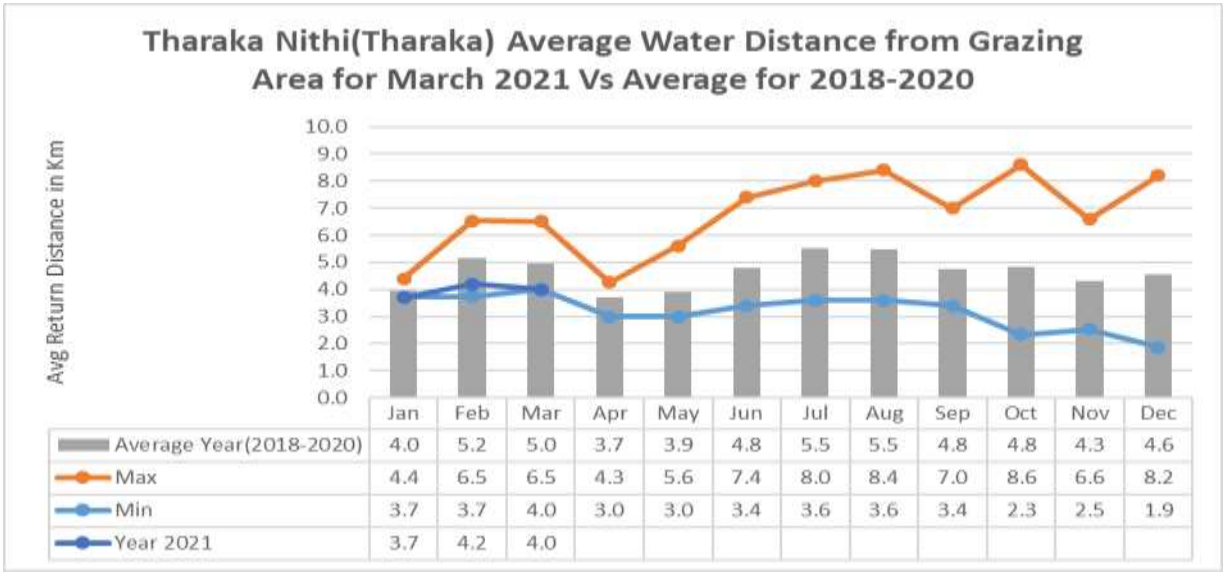


Figure 1: Grazing Distance for Livestock

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition for both cattle and shoats was fair across all the livelihood zones. The fair livestock body condition could be attributed to fair pasture and browse condition across most of the livelihood Zones and supplementation of livestock feed by crop residue.
- The Livestock body condition in March for cattle and shoats was still rated at index 7 as per the livestock threshold scale below.

Table 2: Livestock Body Condition categories

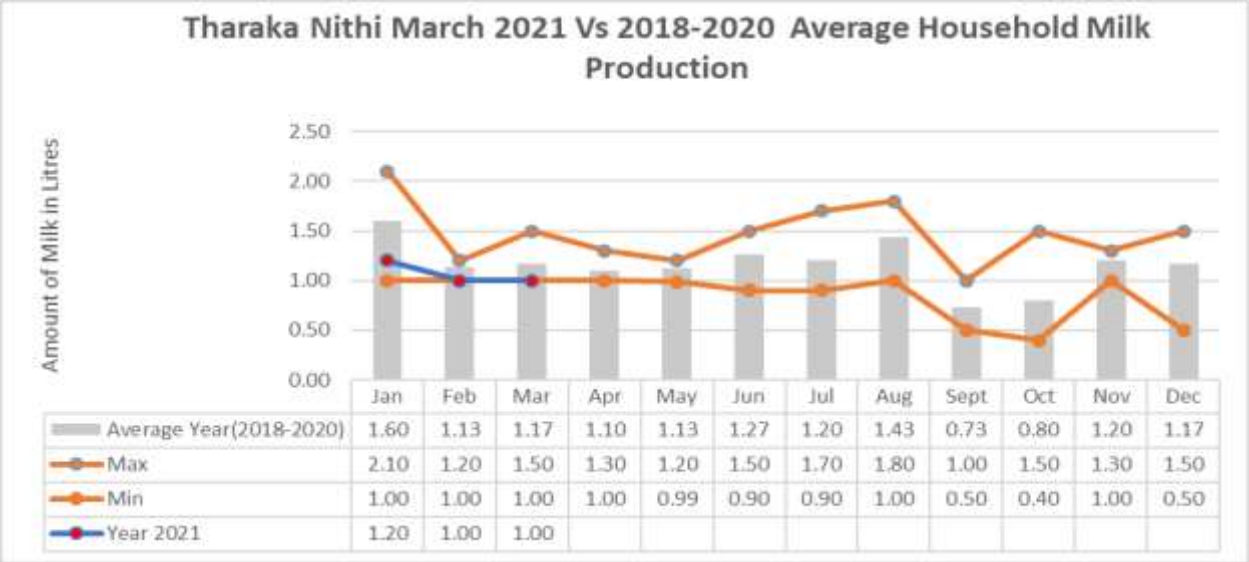
BODY CONDITIONS	SCORE	WARNING STAGE
Emaciated, little muscle left	1	Emergency
Very thin no fat, bones visible	2	
Thin fore ribs visible	3	Alert Worsening/Alarm
Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12th & 13th ribs visible	4	Alert
Moderate. Neither fat nor thin	5	Normal/Alert
Good smooth appearance	6	
Very 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	

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases and Migration

- There were no cases of Livestock migration. However, there was a total of 3 cases of rabies reported 1 each in Gatue, Kathangachini and Maragwa in Tharaka North in goats.
- Cases of Tick borne diseases were reported in goats (i.e. 22 cases of Anaplasmosis, 1 case of babiosis, and 2 cases of heart water in Marimanti; 1 case of East Coast Fever in Nkondi).
- About 10 cases of trypanosomiasis were reported for cattle in Marimanti and Nkondi wards.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average Milk production per household per day in the month of March was almost the same at 1.0 litre in March as of the previous month of February. The status of milk production could be attributed to the minimal fluctuation in weather condition as of the previous month.
- Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood Zones had an average production of 1.7 litre per household per day while the other livelihood Zones recorded 0.7 of a litre per household per day. Milk production per household was 14.53 percent lower than the 3-year average of 1.17 litre per household per day for this time of the year.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Year(2018-2020)	1.60	1.13	1.17	1.10	1.13	1.27	1.20	1.43	0.73	0.80	1.20	1.17
Max	2.10	1.20	1.50	1.30	1.20	1.50	1.70	1.80	1.00	1.50	1.30	1.50
Min	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.90	0.90	1.00	0.50	0.40	1.00	0.50
Year 2021	1.20	1.00	1.00									

Figure 6 : Milk Production Trend

3.2 Crop Production

3.2.1. Timeliness and Status of Crops

- Faming activities during the month of March was land preparation and long rain planting of green grams, cow peas, maize and cereal crops such as sorghum and millet.
- Planting is expected to continue till the 1st week of April due to the false onset of rainfall in the 2nd week of March.

3.2.2. Pests and Diseases

- There were few reported cases of pests and diseases during the month of March since most of the farmers were finalising harvesting while most of the farmers were preparing their land for the long rain planting. Some farmers had done dry planting especially from 10th of March 2021.
- The main pest reported were the stalk borers which were mainly affecting the cereal crops such as maize in Karocho and parts of Tunyai.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Prices

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

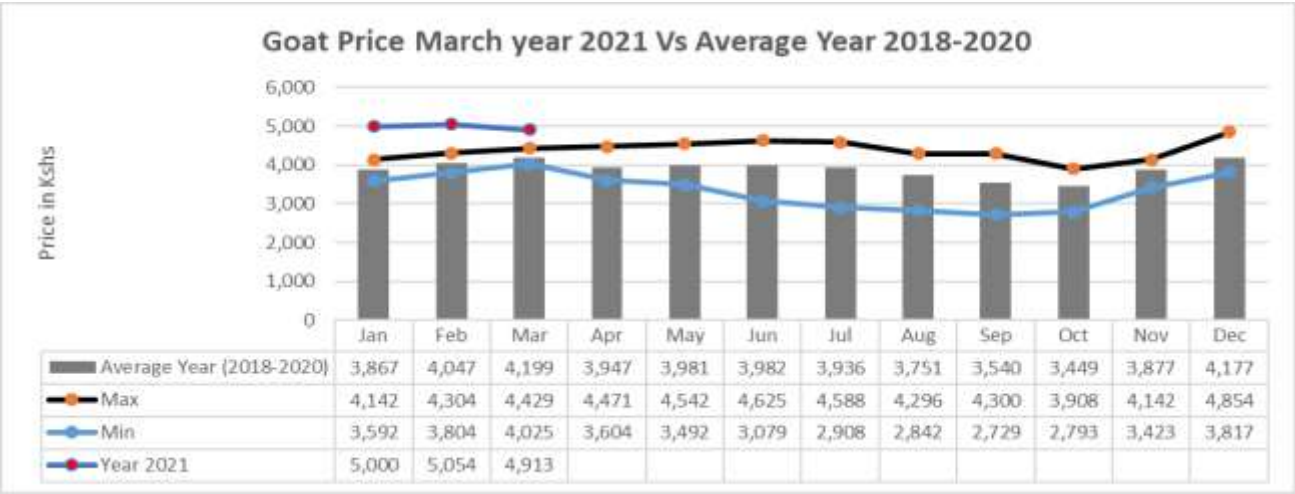
- The average cattle price increased from Kshs. 32,500 in February to Kshs. 37,791 in March which was attributed to good pasture hence improved cattle body condition leading to an increase in cattle price. The Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood Zone had the highest average price of Kshs 34,500; the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone had the price of Kshs 33,300 while the Rain Fed Cropping Livelihood Zone had the least price of Kshs 30,714. The current price was 66.18 percent higher than the three-year average of Kshs 22,741.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average year(2018-2020)	20,934	23,691	22,741	21,111	21,300	21,875	23,506	23,253	22,083	20,741	22,965	22,065
Max	21,817	24,750	23,958	23,000	23,817	25,200	27,158	29,000	25,958	24,863	26,654	24,196
Min	19,985	21,864	21,714	18,458	18,083	17,100	16,942	16,758	16,750	16,357	17,783	20,208
Year 2021	30,583	32,500	37,791									

Figure 7: Cattle Price Trend

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The average goat price decreased slightly from Kshs 5,000 in January Kshs 5,054 in February to Kshs 4,913 in March.The goat price in March was still fair just like the previous month which was attributed to fair browse which led to fair goat's body condition leading to high price.
- The Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone had the highest price of Ksh. 5,530; Rain Fed Cropping Livelihood Zone recorded the price of Kshs 5,114 while the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone recorded the lowest price of Ksh. 4,679.
- The average goat price was 17 percent higher than the three-year average of Ksh 4,199.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Year (2018-2020)	3,867	4,047	4,199	3,947	3,981	3,982	3,936	3,751	3,540	3,449	3,877	4,177
Max	4,142	4,304	4,429	4,471	4,542	4,625	4,588	4,296	4,300	3,908	4,142	4,854
Min	3,592	3,804	4,025	3,604	3,492	3,079	2,908	2,842	2,729	2,793	3,423	3,817
Year 2021	5,000	5,054	4,913									

Figure 8: Goat's Price Trend

4.2 Maize Prices at Market Level

4.2 .1 Price of Cereals and Other Food Products

4.2.2 Maize Prices at Market Level

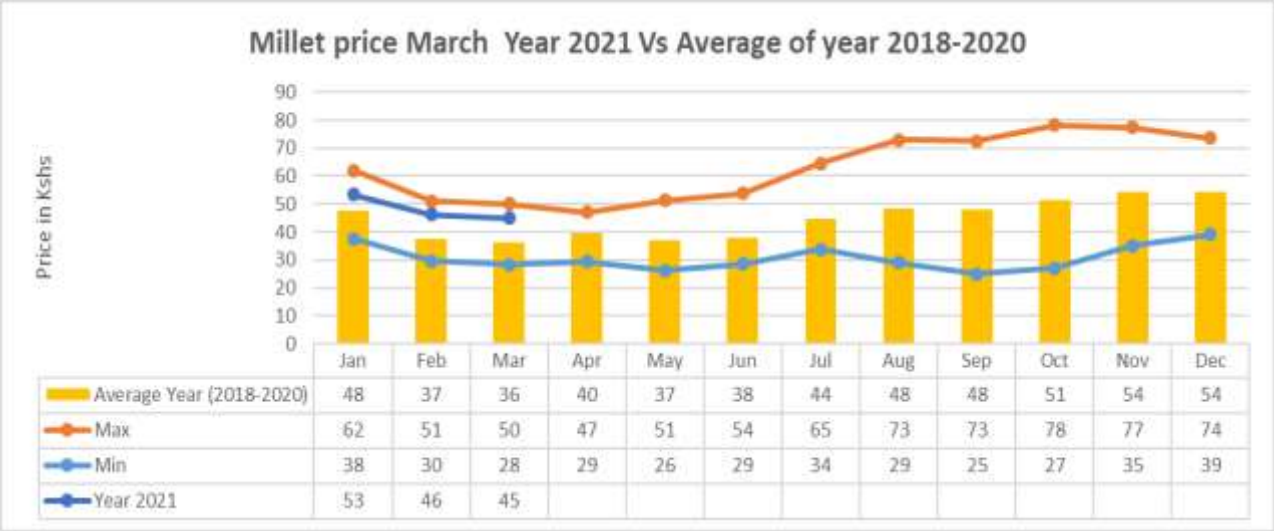
- The average market price of a Kilogram of maize was Kshs 35 per Kg in March from Kshs 34 per Kg in February. This stable maize price could be attributed to constant supply of maize from outside the county where there is still high stocks from the recent harvests.
- Maize price was Kshs 38 per Kg in the Rain Fed Livelihood Zone, Kshs 34 per Kg in the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone while the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone recorded the price of Kshs 30 per Kg.
- The average maize price was 6 percent higher than the three-year average price of Kshs 33 per Kg in March.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Year(2018-2020)	36	35	33	38	38	37	39	37	37	36	37	38
Max	41	40	38	41	46	45	48	49	49	47	49	48
Min	29	29	30	33	31	31	31	27	26	25	29	30
Year 2021	36	34	35									

Figure 9: Maize Price Trend

4.2.3 Millet Price at Market Level

- The average market price of millet decreased from Kshs 46 per Kg in February to Kshs 45 per Kg in March which was higher than the long term average. The decrease in millet price could be attributed to an increase in millet supplies to the market from the short rain stocks hence a downward trend in millet price.
- The Rain Fed Livelihood Zone recorded the highest market price of Kshs 47 per Kg followed by the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood zone at Kshs 44 per Kg while the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone recorded the least price of Kshs 35 per Kg.
- The average millet price was 25 percent higher than the long-term average price of Kshs.36 per Kg for the month of March.

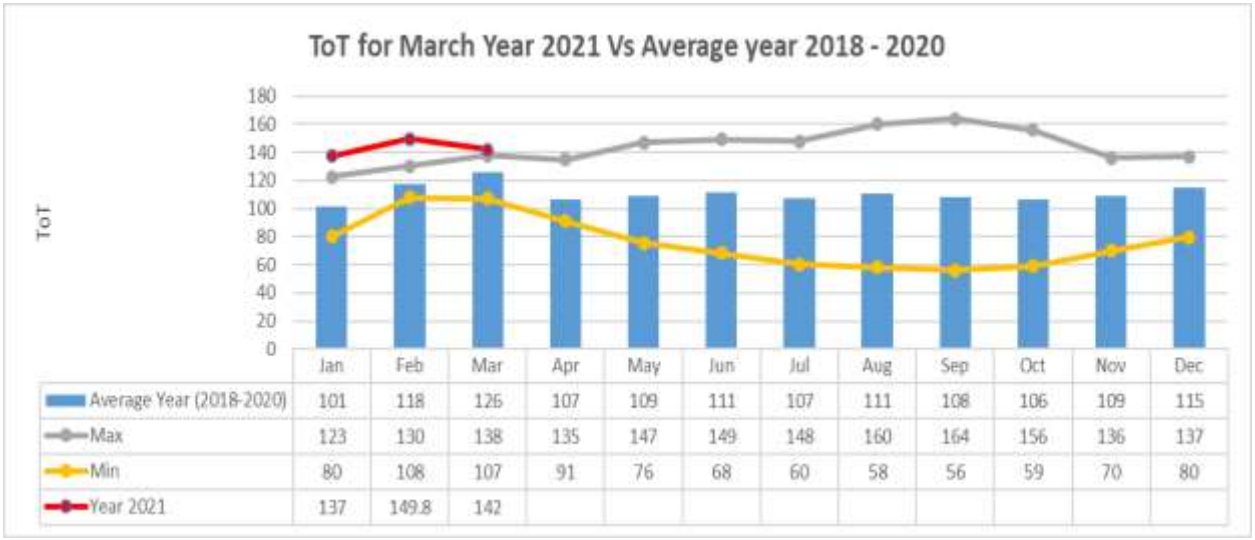


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Year (2018-2020)	48	37	36	40	37	38	44	48	48	51	54	54
Max	62	51	50	47	51	54	65	73	73	78	77	74
Min	38	30	28	29	26	29	34	29	25	27	35	39
Year 2021	53	46	45									

Figure 10 : Millet Price Trend

4.2.4 Terms of Trade (ToT)

- The Terms of Trade decreased from 149.8 in February to 142 in March which was attributed to a decrease in goat price against a constant maize price.
- The highest ToT ratio was recorded in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone at 184.33; followed by Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone at 137.62; while Rain Fed Cropping Livelihood Zone had the least term of trade ratio at 134.58. The term of trade for the period under review was 12.7% higher than the three year average value of 126 during the same period.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Year (2018-2020)	101	118	126	107	109	111	107	111	108	106	109	115
Max	123	130	138	135	147	149	148	160	164	156	136	137
Min	80	108	107	91	76	68	60	58	56	59	70	80
Year 2021	137	149.8	142									

Figure 11: Term of Trade

4.2.5 Income sources

- The main sources of income for households in Tharaka Nithi County for the month of March were: Sale of crops, Petty trade, Casual labour, Sale of livestock /livestock product and Employment/wages as shown by the figure 12 below.

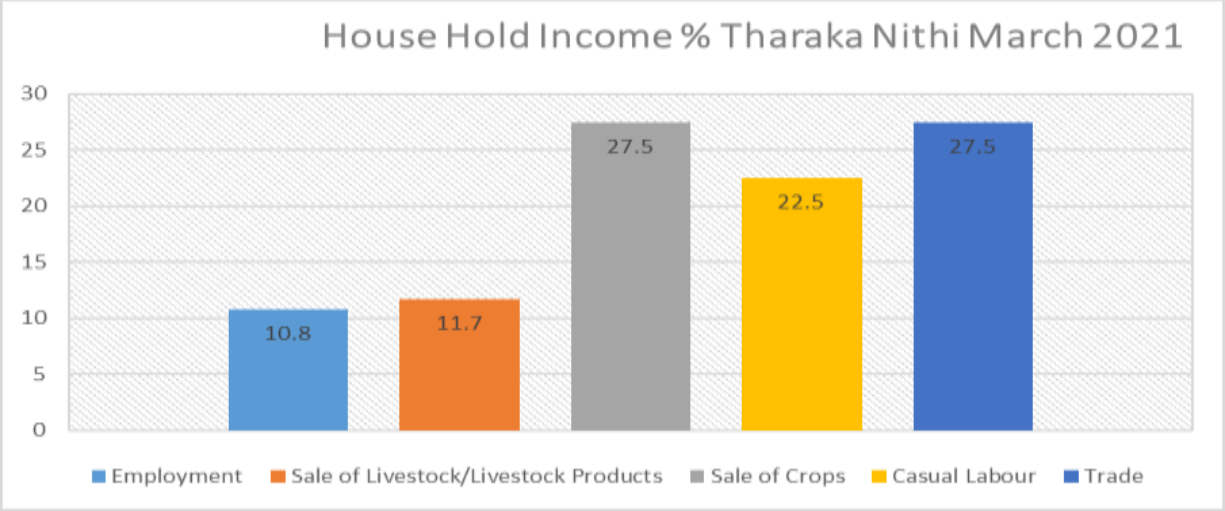
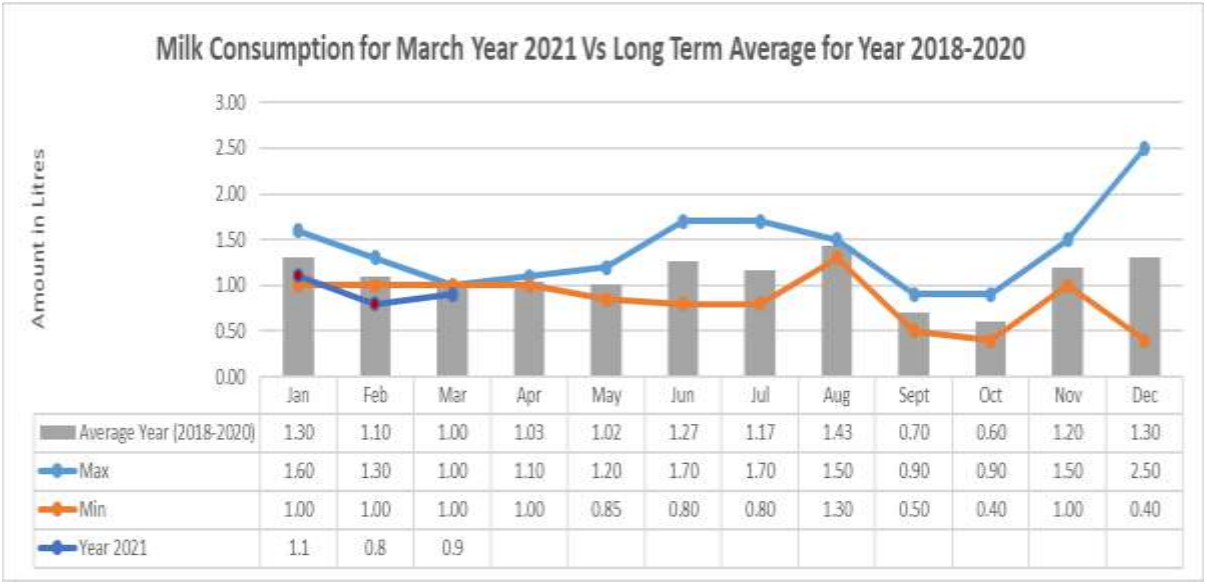


Figure 12 : Tharaka Nithi Percentage Household Income

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1.1 Milk Consumption

- The average milk consumption for the month of March was at an average of 0.9 of a litre per house hold per day from 0.8 of a litre per household per day in the month of February. Milk consumption was almost the same as of the previous month.
- The average milk consumed per household per day for the month of March was 10 percent lower than the 3-year average of 1.0 of a litre.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Year (2018-2020)	1.30	1.10	1.00	1.03	1.02	1.27	1.17	1.43	0.70	0.60	1.20	1.30
Max	1.60	1.30	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.70	1.70	1.50	0.90	0.90	1.50	2.50
Min	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.85	0.80	0.80	1.30	0.50	0.40	1.00	0.40
Year 2021	1.1	0.8	0.9									

Figure 13 : Milk Consumption Trend

5.1.2 Food Consumption Score (FCS)

- Proportion of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score decreased from 88.37% in February to 87.23% in March as shown by the graph in fig. 15 below. The percentage of households with acceptable FCS in March was still high and it was attributed to availability of food stocks from the short rain harvest which led to high income from crop sales leading to House hold food security due to ability to buy food.
- The proportion of household with acceptable FCS in March were higher than the long-term proportion for March by 62.8% as shown in figure 15 below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	oct	Nov	Dec
Average (2018-2020)	28.83	26.17	24.43	24.72	20.57	29.74	29.45	33.60	40.28	42.42	34.43	34.15
Max	92.23	96.66	92.23	78.90	90.00	76.73	77.23	87.20	77.20	72.23	81.67	88.33
Min	23.90	13.37	19.43	17.76	10.57	16.67	13.90	20.57	26.13	25.00	23.33	33.87
Year 2021	95.6	88.37	87.23									

Figure 14: Trend of the Proportion of HHs with Acceptable FCS

- A higher number of Food Stressed Households were in the Rain Fed Cropping Livelihood Zone at 20% followed by Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone at 15% while the least food stressed households were reported in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone at 3.3% as shown by figure 15 below.

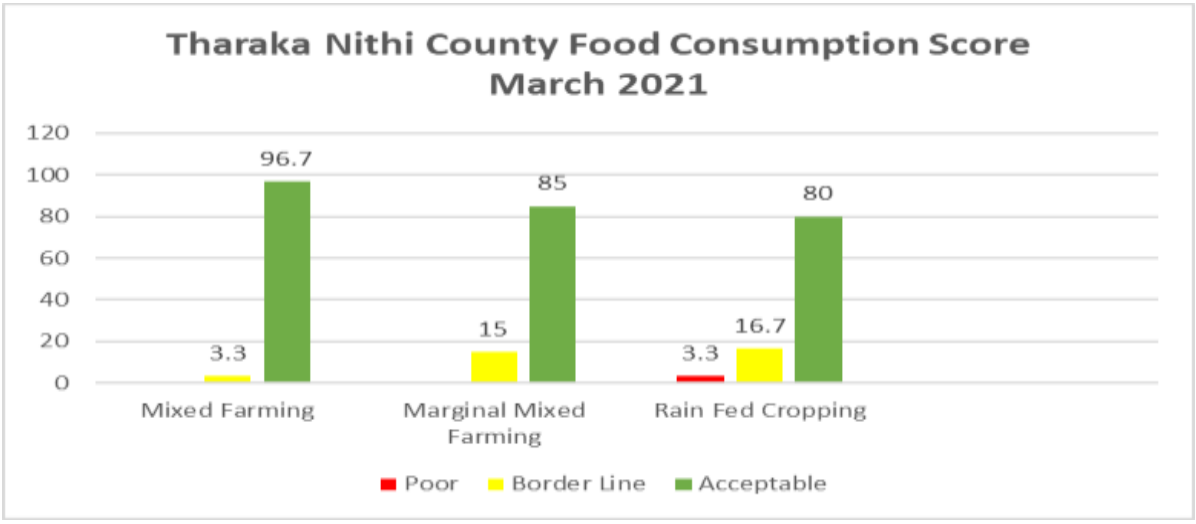


Figure 15: Food Consumption Score Chart

Table 3: Average Food Consumption Score

Period	Acceptable (%)	Borderline (%)	Poor (%)	Food Insecure HH (%)
January 2021	95.6	4.4	0	4.4
February 2021	88.37	11.63	0	11.63
March 2021	87.23	11.67	1.1	12.77

- The poor food consumption score implies household are not consuming staples and vegetables every day and rarely consuming protein rich food, borderline imply household are 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.

5.2 UTILISATION INDICATORS

5.2.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- 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.

5.2.2 MUAC

- The proportion of malnourished children of 6 to 59months with MUAC of less than 135mm was 0.6% in March from 2 % in February which indicated a drop in malnutrition level. The low MUAC percentage could be attributed to improved food security level at household compared to that of the previous month.
- The low proportion of the number of malnourished children was lower than long term average by 76% for the month of March.

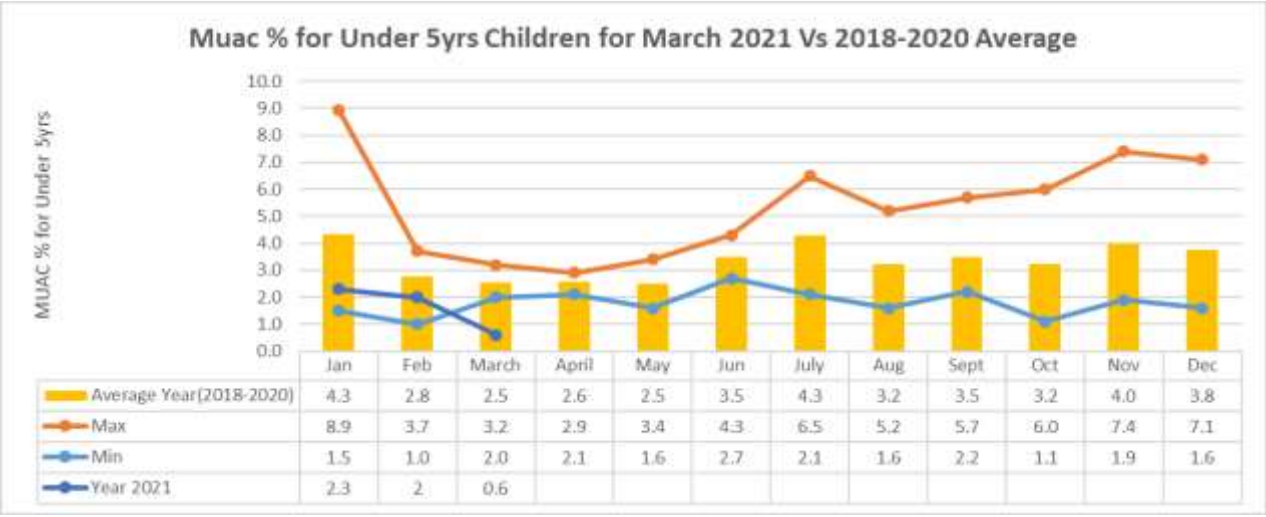


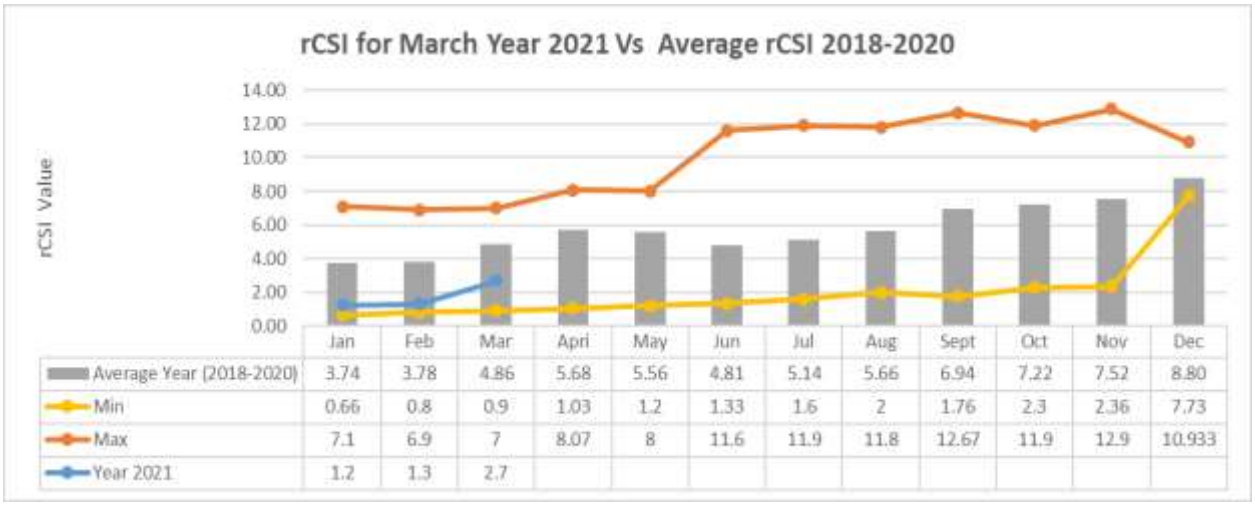
Figure 16: MUAC% trend for Under 5 yrs. Children

5.2.3 Coping Strategy Index

- The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) increased from 1.3 in February to 2.7 in March which was higher than that of the previous month. The increase in CSI value for March was an indication of

an increase in household stress to obtain food or money to buy food during the month of March from that of the previous month.

- The CSI value for March 2021 was lower than that of 2018-20 average of 4.86 for March.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apri	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Year (2018-2020)	3.74	3.78	4.86	5.68	5.56	4.81	5.14	5.66	6.94	7.22	7.52	8.80
Min	0.66	0.8	0.9	1.03	1.2	1.33	1.6	2	1.76	2.3	2.36	7.73
Max	7.1	6.9	7	8.07	8	11.6	11.9	11.8	12.67	11.9	12.9	10.933
Year 2021	1.2	1.3	2.7									

Figure 17 : Trend of CSI

- The highest CSI was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone at 4.4 followed by 2.9 in the Mixed Farming Zone while the Rain Fed Livelihood Zone recorded the least CSI of 0.7.
- The most commonly employed coping strategy mechanisms during the month of March was: - Obtaining of goods on credit, Reliance on less preferred and less expensive food.
- Some households employed livelihood based coping strategies such as sale of some household assets, spending of savings as well as borrowing of short term loans.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ongoing Interventions

6.1 Food Intervention

6.1.1 Food intervention and cash transfers

- Distribution of 82 bags of 90 Kgs of maize and 51 bags of 90 Kgs of beans for Grade 4 and Standard 8 in 37 primary Schools in Tharaka South by International Aid Services Kenya(IASK).
- Kazi Mtaani through the County Commissioners Office of 380 youths in Tharaka South and 330 youths in Tharaka North for vulnerable families earning Kshs 455 per day to caution those families against the effects of Covid 19.
- Cash transfer to vulnerable groups by the social services department of 3,862 elderly; 153 disables; 3,420 orphans and additional 1,000 people due to effects of Covid 19.

6.2 Non Food Intervention

Agriculture Sector

- Disilting of Gankamba earth dam in Kamwathu sub location and Maragwa Muguna earth dam in Kamaguna sub location by International Aid Services Kenya (IASK).
- Excavation of six farm ponds: 3 in Kamwathu and 3 in Kamaguna (each approximately 28m by 28m with a depth of 2m i.e. 1,568m^3) by International Aid Services Kenya.
- Construction of 2 masonry tanks at Chakariga Girls Secondary School by the National drought Management Authority (NDMA).

Livestock and veterinary

- Supply of acaricides by KENTEC in collaboration with veterinary department in order to control vectors to organised farm groups.
- Lumpy Skin Disease vaccination targeting over 20,000 cattle in Tharaka South Sub County.
- Foot and Mouth Disease vaccination targeting over 20,000 cattle and 5,000 pigs in Tharaka South Sub County.
- Rabbies vaccination targeting 2,000 dogs and 500 donkeys in Tharaka North and South Sub Counties.
- Artificial insemination by the veterinary department at a subsidised price to farmers.
- Dairy farming of goats and cow by Upper Tana Natural Resource Management Programme and Livestock Department.
- Goats upgrading for milk and meat by Upper Tana Natural Resource Management Project.
- Upgrading of local chicken by Upper Tana Natural Resource Management Project.

Water

- Construction of two masonry water tanks at Chakariga Girls Secondary School by National Drought Management Authority **(NDMA).**
- Construction of Manduru earth dam in Gatunga Ward.
- Rehabilitation of Ura- Kathangachini and Kamacabi water project by the county Government and Water Trust Fund Agency.
- Extension of water pipe line from Marimanti to Maragwa by Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF).
- Re-construction of Kaibonce concrete dam by Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural programme.

6.2 Food Security Prognosis

- During the month of March most farming activities were land preparation and planting of pulses, millet and sorghum. False onset of rainfall was on the 2nd week of March while true onset was on the 1st week of April. Rainfall performance is predicted to be average to above average in most areas. This is likely to enhance pasture and browse regeneration especially in the Marginal Mixed Farming Zone. This will likely promote livestock body condition and prices for the next one month.
- The long rains which is being experienced will likely increase water recharge in both surface and underground water sources which will likely result to shorter household water distance and livestock grazing to watering distance in the next one month.
- Market operation were normal and some food crops were been sourced from the markets while others from own production in the farms. Own production were mainly millet, sorghum, green grams and some dry maize while plenty of dry maize were being sourced from the market.
- Food Stocks at households' level is likely to remain stable across all the Livelihood Zone for the next 1 months after which the household stocks from the harvests will exhausted.
- Markets operations are likely to improve for livestock due to presence of fair pasture and browse and resumption of market while prices of food commodities is likely to decrease for the next 1 month.

- Pasture condition is good and the condition is likely to remain stable for the next 1 months due to supplementation of forage by crop residue leading to shorter grazing distance, increased milk production and good livestock body condition.
- Increased milk production is likely to lead to high milk consumption hence low malnutrition level amongst the under 5years children.
- Terms of Trade is fair and is likely to improve significantly in favour of livestock farmers and the trend is likely to continue for the next 1month due to good livestock body condition which is likely to translate to higher prices.
- Households in the County are likely to be Food sufficient in the next 1 month due to presence of Stocks from the short rain harvest which might positively affect income and food availability.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS (January to July 2021)

- The County Government and different stakeholders should start concentrating on preparedness activities geared towards resilience to propel household towards food security.

Sub County	Location	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Tharaka North	Maragwa and Kathangachini locations	Promotion of post-harvest grain management, preservation & Utilization	8,500	MOA,NDMA, County Government	Fuel, Facilitaon Allowances, Stationary,Demonstration Materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	End of March 2019
Tharaka North	Maragwa and Kathangachini locations	Promotion of crop method demonstration sites(farmer field schools)	6,500	MOA, NDMA, County Government	Fuel, Facilitaon Allowances, Stationary,Demonstration Materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	End of May 2019
Tharaka North	Maragwa and Kathangachini locations	Expand Kenya Cereal enhancement program	6,000	MoA/Stakeholders	Finances	Technical personnel, vehicles	2 years
Tharaka south	Nkondi	Provision of subsidized planting inputs	8,000	County Govt National Govt	Fertilizers Seeds chemicals		By end of September 2020
Tharaka	Iron Folate Supplementation among Pregnant Women	All wards	All pregnant women	M O H	funds	Personnel	Continuous
Tharaka	Deworming	All wards	All children under 5yrs	M O H	funds	Personnel	Continuous
Education Recommended							
Food Security Related	Tharaka South and Tharaka North	ESMP	37	8093	IAS	Retention	6 months

		HGSM	13	2171	GOK	Retention	Long term
		Water Tanks	10	2100	NDMA	Hygiene safe drinking. water	3 months