

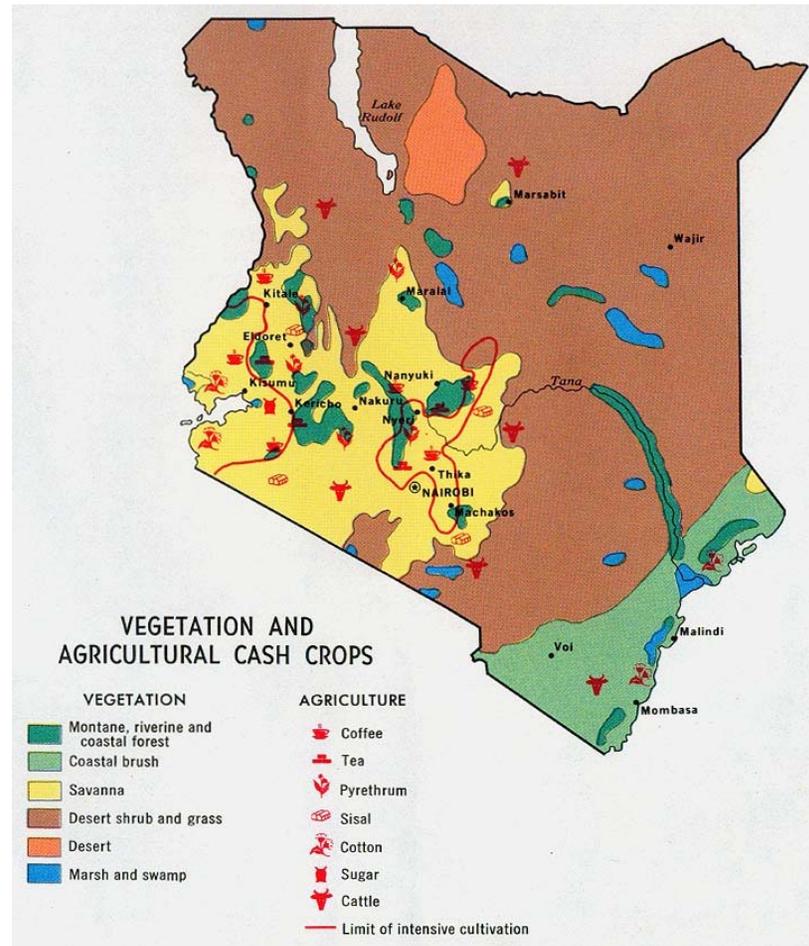
FOOD SECURITY IN KENYA

PRESENTATION ON FOOD SITUATION IN KENYA
AND MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT IS PURSUING TO
ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND TO ACHIEVE FOOD
SECURITY FOR THE COUNTRY BOTH IN THE SHORT
AND LONG TERM

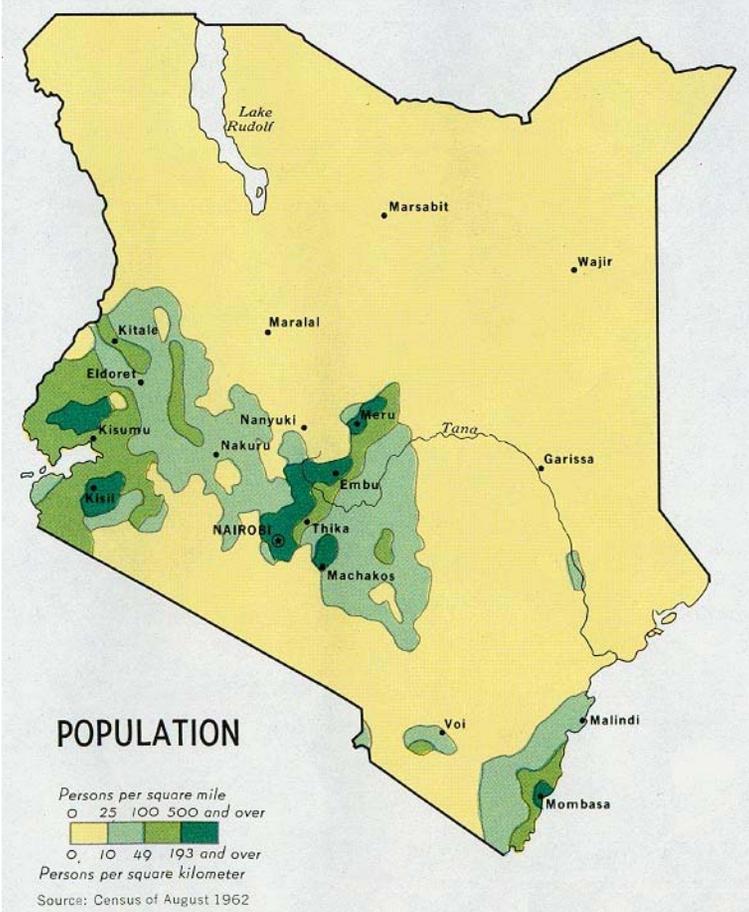
POLITICAL MAP OF KENYA



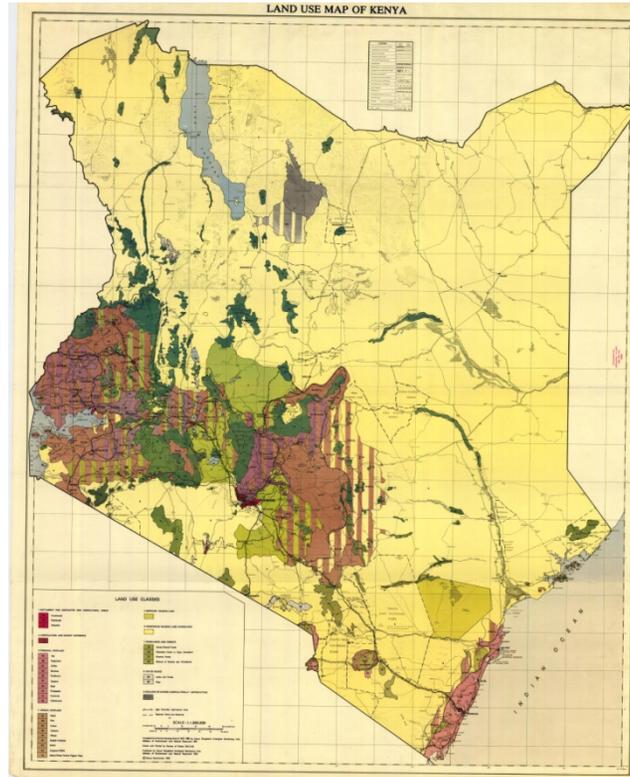
CLIMATIC MAP OF KENYA



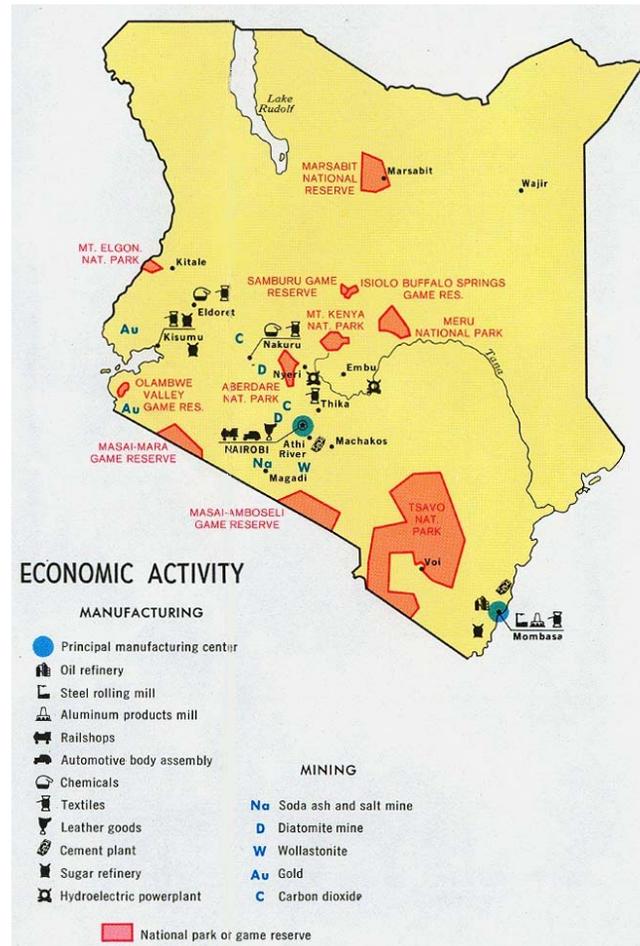
POPULATION MAP OF KENYA



LAND USE MAP OF KENYA



ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES



INTRODUCTION

- FAO definition of food security “When all people have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets dietary needs and food preference for an active and healthy life at all times.”
- Government has cardinal responsibility to ensure food security to its citizens since this direct effect on the social and economic stability of a country.
- Maize is the main staple food in Kenya. Other sources include rice, wheat, beans, irish and sweet potatoes and traditional foods such as sorghum, millet, cassava, arrow roots and yams. Production of these food crops have increased in the recent years. Fish and livestock production are other components of food production and together with food crops constitute food security in Kenya.
- Kenya Government has over the years strove to achieve national, household and individual food security throughout the country with mixed success.
- The 2007 Economic Review of Agriculture indicates that 51 % of the Kenyan population lack access to adequate food. Food security is closely linked to poverty which is estimated at 46 % nationally.

CURRENT FOOD SITUATION

- Kenya achieved self sufficiency in the staple grain of maize in the last three years but continued to import wheat and rice due to low local production.
- National food security does not guarantee household food availability. Government continues to feed section of the population that is chronically food insecure (on average 1 million per year especially in arid and semi-arid areas).
- This year 2008, the country faces a real challenge of food availability. Failure of short rains in 2007 and long rains in 2008 in lower Eastern, North Eastern and parts of central Provinces, post election violence, spread of livestock disease and the escalating cost of farm inputs contributed to major food deficits in the country due to declining production.
- Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) comprising of the Government, UN Bodies and NGOs carried out an impact assessment of long rains on food production. The assessment covered 27 ASAL Districts and 3 Districts affected by post election violence. Results show that about 1.38 million people in rural areas face chronic food shortage and will need support for the next six months till March 2009.

CURRENT FOOD SITUATION: CONT.

- The report estimates that the cost of short term interventions by sector Ministries may be Kshs. 5.37 billion.
- The interventions include:
 - Provision of inputs, tools and equipment
 - Mass livestock vaccination, off-take programme restocking and animal feeds
 - Fish stocking, cold storage facilities, fish equipment
 - Provision of water tanks, borehole rehabilitation, desilting water pans and dams
 - Purchase of food relief
 - Provision of health and nutrition package

PROJECTED PRODUCTION

- The strategy for achieving food security has been two pronged:
 - (i) The Government supports efforts to increase agricultural productivity through development and application of technology and strengthening of extension services.
 - (ii) The Government supports purchase and storage of Strategic Grain Reserves (SGR). This helps to intervene in the cereal market and cushion the country for a short period in times of scarcity as the Government strives to provide food mainly to stabilize prices and ensure that farmers gets returns for cereal production.
- Projected maize production in 2008 is 33 million bags – rains received in the grain basket areas.
- Optimal yields not expected for wheat, rice and Irish potatoes due to inadequate rains in wheat growing areas; rice blast that affected rice in Mwea Irrigation Scheme and shortage of clean planting materials for potatoes.

PROJECTED PRODUCTION

- Normally, the country receives about 2 million bags of maize through cross-border trade with Tanzania and Uganda. This may not be realized due to export ban by Tanzania.
- Maize consumption is estimated at 3 million bags per year. The country will have a shortfall of 3 million bags to be bridged through importation.
- Currently, the country has an estimated 5.8 million bags of maize held by farmers, traders, millers, NCPB and NGOs. These stocks will last till October with harvesting commencing in North Rift and harvesting having been completed in Western, Central and Eastern Provinces.

MEASURES BY GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY

- In May 2008 the Cabinet approved the importation of 3 million bags of maize through the National Cereals and Produce Board to bridge the shortfall. Three firms AFGRI Ltd, SENWES and Euroworld were contracted through competitive procurement process to import the maize.
- An Ad Hoc Committee of Cabinet comprising of the Office of the Prime Minister, Finance and Special Programmes was formed to oversee the process of importation and to regularly update the Cabinet on the food situation in the country.
- The Government will purchase maize from the farmers at Kshs. 1700 per bag to build up Strategic Grain Reserve which currently has 50,000 bags. The Government has raised the level of Strategic Grain Reserve from 4 million bags to 8 million bags to be realized in the next two years.
- The government supported the internally displaced farm households to prepare land, provided seed and extension services in the areas seriously affected by the post election violence in the Greater Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia and Nakuru at cost of Kshs. 294,334,272.

MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY: CONT.

- Government issued farmers in different parts of the country assorted seeds (cow peas, pigeon peas, sorghum, millet, Irish potatoes, cassava and sweet potato cuttings) to improve and diversify food production. Kshs 150 million was set aside for this and a total of 70.5 million has so far been utilized.
- Government in partnership with the private sector has availed credit to farmers at affordable rates. Equity Bank in collaboration with the Government and IFAD has rolled out the Kilimo Biashara Programme. The Government has committed Kshs 300 million to this Programme.
- National Accelerated Agricultural Inputs Programme, a Government Initiative is operating in 38 Districts providing inputs to small scale farmers with 1 acre piece of land. This financial year 35,000 farmers have been reached at a cost of Kshs 300 million while in last financial year, 36,000 farmers were reached at a cost of Kshs 245 million in 38 Districts. The programme will be extended to the whole country.

MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY: CONT.

- National Cereals and produce Board imported 12,500 metric tonnes of CAN fertilizers for top dressing during the long rains. Fertilizer was sold to farmers at a cost of Kshs 1700 per bag instead of Kshs 2300 per bag – Government subsidized at a cost of Kshs 100 million.
- The Government is supporting four (4) key parastatals to procure bulk fertilizer worth about Kshs 4 million to supply to farmers at a much cheaper price than the market price.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is funding and implementing various programmes that either directly or indirectly impact on food security and the Government in collaboration with Development Partners is implementing programmes to improve agricultural production and thereby enhance food security.

Other Short Term Measures Include:

- Continue meeting the basic food needs of resettled families and any IDPs who might be in the camps.
- Fast track efforts in supporting the resettled families as well as the neighbouring families with farm inputs such as seedlings, fertilizers and equipment.
- Enhance peace building, reconciliation and provide psycho-social support in order to rebuild trust among the communities and in particular, farming and pastoral communities.
- Develop and support business development services to link affected farm families, fishermen, livestock farmers and traders with financial institutions and access to market.

LONG TERM MEASURES

- In line with the Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture and Vision 2030, the Government is undertaking policy and legal framework to create an environment conducive for enhanced agricultural production and encourage investment. Thus, Sector Ministries have set up Agriculture Sector Coordinating Unit to undertake the reviews to develop umbrella legislation for the sector.
- Other measures will include:
 - Enhancing knowledge and skills to farmers and extension staff through training and sharing knowledge etc. This is aimed at empowering farmers to take and appreciate farming as a business.
 - Transform agriculture, from a low-income, low-efficiency and low technology sector into a vibrant modern sector supporting value-addition through scientific and technological innovation, improved extension services, credit and insurance programmes. This will be implemented by the establishment of more agro-processing industries in rural areas in addition to the urban areas.
 - Support the establishment of crop and livestock insurance.

LONG TERM MEASURES: CONT.

- Exploit the agriculture potential in arid and semi-arid areas by putting an additional 600,000 hectares under irrigation. Specifically, the amount of land under irrigation will be increased by 30 per cent by establishing additional 25 small-scale irrigation schemes throughout the country and several large-scale irrigation schemes mainly in the Tana River, Athi River, Mwea, Yatta, Nyando and Nzoia basins.
- Rehabilitation and expansion of water storage capacity through water harvesting technologies.
- Enhance the capacity of Districts in food security and livelihood assessment, to equip them with skills on contingency planning, early warning system and response.
- Enhance data collection, analysis and dissemination including sharing among key stakeholders as well as enhancing monitoring and evaluation at all levels.
- Work towards making fertilizer and other key inputs affordable to poor farmers.
- Improve access to agricultural credit through Agricultural Finance Corporation, Commercial Banks, Rural Saccos and public-private sector partnerships with Banks.
- Improve market infrastructure and access to markets and market information.
- Expand the Strategic Food Reserves to include other food products like pulses, milk, fish and meat products besides maize.

CONCLUSION

- Achieving food security is a key policy challenge to the Government of Kenya.
- A range of factors including climatic, topographical, technological and innovation, habits, financial, marketing, trading, transportation, storage, production processes, legal framework on land tenure systems, international conventions, conflicts, and others affect food security.
- Measures to address food security should be multi-dimensional and involve all stakeholders both within the country and outside the country.
- Kenya Government has taken cognizance of these challenges and has come up with measures both short term and long term to achieve food security.

END

THANKS