**Figure 1 – Seasonal Calendar for the Livelihood Zone ZALCM**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | Who? | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Maize (LP) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (P) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (W) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (GC) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (DH) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groundnuts (LP) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (P) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (W) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (H) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beans (LP) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (P) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (W) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (H) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vegetables | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Casual Labour (crop fields) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (domestic work) | F |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (herding) | M |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (public work) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Off-Farm Employment | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Livestock (heat and birth) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Livestock sales | M |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Purchases (low prices) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (high prices) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Labour migration | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Annual Hunger |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Health (flue) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (diarrhoea) | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**ZAHIC LIVEHOOD ZONE**

The zone covered parts of Limpopo as well as parts of Mpumalanga. In Limpopo, the zone comprises of villages in Makhado (Sereni), Mutale/Musina (Tshipise), Greater Giyani (Mninginisi, Matsotsosela, Botshabelo) and Greater Tzaneen (Xihiko). It was observed during the survey that most of the villages have a potential to produce their food from the land they have. However, due to drought the community members are not able to fully utilise or just utilise the land to their best interest. The minimum and maximum temperature in these areas ranges from 10°C to 38°C and the mean annual rainfall is between 300-600mm.

The zone in Mpumalanga covered areas such as Bushbuckridge (Ludlow, Somerset, Dingledale, Mgobode), Nkomazi (Mbuzini) and Mbombela (Ntsikazi). The team couldn’t do the survey in Mbombela (Ntsikazi) due to consultative problems. The temperature ranges from 5°C in winter to maximum of 38°C in summer. The potential for communities to produce enough food to feed their families is there but due to drought, they are unable to utilise their land.

The land in ZALCM that was previously productive is now laying fallow due to drought. Most of the community members especially the Very Poor (VP) and the Poor (P) are selling their livestock because there is no grazing land and the Better-Offs (BOs) are taking advantage of buying the livestock from the VP and P at a lesser price. Theft is a problem especially in Nkomazi (Mbuzini) which is located in the border fence of Mozambique. According to the community members, people from Mozambique are stealing their livestock and other assets such as cars in the presence of the border guards.

The majority of community members in Limpopo and Mpumalanga depend on food purchases from the local tuckshops that are owned mostly by foreign nationals and also on big retailers in towns. There are some supermarkets which are owned by the BOs and very few by the Middle group. More than 60% of the households form part of the VP and P group. The VP and P groups in the community depend highly on social grants (child support grant and old age grant) and very few depend on casual jobs for buying staple. Luckily, public schools provide school feeding programme and that is where the VP and P enrol their children. They have fairly large family size between 7 – 15 members per household. However, the household size of BOs and Middle group ranges from 3 to 7 per household.

The Middle group and BOs own productive assets such as bakkies and tractors which help them to produce more and to move their produce to the nearest markets hence generating income. They employ small number of people within their communities at most three people can be employed by a single farm or family, for weeding and cattle herding. They employ the VPs and the Ps as well as people from the neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

**Communities coping strategies**

The coping strategies in these communities are similar. When they get affected with drought they resort to buying bales to feed their livestock. Those who cannot afford to buy bales; they resort to animal migration where they go and ask from neighbouring farms and villages for their livestock to graze or they sell their livestock and sometimes at a lesser price. Since they are not planting because of drought, they rely solely on purchasing their staple food. The VP and P are reducing their food intake by limiting the number of meals eaten in a day and sometimes not by choice skipping the whole day without eating. Another dominant coping strategy was to buy less expensive food.