



**Central Bank of Kenya**

# **Agriculture Sector Survey**

January 2025





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## 1. BACKGROUND

Agriculture plays an important role in Kenya's economy as a source of livelihoods, employment and economic growth. The sector is a key source of raw materials with forward and backward linkages with the other sectors of the economy such as manufacturing, and wholesale and retail trade. Additionally, developments in the agriculture sector have implications for Kenya's food security. More importantly, agriculture is an important source of foreign currency through exports of agricultural commodities, notably tea, coffee and horticultural crops such as vegetables, fruits and cut flowers. The sector plays an important role as major source of income, particularly to rural households where agriculture is the main source of livelihoods.. Domestically, the performance of the sector has implications for food inflation and therefore overall inflation.

Based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data provided by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) for the third quarter of 2024, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector is estimated to have grown by 4.2 per cent compared to 5.1 per cent growth in the third quarter of 2023. The growth was mainly supported by the favourable weather conditions that prevailed in the first three quarters of 2024 and government interventions particularly the provision of subsidised fertiliser. The good weather supported growing of key crops such as sugarcane and milk production. Cane deliveries increased to 2,523.5 thousand metric tonnes in the third quarter of 2024, from 874.0 thousand metric tonnes in the third quarter of 2023. Over the same period, milk intake by processors increased to 224.1 million litres from 210.4 million litres. There was, however, a 12.2 per cent decline in tea production from 138,771.6 metric tonnes in the third quarter of 2023 to 121,868.3 metric tonnes in the third quarter of 2024.

Given the significant impact of developments in the agriculture sector on the supply and prices of key food items in the consumer price index (CPI), the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) continuously monitors developments in the sector through a survey conducted in select regions to gather information on indicative prices of basic commodities, output and expected trends.

More specifically, the survey focuses on the following:

- i. Indicative prices of select key agricultural food items and the general price expectations.
- ii. Assessment of output and acreage of select food items, and expectations.
- iii. Access to, usage and barriers to farm inputs for agricultural production.
- iv. Factors affecting agricultural production and marketing/sale of farm produce.
- v. Indicative information on access to and use of credit facilities.
- v. Suggestions on how to improve agricultural production.

This report presents results of a survey undertaken during the period of January 13-17, 2025. Results show an uptick in prices of most vegetables, cereals and cereal products in January 2025 relative to December 2024. Food items whose prices were found to have increased in January 2025 relative to December 2024 included maize flour-loose, fresh unpacked cow milk, spinach, kale/sukuma wiki, tomatoes, carrots and onions. The increase to a large extent reflects the seasonal factors associated with January which is usually a dry month and the impact of the October-December 2024 short rain season which was reported to have been inadequate in some regions. In some instances, sampled farmers reported not receiving enough rainfall at critical stage of crop development. Prices of other food commodities were found to have remained stable relative to December 2024. These include sugar, wheat flour, bread and packeted milk.

Expectations on output and acreage are largely positive as established in previous surveys with a large proportion of sampled farmers expecting an increase in output and acreage in the next season. However, the expectations for positive increases in both acreage and output were somewhat nuanced in January 2025 relative to findings in November 2024. This moderation largely reflects farmers' experience in relation to the October-December 2024 rainfall outcome which affected some crops such as beans.

Optimism on agriculture performance and overall economic performance remained high though relatively low compared to November 2024.

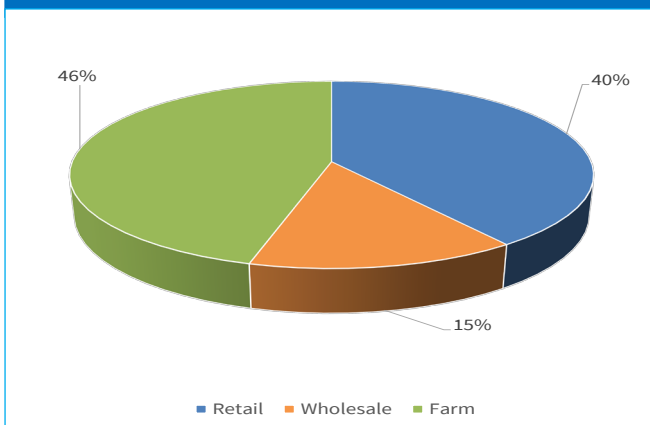
## 2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The January 2025 survey, like previous surveys, gathered information on wholesale and retail prices of select food items, expectations regarding changes in prices and output, and factors that affect agricultural production. The survey drew respondents from select wholesale and retail markets and select farms in key food basket regions. These include Nairobi Metropolitan area, and neighbouring counties such as Kiambu, Kajiado and Machakos. Other areas covered included Naivasha, Gilgil, Nakuru, Narok, Bomet, Kericho Kisumu, Mombasa, Kisii, Eldoret, Kitale, Nyandarua, Nyahururu, Mwea, Isebania, Meru,

Nyeri, Isiolo, Oloitoktok, Namanga, Makueni and Molo and some parts of Western Kenya.

The coverage and scope of the survey has continued to expand over time. The data was collected using face to face interviews with retailers, wholesalers and farmers in select markets and farms. A total of 294 respondents were sampled out of which farmers and retailers accounted for 46 percent and 40 percent, respectively, while wholesalers accounted for 15 percent **(Figure 1a and 1b)**.

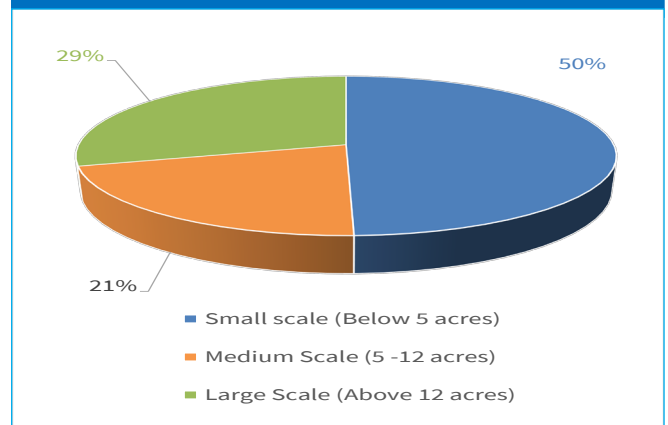
**Figure 1a: Sample composition (Percent)**



Analysis of the information collected was undertaken using both quantitative and qualitative approaches, with findings presented in form of summary tables and charts. The analysis was undertaken using averages, percentages and Balance of Opinion (BOO). The BOO is a key tool used in the analysis to show on a net basis the expected directional change in relation to variables of interest such as retail prices of select food commodities, acreage under crop and farm produce/output. The BOO is generally defined as the difference between the proportion of respondents having expressed a positive opinion and the proportion of respondents having expressed a negative opinion divided by the total number of respondents. The computation of BOO facilitates conversion of qualitative responses into quantifiable values.

For instance, with regard to inflation, the survey sought respondents' views about whether they expected inflation to increase, remain unchanged or decrease in the next one month and three months ahead.

**Figure 1b: Farm categorization (Percent)**



The BOO gets the net positions of responses and, therefore, helps shed light on the direction where, on balance, most of the responses are concentrated. It is important to note that a respondent's expectations about inflation or economic performance could vary depending on the time horizon, for instance, a respondent could expect inflation to increase one month ahead but decrease three months ahead, and vice versa. The same applies to expectations about economic performance.

The survey also sought to understand how respondents expected the agriculture sector to perform in the next three months and one year ahead. This is the third time the question was being asked, having been introduced during the September 2024 survey. The objective is to have separate expectations for agriculture sector performance and overall economic growth since the latter encompasses the industrial and service sectors, in addition to agriculture.

### 3. MAIN HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SURVEY

This section highlights the key findings from the January 2025 Survey, as follows:

- i. Retail prices of some vegetables were higher in January 2025, compared to December 2024, largely reflecting seasonal factors.
- ii. On balance, respondents expect prices of select food items to increase in February 2025, largely driven by seasonal factors.
- iii. The proportion of respondents expecting overall inflation to increase in the next one month and next three months increased in January 2025 compared to December 2024.
- iv. Over 60 percent of sampled farmers reported to have accessed the subsidized fertilizer with most farmers reporting positive impact on output.
- v. The most used inputs are inorganic fertiliser and pesticides/herbicides with 79 percent and 47 percent of sampled farmers, respectively, reporting that they were the most important inputs in production.
- vi. Expectations about change in acreage and output of key food items remains largely positive.
- vii. There was a modest decrease in the proportion of respondents expecting the performance of

the agricultural sector to improve or remain unchanged in January 2025 compared to November 2024. However, on a net basis, expectations were positive.

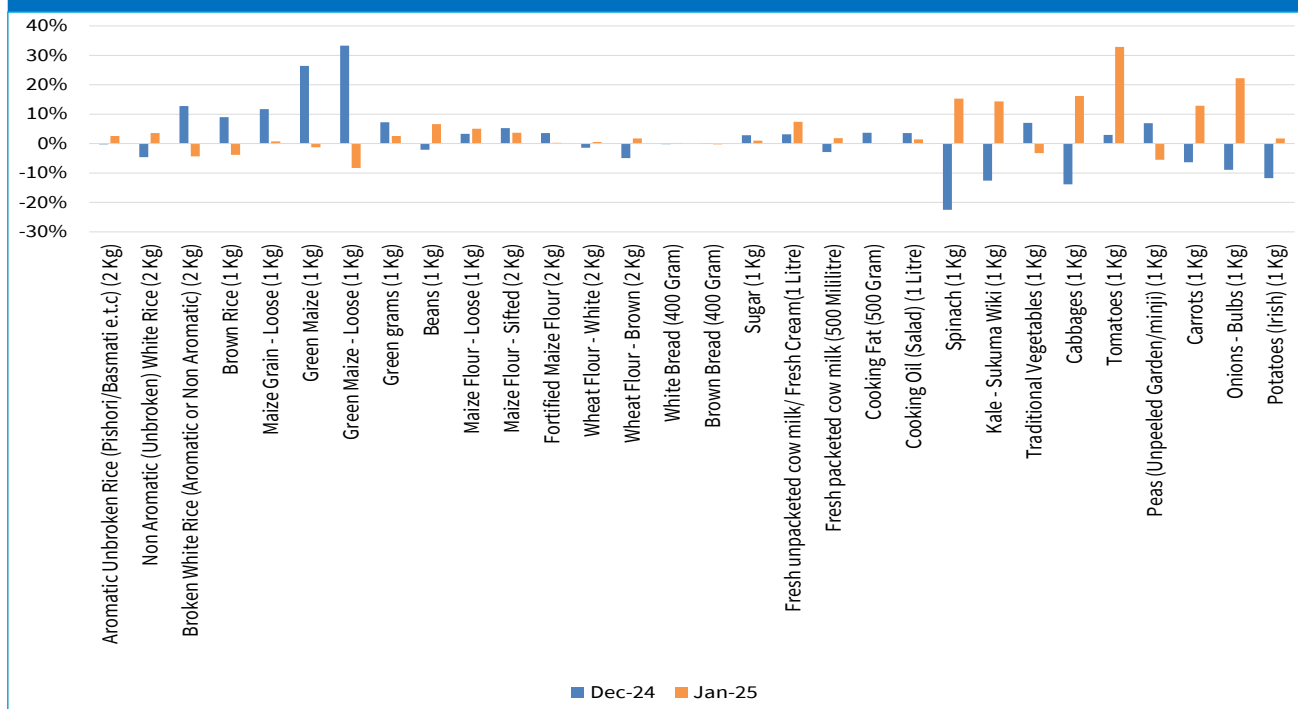
- viii. The proportion of respondents optimistic about overall economic performance in the next three months and the next one year moderated but remained high in January 2025 compared to November 2024. However, on a net basis, expectations were positive.

#### 3.1 Prices of key agricultural commodities

Prices of green maize declined while those of some vegetable items such as spinach and kales/sukuma wiki recorded modest increases in January 2025 compared to December 2024, mainly reflecting seasonal factors.

Price increases were also noted for a few non-vegetable items particularly processed food items such as sugar and maize flour (**Figure 2**).

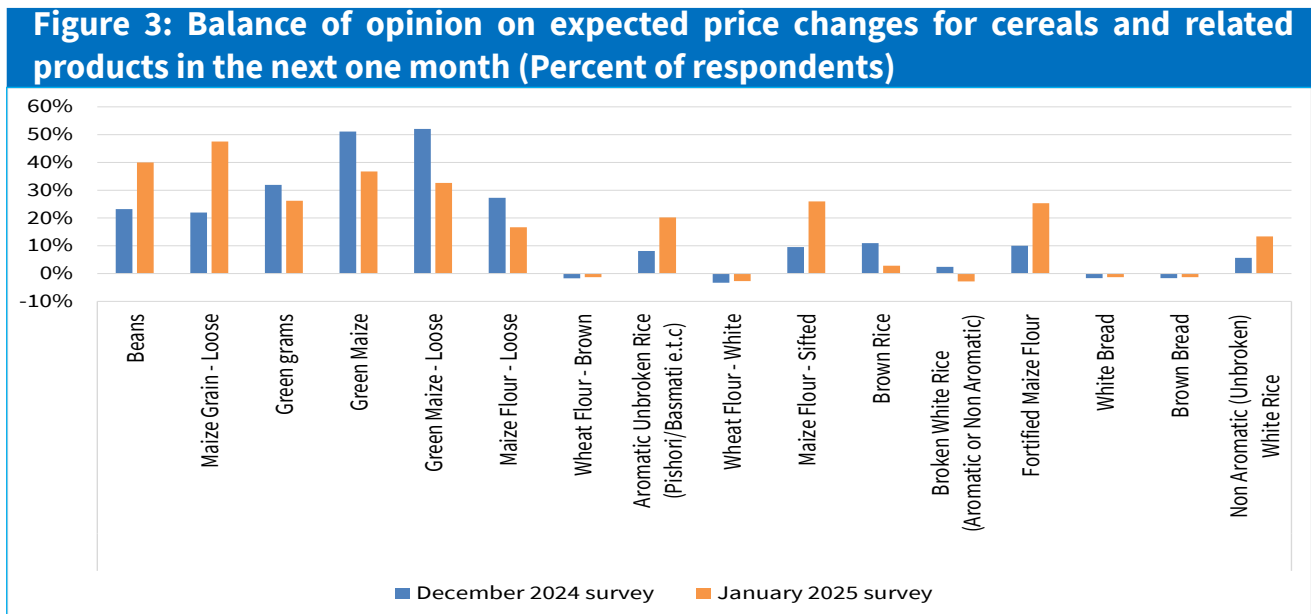
**Figure 2: Monthly changes in retail prices of select food items (Percent)**



### 3.2 Expectations of prices of key food items

Balance of opinion (BOO) on expected price changes shows prices of select cereals and vegetables are

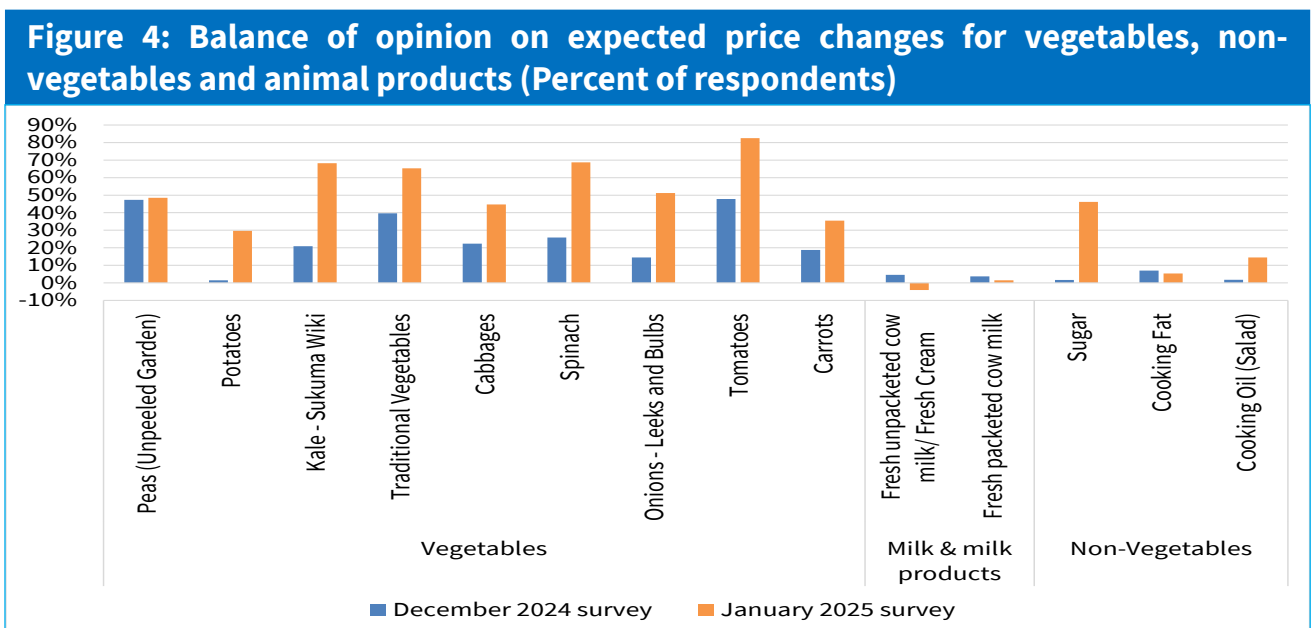
expected to increase in February 2025, mainly reflecting the impact of inadequate rainfall in October-December 2024 in some regions.



Respondents expect prices of some cereals and related products to record modest price increases in February 2025 relative to January 2025, mainly reflecting expected impact of inadequate rains in some regions during the short rain season. Expected price changes for various varieties of rice are mixed, with an expected modest price increase for aromatic and non-aromatic while prices of brown rice and

broken white rice are expected to remain more or less unchanged in February 2025 (**Figure 3**).

The BOO on expected price changes shows prices of milk and milk products are expected to remain unchanged while some vegetables are expected to experience a modest uptick in prices, largely reflecting seasonality (**Figure 4**)



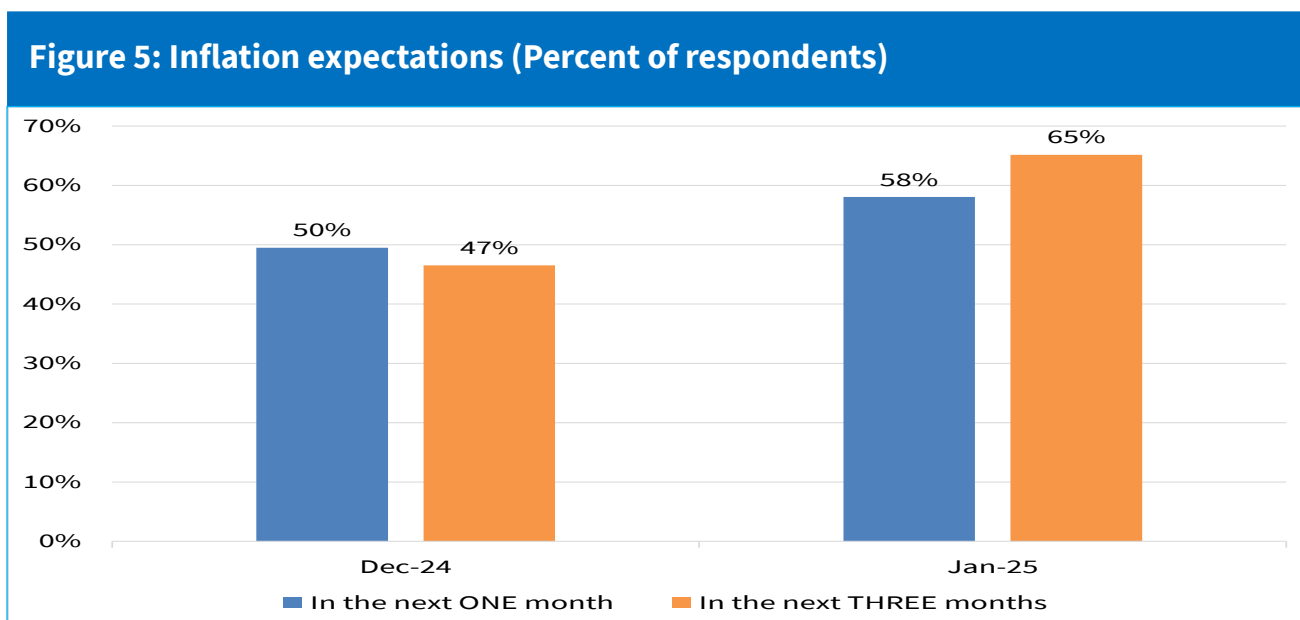
Prices of kales/sukuma wiki, traditional vegetables, cabbages, spinach, tomatoes and potatoes are expected to be relatively higher in February 2025 compared to January 2025, some reflecting seasonality factors while others reflect impact of inadequate October-December 2024 rainfall.

On balance, sampled respondents expect prices of sugar and cooking oil (salad) to increase slightly in February 2025, reflecting developments in the global market, where prices of these items have edged up in the recent past. However, the price of cooking fat is expected to remain unchanged (**Figure 4**).

In addition to getting information about the expected changes in prices of select food items, the January 2025 survey also sought respondents' views about expected changes in the general consumer price

level in the economy (inflation). The proportion of respondents expecting overall inflation to increase in the next one month and next three months was relatively higher in January 2025 compared to December 2024 (**Figure 5**). Those who expected an increase mostly cited the possibility of reduced market supplies due to inadequate October – December 2024 rainfall in some regions and the possibility of oil price increases due to uncertainties surrounding the Middle East conflict. Others were concerned about the noted modest increases in prices of select essential food items in the global market particularly processed food items such as sugar, cooking fat and vegetable oil.

Respondents expected stable exchange rate and stability in pump prices to moderate inflation.



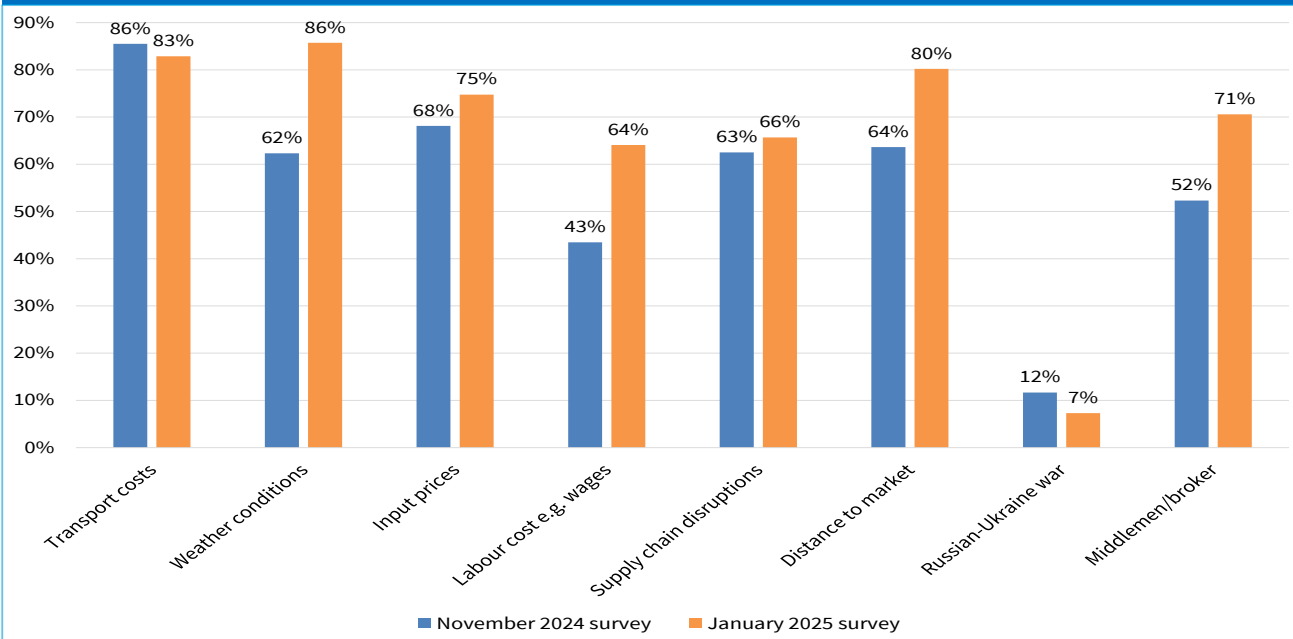
### 3.3 Factors affecting retail and wholesale prices

The January 2025 survey, like previous surveys, sought to establish the factors that influence retail and wholesale prices of select food items. The proportion that reported transport costs as a factor influencing retail prices declined slightly to 83 percent in January 2025, from 86 percent in November 2024. This possibly reflects the benefit of relatively long period of pump price stability. However, the proportion citing the impact of weather conditions (floods, drought) increased to 86 percent in January 2025 from 62 percent in November 2024. This was influenced to a large extent by the higher temperatures in January 2025 relative to the

long-term mean for the month. This may also have reflected the impact of inadequate rainfall in some regions (**Figure 6 and Annex Figure 17**). The proportion that reported supply chain disruptions to be a factor in driving up retail prices remained more or less unchanged. The impact of 'distance to market' increased in January 2025 as farmers reported to be travelling longer distances in search of supplies due to inadequate October – December 2024 rainfall and the hot weather conditions in January 2025 which had affected growing of some fast-maturing vegetables. There were also concerns that labour costs were edging up. In January 2025, 64 percent of the sampled farmers cited labour costs as a key factor driving prices compared to 43 percent in November 2024.



**Figure 6: Factors affecting retail prices (Percent of respondents)**



### 3.4 Analysis of output

#### 3.4.1 Output performance and expectations

This section describes the outcomes of the January 2025 agriculture survey regarding expected changes in indicative output and acreage for select crops. This is important because an increase in output, if realised, has implications for market supplies, and hence, on food inflation which in turn affects overall inflation. Likewise, an increase in acreage has implications for output, holding constant the influence of any other factors relevant in determining output.

#### 3.4.2 Output performance across food crops

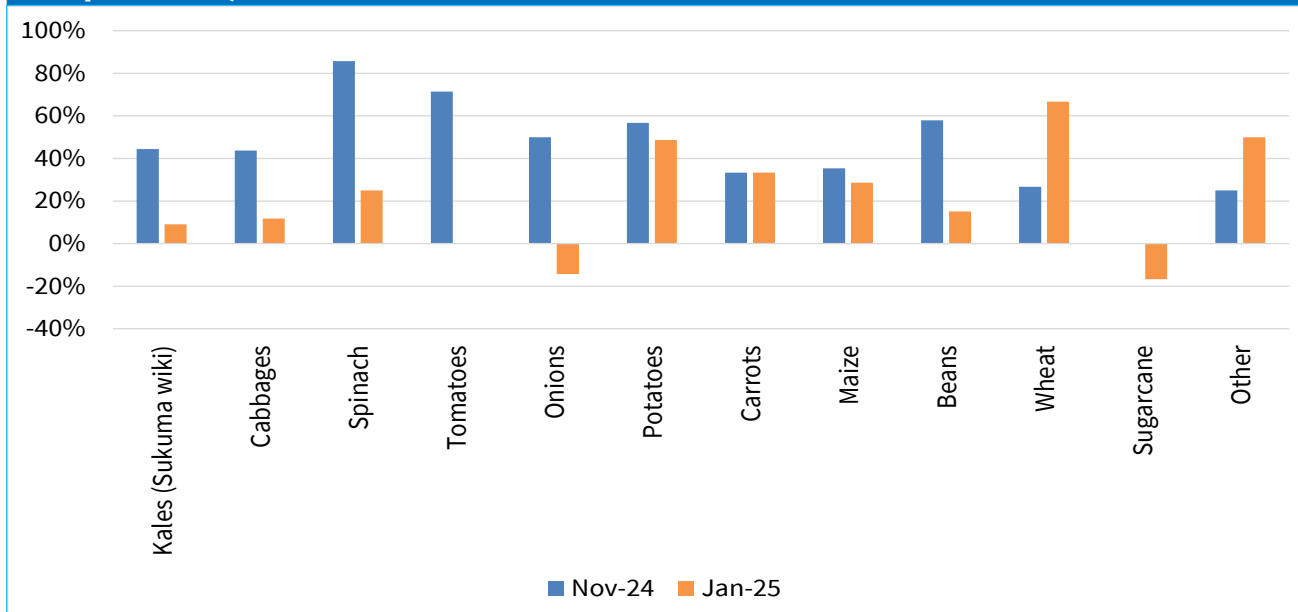
Sampled farmers in the January 2025 survey observed that output and acreage of most crops were, on a net basis, expected to increase, largely driven by the expectation that the March-May 2025 long rains season would be favourable and the expected continuation of government measures that have positively impacted yields. A notable initiative in this regard is the subsidised fertiliser programme. Some farmers underscored the adoption of smart agriculture farming methods which, despite being limited in scope, was gaining traction and a potential source of farm incomes.

#### 3.4.3 Expectations about output and acreage

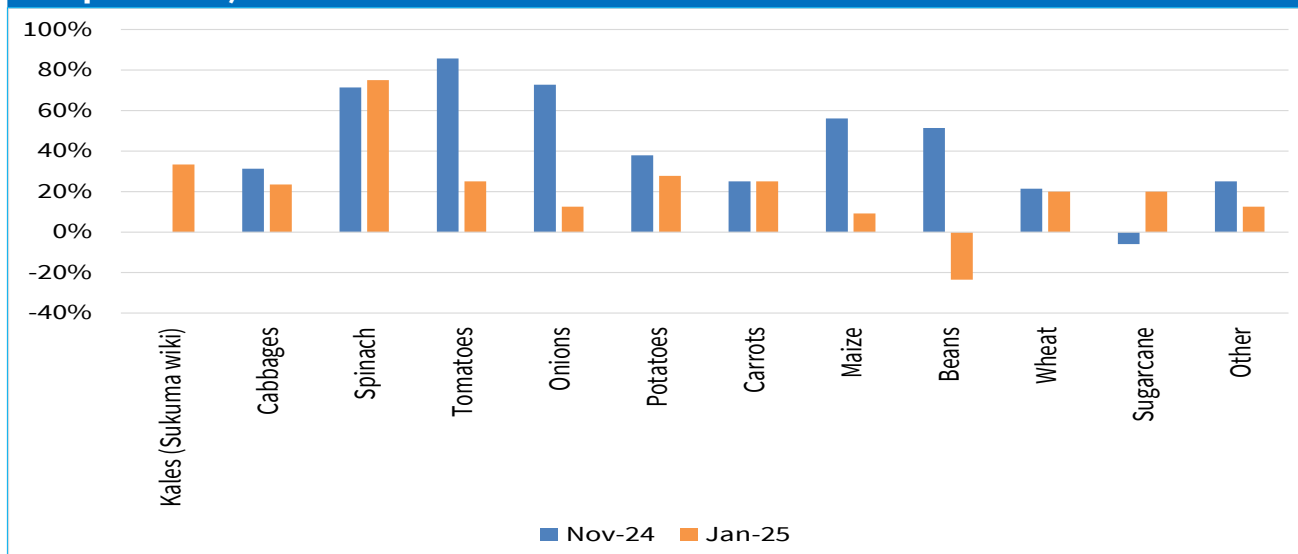
On balance, farmers' expectations about likely

changes in output and acreage in the next harvest pointed to an increase. The favourable rainfall in the first three quarters of 2024 had raised water table thereby supporting farmers who rely on irrigation especially those who use water from boreholes. Even for those that rely on rain-fed agriculture, the expectation that rainfall in March-May 2025 season would be favourable had motivated them to consider increasing acreage. Besides, as was observed in the November 2024 survey, previous harvests had provided many farmers with own seeds which partly reduced the input cost burden. Additionally, the January 2025 survey showed that farmers expect to increase acreage for various crops such as kales/sukuma wiki, cabbages, spinach, potatoes and maize (**Figure 7a & 7b**). However, beans farmers were less optimistic about increasing acreage in the next planting season. This was primarily influenced by failure of rainfall during the flowering stage of beans which in some regions had adversely affected the crop. Consistent with finding in previous surveys, the decision to change acreage was not just a function of expected rainfall. It was also influenced by other considerations such as the need for crop rotation, expected demand conditions, availability of affordable and quality seeds and the cost of land preparation for the specific crop.

**Figure 7(a): Balance of opinion on expected acreage for select crops (Percent of respondents)**



**Figure 7(b): Balance of opinion on expected output for select crops (Percent of respondents)**



### 3.5 Expected performance of the agriculture sector and the overall economy

Respondents were asked to indicate how they expect the agriculture sector to evolve in the next three months as well as one year ahead, and the reasons underpinning their expectations. That is, whether they expected the sector’s performance to remain unchanged, to improve or to worsen. Analysis of January 2025 data shows that the proportion of sampled farmers who expect agriculture sector

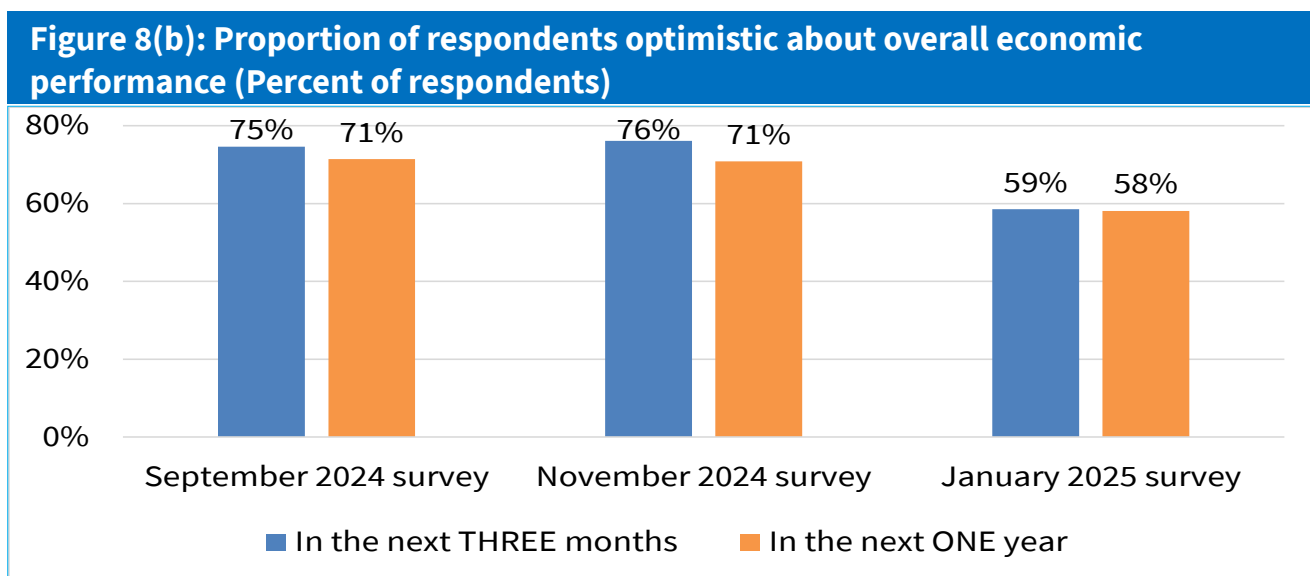
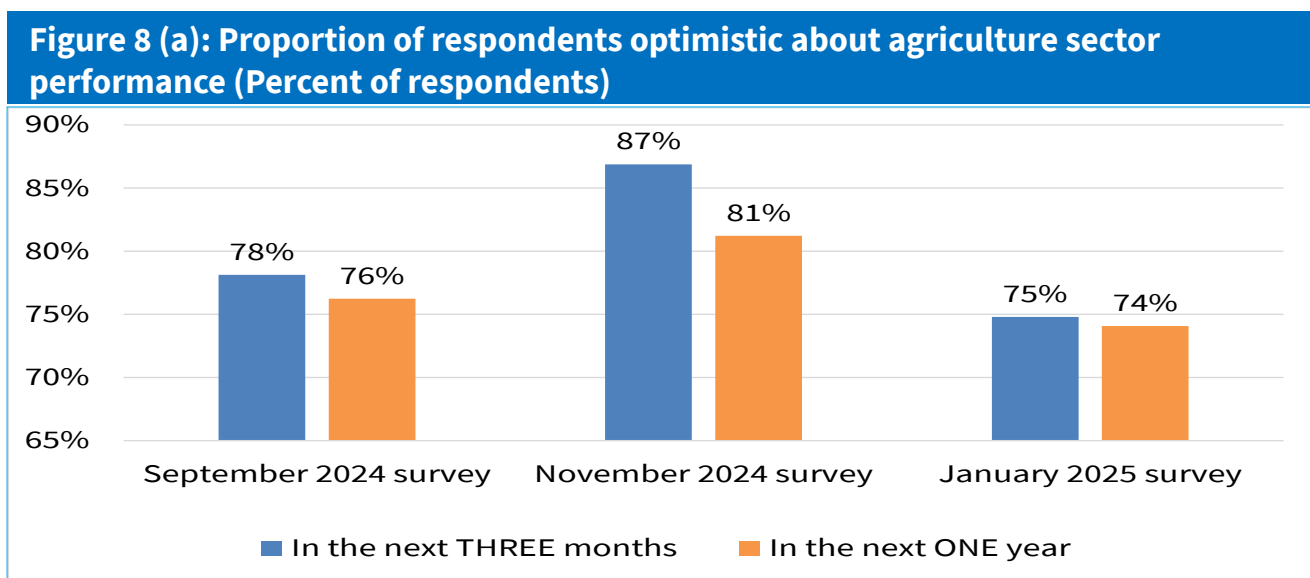
performance to improve in the next three months remained high at 75 percent though slightly lower compared to 87 percent in November 2024. Likewise, the proportion of respondents who expect an improvement in the next one year remained high at 74 percent in January 2025, though lower compared to 81 percent in November 2024 (**Figure 8a**).

The moderation in optimism in January 2025 was partly informed by seasonal factors given that January is climatologically a dry month, as well the impact of the October-December 2024 rainfall

outcome. Optimism in both November 2024 and January 2025 surveys, however, remained high on average, with more than 70 percent expecting an improvement in the sector's performance both three months and one year ahead.

In addition to gathering respondents' views about how they expected agriculture sector to evolve, the survey also sought to find out how optimistic the respondents were about overall economic performance. Optimism remained high with 59

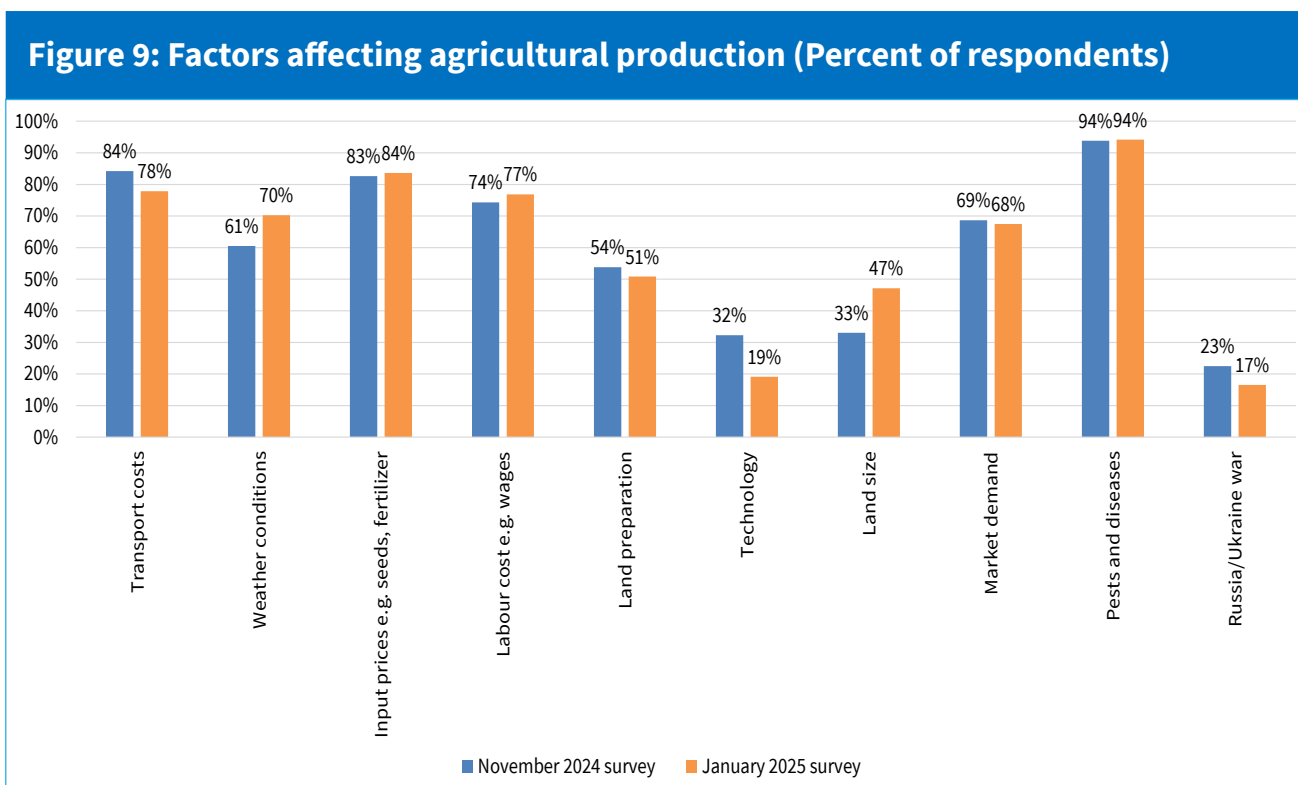
percent of the sampled respondents expecting an improvement in overall economic performance in the next three months, though lower compared to the proportion in November 2024 survey. Likewise, optimism about expected economic performance one year ahead remained high at 58 percent though a moderation compared to 71 percent in November 2024 (**Figure 8b**). The decline was partly influenced by seasonality given that January is generally a dry month, as well as the impact of subdued short rains noted in some regions.



### 3.6 Factors affecting agricultural production

Pests and diseases continue to be a key factor affecting agricultural production. In the January 2025 and November 2024 surveys, the proportion of farmers who reported pests and diseases to be a factor influencing agricultural production remained significantly high at 94 percent. The second most cited factor was the high cost of inputs with the proportion of respondents increasing marginally to 84 percent

in January 2025 from 83 percent in November 2024 (**Figure 9**). As discussed in another section of this report, the largest share of farmers' loans is used to purchase inputs. It was noted that the price of inputs such as seeds, fertiliser and pesticides/herbicides was a key factor affecting agricultural production. The cost of certified hybrid seeds had increased over time which forced farmers to either purchase fewer quantities of certified high-quality seeds, use own seeds or purchase cheap seeds of questionable quality.

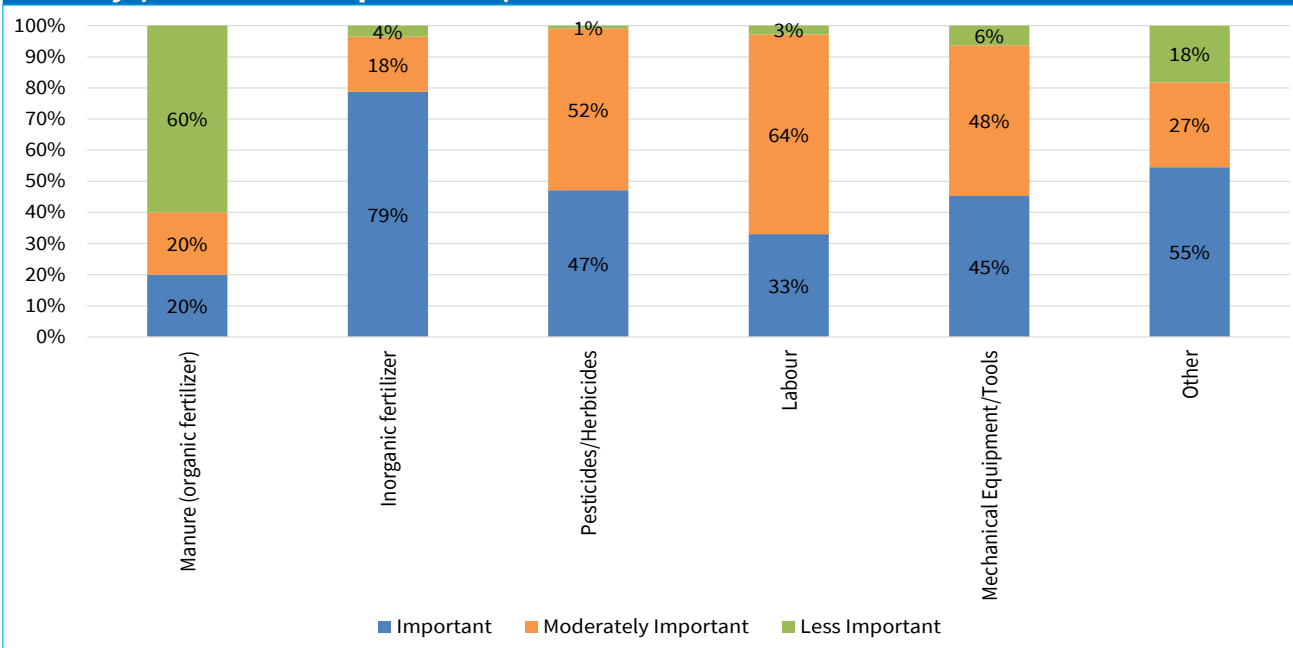


### 3.7 Use of farm inputs in agricultural production

The January 2025 findings on the type of inputs commonly used by farmers and their intensity was much similar to findings of previous surveys. The most used input is inorganic fertiliser with 79 percent of sampled farmers in January 2025 reporting to use the input (**Figure 10**).

The government policy of subsidised fertiliser programme is, therefore, well targeted as it seeks to reduce the cost burden on the most used farm input. Fertiliser use is critical during planting as well as for top dressing. Use of pesticides is also widespread especially in the growing of carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, onions, spinach, and kales/sukuma wiki to control for various crop diseases at various stages of the crop cycle. However, use of manure remains limited.

**Figure 10: Significance of farm inputs in agricultural production in January 2025 survey (Percent of respondents)**

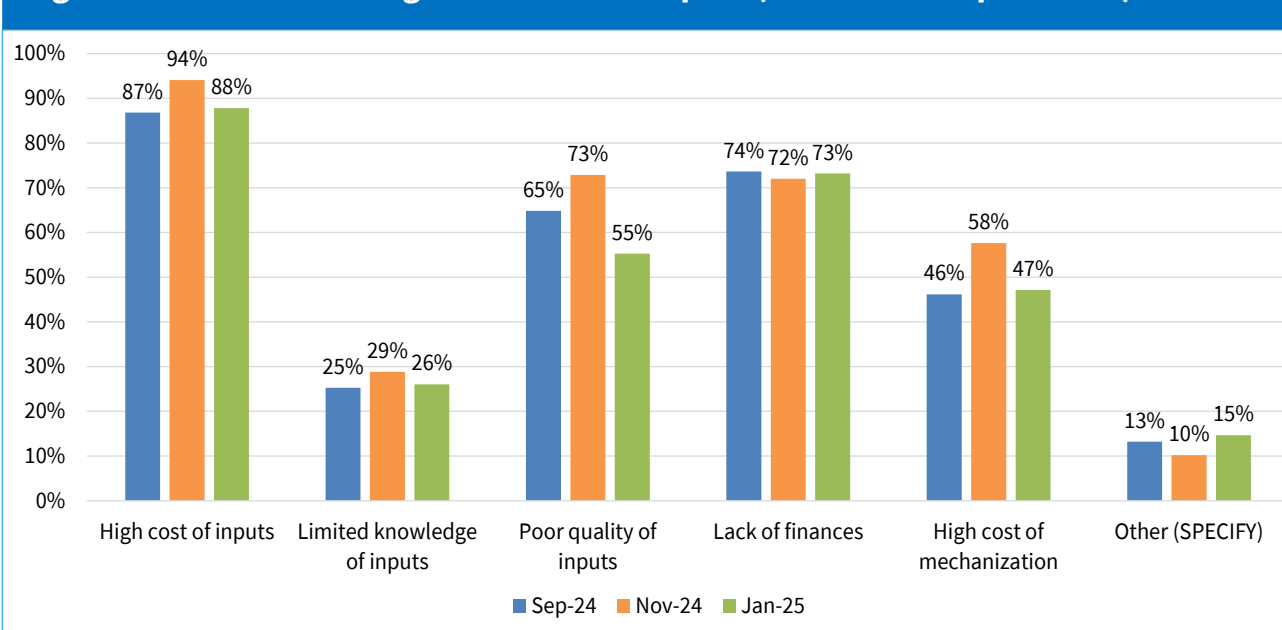


### 3.7.1 Challenges associated with access to farm inputs

Farmers face various challenges in the quest for farm inputs. In the January 2025 survey, similar to previous surveys, respondents were asked to indicate the binding constraints in getting farm inputs. The high cost of inputs has consistently been cited by

the highest number of sampled farmers as a key factor limiting farmers' access to inputs. Other key barriers are lack of finances and low quality of inputs (**Figure 11**). The problem of low quality of inputs is also related to lack of finances because high quality inputs tend to be costly.

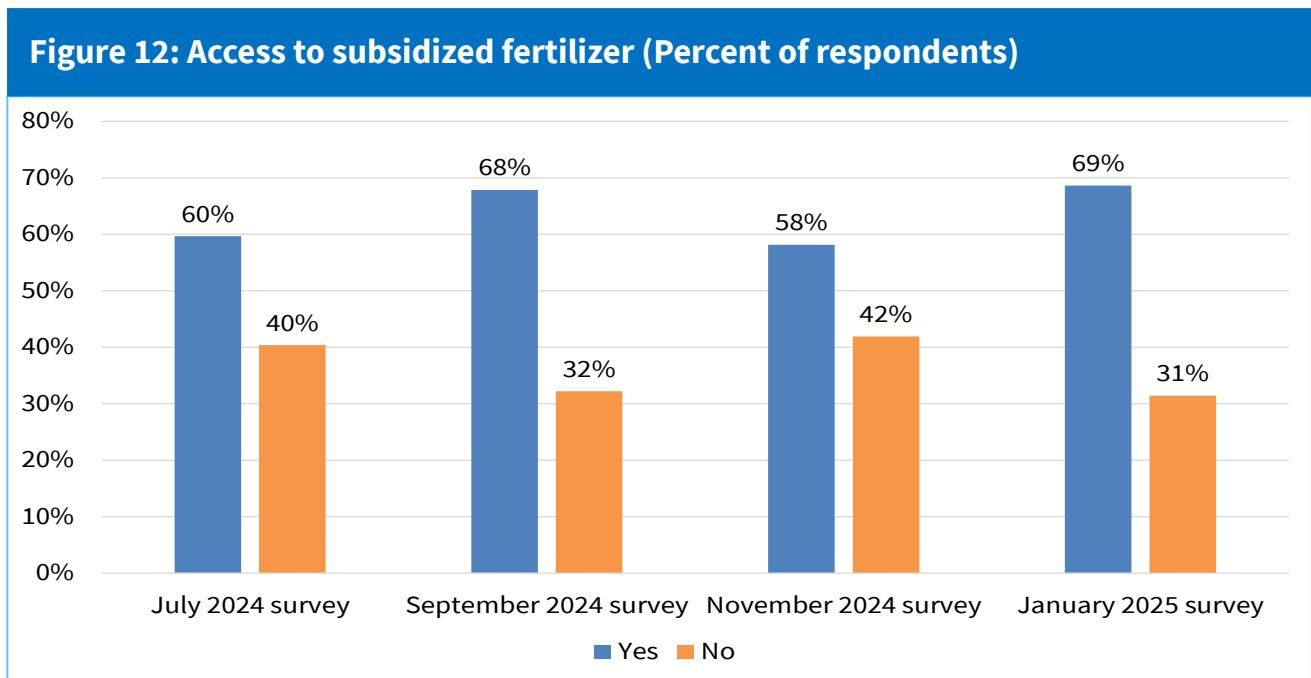
**Figure 11: Factors limiting access to farm inputs (Percent of respondents)**



### 3.7.2 Access to Government subsidized fertilizer

The proportion of respondents who reported to have accessed government subsidized fertilizer stood at 69 percent in January 2025, the highest in the last four surveys (**Figure 12**). Respondents who reported to have been unable to benefit from the subsidised fertilizer programme cited a number of reasons such as not being able to travel to the fertilizer collection centres owing to the long distances involved. Similar to findings in previous surveys, others reported that they did not bother to register for the subsidised

fertiliser as they preferred to purchase fertilizer of their own choice. In other instances, some farmers reported that they were not aware that subsidized fertilizer was available at a reasonable price. There were also some farmers who cited the complications around the logistics of access and the difficulties involved given that the demand for the subsidised fertilizer was too high relative to supply. In other instances, priority was given to farmers who were members of a farming group, making it difficult for those who did not belong to any farming group to benefit from the subsidised fertilizer.



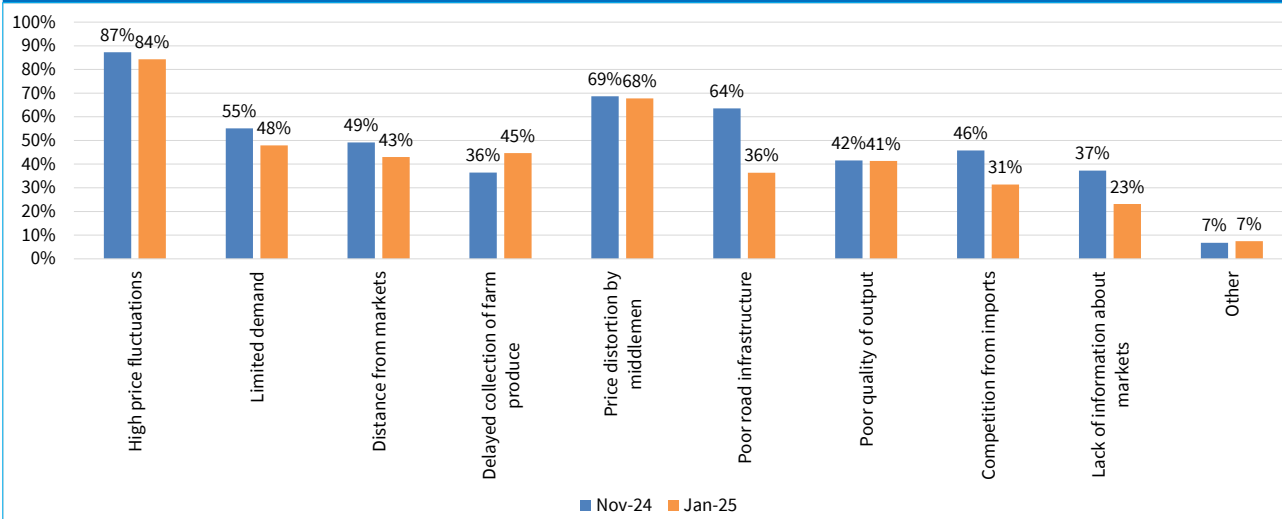
### 3.8 Factors affecting marketing/sale of farm produce

With regard to factors critically affecting marketing/sale of farm produce, the single most critical factor is high price fluctuations which was reported by over 80 percent of sampled farmers in both January 2025 and November 2024 surveys (**Figure 13**). This problem is particularly common for food commodities such as tomatoes, cabbages, onions and maize whose prices tend to vary widely from season to season. As reported in previous surveys, price fluctuations are common because most farmers tend to harvest at the same time thereby flooding markets with the same produce. In view of the increased supply during harvest relative to demand, prices can decline to abnormally low levels. Conversely, during periods

of shortages occasioned by factors such as drought or floods, prices tend to increase drastically. Some farmers suggested that a mechanism be put in place to stabilise prices of farm produce. This is discussed in section 4 of the report.

The share of respondents who reported price distortion by middlemen as a concern remained almost unchanged at 68 percent in January 2025. However, there was a notable decrease in the proportion citing poor roads as a challenge in January 2025 (64 percent) compared to November 2024 (36 percent) (**Figure 13**). This is not surprising given that January is usually a dry month unlike November rain season during which some roads become impassable.

**Figure 13: Factors affecting marketing/sale of farm produce (Percent of respondents)**

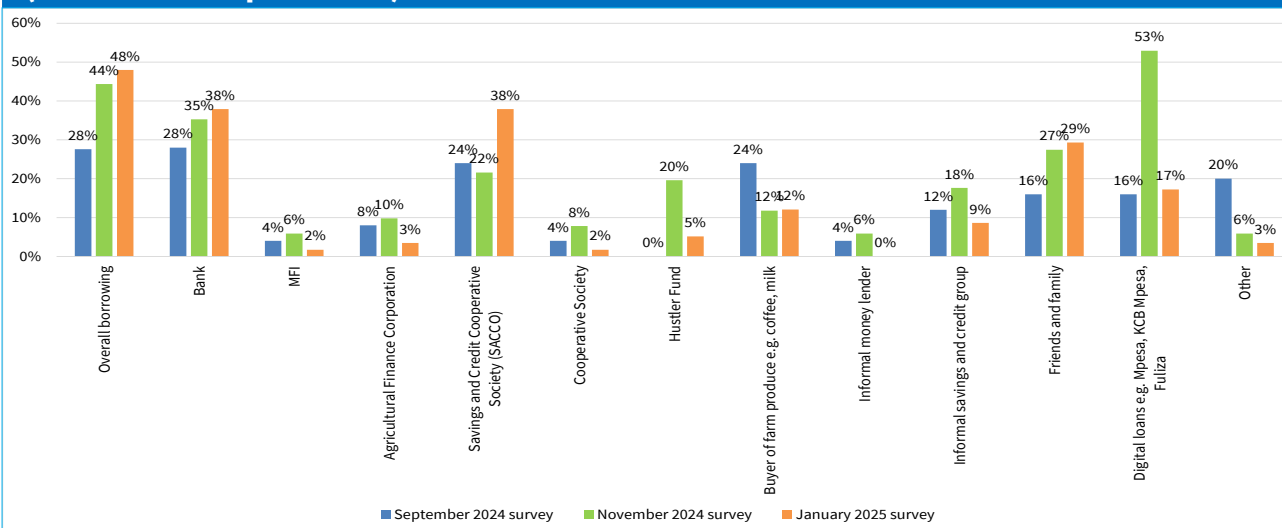


### 3.9 Access to credit facilities in agriculture

Borrowing by farmers to finance agriculture activity has generally been low. However, there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of farmers reporting to have borrowed to finance farm activity in the last three surveys. This proportion increased to 48 percent in January 2025 from 44 percent and 28 percent in November 2024 and September 2024,

respectively. Banks, SACCOs, digital lenders and family and friends remain key financiers of farm activity (**Figure 14**). The tightening of Hustler fund borrowing conditions may have contributed to the reduction in borrowing from the Hustler Fund. The proportion of farmers who reported to have obtained Hustler loans declined to 5 percent in January 2025 from 20 percent in November 2024, possibly reflecting the tighter collateral rules for accessing the facility, aimed at reducing loan defaults.

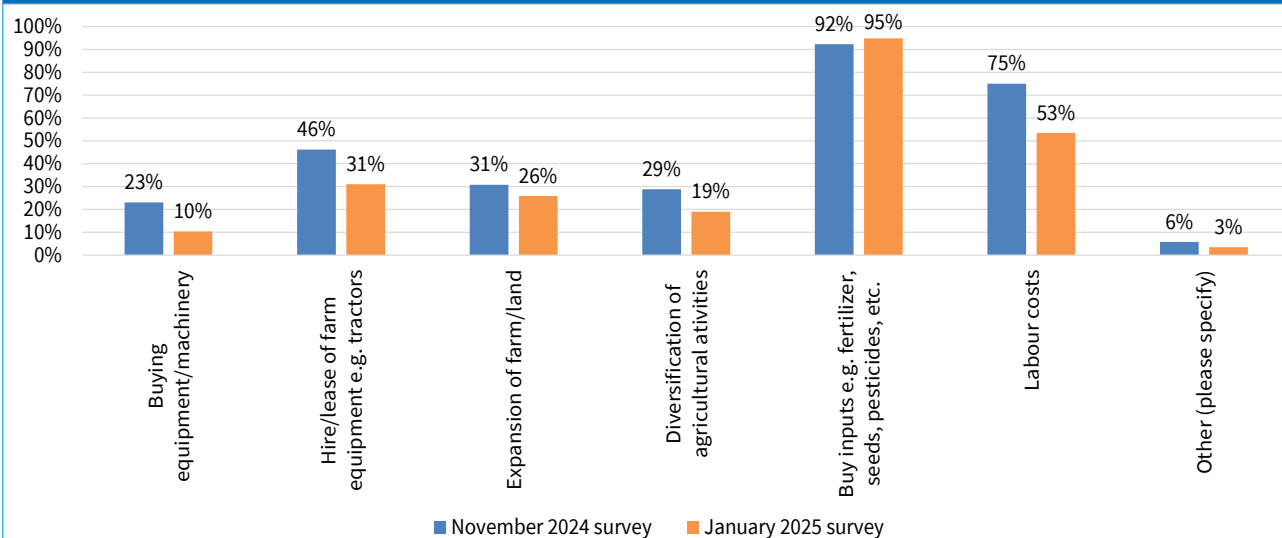
**Figure 14: Proportion of respondents who borrowed to finance farming by lender (Percent of respondents)**



Regarding usage of agricultural loans, the survey established that, similar to previous findings, the largest proportion of farmers use the borrowed funds to purchase inputs. This proportion increased slightly to 95 percent in January 2025 from 92 percent in November 2024 survey. There was a decline in

the proportion of respondents who reported to spend the borrowed funds on labour to 53 percent in January 2025 from 75 percent in November 2024 (**Figure 15**). This is expected given that January being a drier month there is relatively less labour intensive agricultural activity.

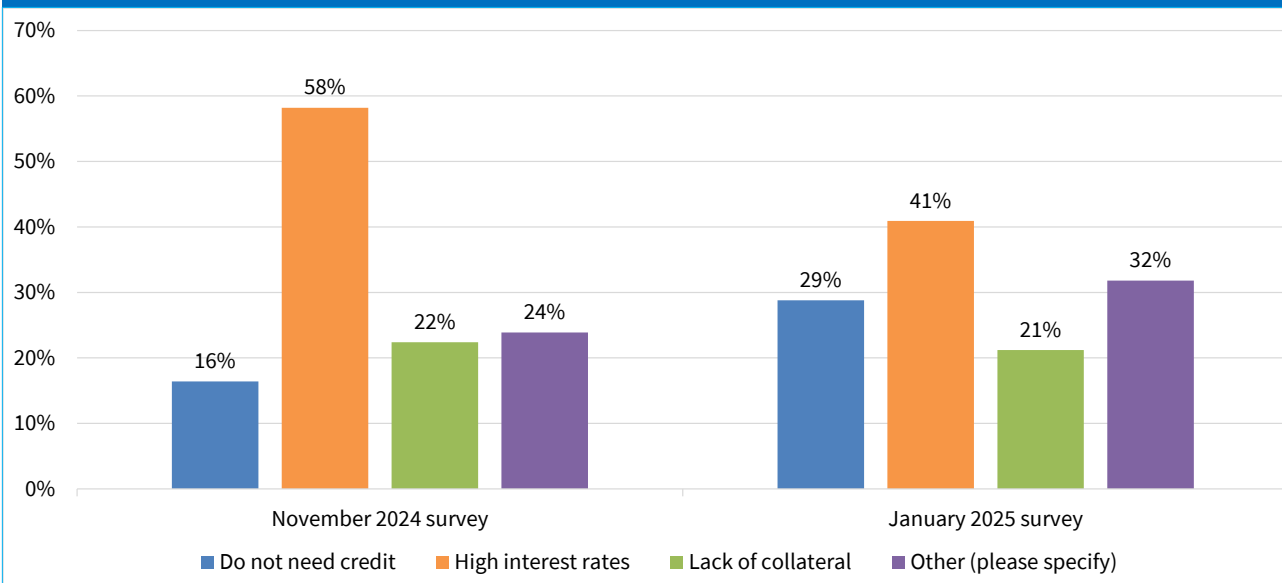
**Figure 15: Purpose of agricultural loans (Percent of respondents)**



With respect to barriers in accessing finance for farming, high interest rates continued to be the most significant binding constraint (**Figure 16**). Some farmers were unwilling to seek any form of loans for farming for fear that doing so would expose them to auctions in case of crop failure. They explained that crop growing was a risky activity as it mostly relied on rainfall which could fail, thereby exposing the farmer to such risks. A large share of crop growing is rain-fed. For instance, in the January 2025 survey, similar to findings in November 2024, about 80

percent of farmers interviewed practised rain-fed agriculture (**Annex Figure 18**). Other factors that influenced farmers’ decisions on whether or not to seek loans for farming were lack of collateral and the long and cumbersome process of accessing loans. Some farmers indicated that they were unable to get collateral as they relied on farm leasing where the land owner had control over the title deed. Others were not aware that there existed avenues for getting loans to support farming.

**Figure 16: Barriers to credit among farmers (Percent of respondents)**





## 4. VIEWS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The January 2025 Survey sought views from farmers on what should be done to improve agricultural production and to ensure a continuous supply of agricultural produce. The suggestions gathered in January 2025 survey are very similar to those gathered in previous surveys:

- Promote irrigation by constructing more dams, digging boreholes and water pans. This will reduce reliance on rainfed agriculture.
- Ensure farmers have access to affordable inputs, high quality and timely delivery of inputs.

- Stabilize prices of agricultural produce which tend to be highly volatile.
- Promote mechanization of agriculture, for instance, subsidize tractor services during farm preparation phase, to increase yields.
- Provide extension services, especially agronomists to advise farmers on appropriate farming techniques.
- Improve feeder roads to enhance delivery of agricultural produce to markets.
- Increase facilities for maize drying and ensure they are closer to farmers, to reduce post-harvest losses.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

This report summarizes the findings of the agriculture sector survey of prices and output conducted from January 13-17, 2025. The main objective of the survey was to obtain indicative information on recent trends and market expectations of prices and output of key agricultural commodities in the consumer price index (CPI) basket for the purpose of informing monetary policy.

As with previous surveys, the survey focused on prices of key agricultural commodities in select retail and wholesale markets, indicative agricultural output and acreage as well as output expectations, factors affecting agricultural production, marketing and sale of farm produce, access to farm inputs and credit facilities as well as proposals on how to improve agricultural production.

The survey drew 294 respondents from wholesale traders, retailers, and farmers in select towns across the country: Nairobi Metropolitan area, and neighbouring counties including Kiambu, Kajiado and Machakos, Naivasha area, Gilgil Nakuru, Narok, Bomet, Kericho Kisumu, Mombasa, Kisii, Eldoret, Kitale, Nyandarua, Nyahururu, Mwea, Machakos, Isebania, Meru, Nyeri, Isiolo, Oloitoktok, Namanga, Makueni, Molo, Kakamega and Bungoma.

The key findings from the January 2025 Survey include the following:

- Prices of select vegetables increased in January 2025 relative to December 2024, largely on

account of seasonal factors. The proportion of respondents expecting overall inflation to increase in the next one month and next three months was relatively higher in January 2025 compared to December 2024, largely reflecting the impact of seasonal factors. However, exchange rate stability and stable pump prices expected to provide some relief.

- The proportion of respondents reporting transport costs as a key factor influencing retail prices declined slightly in January 2025 compared to November 2024, reflecting the benefit of continued stability in pump prices. However, the proportion that cited weather conditions and distance to market as key factors influencing retail prices increased in January 2025 compared to November 2024. This could be due to the fact that January tends to be a dry month, and hence is associated with an uptick in prices of food commodities especially vegetables. The distance to market was a key factor because traders have to travel longer distances in search of supplies.
- The uptake of subsidized fertilizer was relatively high with 69 percent of the sampled farmers reporting to have benefitted in January 2025 compared to 58 percent in November 2024.
- On balance, farmers expect increased acreage and output in the next season. This is largely driven by the expectation that the March-May 2025 long rain season will be favourable.
- Optimism on the expected performance of the agriculture sector remains high with over 70 percent of the sampled respondents in January

2025 expecting an improved outcome in the next three months and one year ahead.

- Optimism about the expected performance of the economy in the next three months as well as one year ahead remained high at 59 percent for the next three months and at 58 percent for the next one year.

Regarding views on how agricultural production could be improved, the responses were similar to those of previous surveys. Suggestions included the need to preserve water through construction of dams and water pans; address the high cost of inputs and create a mechanism to stabilise prices of agricultural commodities which are characterised by fluctuations from time to time.

There are several measures the Kenya government can take to ensure that farmers are incentivised to increase production. Based on the findings of this survey, the key recommendations mirror those contained in previous reports of the Agriculture Sector Surveys. They include the following:

- Promote irrigation to reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture which is risky due to the changing weather patterns.
- Ensure farm inputs are affordable, of high quality and are available on time. The government subsidised fertilizer programme should be sustained given the high input cost burden reported by farmers. The findings of the January 2025 survey, like previous survey findings, show

inorganic fertiliser is the most used input with 79 percent of sampled farmers having reported its usage. The government subsidised fertiliser programme is thus well targeted as it seeks to promote use of an input which is reported to be widely used by farmers.

- The government should also consider implementing measures to reduce the cost of pesticides/herbicides as this is the second most used input. Pesticides/herbicides were said to be so critical to crop health to the extent that most crops would not produce any meaningful yields without their application.
- Increase the number of fertilizer collection centres and have them closer to farmers to reduce the costs that farmers incur travelling to collect fertilizer.
- Promote mechanization of agriculture by providing incentives such as subsidised tractor services especially during land preparation.
- Promote price stability of agricultural produce to reduce losses to farmers. For instance, government should consider allocating more funds to National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) to purchase cereals such as maize during periods of excess supply.
- Bring essential services closer to farmers, for instance, maize drying services to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Prioritize construction and maintenance of feeder roads to ensure agricultural produce reaches the market easily. This will also reduce post-harvest losses.

Figure 17: Factors affecting wholesale prices (Percent of respondents)

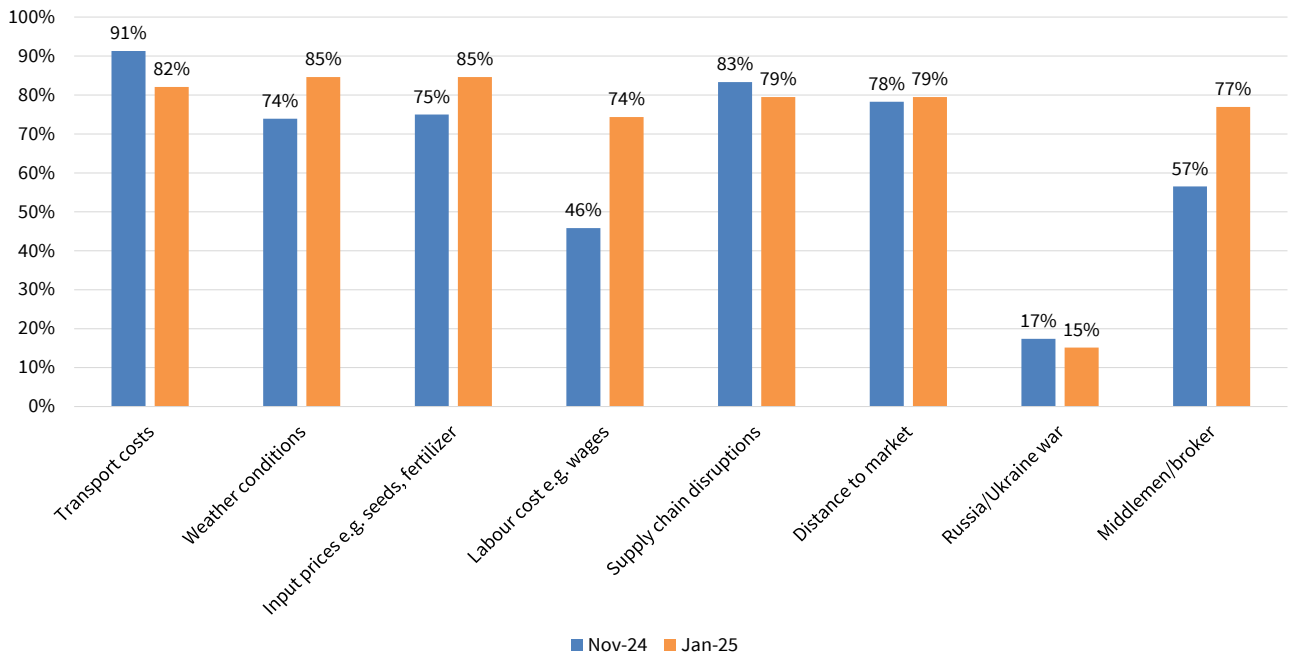
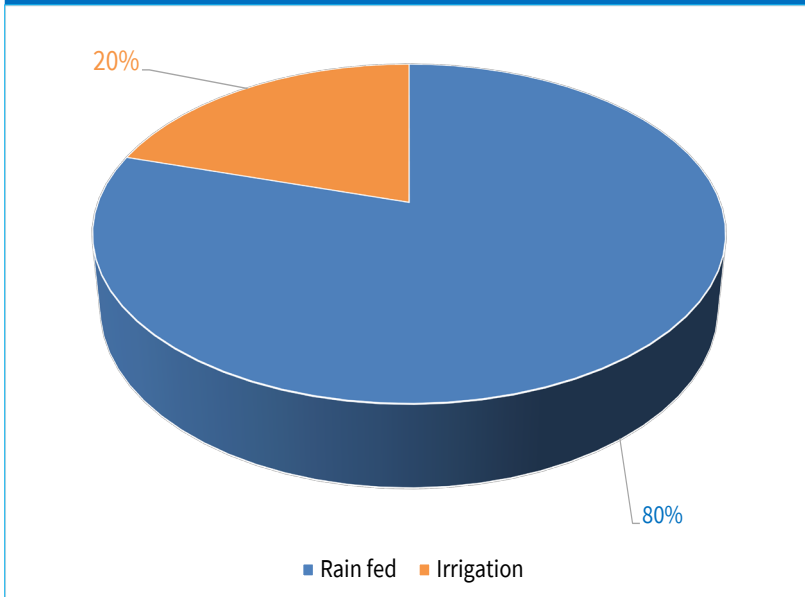


Figure 18: Main water source for farming in January 2025 (Percent of respondents)







**Central Bank of Kenya**

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