



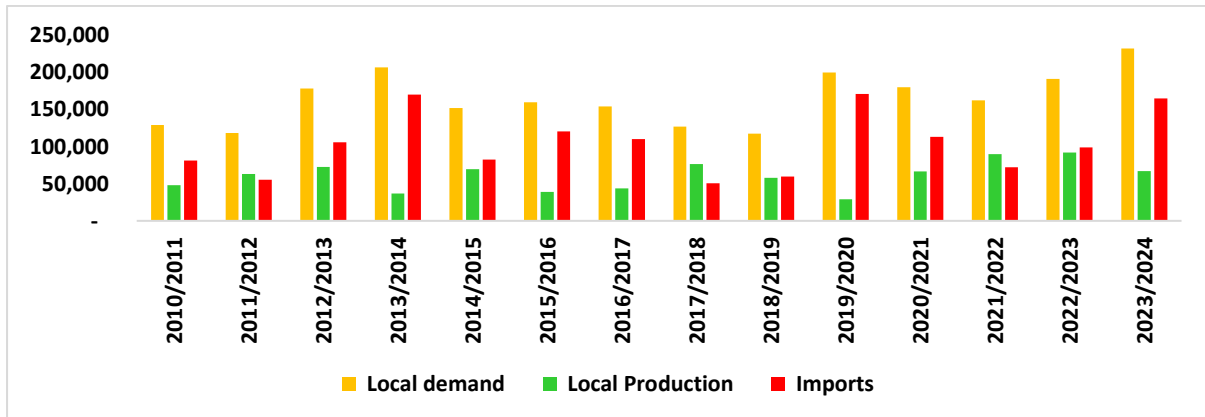
**Grain Snapshot 2025**

**Grain Production Plummets Amidst Drought Conditions**

Severe production shortfalls have intensified Namibia’s reliance on grain imports. For the year 2024 (January – December), total crop production stood at 37,375 tons, a staggering decline from 85,977 tons in 2023 and 126,179 tons in 2022. This marked a drastic drop of 56% compared to 2023 and 70% when compared to 2022. White maize production stood at 33,308 tons, while imports totaled 255,238 tons. Wheat production remained low at 3,377 tons, with imports reaching 157,708 tons. Similarly, pearl millet saw modest local production of 690 tons, necessitating imports of 2,982 tons. These declines are largely attributed to recurrent droughts, which have severely disrupted planting and harvest cycles, resulting in inconsistent yields.

White maize production in Namibia continues to show an almost equal reliance on local production and imports. Meanwhile, wheat production remains consistently low, with imports accounting for the majority of supply. In contrast, mahangu is primarily cultivated by smallholder farmers in the northern regions, where it thrives in Namibia’s arid conditions. Local production sufficiently meets demand, minimizing reliance on imports. Overall, the country imported approximately 415,928 tons of grain to meet 92% of local demand in 2024. See figures below.

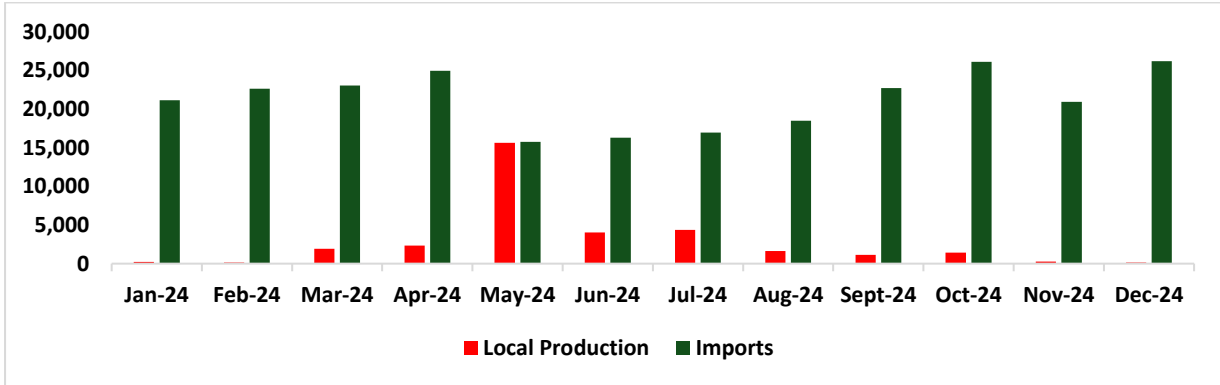
**Figure 1: White Maize, 2010-2023**



Source: NAB

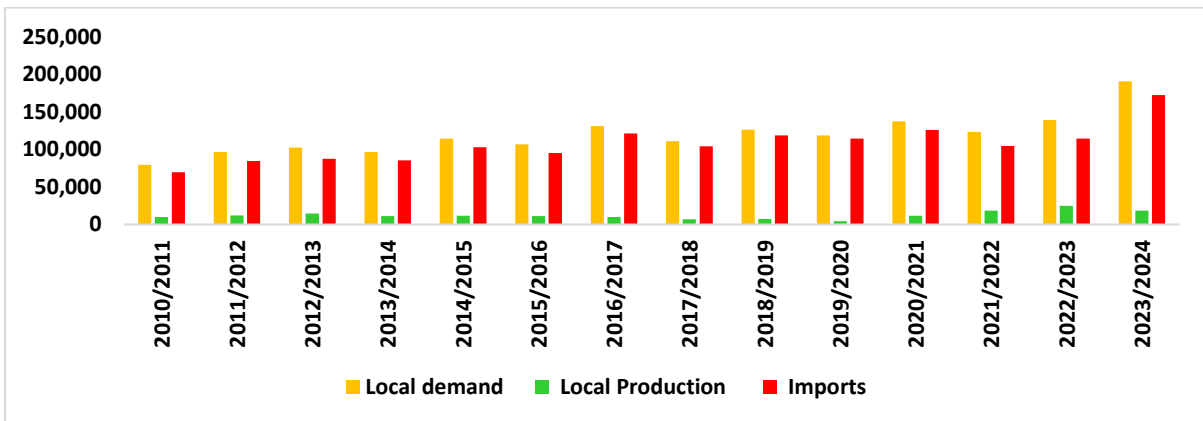


Figure 2: White Maize, January – December 2024



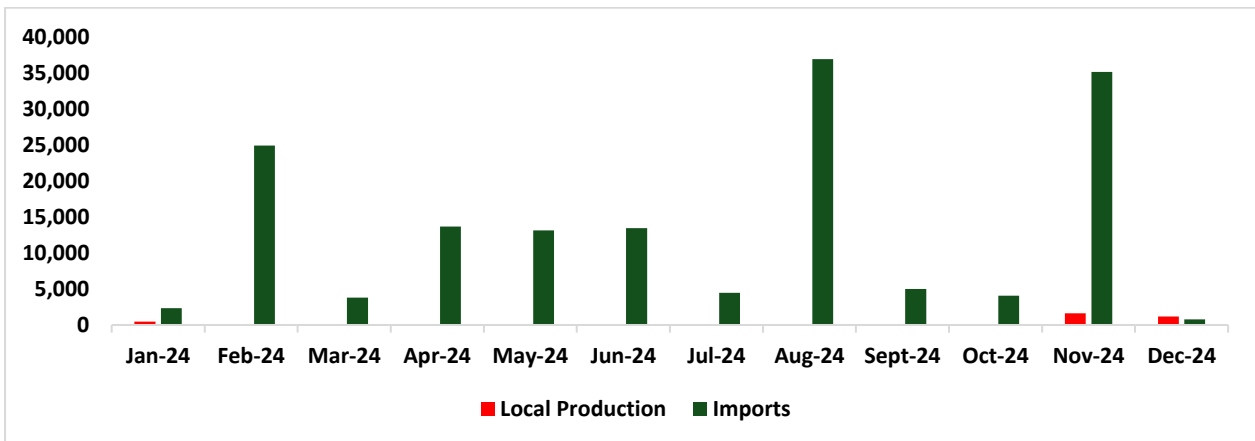
Source: NAB

Figure 3: Wheat, 2010-2023



Source: NAB

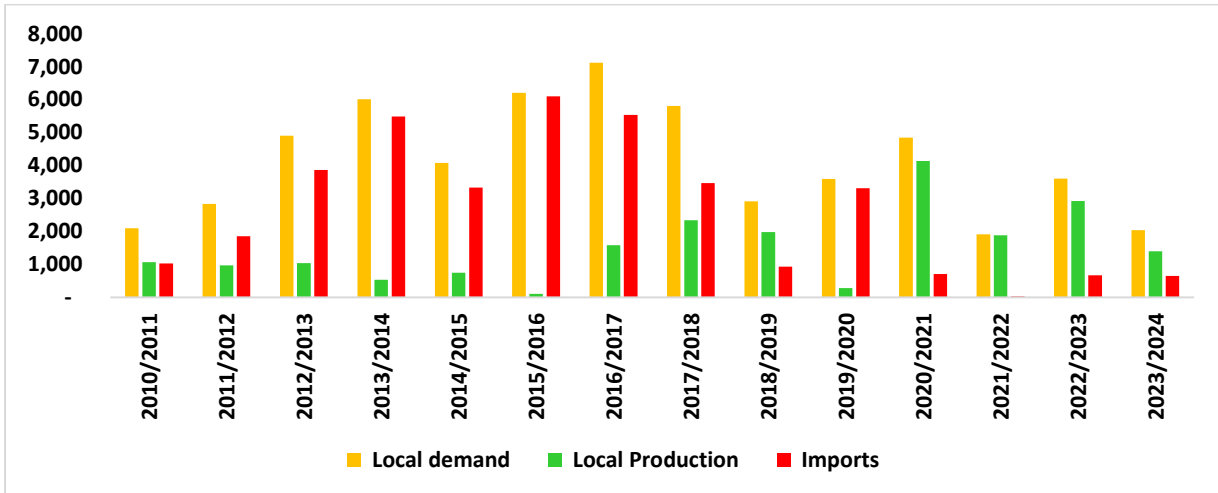
Figure 4: Wheat, January – December 2024





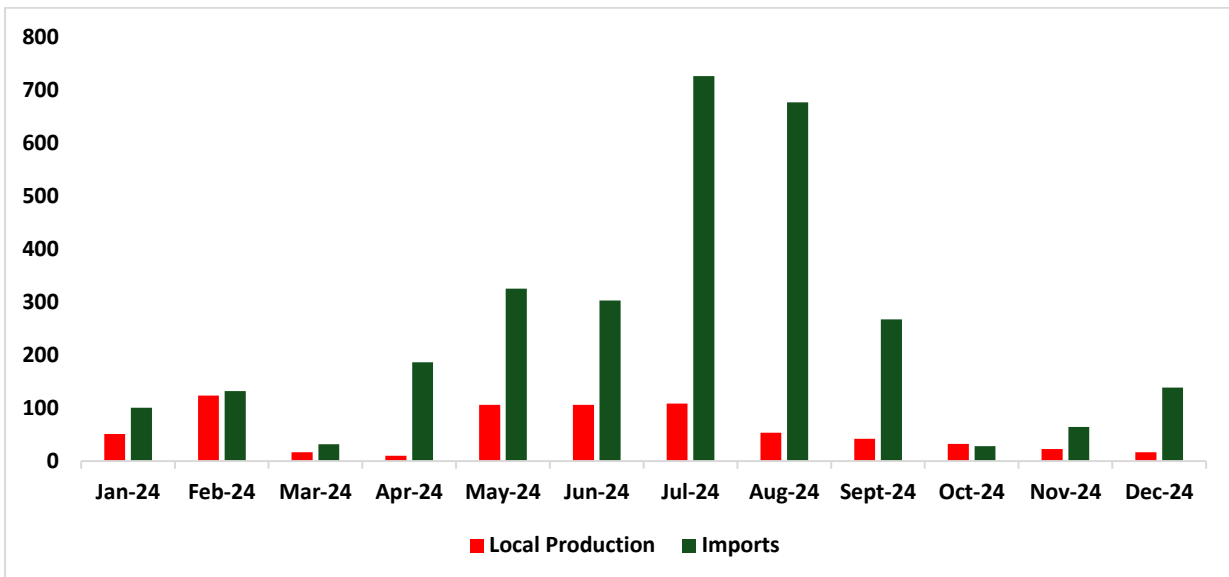
Source: NAB

Figure 5: Mahangu, 2010-2023



Source: NAB

Figure 4: Mahangu, January – December 2024



Source: NAB

While grain production in Namibia is expected to recover in 2025, there is a pressing need for long-term strategies to adapt to climate challenges and improve local production capacity. The outlook for the sector hinges on favorable climatic conditions and concerted efforts to enhance agricultural resilience. The anticipated La Niña-induced rainfall is



expected to provide more favorable conditions for crop production, offering hope for a recovery in the agricultural sector. The increased rainfall could support planting cycles and improve yields, particularly for crops like maize and wheat, which have been severely impacted by the lack of sufficient water. To mitigate the impact of future climate events and reduce reliance on imports, Namibia must focus on increasing investment in agricultural technologies, strengthening water conservation efforts, and promoting climate-smart agriculture. Enhancing the resilience of the agricultural sector will be essential to ensuring food security, reducing import dependency, and stabilizing the livelihoods of farmers.