

Bad credit adds to Zimbabwe's food insecurity

HARARE: The drying-up of credit lines to the Zimbabwe government, apparent donor fatigue and a determined stand against GM foods are pushing up the price of the staple grain, maize, by nearly a third in some drought-hit areas compared to a year ago, according to humanitarian organisations and economists.



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The September 2013 Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) estimated that 2.2 million people would require food assistance before the March 2014 harvest. Zimbabwe food shortages are attributed to several factors by the US-based Famine Early Warning System (FEWSNET), including the late arrival of the rains, flooding, poor rainfall distribution and an army worm infestation.

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