



AKADEMIYA

El Niño 2024 in Southern Africa A Webinar Series

Session II:

*Impacts of El Niño-Induced
Drought in Zimbabwe*

 June 11, 2024

 1:00 – 2:00 PM (GMT)



The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a recurring natural phenomenon characterized by **fluctuating** ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific, coupled with changes in the atmosphere, which significantly influence climate patterns in various parts of the world.

Regarded as **one of the most powerful** El Niño–Southern Oscillation events in recorded history, the 2023–2024 El Niño has resulted in widespread droughts, flooding and other natural disasters across the globe. With the onset declared on July 4, 2023 by the **World Meteorological Organization** (WMO), trends indicate that the most significant meteorological effects would occur between November 2023 and April 2024, with effects spanning cyclones, droughts, flooding, heatwaves, heavy rains, wildfires, as well as changes in wind patterns.

El Niño can have widespread impacts on climate and weather patterns, with changes in temperature and rainfall in various parts of the world. This is the case of the Southern Africa region, which has been experiencing strong El Niño weather effects since 2023. These effects intensified later that year and are expected to continue until mid-2024.

AKADEMIYA2063’s El Niño 2024 in Southern Africa Webinar Series delves into the key findings from our analysis of the impact of El Niño 2024 on the Southern Africa region. The series covers the effects of climate variability related to this phenomenon, focusing on the decline in staple crop production due to the El Niño-induced drought in selected countries.

1 World Meteorological Organization. “El Niño/La Niña.” Accessed on May 14, 2024. <https://wmo.int/topics/el-nino-la-nina#:~:text=Atmospheric%20phenomena,various%20parts%20of%20the%20world>.

Objectives

Session II of the webinar series will discuss the findings of **Brief No. 2** “Impacts of El Niño-Induced Drought in Zimbabwe.” More specifically, the session will:



Provide an overview of the effects of the El Niño-induced drought on maize production in Zimbabwe.



Analyze drought index and exposure for Zimbabwe in 2024.



Discuss community vulnerability hotspots in Zimbabwe.



Recommend policy actions to lessen the effects of the drought on agricultural production in Southern Africa.



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Agenda (GMT)

1:00 – 1:20 PM

Presentation of findings

Dr. Paul Maina Guthiga, Senior Scientist, AKADEMIYA2063

1:20 – 1:35 PM

Comments from the Discussant

Dr. Emmanuel Mwakiwa, Agriculture, Environmental, and Natural Resource Economist, Faculty of Agriculture, Environment, and Food Systems, University of Zimbabwe

1:35 – 1:55 PM

Q&A

1:55 – 2:00 PM: Concluding Remarks

Dr. Moumini Savadogo, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

@AKADEMIYA2063

communications@akademiya2063.org | www.akademiya2063.org



Headquarters | Kicukiro/Niboye KK 341 St 22 | P.O. Box 1855 | Kigali, Rwanda
Regional Office | Lot N*3 Almadies | P.O. Box 24933 | Dakar, Senegal

