



Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Madagascar

January-April 2011

Key Messages

- Local and imported rice prices have declined slightly in recent months but remain high. Nominal rice price has exceeded the highest levels observed in 2008.
- According to the latest CFSAM, some 2.6 million people are severely food insecure and 2.2 million are moderately food insecure.
- Food security conditions have worsened particularly in areas affected by the cyclone Bingiza in mid-February which caused extensive damage to agriculture.
- The Government is dealing with high rice prices through imports and other price fixing measures while also banning exports.

Background

Total population is 19.62 million with a growth rate of 2% per annum. Estimates indicate that 67% of the population lives with less than 1\$ per day, while 25% is undernourished. Although the rural population is 70% of the total, the agricultural value added to GDP is 23%.

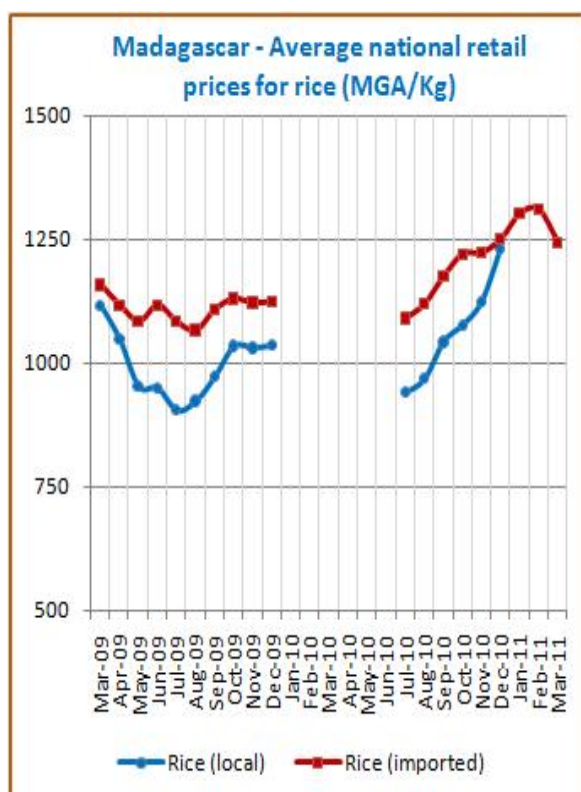
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	19.625
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2008 (WB)	1050
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2005 (MDGI)	67%
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	70%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	23%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	25%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	59%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	4%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	11%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	60
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	41%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	0.2%

Prices

New supplies from the early harvest have contributed to a decline in the price of local rice in March compared to Feb. However, prices still remain high, and in some areas were also affected by trade route disruptions due to cyclone Bingiza. Also good supplies of imported rice have helped prices to decline by 5% from Feb to March (1242 MGA/Kg), but prices remain at the same high levels of Dec 2010. In local markets rice prices were 44% higher than the price of Rice Thai A1 Super. Similarly, prices of maize have decreased in March, on account of new supplies from the recent harvest. There are no price data available for April.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Food Security Situation Assessment

Cyclone Bingiza caused damage to the agricultural sector which is likely to negatively impact food availability. A recent rapid joint assessment, carried out by the national Food Security Cluster (including FAO and partner agencies), in Manakara, Vohipeno, Farafangana and Vangaindrano districts indicates that the lean season of the affected households is expected to be prolonged compared to normal years, stretching until May. WFP has started food distributions to some 69,000 people affected by the Cyclone. At the national level, the 2010 CFSAM estimated that 2.6 million people would be severely food insecure in 2010/11, and an additional 2.2 million were categorised as moderately food insecure. GIEWS reports severe localized food insecurity. FAO Hunger Map estimates high levels of undernourishment while IFPRI describes the situation in Madagascar as alarming hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT



Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies Widespread lack of access Severe localized food insecurity [FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010](#)

Madagascar is not covered by FEWSNET. FEWSNET coverage is limited 14 African countries 1 Caribbean (Haiti) and 1 Central Asia (Afghanistan). Food security status is given for different parts of the country in each case. [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)



Very high (>= 35%) High (25-34%) Moderately high (15-24%) Moderately low (5-14%) Very low (< 5% under.) [FAO Hunger Map](#)

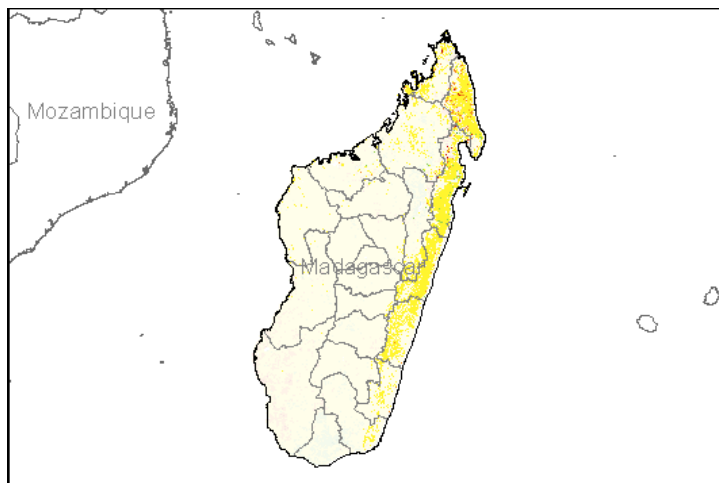
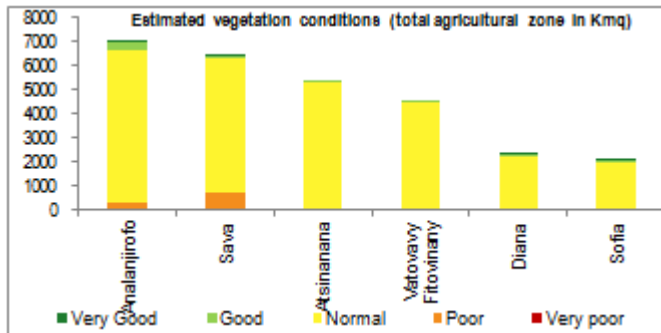
FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.



Extremely alarming Alarming Serious Moderate Low [IFPRI/2010 GHI](#)

Vegetation Condition

At the end of the rainy season, normal conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for April 2011 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER 2005 database (ESA).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Rice - Sweet Potatoes
Growing	Maize - Potatoes - Rice - Sorghum
Harvesting	Maize - Potatoes - Rice

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Passing of cyclone Bingiza in February caused flooding in north-eastern districts, primarily affecting the Analanjirofo region and south-eastern districts, where the most affected districts were Vohipeno, Farafangàna and Vangaindrano. Moreover, the political crisis remains unresolved, preventing donors from reviewing their decision to freeze all aid apart from emergency funding.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	2009
Total in the country	n.a.	0	0
Total outside the country	289	294	306

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Food Balance Sheet

A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in mid-2010 put the 2010 rice harvest at 4.8 mln MT, 5 % above the 2009 harvest. The 2010 cereal production is at 5,2 mln MT, 6% and 24% above the 2009 and the average respectively. Import requirements in 2010/11 marketing year (April/March) were at 218,000 MT, 8% and 20% below 2009 and average imports.

Madagascar				
Cereal production				
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	3786	4540	4785	5
Maize	395	370	412	11
Wheat	10	10	10	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	4192	4921	5208	6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

In January, the Government fixed the rice price at 1,180 MGA/Kg and waived duties and taxes on imports. In February, the government imported 42,000 tonnes to help consumers to access food until the end of the lean season in April. The government also decided to forbid rice export since early March.

Consumer and market oriented measures	Rice price support
Producer oriented measures	n.a.
Trade policy measures	Waved duty and taxes on imports; Forbid rice export
Safety net (increased or introduced)	n.a.

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[Madagascar: From Crisis to Transition](#)
[Madagascar locust update for the 1st decade of May, 2011...](#)
[Nouveaux films sur le changement climatique et l'adapt...](#)
[Report on the status of Disaster Risk Reduction in Sub...](#)
[New climate change and adaptation films](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
 Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the [GIEWS Workstation](#)

The Programme on Linking Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.