



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Colombia

Reference Date: 16-November-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2023 estimated above average due to large plantings
- Cereal import requirements forecast at near-average levels in 2023
- Cereal prices lower year-on-year in October 2023
- Temporary legal status granted to 2 million migrants to facilitate integration

Cereal production in 2023 estimated above average due to large plantings

The harvest of the 2023 main paddy crop was completed in October and production is forecast at an above-average level, mainly due to large sowings, officially estimated to be more than 10 percent above average. The increase in area sown is prompted by high prices at planting time. According to satellite imagery, crop conditions before the start of the harvest in July were above average in key producing departments of Casanare, Meta and Tolima. The 2023 aggregate paddy production, including an above-average minor season output harvested in the second quarter of the year, is preliminarily forecast at an above-average level of 3 million tonnes. To prevent prices to decline due to the expected abundant supply, the Ministry of Agriculture [allocated COP 25 billion \(about USD 6.1 million\)](#) to provide incentives to farmers and buyers to store up to 170 000 tonnes of paddy harvested in the second half of 2023.

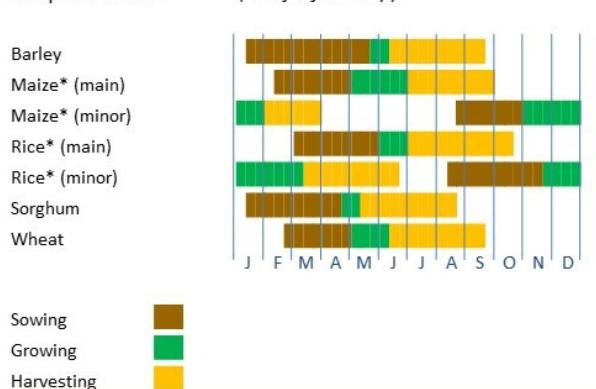
Harvesting of the 2023 main season maize crop was completed in September. Production is forecast at an above-average level, reflecting large sowings, as farmers responded positively to the high maize prices. The minor season maize crop, which accounts for about 40 to 45 percent of the annual maize production, was harvested in the first quarter of 2023, yielding an above-average output, also due to above-average plantings. In aggregate, 2023 maize production is estimated at an above-average level of 1.55 million tonnes.

Cereal import requirements forecast at near-average levels in 2023

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are usually covered by imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2023 marketing year (January/December) are expected at 8.6 million tonnes, similar to the five-year average. The 2023 above-average output of maize and ample carryover stocks from the large imports of wheat in 2022, contributed to satisfy the

Colombia

Crop Calendar



Colombia

Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 forecast	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 774	2 620	3 029	15.6
Maize	1 421	1 525	1 550	1.6
Barley	8	7	7	0.0
Others	18	13	13	0.0
Total	4 221	4 165	4 599	10.4

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

strong domestic demand and prevented the increase of import requirements.

Cereal prices lower year-on-year in October 2023

Prices of white maize for human consumption declined in October for the fifth consecutive month due to ample supplies from the above-average 2023 harvests. Similarly, an increase in seasonal supplies of both yellow maize and rice provided a downward pressure on prices since July/August. Prices of wheat flour, which is mostly imported, declined between May and October 2023, in line with declining international wheat quotations. As of October, cereal prices were below their year-earlier levels, among which prices of yellow maize were more than 20 percent in the markets of the capital city.

Overall, food inflation decreased steadily during the first ten months of 2023, from 26.2 percent in January to 10.4 percent in October.

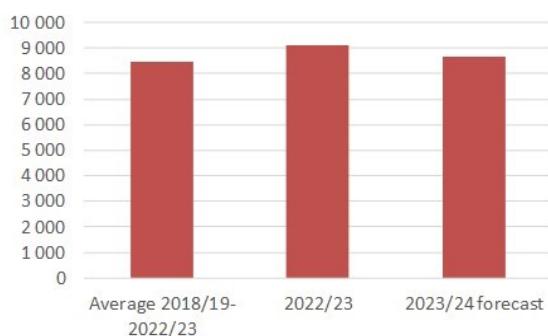
Temporary legal status granted to 2 million migrants to facilitate integration

The country hosts a high number of refugees and migrants as well as Internally Displaced People (IDP). According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the food security sector is estimated at [7.1 million in 2023](#). This includes refugees and migrants as well as Colombian host communities or people affected by internal conflicts. As of early November 2023, in order to improve livelihoods of migrants and enable their integration in the Colombian society, the government granted [nearly 2 million](#) resident permits for a temporary period of ten years.

Colombia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Colombia

Wholesale prices of cereals

Colombian peso per tonne



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This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:

FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS) <https://www.fao.org/giews/data-tools/en/>.

FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool <https://fpma.fao.org/>.

FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 23-December-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production in 2022 estimated below average due to low plantings
- Minor 2023 paddy and maize crops at vegetative stages under favourable conditions
- High cereal import requirements expected in 2022
- Cereal prices well above year-earlier levels in November 2022
- Temporary legal status granted to 1.5 million migrants to facilitate integration

Paddy production in 2022 estimated below average due to low plantings

The harvest of the 2022 main paddy crop concluded in mid-October and production is estimated at a below-average level. This is due to a contraction in plantings, driven by low prices at planting time, which resulted from ample supplies from the bumper harvests obtained in 2020 and 2021. The 2022 aggregate paddy production, including the below-average output of the minor crop harvested in the second quarter of 2022, is estimated at 2.5 million tonnes, nearly 10 percent below the average.

The 2022 maize output is estimated at a above-average level of 1.5 million tonnes, reflecting large sowings with the main season crop, harvested during the third quarter of the year.

Minor 2023 paddy and maize crops at vegetative stages under favourable conditions

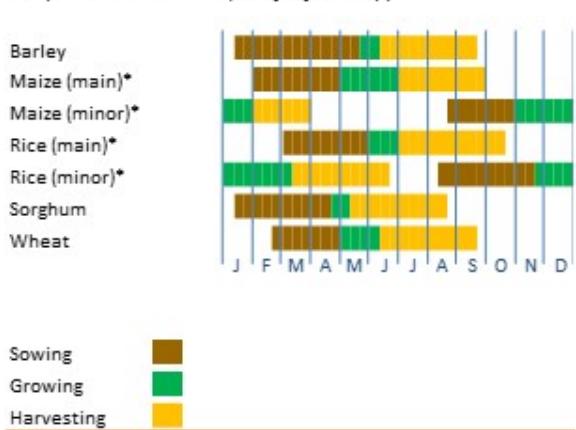
The 2023 minor season paddy and maize crops are at vegetative and flowering stages. According to satellite imagery, growing conditions are generally favourable. Rainfall amounts in January are forecast at above-average levels over the key producing costal and central regions, which could constrain yield potential.

High cereal import requirements expected in 2022

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are usually covered by imports. Cereal import requirements in the

Colombia

Crop Calendar



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 768	2 900	2 507	-13.6
Maize	1 375	1 479	1 515	2.4
Barley	7	7	7	-1.0
Others	19	14	14	-3.2
Total	4 170	4 401	4 043	-8.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

2022 marketing year (January/December) are expected at a high level of 8.5 million tonnes, including 6.1 million tonnes of maize and 2 million tonnes of wheat. The above-average import requirements reflect the strong demand of maize by the feed sector and wheat for human consumption.

Cereal prices well above year-earlier levels in November 2022

Prices of wheat flour have been generally on the rise since June 2021, in line with the increasing export prices of Canada, the United States of America and Argentina, the country's key providers. As of November 2022, prices were nearly 50 percent higher year-on-year. Prices of yellow maize declined since August 2022 due to the improved market supply following the bumper main season harvest. However, prices remained 20 percent above their values a year ago due to the sharp increases which occurred during the first half of 2022, supported by rising international prices and high production costs. Prices of rice rose steadily throughout 2022, except for a short-lived seasonal decline in June, as prospects for a below-average production provided upward pressure on prices. In November 2022, prices were 70 percent higher than one year before, when prices were at very low levels as a result of the ample supply from the 2020 and 2021 bumper harvests.

Overall, in November 2022, prices of most food items were higher than a year earlier, as indicated by the official annual inflation rate of food and non-alcoholic beverages, estimated at 27 percent.

Temporary legal status granted to 1.5 million migrants to facilitate integration

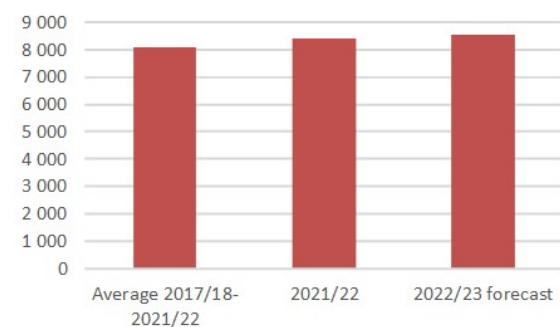
The country hosts a high number of refugees and migrants as well as Internally Displaced People (IDP). Official estimates point to an increase in internal displacement in 2022, with [about 152 000 IDPs up to November 2022](#), this is more than 15 percent above the five-year average and 20 percent higher year-on-year. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is forecast at [7.7 million in 2023](#), this includes refugees and migrants as well as Colombians affected by internal conflict or natural disasters. As end-November 2022, in order to improve the livelihoods of migrants and enable their integration in the Colombian society, the government granted [1.5 million](#) resident permits for a temporary period of ten years.

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Colombia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



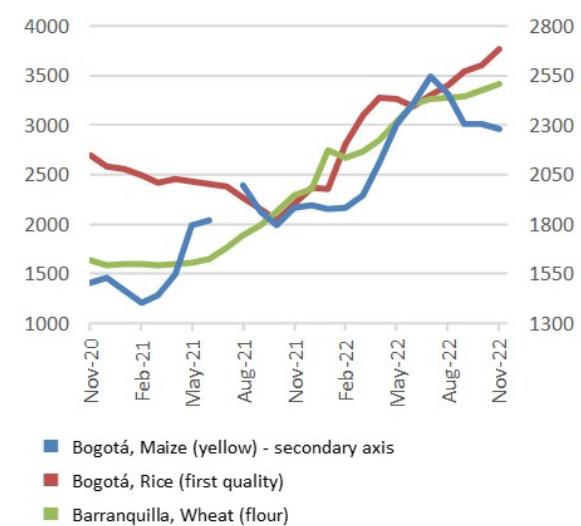
Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Colombia

Wholesale prices of cereals

Colombian peso per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 04-November-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy and maize 2021 outputs estimated at above-average levels
- Planting of 2022 minor paddy and maize crops underway
- Cereal import requirements in 2021 anticipated at high levels
- Prices of maize and wheat flour well above year-earlier values in October 2021
- Temporary legal status granted to Venezuelan migrants improves livelihood prospects

Paddy and maize 2021 outputs estimated at above-average levels

The harvest of the 2021 main paddy crop concluded in mid-October and production is estimated at an above-average level due to large plantings and good yields. Despite the decline in prices after the 2020 record harvests, the seasonal planted area is officially estimated at 393 000 hectares, above the previous five-year average. The 2021 aggregate paddy production, including the above-average minor harvest gathered in the second quarter of 2021, is estimated at 2.9 million tonnes, over 5 percent above the average.

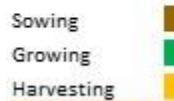
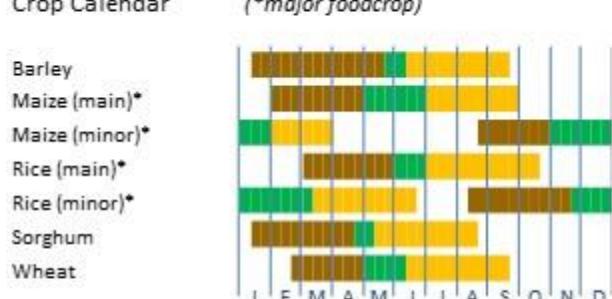
Harvesting of the 2021 main season maize crop has also been recently completed with a slight delay due to torrential rains in the second half of August that hampered operations in the key producing departments of Tolima and Meta. Yields of the main crop were reported to be above average reflecting favourable weather conditions between April and July. The 2021 aggregate maize production, including the minor season crop harvested in the first quarter of 2021, is estimated at a near-average level of 1.4 million tonnes.

Planting of 2022 minor paddy and maize crops underway

Planting operations of the 2022 minor paddy and maize crops are ongoing under favourable weather conditions. Due to higher year-on-year prices of maize, farmers are likely to expand sowings of maize, shifting away from paddy cultivation. Weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of above-average precipitation amounts in the November 2021 to January 2022 period and a close monitoring of pest infestations, caused by wet weather conditions, is required.

Colombia

Crop Calendar



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 717	3 015	2 870	-4.8
Maize	1 350	1 350	1 410	4.4
Sorghum	9	9	9	0.0
Others	23	18	19	5.6
Total	4 098	4 392	4 308	-1.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Cereal import requirements in 2021 anticipated at high levels

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are usually covered by imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2021 marketing year (January/December) are anticipated at a high level of 8.4 million tonnes. The forecast requirements are expected to decline year on year due to large carryover stocks from the record 2020 imports. The above-average requirements reflect the strong demand for maize by the feed sector and for wheat for human consumption. In responses to the weakening domestic currency, the import tariff for wheat was [reduced to zero](#) in mid-2020 for a period of two years.

Prices of maize and wheat flour well above year-earlier values in October 2021

Prices of rice have been declining steadily since July 2020, mainly reflecting abundant market supplies from the above-average harvests in 2020 and 2021. As of October 2021, rice prices were on average 20 percent lower year on year. By contrast, prices of yellow maize were well above their year-earlier levels in October due to costlier imports reflecting high quotations in the United States of America, the main maize supplier to the country. Similarly, prices of domestically produced white maize were higher year on year, supported by elevated costs of production and transportation. Prices of wheat flour, which is entirely imported, have increased sharply between June and October 2021 in line with trends in the international market. Overall, prices of most food items were higher than a year earlier, as indicated by the official annual inflation rate of food and non-alcoholic beverages, estimated at 12 percent in September 2021.

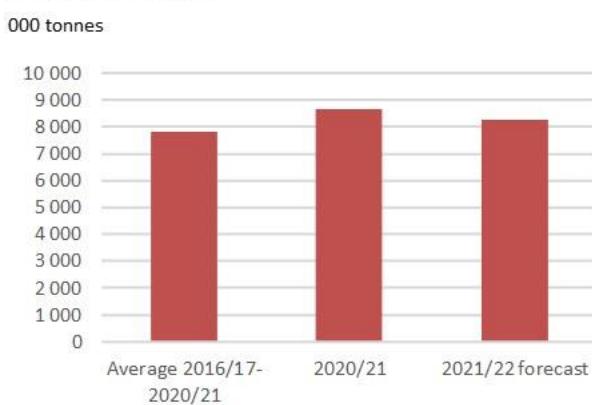
Temporary legal status granted to Venezuelan migrants improves livelihood prospects

The country hosts the highest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the world, with a population of 1.74 million people as of September 2021. Amid worsening food insecurity among Venezuelan migrants in the country caused by income losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government announced an issuance of the Temporary Protection Statute (TPS) in February 2021, which will grant ten-year residence permits to Venezuelan migrants. As of end-August 2021, about 1.22 million Venezuelan migrants have been registered in the TPS programme and started receiving their permits from mid-October. This measure is expected to improve livelihoods of Venezuelan migrants and enable their inclusive integration in the Colombian society. Since June 2021, the government has gradually re-opened the border with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and has started to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Venezuelan refugees and migrants since October 2021.

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Colombia

Cereals Imports



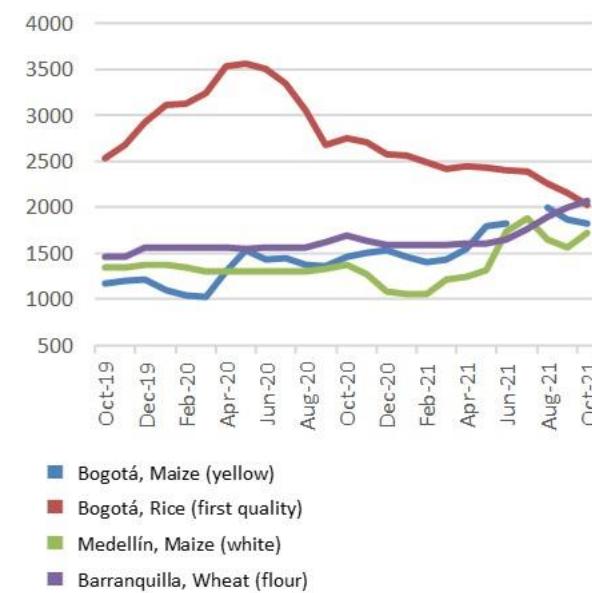
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Colombia

Wholesale prices of cereals

Colombian Peso per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 15-June-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable production prospects for 2021 paddy and maize crops
- Cereal import requirements in 2021 forecast at high levels
- Prices of rice well below year-earlier levels
- Rising concerns about adequate access to food in urban areas
- High prevalence of food insecurity among Venezuelan refugees and migrants

Favourable production prospects for 2021 paddy and maize crops

The harvest of the 2021 minor paddy crop is ongoing and yields are reportedly at an above-average level reflecting favourable weather conditions in the main producing departments of Tolima, Huila, Meta and Casanare. The planted area of the minor season is officially estimated at a record level, as the year-on-year higher prices at the planting period (between August and November 2020), coupled with adequate weather conditions, prompted farmers to expand sowings.

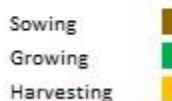
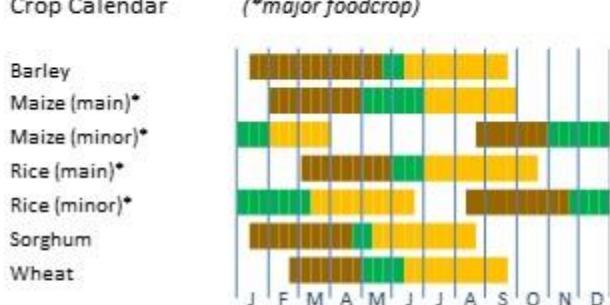
The 2021 main paddy crop has been recently planted and will be harvested from July. Sowings have likely declined as large supplies from the 2020 record harvest pushed prices down in the first quarter of 2021. However, yield prospects are generally favourable as weather forecasts point to average precipitation and temperatures in the key cropping areas during the July-August 2021 period. The aggregate 2021 paddy production is preliminarily forecast at 2.86 million tonnes, about 5 percent above the previous five-year average.

The 2021 main season maize crop is currently at flowering and grain filling stages. According to satellite imagery, crop conditions are overall good in the main producing coastal areas (ASI map). The 2021 aggregate maize production, including the minor season crop harvested in the first quarter of 2021, is forecast slightly above the average at 1.5 million tonnes. This represents an annual increase of 5 percent, prompted by a rebound in plantings.

The high level of plantings and yields of the 2021 cereal crops also reflects the expansion of governmental agricultural support

Colombia

Crop Calendar



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 717	3 015	2 860	-5.1
Maize	1 471	1 430	1 500	4.9
Sorghum	9	9	9	0.0
Others	23	18	19	5.6
Total	4 219	4 472	4 388	-1.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

programmes (*Juntos por el Campo*), launched in August 2020. The programmes aim to provide subsidized agricultural machinery and inputs to smallholder farmers and to improve farmers' access to credit. According to the [Ministry of Agriculture](#), credit allocation during the first quarter of 2021 increased by 32 percent compared to the same period in 2020.

Cereal import requirements in 2021 forecast at high levels

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are covered by imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2021 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 8.57 million tonnes, similar to the record level in 2020. The anticipated high level of requirements reflects strong demand for maize by the feed sector and for wheat for human consumption. In responses to the weakening domestic currency, the import tariff for wheat was [reduced to zero](#) in mid-2020 for a period of two years.

Prices of rice well below year-earlier levels

Prices of rice declined steadily in the first four months of 2021, pressured by large supplies from the record 2020 output and the above-average 2021 minor season harvest. In May 2021, the declining trend was reversed, as protests and blockades of the country's main roads disrupted market activities. Despite the month-on-month increase, prices in May 2021 were about 25 percent below their year-earlier levels, reflecting abundant market availabilities.

Prices of yellow maize, mostly imported, increased significantly between March and May 2021, reflecting high international prices and negative effects of the social unrest. As of May 2021, prices of yellow maize were about 8 percent higher than the same month in 2020. By contrast, prices of domestically produced white maize were lower year on year due to adequate supplies from the 2021 minor season harvest.

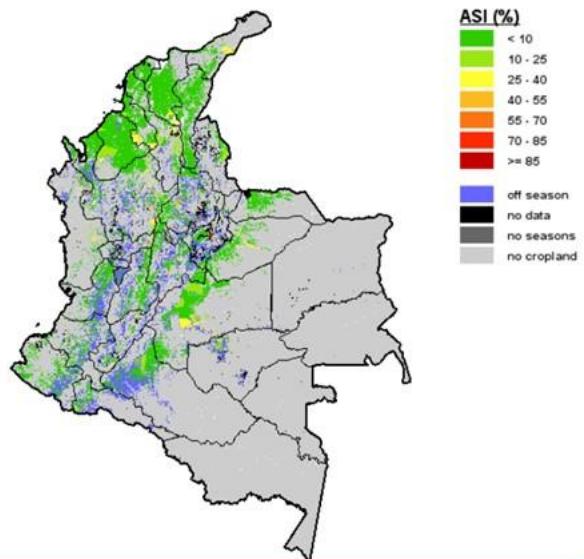
Rising concerns about adequate access to food in urban areas

Official estimates by the Statistics Department (DANE) indicate that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by 6.7 percent in 2020 due to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the poverty rate increased by 6.8 percentage points year on year and about 3.6 million people fell into poverty, especially in urban areas, due to job and income losses during the pandemic.

The reinforcement of lockdown measures in April and May 2021, amid a third COVID-19 wave, is likely to further affect economic activities and to exert additional pressure on the already eroded household resources. Moreover, a nationwide strike and protests that broke out at the end of April have caused disruptions to trade flows and market activities, with economic losses to the agricultural sector estimated at about COP 1.6 billion (about USD 430 million). Spikes of food prices were registered in some urban markets, notably in Cali, the country's third largest city, exacerbated by fuel shortages. The negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with the ongoing social unrest, raise concerns on adequate access to food, especially by urban vulnerable households.

Colombia - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

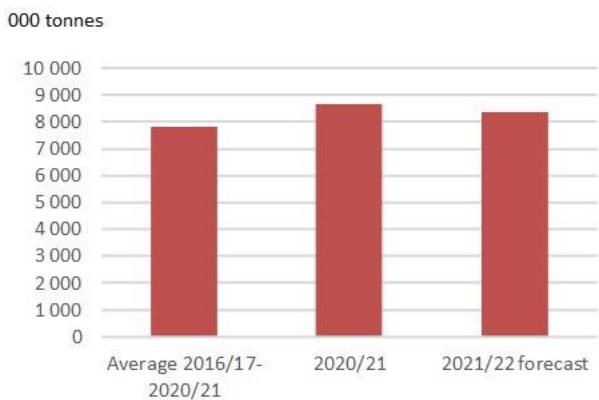
from start of season 1 to dekad 1, May 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Colombia

Cereals Imports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

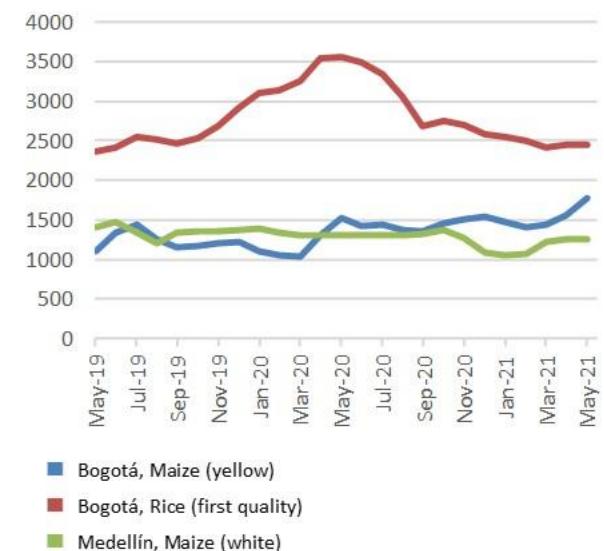
High prevalence of food insecurity among Venezuelan refugees and migrants

The country hosts the highest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with a population of 1.74 million people as of May 2021. Prevalence of severe and moderate levels of food insecurity among Venezuelan migrants in the country increased from 52 percent in April 2020 to 71 percent in February 2021 due to the loss of income generating activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the increase in the number of migrants is expected to slow down in 2021 compared to 2020, the country's modest economic recovery is likely to continue to constrain migrants' access to food.

Colombia

Wholesale prices of rice and maize

Colombian Peso per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

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GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 25-January-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable growing conditions for 2021 minor season crops
- Cereal production in 2020 estimated at above-average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2020 estimated at record high
- Prices of rice lower year on year due to above-average production in 2020
- Prevalence of food insecurity among Venezuelan migrants increased in 2020

Favourable growing conditions for 2021 minor season crops

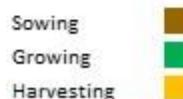
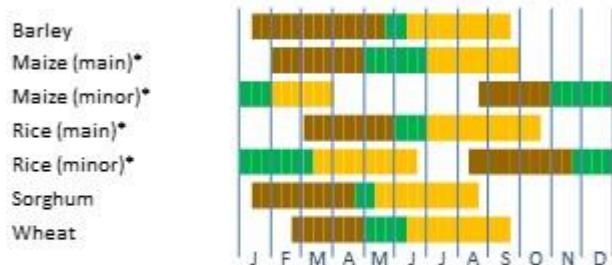
The 2021 minor season paddy and maize crops are at flowering and grain-filling stages and their harvest will start in February 2021. According to remote sensing data, crops are generally in good condition in the main producing areas following favourable rains between August and December 2020. Weather conditions are forecast to continue to be favourable in the February-April period, raising yield expectations. Planted area of the minor paddy crop is estimated below the high level of 2020, following a Government call to not expand plantings in order to avoid oversupply of the cereal, but still at an above-average level, supported by favourable weather conditions and remunerative prices of rice. The area sown with maize is estimated to reverse the declining trend of the recent three years and remains average. The Government introduced a series of measures to support smallholder farmers of maize and rice that were affected by the negative effects of the pandemic, including an agricultural credit scheme "[El Campo Avanza](#)" and the provision of [agricultural inputs at subsidized prices](#), following an increase in prices due to higher import costs in 2020.

Cereal production in 2020 estimated at above-average level

Aggregate cereal production in 2020 is estimated at 4.4 million tonnes, nearly 10 percent above the previous five-year average. The good output mainly reflects a well above-average rice harvest, estimated at 2.9 million tonnes, due to an expansion in the planted area and high yields. Production of maize is estimated at 1.4 million tonnes, slightly below the five-year average, mainly due to reduced plantings and the negative

Colombia

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 537	2 650	2 950	11.3
Maize	1 479	1 550	1 430	-7.7
Wheat	9	4	5	25.0
Others	23	23	22	-4.3
Total	4 048	4 227	4 407	4.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

impact of dry weather conditions in the northern main producing areas.

Cereal import requirements in 2020 estimated at record high

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are covered by imports. Cereal imports in the 2020 marketing year (January/December) are estimated at a record high of 8.6 million tonnes, about 15 percent above the previous five-year average. This mainly reflects the reduced maize output in 2020 and continued robust demand for maize and wheat. The [suspension of tariffs on imports of yellow maize and sorghum](#) between April and June 2020, the COVID-19 response policy introduced to lessen import costs amid a weakening currency, supported the high levels. The Government also extended the [zero tariff regime for imports of wheat grain and products](#) by mid-2022.

Prices of rice lower year on year due to above-average production in 2020

After reaching record highs in April, prices of rice declined significantly in the second half of 2020 due to improved market availabilities from the main crop harvest. As of December 2020, prices were slightly below their year-earlier levels reflecting the bumper output harvested in 2020.

Prices of yellow maize, mostly imported, increased in the last quarter of 2020 as the depreciation of the local currency made imports costlier. By contrast, prices of domestically produced white maize decreased during the last months of 2020 due to increased supplies from the main season harvest.

Prevalence of food insecurity among Venezuelan migrants increased in 2020

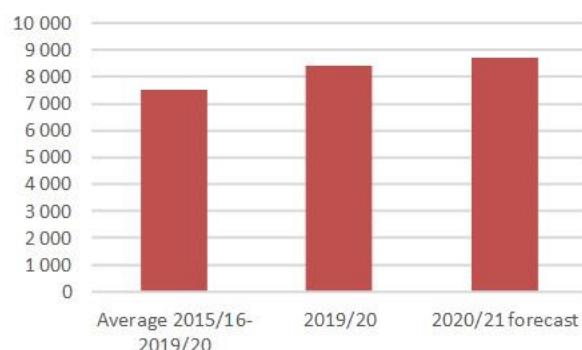
The country hosts the largest number of refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, estimated at 1.72 million people as of early January 2021. A survey conducted in July 2020 showed that the living conditions of refugees and migrants that aim at remaining in the country have deteriorated significantly compared to the pre-COVID-19 pandemic due to job and income losses following the introduction of the COVID-19 preventive measures. According to World Food Programme (WFP) estimates, the percentage of Venezuelan migrants hosted in the country that are severely and moderately food insecure increased from 55 percent in 2019 to 73 percent in September 2020. According to the Regional Refugee and Migration Response Plan 2021, the number of Venezuelans in the country is forecast to increase to 2.08 million in 2021, putting a significant strain on the limited resources of the host communities, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimations of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of the United Nations indicate that the negative effects of the pandemic on the economy are expected to result in a negative Gross Domestic Product growth of 7 percent in 2020.

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Colombia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



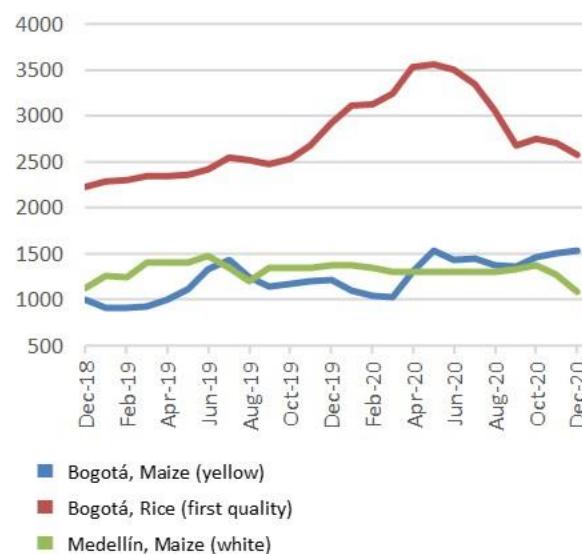
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Colombia

Wholesale prices of rice and maize

Colombian Peso per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 15-July-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of 2020 main cereal crops underway and above-average rice production expected
- Cereal import requirements in 2020 forecast to remain at high levels
- Prices of cereals higher year on year, mainly due to high production costs and weak local currency
- Prevalence of food insecurity among Venezuelan migrants residing in the country likely to have increased due to COVID-19 pandemic

Harvesting of 2020 main cereal crops underway and above-average rice production expected

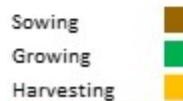
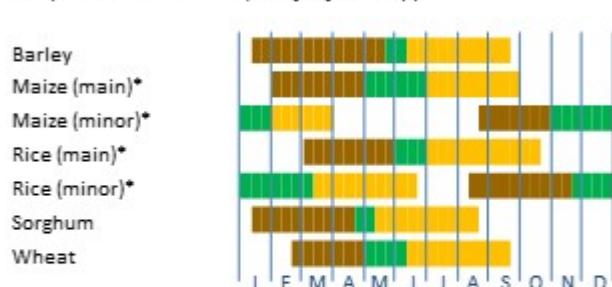
Harvesting of the 2020 main season paddy crop started recently and will be completed in October. Production is expected at an above-average level due to an expansion in sowings, driven by high domestic prices as a result of strong local demand. Yields are also expected to be above average, reflecting adequate water supplies for crops in both irrigations (in Tolima and Huila departments) and adequate soil moisture reserves in rainfed areas (in Llanos Orientales region). The 2020 paddy production, including the average minor season harvested between January and April, is forecast at 2.8 million tonnes, nearly 10 percent above the previous five-year average.

Harvesting of the 2020 main maize crop is ongoing. Production is expected at a below-average level due to low yields in the main producing northern Antioquia and Caribbean areas, which were affected by persistent dry weather conditions and high temperatures during the planting and crop development stages. These localized production shortfalls more than offset the favourable production prospects in other producing areas of Central Andean and Llanos Orientales regions. Overall, the 2020 maize production, including the average minor season output harvested in the first quarter of 2020, is forecast at 1.4 million tonnes, slightly below the previous five-year average.

In order to support the farming sector amid concerns over the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food supply, the Government launched a financial scheme of COP 1.5 trillion (about USD 370 million at the exchange rate as of 31 March) in late March, which provides agricultural credits at low interest rates. About 80 percent of the funds were allocated to benefit small and medium farmers. The Government also [removed the](#)

Colombia

Crop Calendar



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 537	2 650	2 760	4.1
Maize	1 479	1 550	1 430	-7.7
Wheat	9	4	5	25.0
Others	23	23	22	-4.3
Total	4 048	4 227	4 217	-0.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

[tariffs for specified imported agricultural inputs](#), mainly fertilizers and pesticides, for a period of two years starting from late June 2020, with the aim to lower production costs.

Cereal import requirements in 2020 forecast to remain at high levels

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are covered by imports. Cereal imports in the 2020 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 8.5 million tonnes, nearly 15 percent above the previous five-year average. Imports of maize, which normally account for 70 percent of the total shipments, are forecast at 6 million tonnes, about 18 percent above the average, reflecting a strong demand for yellow maize by the feed industry and an expected low output in 2020. Similarly, imports of wheat are anticipated at an above-average level of 2 million tonnes.

In late March, the Government enacted a series of policies to guarantee the national supplies of cereals, notably the [suspension of tariffs for yellow maize, sorghum and soybeans imports](#) for a period of three months, starting from April 2020. Similarly, the [zero tariff regime for imports of wheat grain and products](#) was extended for an additional two years.

Prices of cereals higher year on year, mainly due to high production costs and weak local currency

After reaching record highs in April 2020, prices of rice levelled off in May and started to decline in June due to improved market availabilities from the ongoing main crop harvest. However, prices of rice in June were still over 40 percent higher than their year-earlier values, mainly reflecting the upsurge in retail demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic and high production costs, underpinned by the depreciation of the local currency.

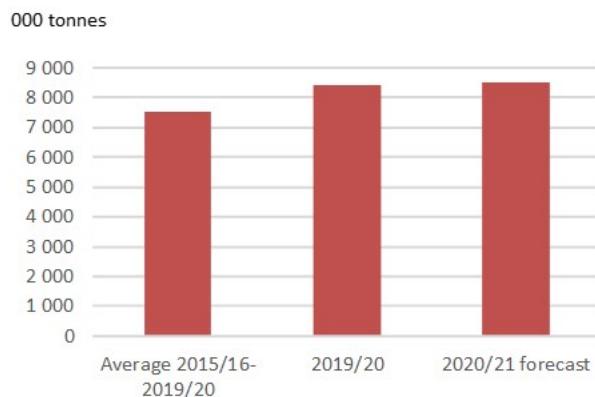
Prices of yellow maize also declined in June 2020 reflecting improved domestic availabilities from the recently completed minor season harvests, while prices of wheat flour were generally stable during the second quarter of 2020. However, prices of both commodities, mostly imported, were higher year on year due to a weaker currency.

Prevalence of food insecurity among Venezuelan migrants residing in the country likely to have increased due to COVID-19 pandemic

As of June 2020, Colombia is the main host country of refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, estimated at nearly 1.8 million and 35 percent of the total Venezuelans that fled the country since 2015. According to the 2020 Global Report on Food Crisis, about 900 000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were estimated to be food insecure and in need of assistance prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the prevalence of food insecurity among the migrant households is expected to increase due to the loss of income generation activities amidst the containment measures put in place in the country since mid-March. The deterioration of livelihoods triggered returns to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which will likely increase their socio-economic vulnerability.

Colombia

Cereals Imports

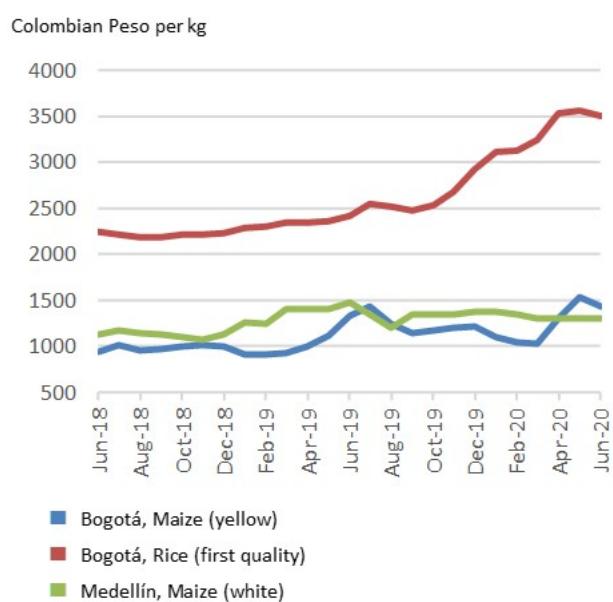


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Colombia

Wholesale prices of rice and maize



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

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GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 31-March-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Plantings of 2020 main season crops expected at high levels, driven by high prices
- Cereal production in 2019 estimated at above-average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2020 forecast to remain at high levels
- Prices of cereals higher year on year, mainly due to high production costs and weak currency
- Increasing concerns about food security situation of Venezuelan migrants hosted in country

Plantings of 2020 main season crops expected at high levels, driven by high prices

The 2020 minor season paddy crop is currently at the grain filling stage and will be harvested from April. Planting of the 2020 main rice crop has recently started in the main producing eastern Llanos Region. Reduced rainfall amounts in the first two months of 2020, coupled with above-average temperatures, have reportedly caused soil moisture deficits. However, weather forecasts for the April-June 2020 period indicate a high likelihood of average to above-average precipitation, which is expected to compensate for the early seasonal rainfall deficits and support planting operations and the development of crops. Plantings are anticipated to expand, mainly reflecting the high prices of cereals, together with the improving weather outlook.

Harvesting of the 2020 minor season maize crop is nearing completion and production is expected at a near-average level. Planting of the main crop is ongoing and the planted area is expected to rebound to an average level, driven by high domestic prices.

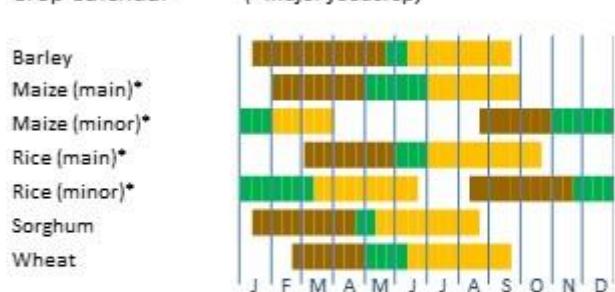
Cereal production in 2019 estimated at above-average level

The aggregate 2019 cereal output is estimated at 4.2 million tonnes, 7 percent above the five-year average level.

Production of the 2019 paddy rice, the country's main staple, is estimated at about 2.7 million tonnes, more than 10 percent above the five-year average. The increase was mainly driven by an expansion in the planted area and high yields, supported by favourable weather conditions.

Colombia

Crop Calendar



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 387	2 626	2 665	1.5
Maize	1 530	1 500	1 550	3.3
Wheat	12	4	4	-9.1
Others	26	22	23	5.5
Total	3 955	4 152	4 242	2.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Production of maize in 2019 is estimated at an average level of 1.55 million tonnes. The near-average production is mainly due to higher yields of the main season maize crop, which offset a slight contraction in the planted area.

Cereal import requirements in 2020 forecast to remain at high levels

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are covered by imports. Cereal imports in the 2020 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at an above-average level of 7.7 million tonnes, with 70 percent accounting for maize. The high level of imports mainly reflects the strong demand for maize by the feed industry and for wheat for human consumption.

Prices of cereals higher year on year, mainly due to high production costs and weak currency

Prices of rice increased significantly for the fifth consecutive month in March and were more than 35 percent above their year-earlier values. The sharp increases reflect strong local demand from the milling industry, coupled with higher production costs that was supported by the weakening of the Colombian Peso. Additional upward pressure was added by seasonal tightness ahead of the 2020 first harvest and concerns over planting extension due to reduced rainfall and high temperatures in the first two months of 2020.

Prices of mostly imported yellow maize declined, for the third consecutive month in major markets, due to improved domestic availabilities from the ongoing minor season harvest. However, as of March, prices of maize were over 10 percent higher than their year-earlier values, reflecting costlier imports. Prices of imported wheat flour remained virtually unchanged in March but were on average 10 percent higher on a year basis.

According to a market study conducted by FAO-Colombia in 2019, the country has become an important food supplier to the border areas of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). One-third of the shops in the five bordering departments confirmed an increase in their sales of food items (e.g., fish, coffee, beef, sugar, milk and maize flour, etc.) since the start of the crisis in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Although it represents an opportunity of the development of the local economy, it could contribute also to increase local prices due to the increasing demand.

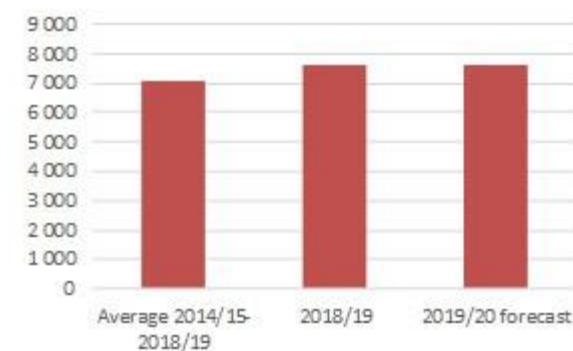
Increasing concerns on food security situation of Venezuelan migrants hosted in country

The Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), which consists of various UN Organizations and NGOs, estimates that nearly 5 million people have fled from the country as of mid-March 2020. Colombia is the main host country of refugees and migrants from Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), with an estimated population of nearly 1.8 million. According to a WFP survey published in February 2020, more than 20 percent of the migrant population in the four departments that border with Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) are severely food insecure. Migrant households also face the scarcity of decent work opportunities, aggravating their food insecurity situation.

Colombia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



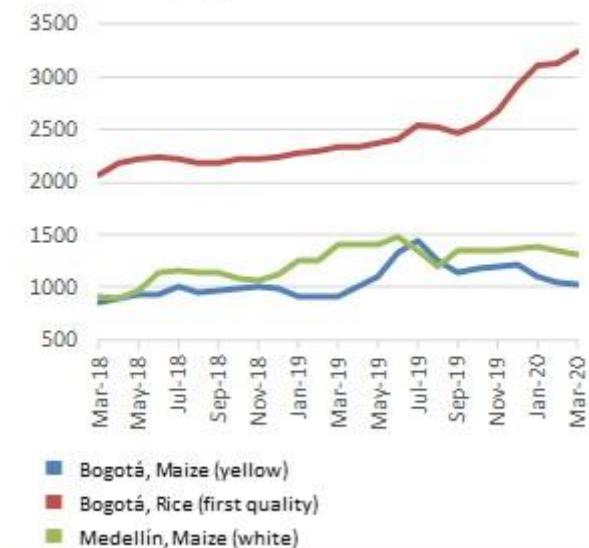
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Colombia

Wholesale prices of rice and maize

Colombian Peso per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

A [Ministerial Decree 457](#) was declared on 22 March 2020 stipulating a national lockdown from 25 March to 13 April. The Decree sets out a series of exceptions of the confinement that include foreign trade activities, domestic transportation for transfer of essential goods and agriculture (e.g., planting, harvesting, packaging, storage, distribution, etc.), and mining sector activities. However, some farmers [reported difficulties](#) of transporting coffee collectors during the current harvest period. In addition, the floriculturist industry (the second most important agricultural exporter of the country) [confirmed the declines and cancellations](#) of export orders during the first quarter of 2020. In response to the COVID-19, the Government is increasing social spending, such as additional cash transfers, reimbursement of Value Added Taxes and the free food provision to the most vulnerable population. In order to guarantee the agricultural supply, the Government [plans to provide](#) COP 1.5 trillion (about USD 370 million at the exchange rate as of 31 March) worth of agricultural credits at an interest rate lower than the market and the Agricultural Bank will extend a grace period to debtors that are agricultural producers or informal vendors.

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GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 22-October-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2019 anticipated to remain close to five-year average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2019 expected above average
- Prices of cereals rise in 2019, mainly driven by high production and transportation costs
- Increasing concerns about food security situation of Venezuelan migrants hosted in country

Cereal production in 2019 anticipated to remain close to five-year average level

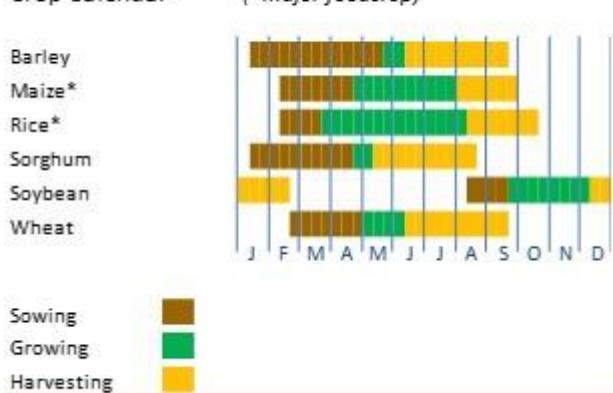
The aggregate 2019 cereal output is anticipated at 3.9 million tonnes, close to the five-year average level.

Harvesting of the 2019 main season paddy crop, planted in the second quarter of 2019, is nearing completion and production is estimated at an above-average level, mainly driven by area expansions in key rice-producing regions of Meta and Casanare. The increase in production reflects adequate soil moisture at the planting time, resulting from the well-above precipitations throughout the first half of 2019, which supported planting operations and bolstered yield prospects. Production of the 2019 secondary paddy crop, which was harvested earlier in the year and accounts for one-third of the total production, is also estimated above the five-year average, reflecting record high yields boosted by favourable weather conditions. The 2019 aggregate paddy output is estimated at 2.66 million tonnes, close to last year's high level and over 10 percent above the five-year average.

Harvesting of the 2019 main season maize crop finalized in September, while the minor season maize crop, to be harvested in the first months of 2020, is at the early development stage. The aggregate 2019 maize production is forecast to decline to 1.18 million tonnes, about 17 percent below the five-year average, mainly reflecting lower yields and area planted for the main season crop. Unfavourable weather conditions in key maize-producing regions of Antioquia and Córdoba, where cumulative seasonal rainfall amounts were about 30 percent below the average, hampered planting operations of the main season crop and affected yields. The contraction in plantings was also due to the effects of an increase in transportation and production costs, notably in those of mainly imported inputs,

Colombia

Crop Calendar



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change
				2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 387	2 626	2 665	1.5
Maize	1 423	1 250	1 180	-5.6
Wheat	12	4	4	-9.1
Others	26	22	23	5.5
Total	3 848	3 902	3 872	-0.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

following the moderate depreciation of the local currency that occurred since the last quarter of 2018.

Cereal import requirements in 2019 expected above average

About 85 percent of the country's cereal consumption needs are covered by imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2019 marketing year (January/December) are expected to rise to 7.7 million tonnes, about 8 percent above the five-year average.

Import requirements of maize, which account for 70 percent of the total cereal imports, are estimated at 5.4 million tonnes, close to the previous year's high level and about 15 percent above the five-year average, mainly reflecting the high demand of yellow maize for feed. Regarding wheat, produced at negligible levels in the country, imports are estimated at a near average level of 1.7 million tonnes.

Prices of cereals rise in 2019, mainly driven by high production and transportation costs

Prices of cereals have been generally increasing in nominal terms in 2019, mainly driven by increased production and transportation costs.

Prices of the mostly imported yellow maize spiked in the second quarter of 2019, when the weakening of the Colombian peso, which made imports more expensive, compounded the seasonal rising trend. They then declined in September due to the downward pressure from the recently harvested main crop, but were still about 20 percent higher than their year-earlier values, reflecting costlier imports.

Prices of white maize and rice in September were also above their levels in the corresponding month in 2018, due to higher production costs.

Increasing concerns on food security situation of Venezuelan migrants hosted in country

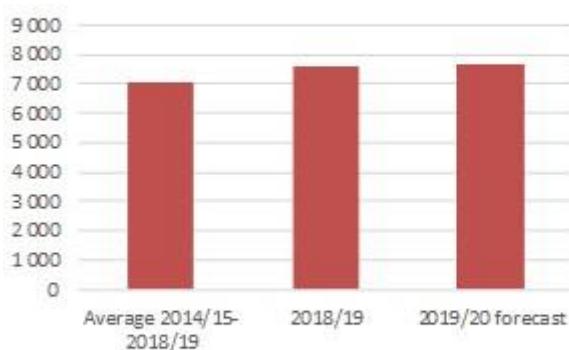
The Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, which consists of various UN Organizations and NGOs, estimates that about 4.5 million people have fled Venezuela as of early October 2019. Colombia is the main host country in the subregion of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, with a population of 1.4 million people. According to a WFP survey, as of May 2019, about 35 percent of the migrant population were skipping meals or going a whole day without eating due to the lack of means to buy food. The scarcity of work opportunities for migrant households, aggravated by generalized irregular migratory status, is the main cause of their food insecurity situation.

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Colombia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



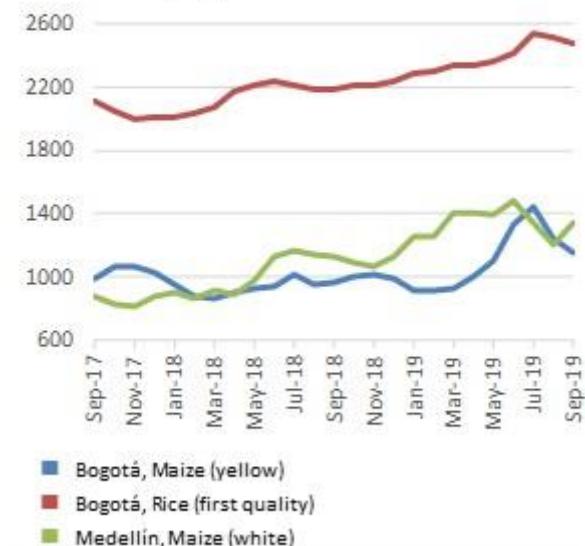
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Colombia

Wholesale prices of rice and maize

Colombian Peso per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 13-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output for 2018 expected at average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 estimated well-above average levels
- Prices of rice stable in October and below year-earlier levels

Cereal output for 2018 expected at average level

The aggregate 2018 cereal output is anticipated at an average level of about 4 million tonnes.

Harvesting of the main season rice crop is underway and production is estimated at an average level. Compared to last year's record, the area sown has contracted by 20 percent reflecting the low prices of rice due to the bumper output gathered in 2016/17. Overall, the 2018 rice production is estimated at 2.46 million tonnes, about 8 percent above average as a consequence of the good performance of the previously-harvested minor season crops, which accounts for 40 percent of the total production.

Harvesting of the 2018 main season maize crop was completed in October and the minor season crop is at vegetative stage. The 2018 production of maize is expected at a below average level of 1.58 million tonnes, mainly due to dry weather conditions in major maize producing Tolima Department in June and an contraction in the area sown for the ongoing season, sustained by low prices. In view of the instable international prices of maize and a fluctuating exchange rate, the Ministry of Agriculture launched a programme to protect the farmers producing white and yellow maize from price risks, guaranteeing them to receive the difference between local and international reference prices. The Federation of Cereal Producers welcomed the adoption of this programme as it builds stability in farmers' selling prices and prevents fluctuation in the planted area in future seasons.

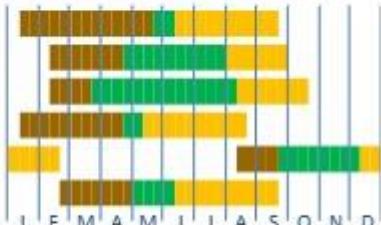
Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 estimated at well above-average levels

Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (January/December) are estimated at 7.61 million tonnes, 12 percent higher than the previous five-year average. The increase mainly reflects the high demand for yellow maize by the local feed industry.

Colombia

Crop Calendar

Barley
Maize*
Rice*
Sorghum
Soybean
Wheat



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Colombia

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 271	2 719	2 462	-9.4
Maize	1 672	1 664	1 585	-4.7
Sorghum	16	9	9	-3.7
Others	29	18	17	-3.0
Total	3 988	4 409	4 073	-7.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of rice stable in October and below year-earlier levels

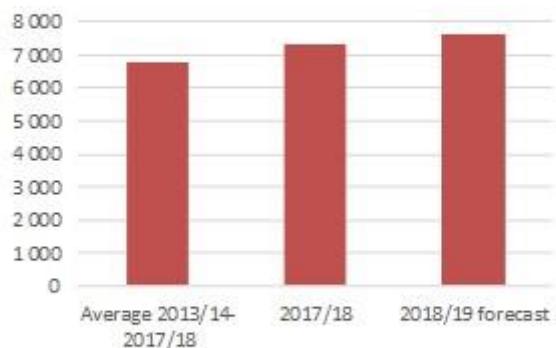
Retail prices of main staple rice remained virtually unchanged in October and were below their year-earlier levels. In order to halt the declining price trend that started during the last quarter of 2017, the Government has increased the level of public stocks. By September 2018, 224 000 tonnes of rice were stored and a similar quantity is expected to be stored additionally by the end of 2018.

Prices of yellow maize declined in October with the first main season harvest, recently completed. While prices of yellow maize were generally lower on a yearly basis, reflecting adequate imports, those of white maize were higher sustained by the unfavourable production prospects due to dry weather.

Colombia

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



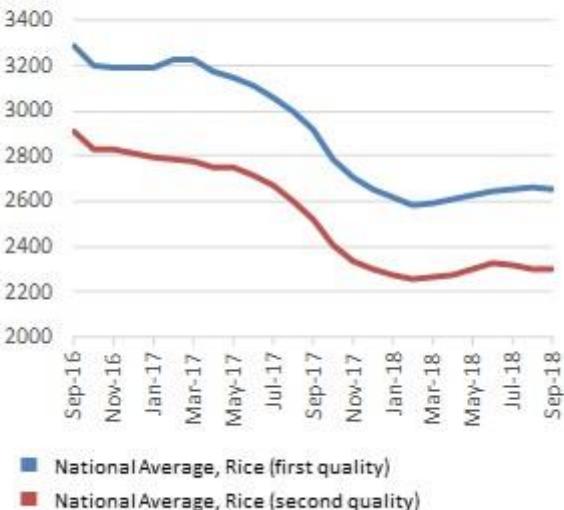
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 08-December-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output for 2017 estimated at record levels
- Cereal imports expected to decline during 2017/18 marketing year
- Rice prices declined in October

Cereal output for 2017 estimated at record levels

Cereal production for 2017 is estimated at 4.8 million tonnes, a record level. The rise mainly reflects a significant increase in plantings of rice and yellow maize in response to high price levels driven by robust demand. Rice and maize plantings in 2017 increased by 10 and 12 percent, respectively, over the 2016 levels. Favourable weather conditions also supported crop yields. The increase in plantings of maize and rice was mostly done at expenses of plantings of sorghum and other cereals. Rice and maize production is estimated at 2.9 and 1.9 million tonnes, respectively, both being record levels.

Cereal imports expected to decline during 2017/18 marketing year

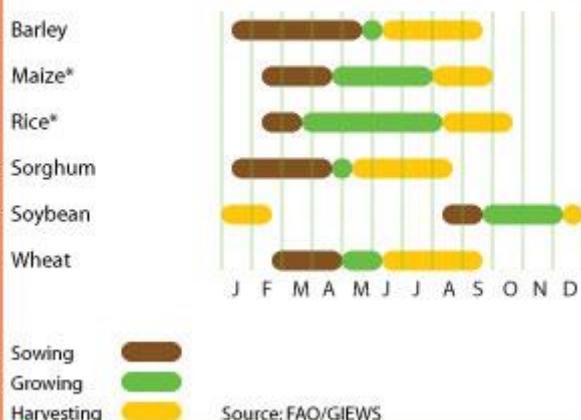
Cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (January/December) are forecast at 7.4 million tonnes, with a sharp decline from the 2016/17 record level of more than 8 million tonnes. The forecast level is still well above average, reflecting the high demand for yellow maize for the feed industry.

Rice prices declined in October

Prices of main staple rice declined by almost 5 percent in October and were significantly below their levels from a year earlier. Prices were pressured by the ample availabilities from the recent bumper harvests.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Colombia

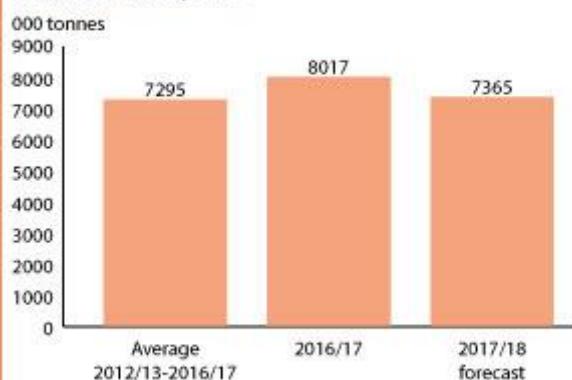
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2,120	2,664	2,880	8
Maize	1,440	1,804	1,900	5
Sorghum	21	12	10	-17
Others	23	34	28	-18
Total	3,605	4,514	4,818	7

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

Colombia

Total cereal imports

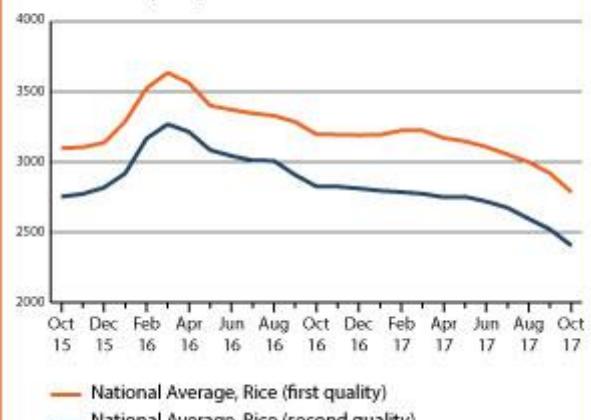


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz

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GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 29-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output for 2017 forecast to remain at high level
- Cereal imports expected to decline during 2017/18 marketing year
- Rice prices stable in early June

Cereal output for 2017 forecast to remain at high level

Planting of the 2017 first season cereal crops concluded in early June. Sowing operations benefitted from favourable weather conditions. The early expectations for the rice crop is for production to fall some 3 percent from the 2017 record level. The decrease mainly reflects the calls to producers by the local industry to limit mechanized plantings so as not to over-produce and depress prices. However, reflecting the high local demand and better margins than maize, area planted for rice is anticipated to remain above the five-year average. By contrast, plantings for maize during the first season are anticipated to decline some 15 percent from the same season last year. If plantings and yields during the second season, to be harvested from October, remain at the same level as last year, FAO anticipates that maize output may increase by some 3 percent this year. Cereal production for 2017, assuming favourable weather conditions for the rest of the year, is forecast by FAO at 4.3 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from last year's bumper level.

Cereal imports expected to decline during 2017/18 marketing year

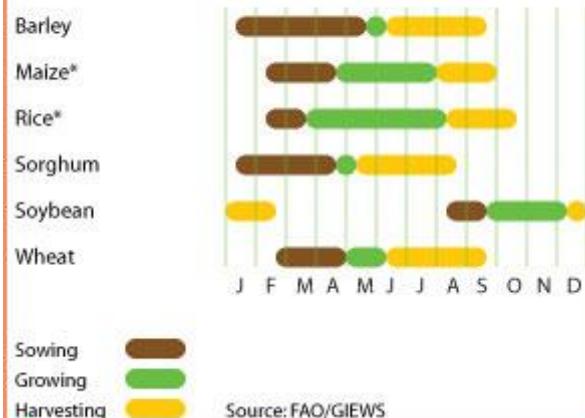
Cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (January/December) are forecast to decline sharply from their record level last year to 7.2 million tonnes, below the five-year average. The decline mainly reflects lower maize imports due to two consecutive years of bumper crops.

Rice prices stable in early June

Prices of main staple rice were unchanged in early June and remained well below their levels from a year earlier. Prices are being pressured downward by last year's bumper output and continued flow of imports.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

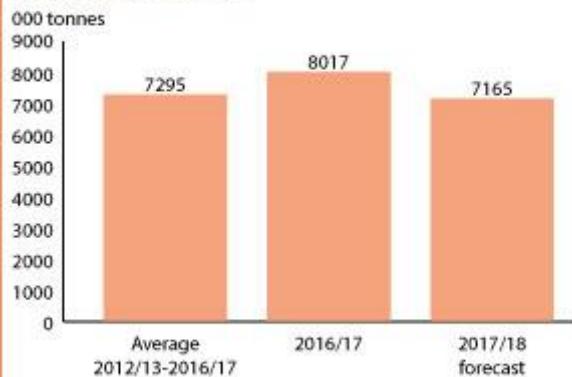
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change
				2017/2016 percent
		000 tonnes		
Rice (paddy)	2 111	2 620	2 550	-3
Maize	1 519	1 644	1 700	3
Sorghum	21	12	10	-17
Others	23	34	28	-18
Total	3 674	4 310	4 288	-1

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

Colombia

Total cereal imports



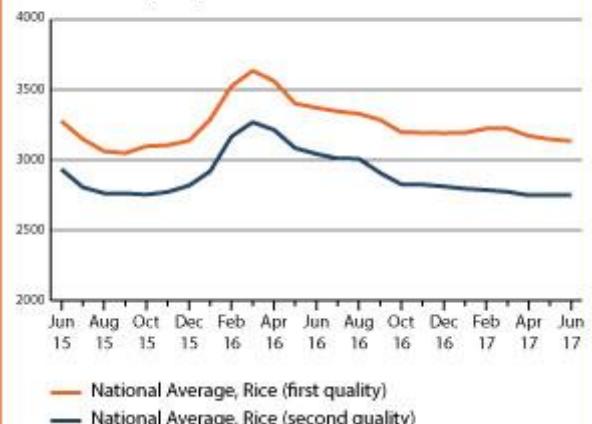
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz

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GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 08-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2017 cereal crops underway under mixed weather conditions
- Cereal production in 2016 estimated at bumper level
- Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year
- Rice prices stable; maize prices sharply decline in February

Planting of 2017 cereal crops underway under mixed weather conditions

Planting of the 2017 cereal crops is underway. No official data on plantings are yet available. Despite the dry weather conditions and below-average precipitations that predominated during the first 20 days of February in the northwest and southwest regions of the country, on the Pacific coast, early expectations are for sowings to increase as weather conditions have been more favourable than last year, which was impacted by the El Niño phenomenon. Support from the Government, particularly in facilitating access to inputs, is also anticipated to encourage sowings.

Cereal production estimated at bumper level in 2016

After two years of reduced cereal crops due to El Niño, cereal output for 2016 is estimated at close to 4.2 million tonnes or 16 percent above last year's drought-reduced level. The increase mainly reflects larger rice and maize crop outputs. Improved maize yields in the second half of the year, due to the dissipation of the El Niño phenomenon, also contributed to the increase in cereal output.

Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year

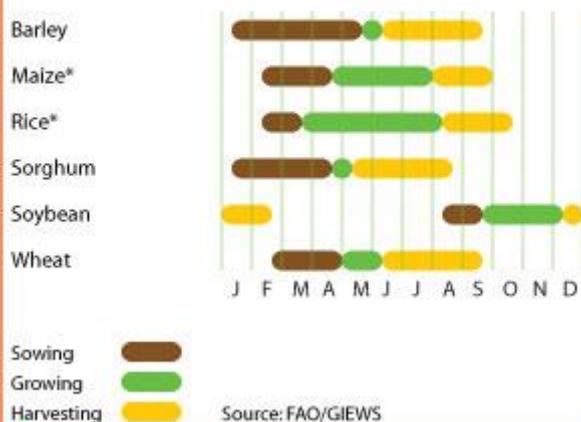
Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 7.9 million tonnes, 4 percent above the previous year's level and well above the country's five-year average, mainly reflecting high import demand for wheat.

Rice prices stable; maize prices sharply decline in February

Rice prices in February continued their general stability of the previous months and were below their levels from a year earlier

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	1 997	2 108	2 520	20
Maize	1 526	1 493	1 644	10
Sorghum	33	12	12	0
Others	15	13	21	62
Total	3 570	3 626	4 197	16

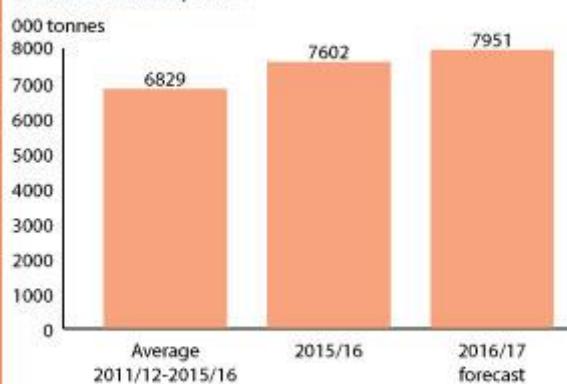
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

as this year's good harvest and recent imports continued to pressure prices lower.

Yellow maize prices declined sharply in February from their levels a month earlier and a year ago, reflecting ample supplies from the 2016 bumper maize crop and adequate import levels.

Colombia

Total cereal imports



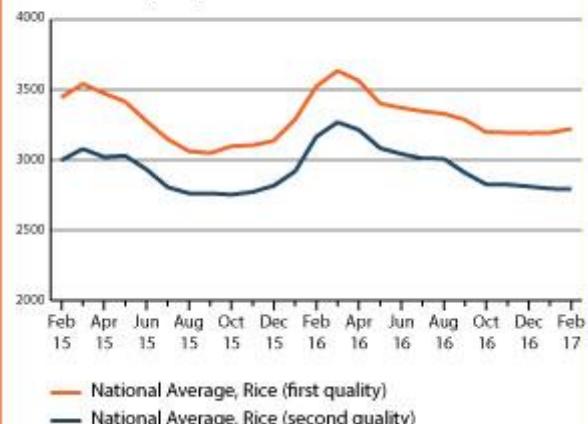
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



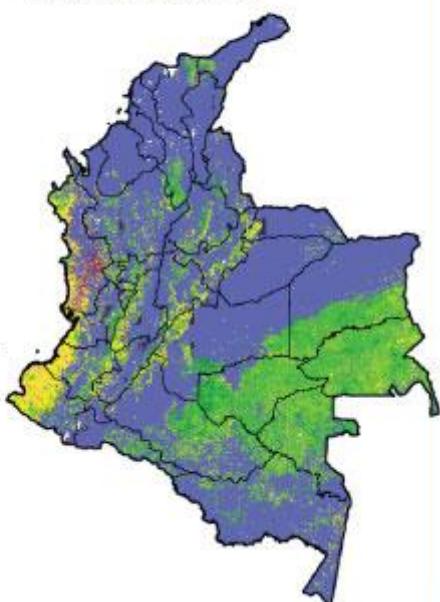
Source: Fedearroz

Colombia - Mean Vegetation Health Index (VHI)

Dekad 2, February 2017

Mean VHI

< 0.15
0.15 - 0.25
0.25 - 0.35
0.35 - 0.45
0.45 - 0.55
0.55 - 0.65
0.65 - 0.75
0.75 - 0.85
≥ 0.85
off season
no data
no seasons





GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 13-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 estimated at bumper level
- Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year
- Cereal prices stable and below year-earlier levels in November

Cereal production estimated at bumper level in 2016

After two years of reduced cereal crops due to El Niño, cereal output for 2016 is estimated at close to 4.5 million tonnes or 23 percent above last year's drought-reduced level. The increase mainly reflects larger rice and maize crops output. Plantings of both crops increased significantly reflecting higher domestic prices at the beginning of the year, while increased precipitation levels since June as a result of the dissipation of the El Niño phenomenon, improved yields compared to the previous year's drought-reduced levels, particularly for rice.

Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain relatively unchanged from the previous year's level and well above the country's five-year average, mainly reflecting high import demand for rice and maize, particularly from the feed industry. Imports during the marketing year are anticipated to reach 7.6 million tonnes.

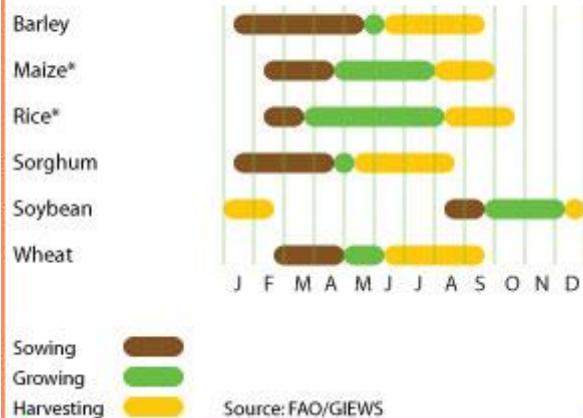
Cereal prices stable and below year-earlier levels in November

Rice prices in November were relatively unchanged and were below their levels from a year earlier as this year's good harvest and recent imports continued to pressure prices lower.

Maize prices declined and were well below their levels in November last year, reflecting adequate domestic supplies from the good 2016 harvest as well as recent imports.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Colombia

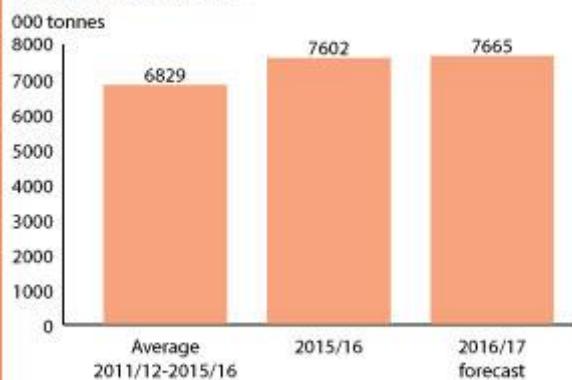
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	1 997	2 108	2 520	20
Maize	1 526	1 493	1 900	27
Sorghum	33	12	18	50
Others	15	13	22	69
Total	3 570	3 626	4 460	23

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

Colombia

Total cereal imports



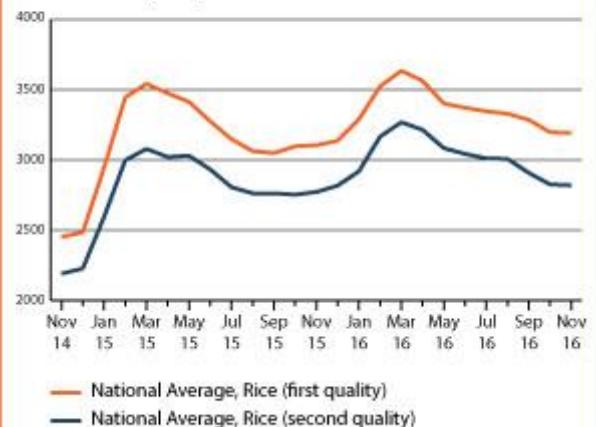
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 10-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production 2016 estimated at bumper level
- Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year
- Cereal prices declined in September

Cereal 2016 production estimated at bumper level

Harvest of the main 2016 cereal season is virtually concluded. After two years of reduced cereal crops due to El Niño, cereal output is anticipated to recover and reach bumper levels. The increase mainly reflects larger rice and maize crops expected. Plantings of both crops increased significantly reflecting higher domestic prices at the beginning of the year, while increased precipitation levels since June, as a result of the dissipation of the El Niño phenomenon, improved yield prospects significantly compared to the previous year's drought-reduced levels, particularly for rice. Total cereal output is anticipated at 4.3 million tonnes, 19 percent above last year's level and significantly above the five-year average.

Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain relatively unchanged from the previous year's level and well above the country's five-year average, mainly reflecting high import demand for rice and maize. Imports during the marketing year are anticipated to reach 7.5 million tonnes.

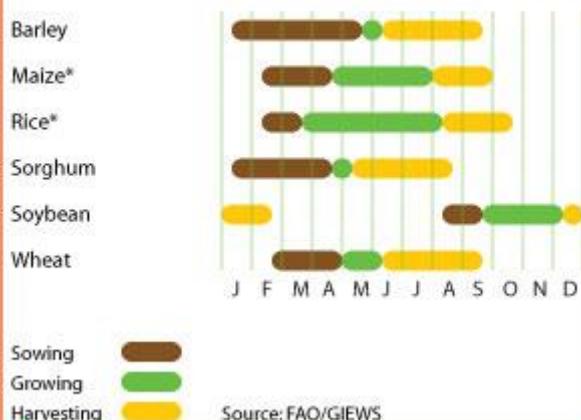
Cereal prices declined in September

Rice prices declined in September for the third consecutive month from their record levels earlier this year. High levels of imports have pressured prices lower.

Yellow maize prices declined further in September and were down from a year earlier reflecting adequate market supplies from the good 2016 harvest, recently gathered, and imports.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

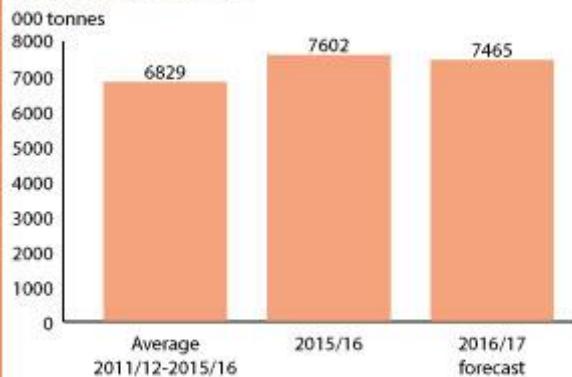
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			
Rice (paddy)	1 997	2 108	2 520	20
Maize	1 526	1 493	1 740	17
Sorghum	33	12	18	50
Others	15	13	21	62
Total	3 570	3 626	4 299	19

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

Colombia

Total cereal imports



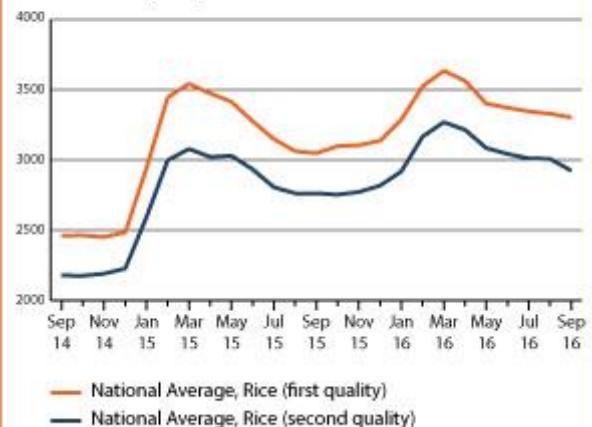
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz



GIEWS Country Brief Colombia

Reference Date: 29-June-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for 2016 cereal production favourable
- Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year
- Rice prices declined in June
- Improved prospects for food security following peace accord agreement and cessation of hostilities between Government and FARC

Early prospects for 2016 cereal production favourable

Planting of the 2016 main season rice and maize crops was concluded earlier in the year. Rice planting suffered from slight rainfall deficits during February and March but maize, with a longer planting window, benefitted from precipitation that arrived in late March and April. Assuming favourable weather conditions continue throughout the main season, initial forecasts point to an aggregate cereal production of close to 3.6 million tonnes in 2016, just slightly below last year's high level and well above the country's five-year average. A recovery expected in sorghum output after last year's reduced level, would only partially offset lower rice output expected due to the unfavourable planting conditions.

Cereal imports expected to remain at high levels in 2016/17 marketing year

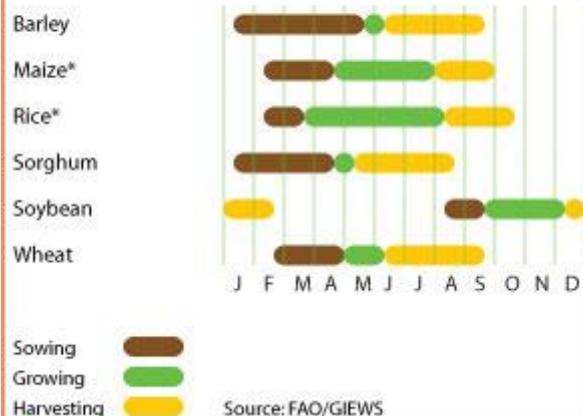
Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain relatively unchanged from last year's level and well above the country's five-year average, mainly reflecting high import demand for rice and maize. Imports during the marketing year are anticipated to reach 7.5 million tonnes.

Rice prices declined in June

Rice prices declined in June for the third consecutive month from their record levels earlier this year. Ample stocks from the good 2015 harvest and the continued flow of imports have pressured prices lower.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Colombia

Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	1,996	2,108	2,040	-3
Maize	1,526	1,493	1,510	1
Sorghum	33	12	18	50
Others	15	13	20	54
Total	3,570	3,626	3,588	-1

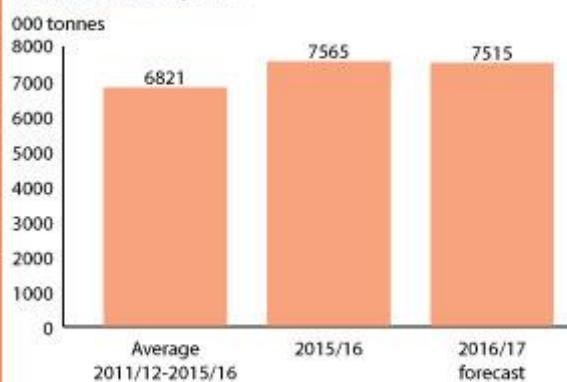
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Improved prospects for food security following peace accord agreement and cessation of hostilities between Government and FARC

The Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a rebel group, have reached an agreement on a peace accord putting an end to 50 years of armed conflict. It is anticipated that with the immediate cessation of hostilities the rural populations directly affected by the conflict will see an improvement in their food security situation, as a more stable security environment will allow the resumption of farming activities, better functioning of markets and access to Government assistance.

Colombia

Total cereal imports



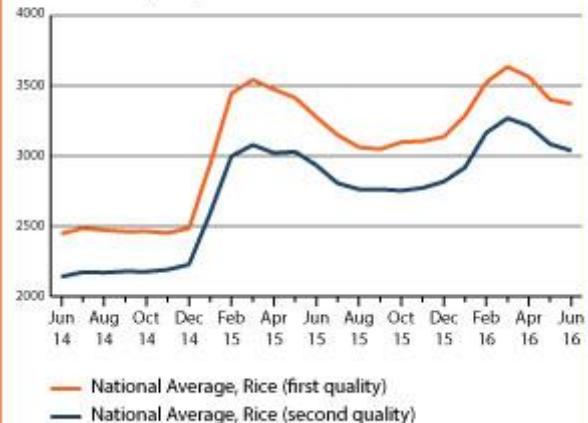
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz

Reference date: 20-March-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for 2015 cereal production are favourable
- Cereal production in 2014 was sharply reduced
- Cereal imports expected at record level in 2014/15 marketing year
- Rice prices at record highs in February

Early prospects for 2015 cereal production are favourable

Planting of the 2015 main season rice and maize crops is well advanced and has benefited from favourable weather conditions so far. Initial forecasts point to a strong recovery in the area planted to maize and rice from last year's reduced level, mainly in response to higher domestic prices and sustained demand. Assuming favourable weather conditions continue throughout the main season, early forecast point to a 38 percent increase in maize production from last year's poor level and an 8 percent raise in that of rice.

Cereal production in 2014 sharply reduced by drought

Cereal production for 2014 was estimated at 2.9 million tonnes (rice in paddy terms), 22 percent down from 2013. The sharp drop in cereal production mainly reflects lower plantings in response to low prices at planting time, following increased imports under the USA-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Drought conditions during the main cereal season also reduced significantly yields of maize and the output declined by 34 percent from 2013.

Cereal imports expected at record level in 2014/15 marketing year

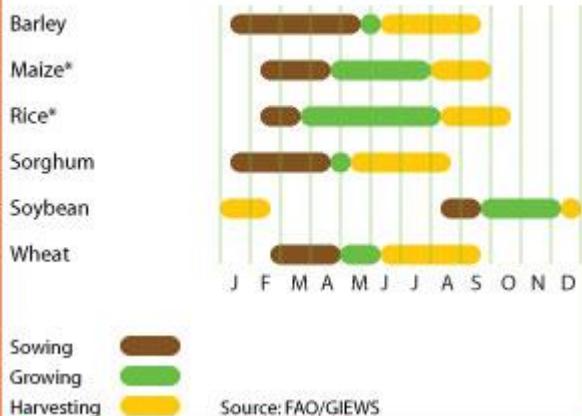
Preliminary forecast for cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) point to an increase of 12 percent over the previous year's high level, to a record 7.9 million tonnes. The strong increase in imports mainly reflects the reduced 2014 cereal harvest. Maize imports are expected to rise by about 10 percent, while those of rice imports are anticipated to double their relatively low level of the previous year.

Rice prices at record levels in February

Rice prices reached all-time highs in February, reflecting a sharply reduced 2014 production, record low stocks and reduced import levels. Yellow maize prices increased further in February and were significantly higher year-on-year in main markets, as a result of the poor output and a strong appreciation of the local currency in the past months.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Colombia

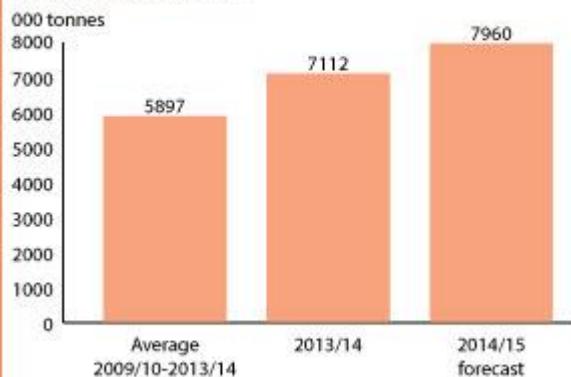
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average 000 tonnes	2014 000 tonnes	2015 forecast 000 tonnes	change 2015/2014 percent
Rice (paddy)	1 950	1 770	1 910	8
Maize	1 556	1 120	1 560	39
Sorghum	47	18	18	0
Others	16	20	20	0
Total	3 569	2 928	3 508	20

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

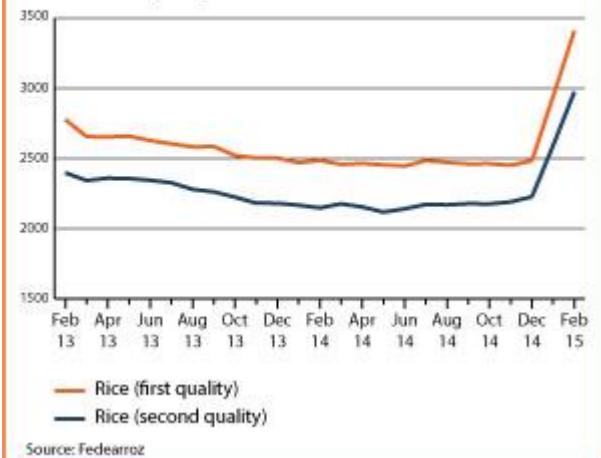
Colombia

Total cereal imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia
Retail prices of rice
Colombian Peso per Kg



Reference date: 13-March-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Uncertain prospects for the 2014 cereal production
- Rice and maize imports to increase in 2013/14 marketing year
- Rice prices continued at low levels in February

Uncertain prospects for the 2014 cereal production

Planting of the 2014 main season rice and maize crops is ongoing under favourable weather conditions. However, prospects remain uncertain due to anticipated sharp reductions in the area planted, as a result of generally low prices of maize and rice and despite the Government support to the sector.

The 2013 cereal production is estimated at 4.6 million tonnes or 2 percent up from 2012. This mainly reflects the increase in maize production to 1.9 million tonnes, 3 percent above the high level in the 2012.

Rice and maize imports expected to increase in 2013/14 marketing year

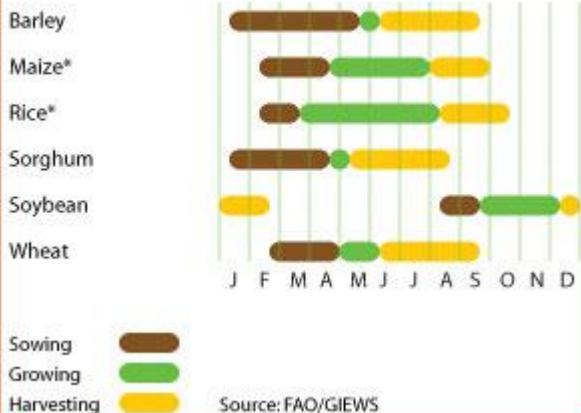
Rice imports in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to grow by 14 percent and reach 200 000 tonnes, mainly reflecting increased import quotas, under the trade promotion agreement with the United States, and additional import permits from the Andean Community countries. Maize imports are forecast at 3.6 million tonnes, about 5 percent higher than the previous year due to the sustained demand from the feed industry.

Rice prices continued at low levels in February

Prices of first and second quality rice remained stable or declined in February, and were some 10 percent lower than at the same time a year earlier. Low prices are mainly a result of increased local production and lower priced imports.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

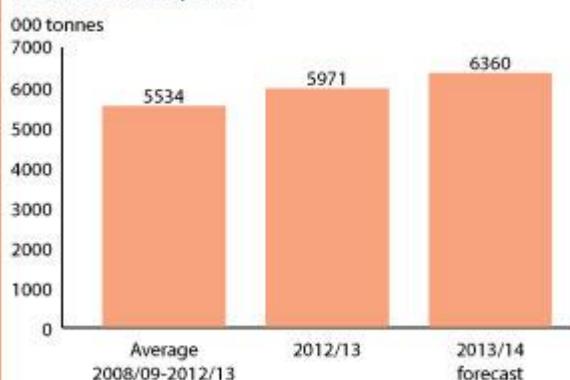
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average 000 tonnes	2012 2013 estimate 000 tonnes	change 2013/2012 percent
Rice (paddy)	2,654	2,580	2,615 1
Maize	1,643	1,826	1,881 3
Sorghum	104	95	101 6
Others	22	16	16 0
Total	4,422	4,517	4,613 2

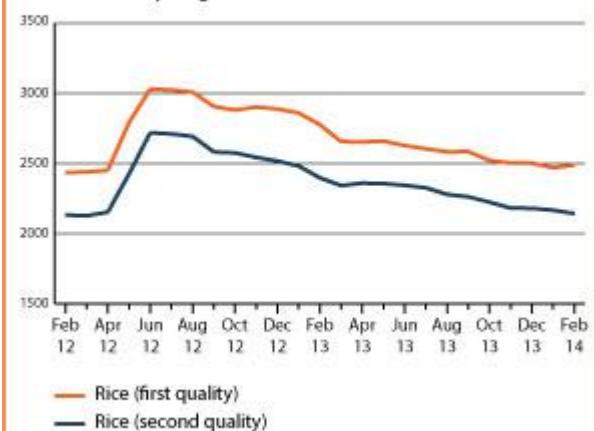
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Total cereal imports



Colombia
Retail prices of rice
Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz

GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia



Reference date: 05-December-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slight increase in 2013 cereal production
- Cereal imports projected to rise in the 2013/14 marketing year
- Rice prices continued at low levels

The 2013 cereal production estimated to increase

Harvesting of the 2013 main first season rice and maize crops is completed. The secondary season was harvested earlier in April. The 2013 aggregate rice output, including the first and second season crop, is estimated to have increased slightly from the 2012 level to 2.6 million tonnes (1.8 million tonnes, milled basis) mainly as a result of increased plantings in response to Government price bands to sustain the rice industry.

The 2013 maize crop is also estimated slightly up from the 2012 output, at 1.1 million tonnes. This increase reflects higher yields following Government's production incentives, including input subsidies and the distribution of improved seed varieties, in order to boost production that has remained stagnant since 2010.

Cereal imports projected to increase in the 2013/14 marketing year

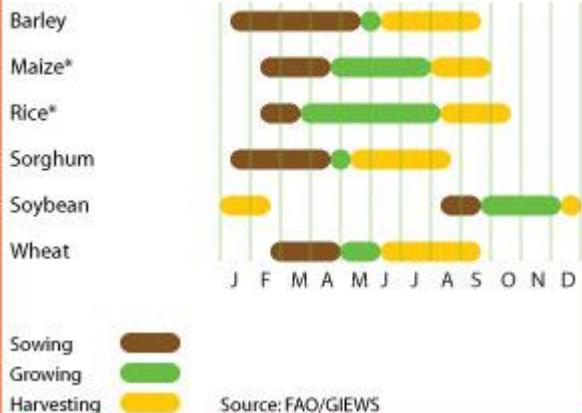
Forecasts for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) point to an increase in cereal imports of about 4 percent. Rice imports are expected to grow by 14 percent and reach 200 000 mainly reflecting import quotas under the trade promotion agreement with the United States and additional import permits for rice sourced from Andean Community countries. Maize imports are estimated at 3.5 million tonnes in 2013/14 marketing year, about 5 percent higher than the previous year due to the sustained demand from the feed industry.

Rice prices continue at low levels

Rice prices continued to decrease in October with the arrival of the 2013 main season harvest and were about 14 percent below their levels of a year earlier reflecting higher market availabilities due to the surge in imports.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Colombia

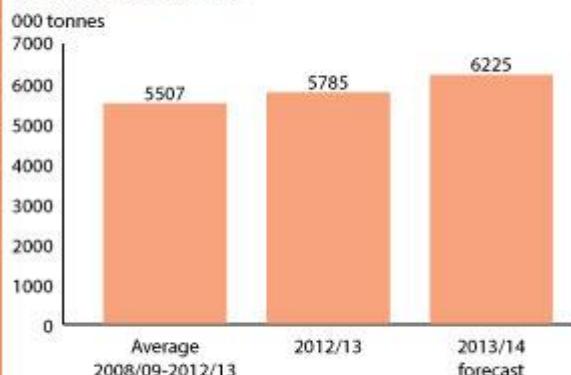
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2,654	2,580	2,615	1
Maize	1,149	1,085	1,103	2
Sorghum	104	95	101	6
Others	22	16	16	0
Total	3,927	3,776	3,835	2

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

Colombia

Total cereal imports

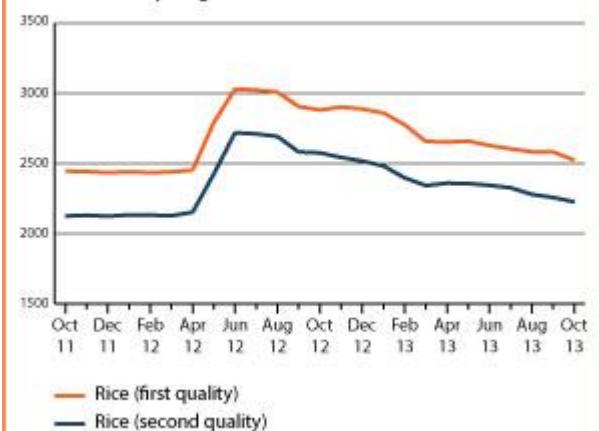


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz

Reference date: 22-August-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2013 rice and maize production forecast around last year's level
- Increased cereal imports in 2012/13 (July/June)
- Rice prices in July lower than a year earlier

The 2013 rice and maize production forecast around last year's level

Harvesting of the 2013 main first season rice and maize crops is well underway. Despite falling prices at planting time and high production costs, the 2013 aggregate rice output, including the first and second season crop, is forecast marginally above the 2012 level at about 2.6 million tonnes (1.8 million tonnes, milled basis). In order to support the rice industry, in March of this year the Government established a floor price for paddy of USD 475 and a ceiling price of USD 581 per tonne, to be applied through the end of 2013.

The 2013 maize crop is forecast to increase slightly from last year's level at about 1.1 million tonnes. Since 2010, production incentives, including direct payments per hectare cultivated, input subsidies and funding for research and development to improve seed productivity have been provided by the Government through the '*Plan País Maíz*', with the aim of reversing a downward trend in maize production.

Increased cereal imports

Rice imports in 2012/13 (July/June) marketing year are estimated at 200 000 tonnes from 84 000 tonnes in the previous year, mainly reflecting import quotas under the Trade Promotion Agreement with the United States and additional import permits for rice sourced from Andean Community countries.

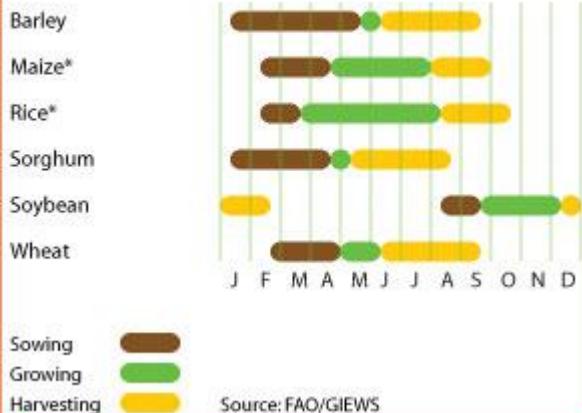
Maize imports are estimated at about 3.3 million tonnes in 2012/13 marketing year, 4 percent higher than the previous year but similar to the five-year average.

Rice prices lower than a year ago

Rice prices remained relatively unchanged in July, after an unseasonable decline in the beginning of 2013 due to a significant increase in imports, and were almost 14 percent lower than at the same time a year ago.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

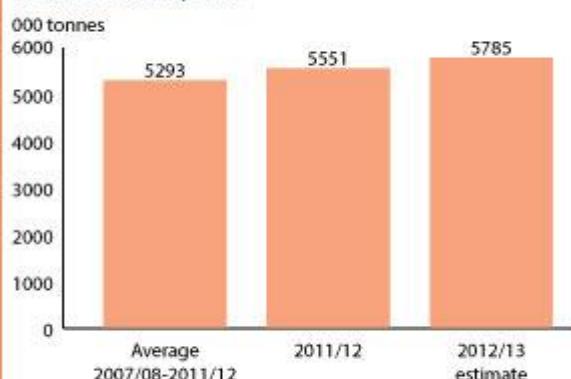
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2,654	2,580	2,615	1
Maize	1,149	1,085	1,103	2
Sorghum	104	95	101	6
Others	22	16	16	0
Total	3,927	3,776	3,835	2

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

Colombia

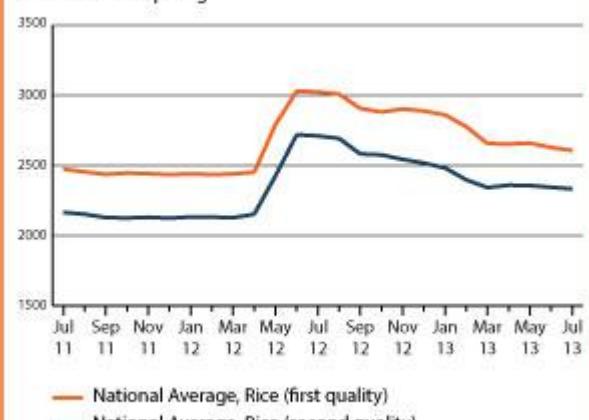
Total cereal imports



Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz

GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia



Reference date: 17-July-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2012 rice and maize production forecast above last year's level
- Cereal imports to remain at high levels
- Rice prices higher than a year ago

The 2012 rice and maize production forecast above last year's level

Harvesting of the 2012 main cereal season crops, particularly rice and maize, has begun. The 2012 aggregate rice output (including the main one, which accounts about 60 percent of the total, and the secondary to be planted in November) is forecast at about 2.7 million tonnes or 6 percent higher than in 2011. A return to normal growing conditions this season, after unfavourable weather conditions negatively affected yields in 2011, more than offset reduced plantings in the main producing areas of Casanare and Meta departments in the Orinoquía Region. The maize crop is expected to be 8 percent above last year's level, following an increase in area sown in response to production incentives provided by the Government through the "Plan País-Maíz", the Maize Country Program, which began in 2011.

Cereal imports to remain at high levels

Colombia heavily depends on wheat imports to satisfy its domestic demand and imports are forecast at around 1.4 million tonnes in 2012/13 (July/June) marketing year, close to the levels of the past few years.

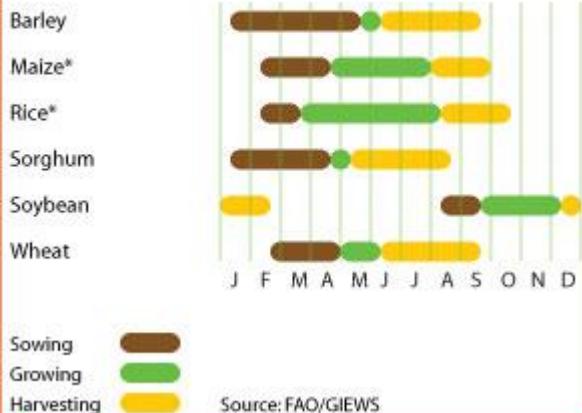
Despite the good output anticipated in 2012, maize imports are expected to remain at about 3.1 million tonnes in 2012/13 (July/June) marketing year, as in the past few years, in response to the increasing demand from the animal feed industry.

Rice prices higher than a year ago

Rice prices have remained relatively unchanged in July compared to their levels in June but were more than 20 percent higher than at the same time a year earlier, after a more pronounced than normal seasonal increase in May and June this year.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Colombia

Cereal production

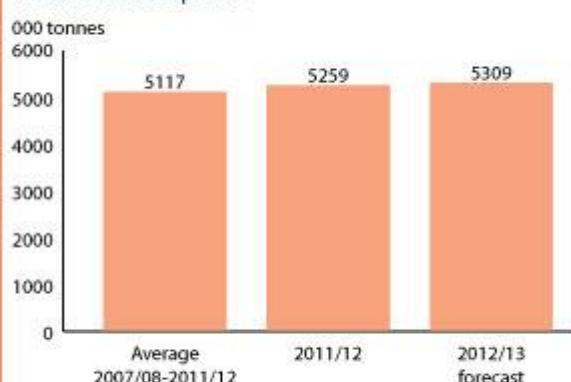
	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 617	2 544	2 700	6
Maize	1 665	1 691	1 830	8
Sorghum	108	97	95	-2
Others	32	28	27	-4
Total	4 422	4 360	4 652	7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Total cereal imports



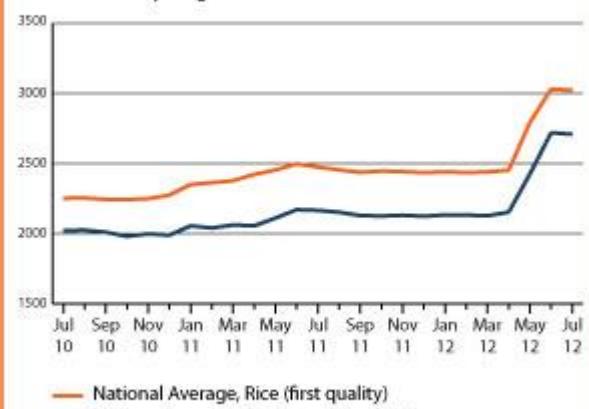
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Retail prices of rice

Colombian Peso per Kg



Source: Fedearroz

GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia



Reference date: 01-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2011 rice and maize crops estimated satisfactory
- Cereal imports at average levels
- Cereal prices stable

Estimates point to a recovery in rice and maize production in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 second season cereal crop is nearing completion. Heavy rainfall from September 2011 to January 2012, associated with the La Niña weather pattern, caused landslides and flooding with localized crop damage. Nationally, total cereal production for 2011/12 (first and second seasons) is forecast at 4.5 million tonnes, 11 percent above last year's harvest and 3 percent above the average of the last five years. The main (paddy) rice harvest is estimated at 2.7 million tonnes, 10 percent above the 2010 level. This increase mainly reflects a 9 percent expansion in the area sown and abundant rainfall during the growing phase of the first season crop in mid-2011. The maize crop is set to be 12 percent above the previous year's level, following an increase in area sown in response to production incentives provided by the Government through the "País Maíz" plan implemented in 2011.

Cereal imports at average levels

Colombia heavily depends on wheat imports to satisfy its domestic demand, and wheat imports are likely to remain at average levels. Maize imports continue to grow to meet increasing demand from the animal feed industry and, to a lesser extent, for human consumption.

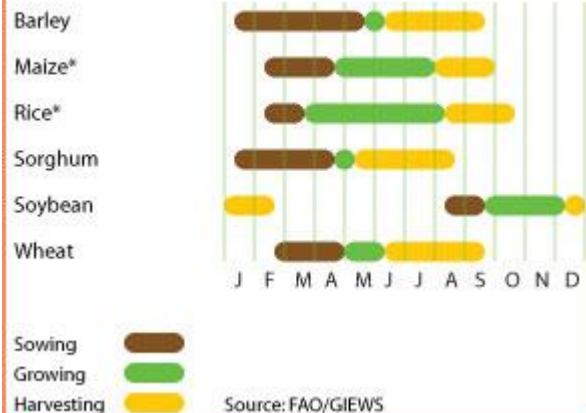
Maize and rice prices stable

Maize and rice prices remained steady after falling in July and August as a result of the main 2011 harvest. In November, however, they were respectively 25 percent and 10 percent higher than a year earlier.

The consumer price index remained broadly stable in 2011, rising by just 3.73 percent, thanks mainly to a slower rise in food prices in the closing months of the year.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

Cereal production

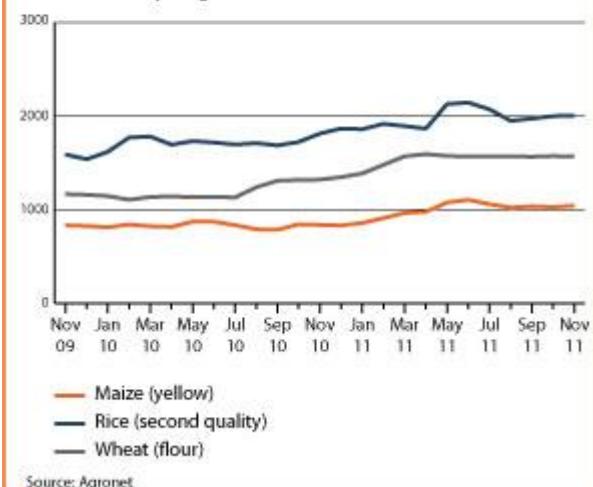
	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 585	2 412	2 650	10
Maize	1 633	1 536	1 720	12
Sorghum	120	95	97	2
Others	32	20	25	25
Total	4 370	4 063	4 492	11

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

Colombia

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Bogotá

Colombian Peso per Kg



GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia



Reference date: 29-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The main 2011 rice and maize crops estimated satisfactory
- Cereal imports remain at high levels
- Cereal prices fall

Early estimates point to a recovery in rice and maize production in 2011, despite the disease crisis

Harvesting of the main cereal crops for 2011 is underway. Early estimates suggest overall production for 2011 (including the secondary season crop harvested earlier this year) at about 4.3 million tonnes – 7 percent above last year's level, but 2 percent below the average of the last five years. In particular, the main rice crop (paddy rice) is projected at nearly 2.7 million tonnes - 10 percent above the 2010 level. This is despite the crisis in June caused by "sheath blight" a disease that reduces crop yields and caused the government to declare a phytosanitary emergency in July. The higher output reflects a 9 percent increase in area planted and abundant rainfall during the growing period. In the case of maize, area planted increased and production for 2011 is estimated at 3 percent above the previous year's level.

Cereal imports remain high

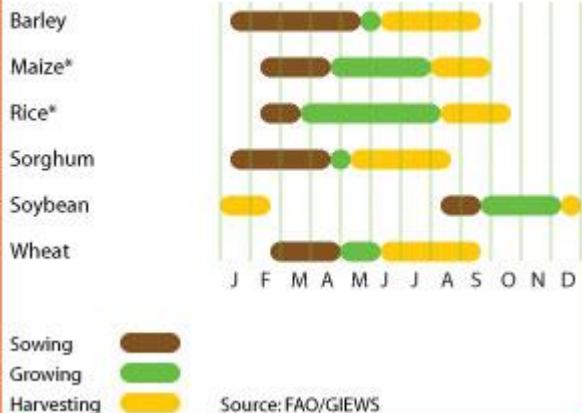
Colombia heavily depends on wheat imports to satisfy its domestic demand. Maize imports are also at high levels as a result of growing demand from the feed industry and to a lesser extent for human consumption. In view of this heavy dependence on imports, in April 2011 the government launched the "País Maíz" [Maize Country] plan, to boost maize production, reduce imports and strengthen national food security.

Maize and rice prices fall

Maize and rice prices, which had climbed to record levels in recent months, decreased in July and August following the harvest. Nonetheless, in August they were still 29 percent and 14 percent, respectively, above their levels of a year earlier.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

Cereal production

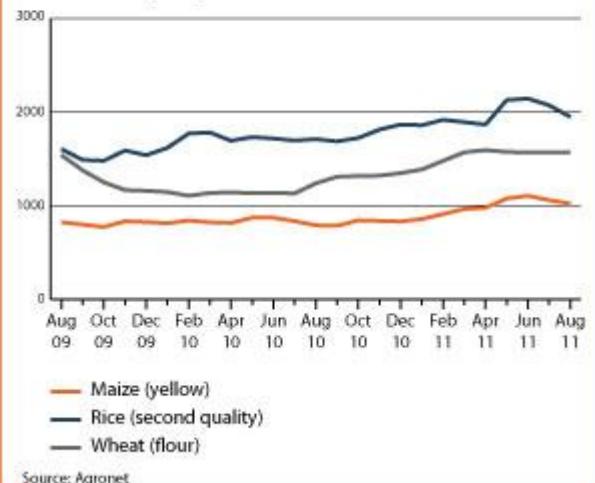
	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 585	2 412	2 650	10
Maize	1 616	1 450	1 500	3
Sorghum	120	95	97	2
Others	34	26	28	8
Total	4 354	3 983	4 275	7

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

Colombia

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Bogotá

Colombian Peso per Kg



GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia

Reference Date: 15-June-2011



FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good outlook for 2011 maize and rice production
- Prices of rice and maize increasing

Good outlook for 2011 maize and rice production, despite heavy rainfall

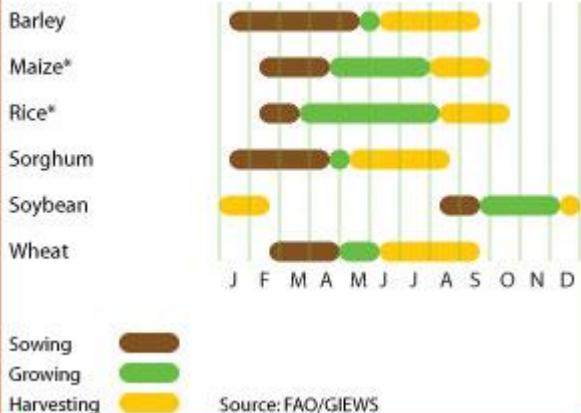
Harvesting of the 2011 main cereal crops, particularly rice and maize, has begun. Rainfall during the agricultural season that began in February/March was above average throughout most of the country as a result of the La Niña phenomenon until the first few months of the year, leading to localized losses of maize. As a result of government measures to stimulate production after the losses caused by flooding the year before, it is estimated that the area sown to rice and maize in 2011 (main and secondary season) will be greater than that of 2010. This increase will be higher in the case of maize due to its high prices on the international market. It is estimated that production of rice and maize will be each 4 percent higher than last year.

Prices of rice and maize increasing

Prices of rice and maize in May increased by 14 and 5 percent respectively compared to their levels in April. This increase is due to heavy rainfall that is affecting early harvesting operations in the production regions of the country and the transportation of the crops. Prices of wheat flour have been rising since mid-2010, reflecting the increasing trend on the international market as the country imports substantial amounts of wheat. In May, prices of wheat flour were 40 percent higher than last year.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Colombia

Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2 684	2 800	2 900	4
Maize	1 305	1 300	1 350	4
Sorghum	98	65	91	40
Others	98	65	91	40
Total	4 125	4 212	4 341	3

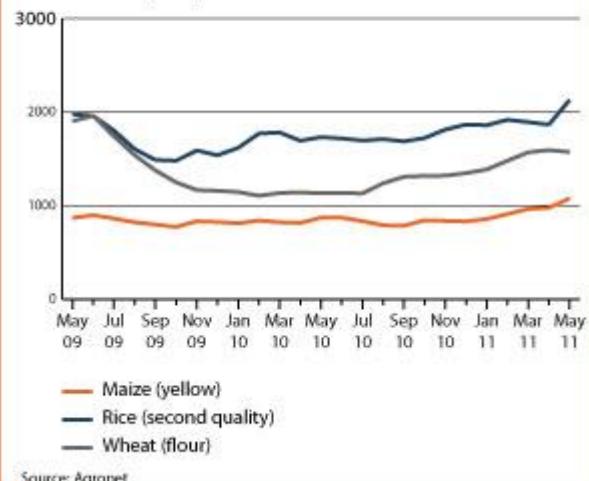
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Bogotá

Colombian Peso per kg



GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia



Reference Date: 28-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary production estimates continue to be favourable despite heavy rains during harvesting
- Prices of wheat flour are significantly lower than two years ago

Recent heavy rains might hamper harvesting of the main cereal cropping season

Recent torrential rains along the Caribbean coastal region caused a sudden increase in river water levels descending from the Sierra Nevada. High water levels have raised concerns that flooding and landslides may result in damaging the standing crops. In the rest of the country, rainfall volumes have been generally average or favourably above average, benefiting crop recovery from the earlier prolonged drought conditions and the late onset of rains, particularly in the northern departments.

Harvesting of rice is underway with preliminary favourable estimates

Rice harvesting is underway in the major producing departments of Tolima, Huila, Meta and Casanare and preliminary estimates point to an increase in production of about 5 and 16 percent compared to 2009 and the last five years' average, respectively. On 26 August, in an effort to guarantee adequate prices to local farmers and sell the domestic production, the government has temporary banned rice imports. Colombia's major rice suppliers are Peru and Ecuador.

Cereal import requirements in 2010 are estimated to increase by almost 10 percent compared to 2009.

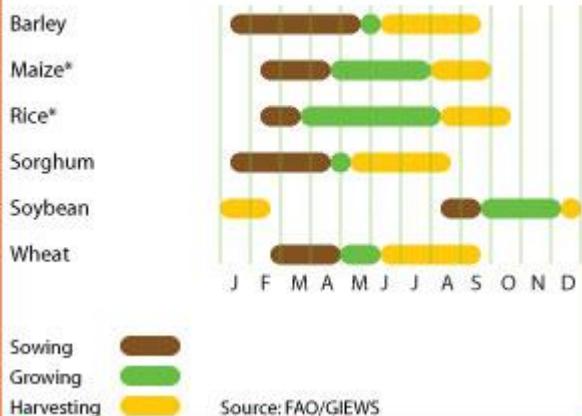
Prices of major staples generally stable or decreasing

In August, wholesale prices of rice are approximately 14 percent lower compared to the levels of the same period two years ago, although they remain more than 6 percent above the price of August 2009. The price of yellow maize has been decreasing from May and in August 2010 it was 15 and 3 percent lower than the levels recorded in the same period in 2009 and 2008, respectively. Similarly yellow maize was traded in August at a level 15 percent lower than in 2008.

On the other hand, wholesale price of wheat flour have slightly increased in the last month following a relatively stable trend which lasted since March 2010. In August 2010, they were more than 33 percent below the levels of the same period in 2008.

Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

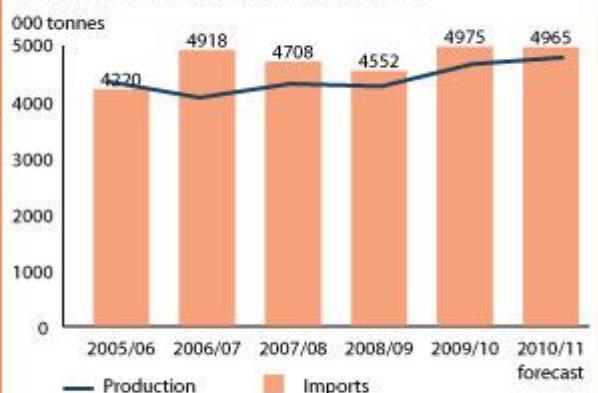
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2010		change 2010/2009 percent
		2009	forecast	
	000 tonnes	000 tonnes	percent	
Rice (paddy)	2477	2780	2898	4
Maize	1661	1725	1725	0
Sorghum	155	114	114	0
Others	45	50	50	0
Total	4338	4669	4787	3

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

Colombia

Total cereal production and imports

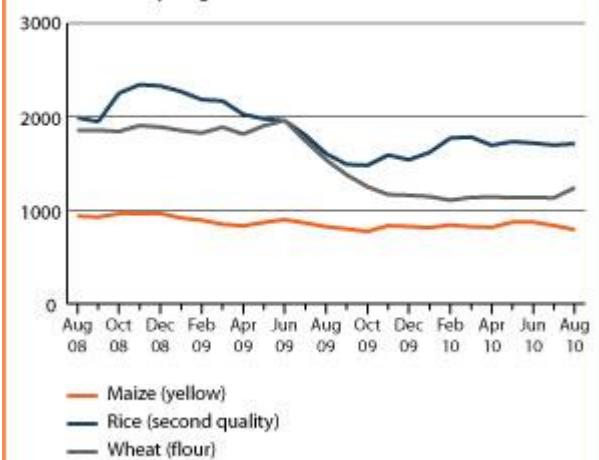


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Colombia

Selected wholesale cereal prices in Bogotá

Colombian Peso per kg



Source: Agronet

GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia

Reference Date: 08-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2010 main season maize crop delayed by dry weather conditions
- In February 2010 price of wheat flour hit its lowest level in last two years

Late onset of seasonal rains has delaying planting of 2010 maize

Planting of 2010 main season maize crop, currently underway, has been affected by severe dry weather conditions at the beginning of the year, especially in northern departments of the country and Caribbean coastal zones (*Región Atlántica*). Although official data are not yet available, planted area is likely to decrease if compared to previous year and harvesting operation, usually expected to start in August, may experience some delay. The adverse weather conditions have also affected the livestock sector with reduced availability of water and pasture. In order to respond to this situation, the government has announced that financial support will be provided to both agricultural and livestock sectors.

2010 rice planting is also underway although with some delays due to the persistent drought conditions.

However, preliminary estimates point to a similar planted area as 2009 cropping season.

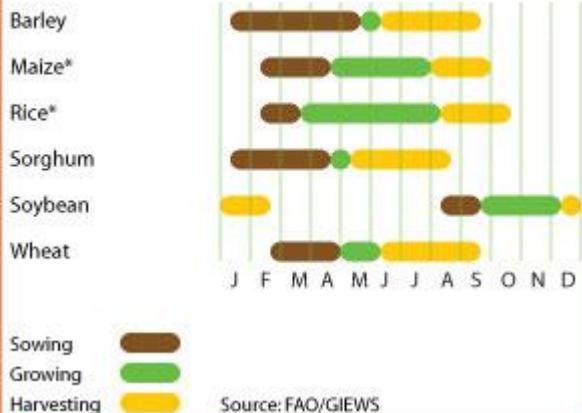
Wheat flour price steadily decreases from last June

Wholesale price of wheat flour has constantly declined since the peak registered in June 2009 and in February 2010 the commodity was traded in Bogotá market at a price of COP 1106 per Kg, very similar to the average price level existing before the food price crisis of mid 2007. On the contrary, the wholesale price of rice (second quality) has steadily increased from September 2009, reversing the declining trend that characterized it from November 2008. Wholesale prices of white and yellow maize have remained relatively stable over the last few months and their quotation in February 2010 were respectively 25 and 6 percent lower than a year before.



Colombia

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Colombia

Cereal production

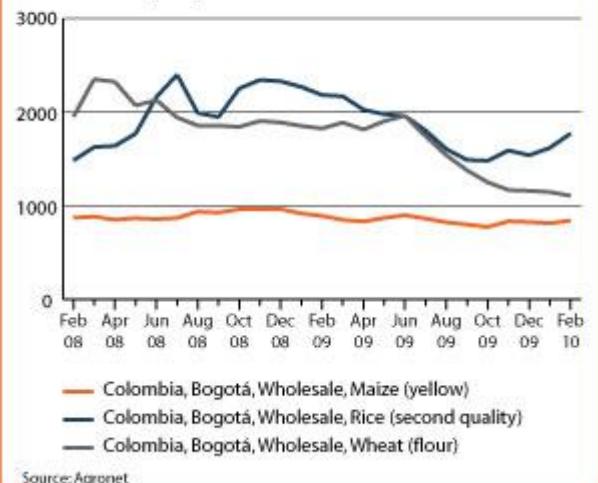
	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	2568	2591	2591	0
Maize	1640	1727	1725	0
Sorghum	185	134	114	-15
Others	45	38	50	32
Total	4439	4490	4480	0

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

Colombia

Selected cereal prices

Colombian Peso per kg



GIEWS Country Brief

Colombia



Reference Date: 08-October-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good production estimates for the main maize cropping season
- Rice harvest slightly above last year's already good output
- Sharp decline of wheat and rice prices from June

Low market prices raise concern among maize producers

The harvest of the main maize crop in the departments of Cordoba, Cesar and Bolivar, is virtually completed and the production of this season is estimated in more than 1 million tonnes. Good weather conditions throughout the season have supported development of the crop. Despite the excellent harvest, maize producers are facing the drop in market prices, due to the low international price of this cereal and the availability of maize from neighbouring countries (such as Ecuador) at a lower price.

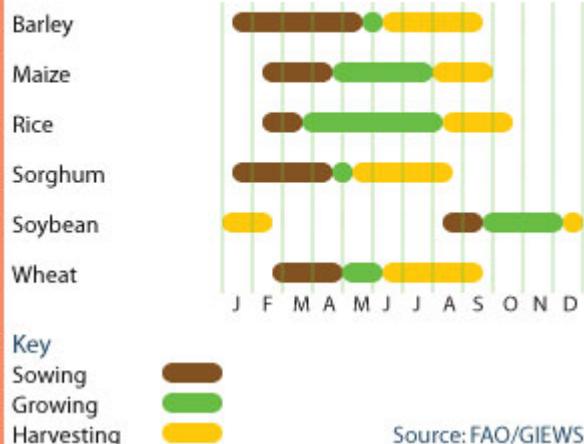
Farmers expect the government to reinstate import duties to support internal production.

Planting for the secondary cropping season, due to be harvested from January to March, is already underway.

Preliminary estimates forecast good rice harvest

Rice harvesting is still underway in some localized areas of the country although the bulk of production (more than 60 percent) is concentrated between August and September. Preliminary estimates point to a good level of paddy production, slightly above last year's output of more than 2.5 million tonnes.

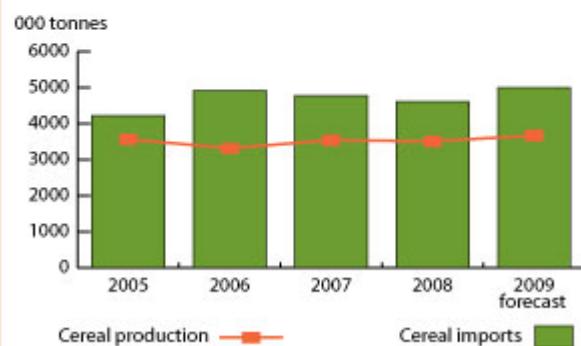
Crop calendar Colombia



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Cereal production and imports Colombia

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008 000 tonnes	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
Rice (milled)	1717	1614	1782	10.4%
Maize	1640	1727	1725	-0.1%
Sorghum	185	134	114	-14.9%
Other	48	38	50	31.6%
Total Cereals	3587	3513	3671	4.5%

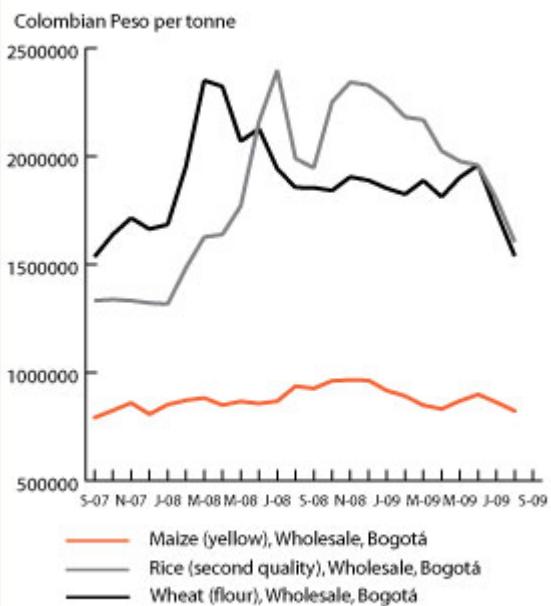


Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Prices of wheat and rice decrease considerably from June

Whole maize prices in Bogotá have remained relatively stable over the preceding 24 months, with prices in August 2009 (COP 823/kg) fractionally higher than the price level two years earlier (COP 814/kg). By contrast, rice and wheat prices have fluctuated significantly over the same period and in August were 20 and 19 percent, respectively, above prices for the same month in 2007. Wheat prices declined considerably between June and August, a period corresponding to the harvest period.

Colombia
Selected food prices



Source: Agronet