



GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 28-September-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2022 forecast near average, above 2021 reduced level
- Cereal import requirements not likely to be met in 2021/22 marketing year
- Prices of imported cereals increased following international trends
- Unprecedented 880 000 people in need of humanitarian food assistance in 2022

Cereal production in 2022 forecast near average, above 2021 reduced level

Planting of the main irrigated rice crop was completed in July and planting of coarse grain crops, maize, millet and sorghum, concluded recently. Harvesting of all cereal crops is due to start in October and production prospects are overall favourable.

The rainy season had a timely start in June. Average to above-average rainfall amounts between June and August supported planting activities and crop establishment. Although the abundant rains supported crop development, flooding across seven regions through mid-September caused localized damages to standing crops, the disruption of agricultural livelihoods and losses of productive assets. The most affected regions were Tagant, Assaba and Hodh El Garbi in the south and southeastern parts of the country.

Despite the crop losses due to floods, 2022 national cereal production, mostly rice, is forecast at 400 000 tonnes, near the five-year average and about 13 percent above the reduced level in 2021, as abundant rainfall amounts supported yields in several cropped areas.

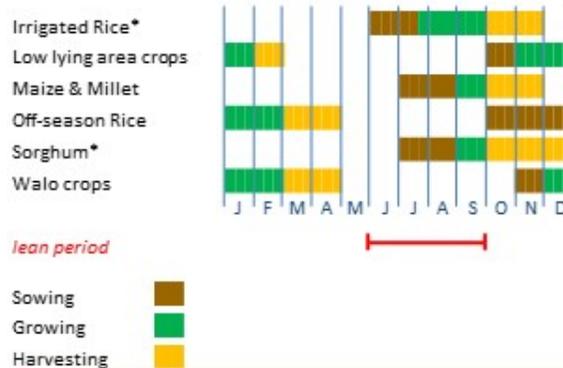
Cereal import requirements not likely to be met in 2021/22 marketing year

In the past five years, imports of cereals covered up to 80 percent of the national consumption requirements, with about 50 percent of wheat imports coming from the Black Sea Region, mostly Ukraine. This high cereal-import dependency makes the country highly vulnerable to the supply shock associated to the war in Ukraine.

Mauritania

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Mauritania

Cereal Production

	2017-2021	2021	2022	change
	average		forecast	2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	291	284	300	5.5
Sorghum	69	49	75	52.2
Maize	13	12	13	11.6
Others	11	9	10	14.9
Total	384	354	398	12.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

In the 2021/22 marketing year (November/October), cereal import requirements were estimated at about 520 000 tonnes, near the previous year's level and about 18 percent below the five-year average. This includes 405 000 tonnes of wheat and wheat flour. The estimated slowdown of imports is due to high international prices of cereals and bottlenecks in the international supply chain. Between November 2021 and August 2022, the country imported about 155 000 tonnes of wheat, about one-third of the annual requirements, mostly reflecting the interruption of shipments from the ports in the Black Sea Region. At this pace, it is unlikely that the country will be able to meet its import requirements in 2021/22, leading to a significant deficit of wheat and wheat flour in domestic markets, with a likely drop in its per capita consumption.

Prices of imported cereals strengthened following international trends

Domestic prices of imported wheat flour, the country's main staple, strengthened in the first half of 2022, reflecting increasing trends in international markets and the low level of imports. As of June 2022, prices of imported wheat flour were about 60 percent above their previous year's levels. Prices of imported rice increased in 2022, but to a lesser extent, and were about 10 percent higher on a yearly basis in June 2022.

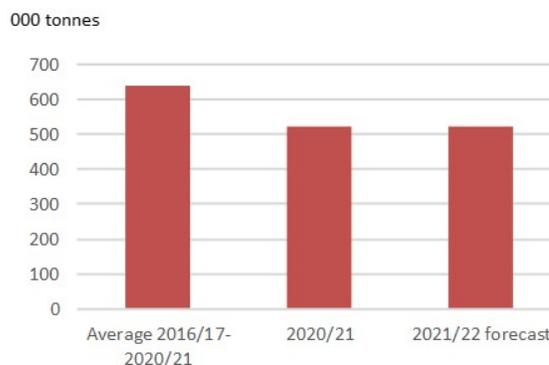
Unprecedented 880 000 people in need of humanitarian food assistance in 2022

According to the March 2022 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, the aggregate number of people facing acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) between June and August 2022 was estimated at about 880 000, including about 83 000 in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). This is the highest number on record and well above the 485 000 people estimated to be acute food insecure during the same period in 2021. The sharp increase in acute food insecurity levels reflects below-average market supplies and high food prices, stemming from the drought-reduced cereal output in 2021 and increasing prices of imported food. In addition, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of August 2022, over 90 000 refugees, mainly from northern Mali, were present in the country. Most of the refugees are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance following the severe disruption of their livelihoods. In order to support the acute food insecure households during the lean season, between June and September, the country implemented a national response plan, that includes the free distribution of wheat, local rice, oil, sugar, condensed milk and dates, in addition to a monthly cash transfer of MRO 450 (about USD 12) per capita for a period of four months. The plan targets all estimated acute food insecure persons.

Despite the near-average 2022 cereal production, acute food insecurity is expected to remain at high levels during the second half of the year as the country is particularly vulnerable to the unfolding effects of the war in Ukraine on international trade and commodity prices due its high import dependency. In addition, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), flash floods have affected, as of September 2022, about 40 000 people. Weather forecasts indicate that abundant rains are still expected through October in southern parts of the country, increasing the likelihood of more

Mauritania

Cereals Imports

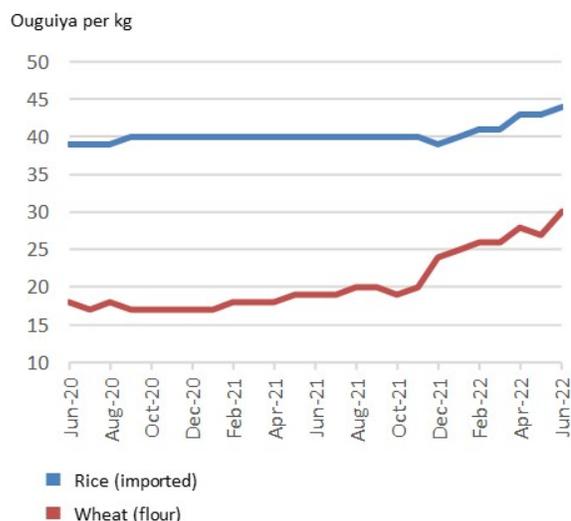


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Mauritania

Selected retail cereal prices in Nouakchott



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

floods. New CH estimates of the number of people facing acute food insecurity in the last quarter of 2022 are expected to be released next November by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 30-April-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Land preparation for 2021 cropping season underway
- Record cereal production harvested in 2020
- Food prices generally stable following seasonal trends
- Food assistance needed for vulnerable households

Land preparation for 2021 cropping season underway

Seasonal dry weather conditions are prevailing across the country and planting operations for sorghum, maize and millet are expected to begin in July with the onset of the rains, while planting of irrigated rice, the major cereal crop produced in the country, will start in June. The harvests of all cereal crops are expected to start in October.

In March, despite the ongoing pastoral lean season, forage availability was overall satisfactory in the main grazing areas of the country. The return of livestock from transhumance in neighbouring Senegal and Mali will normally take place in May and June. The health situation remains overall good and stable, with just some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases, including Peste des petits ruminants, bacterial anthrax and symptomatic anthrax.

Record cereal production harvested in 2020

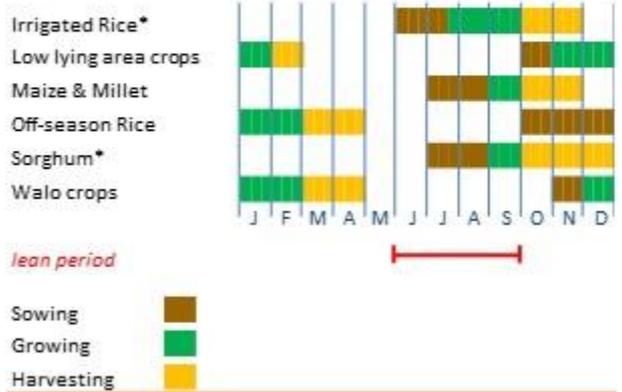
The 2020 aggregate production of cereals, mainly rice, is estimated at a record of 480 000 tonnes, almost 40 percent above the five-year average. The good performance mainly reflects favourable weather conditions and a substantial supply of inputs, mostly provided by the Government with the support of international partners' organizations. Major year-on-year production increases were recorded for sorghum and rice (paddy). However, localized production shortfalls were recorded in several areas due to flooding in July and August 2020.

Imports account for two-thirds of the national cereal utilization in the country. Cereal import requirements for the 2020/21 (November/October) marketing year, mainly wheat, are forecast at a near-average level of 580 000 tonnes.

Mauritania

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Mauritania

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	262	255	365	42.9
Sorghum	72	68	93	36.8
Maize	11	16	15	-4.0
Others	12	13	7	-43.9
Total	357	352	480	36.4

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

Food prices generally stable following seasonal trends

The off-season local rice harvests are underway and continue to guarantee satisfactory market availability in most producing areas. Despite the reintroduction of customs taxes on food products, after the suspension in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the price of imported rice remained relatively stable since early 2021. However, in some markets, prices were above their year-earlier levels due to the impacts of COVID-19 restrictive measures on internal trade flows.

In most livestock markets, the supply of animals is adequate and prices are generally stable. In March 2021, the livestock-to-cereal terms of trade for pastoralists improved if compared to one year before as the average price of live animal (small ruminants) increased up to 18 percent from the previous year's level.

Food assistance needed for vulnerable households

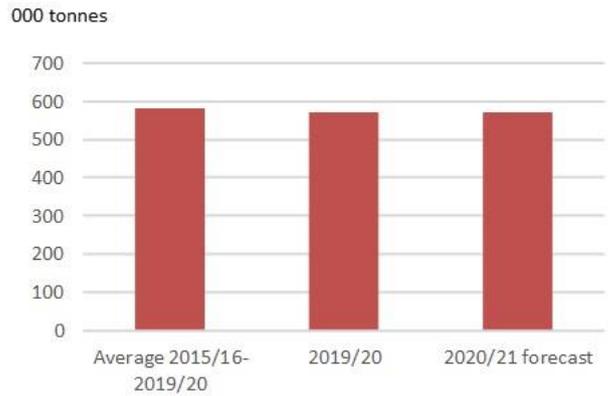
The overall food security situation remains stable and favourable across the country. However, continued assistance is needed for the most vulnerable population. According to the March 2021 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 196 000 people are estimated to need food assistance in March-May 2021. This number is projected to increase to 457 000 people during the peak of the lean season (June-August 2021), if mitigation measures are not taken.

As of March 2021, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over 70 500 refugees were present in the country, mostly from northern Mali due to the persisting civil conflict. Most of the refugees are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance following the severe disruption of their livelihoods.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mauritania

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.

Mauritania

Selected retail food prices in Nouakchott



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



GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 03-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Record cereal harvest gathered in 2019
- Food prices generally stable following seasonal trends
- Continued assistance still needed for most vulnerable people

Record cereal harvest gathered in 2019

Seasonal dry weather conditions are prevailing in most areas of the country and planting of the 2020 crops is expected to begin in June-July with the normal onset of the rains.

Harvesting of the 2019 crops finalized in December 2019, while harvesting of off-season rice and low lying area “Walo” crops is underway and will be completed by end-April. Due to favourable rainfall conditions and the timely provision of inputs by the Government, the 2019 national cereal production is estimated at a record level of 473 000 tonnes, over 30 percent above the average of the last five years. Major year-on-year production increases were recorded for maize and rice (paddy).

Rains normal start in July and end in September. In pastoral areas, insufficient rains during July and August 2019 resulted in a forage deficit, estimated at about 6 million tonnes of dry matter. The districts of Tagant, Adrar and Tiris Zemour have recorded the largest fodder deficits. In the most affected areas, with the start of the pastoral lean season in April 2020, livestock body conditions are expected to significantly deteriorate due to lack of forage and reduced water points. Currently, the animal health situation is generally stable, with no major disease outbreaks reported.

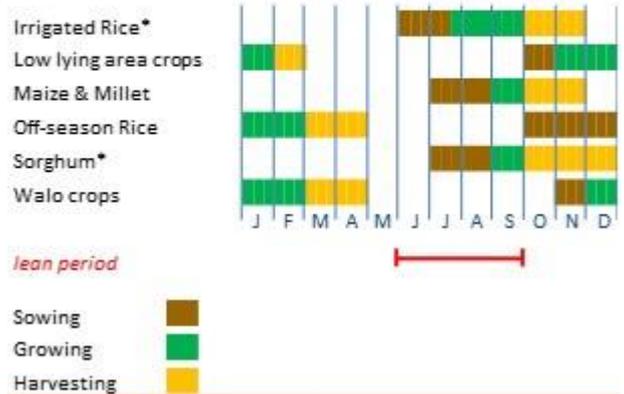
Food prices generally stable following seasonal trends

The supply of major food commodities (millet, sorghum, maize and rice) is generally satisfactory for most markets in March, due to adequate food availabilities from the recent harvests and imports from the subregion and international markets. Demand is seasonally stable, mainly by local traders who aim to replenish their stocks and by households for domestic consumption. Prices of coarse grains held steady in January 2020 and were similar to their year-earlier values as a result of the good output in 2019. In addition, the commercialization of off-season local rice, harvested between March and April 2020, is expected to guarantee satisfactory market availability in most producing areas.

Mauritania

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Mauritania

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	266	305	383	25.5
Sorghum	69	87	68	-22.1
Maize	13	12	16	32.5
Others	9	7	7	-7.1
Total	357	411	473	15.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

In most livestock markets, the supply of animals is adequate with stable prices in January 2020. However, the livestock-cereal terms of trade are generally worsening for pastoralists. In addition, the market value of the animals is expected to decrease between April and June, in areas affected by fodder deficits.

Imports account for two-thirds of the national cereal utilization in the country. Cereal import requirements for the 2019/20 (November/October) marketing year, mainly wheat, are forecast at a near-average level of 570 000 tonnes.

Continued assistance still needed for vulnerable people

Food security conditions remain of concern in 2020, particularly in Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha and Assaba districts as a result of fodder production deficits. The agro-pastoral households, affected by recurrent shocks during the last years, are facing the highest prevalence of food insecurity. According to the March 2020 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 609 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance during the lean season between June and August 2020. As of February 2020, according to the UNHCR, over 60 000 refugees were present in the country, mostly from northern Mali due to persisting civil conflict. Most of the refugees are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance following the severe disruption of their livelihoods.

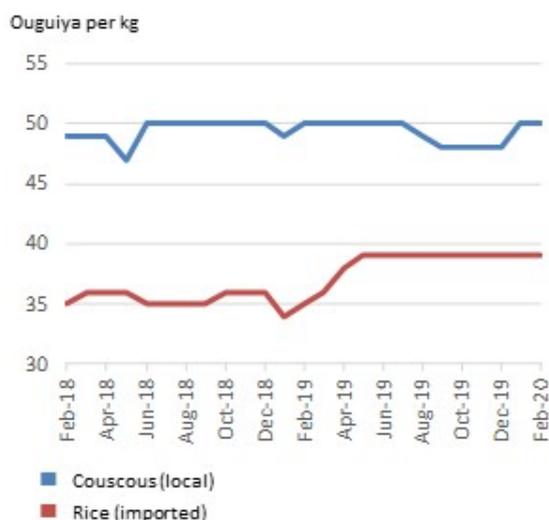
COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, on 26 March 2020 the Government has created a national social solidarity fund which endowed nearly USD 60 million from public resources and is open to voluntary contributions. This fund is intended to finance, in particular, the acquisition of medicines, the support to 30 000 poor households and the exoneration of customs taxes for the rest of the year for all taxes and duties on imports of wheat, oil, milk powder, vegetables and fruits. According to field reports, the heightened levels of fear have led to some disruptions in the national market supply.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mauritania

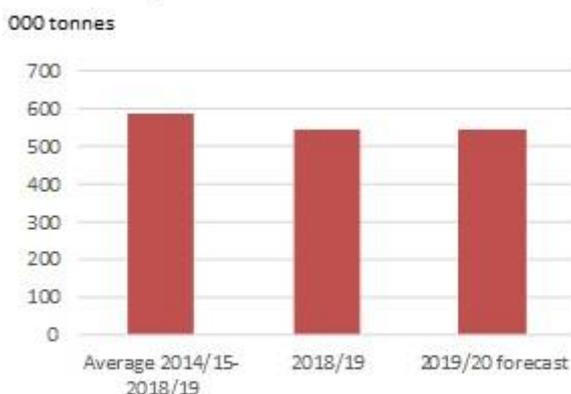
Selected retail food prices in Nouakchott



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

Mauritania

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.



GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 5-August-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Timely start of 2019 planting season
- Record cereal harvest gathered in 2018
- Food insecurity rises in agro-pastoral zones

Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of 2019 crops

Rains started between late June and early July allowing for a timely start of the 2019 cropping season. Abundant rains benefitted planting activities and germination as well as the establishment of long-cycle crops, including maize, sorghum and millet, to be harvested from October. Planting operations are expected to be completed by the end of August. Land preparation and planting of the flood recession “Walo” crops low lying area crops and off-season rice, to be harvested from March 2020, are expected to start in October 2019.

Seasonal rains increased water and pasture availability, improving livestock body conditions and enhancing animal market value in most parts of the country. Despite the favourable rainfall, the situation remained precarious in the districts of Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Inchiri and Tagant due to the residual effects of an early start of the pastoral lean season in February-March caused by a poor performance of rains during July and August 2018 and a faster-than-normal depletion of rangeland resources. This is worsening animal-to-cereal terms of trade for pastoralists, limiting their food access. However, the situation is expected to improve in September with the complete regeneration of natural pasture.

Record cereal harvest gathered in 2018

In southern cereal producing areas, rainfall amounts were average during the 2018 cropping season, benefitting crop growth and development. In addition, the Government continuing support to farmers through subsidized and timely delivery of inputs contributed to enhance the 2018 crop production that is estimated at record of 409 000 tonnes, over 20 percent above the average of the last five years. Major year-on-year production increases were registered for maize and sorghum.

Imports account for two-thirds of the national cereal utilization in the country. Import requirements for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year, mainly wheat, are forecast at near-average of 570 000 tonnes.

Mauritania

Crop Calendar

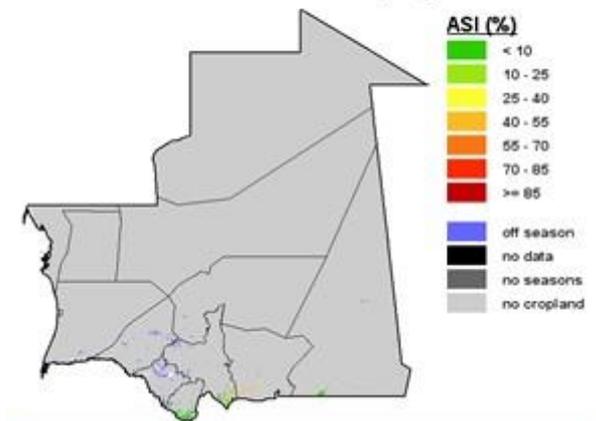
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Mauritania - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

From start of season 1 to dekad 1, July 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Food insecurity rises in agro-pastoral zones

Food insecurity rises among agro-pastoral households whose livelihoods were affected by recurrent shocks during last years, with significant deterioration of terms of trade (cereals/livestock). According to the March 2019 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 610 000 people (7 percent of the total population) were estimated to be food insecure between June and August 2019 compared to 540 000 people in June-August 2018.

As of June 2019, according to the UNHCR, over 58 000 refugees are present in the country, mostly from northern Mali due to the persisting civil conflict. Most of the refugees are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance following the severe disruption of their livelihoods.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mauritania

Cereal Production

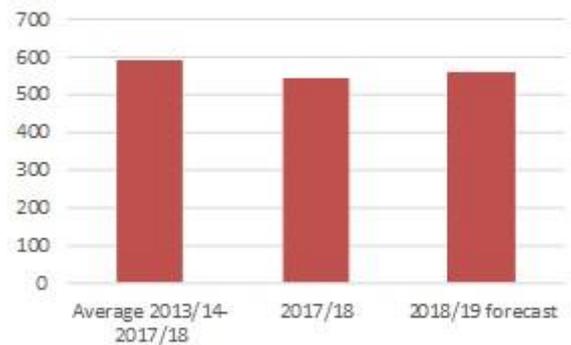
	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	245	301	302	0.4
Sorghum	69	49	87	76.8
Maize	12	10	12	18.8
Others	10	3	8	143.3
Total	337	363	409	12.6

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

Mauritania

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.



GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 18-January-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above average cereal harvest gathered in 2018
- Import requirements similar to average levels
- Food prices largely stable, following seasonal trends
- Humanitarian assistance needed for vulnerable people

Above average cereal harvest gathered in 2018

Harvesting activities for irrigated rice, maize, millet and sorghum crops have almost finalized, while harvesting of low lying area crops will start in late January and will be completed by end-February. Due to favourable rainfall conditions and timely provision of inputs by the Government, the 2018 national cereal production is estimated at about 338 000 tonnes, about 13 percent above the previous year's output and 5 percent above the average of the last five years.

Pasture development conditions are generally good in the agro-pastoral zone. However, the overall fodder balance gives a supply of 3 million tonnes of dry matter against the 8 million tonnes estimated for the theoretical total needs of the resident livestock, leaving an overall forage deficit of about 5 million tonnes. The pastoral lean season is expected to be harsh and it is likely to start in February-March, about two months earlier than usual. This may affect animal's body conditions, worsening animal-to-cereals terms of trade for pastoralists. Currently, the animal health situation is generally stable, with no major disease outbreaks reported.

Imports account for two-thirds of the total domestic cereal requirements of the country. Wheat import requirements (for human consumption) for the 2018/19 (November/October) marketing year are set at about average 400 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total imports, followed by moderate quantities of millet and sorghum.

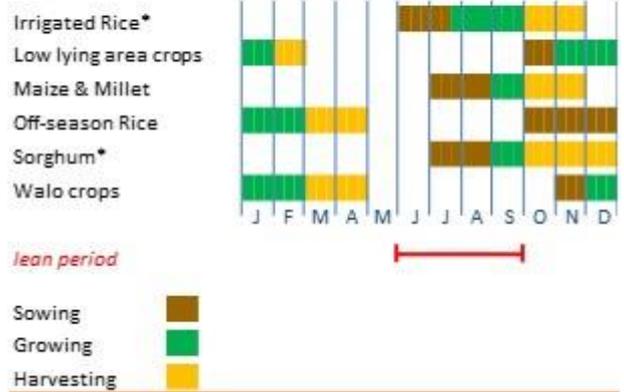
Food prices generally stable following seasonal trends

Markets are generally well supplied with items imported either from the subregion (mainly millet, maize, sorghum, cowpeas, peanuts and animal feed from Mali) or from international markets (wheat, rice, oil, sugar and flour). In most markets, prices of millet and sorghum declined in October 2018 compared to previous months, with the expectation of a good 2018 harvest, and reached levels similar to those of a year earlier. Prices of

Mauritania

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Mauritania

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	232	234	231	-1.5
Sorghum	69	49	87	76.8
Maize	12	10	12	18.8
Others	10	3	8	143.3
Total	323	297	338	13.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

imported rice remained broadly stable in November 2018 compared to October 2018 due to satisfactory supply. Off-season local rice harvests between March and April 2019 are expected to insure satisfactory market availability in most producing areas.

Humanitarian assistance needed for most vulnerable people

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economy is expected to grow at about 2.6 percent in 2019, up from an estimated 2.2 percent in 2018, driven mostly by investments in mining, construction, agriculture and services. The average consumer price inflation rate is forecast at 2.9 percent in 2019, down from 3.3 percent reported in 2018, mostly reflecting stable food prices.

According to the November 2018 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 227 000 people were estimated to be food insecure between October and December 2018 compared to 379 000 people in October-December 2017. However, this number is projected to increase to 576 000 people during the peak of the lean season (June-August 2019), if mitigation measures are not taken.

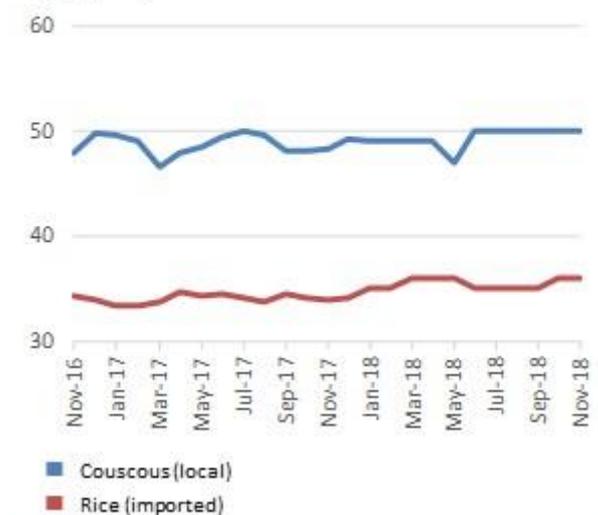
As of December 2018, according to the UNHCR, over 57 000 refugees are present in the country, mostly from northern Mali due to the persisting civil conflict. Most of the refugees are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance following the severe disruption of their livelihoods.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mauritania

Selected retail food prices in Nouakchott

Ouguiya per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 02-August-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of 2018 crops
- Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2017
- Food prices largely stable, reflecting adequate supplies
- Humanitarian assistance needed for vulnerable people

Timely start of 2018 planting season

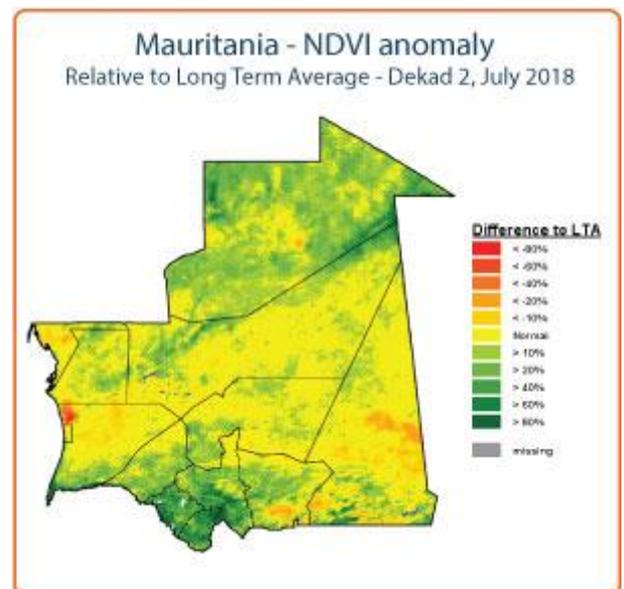
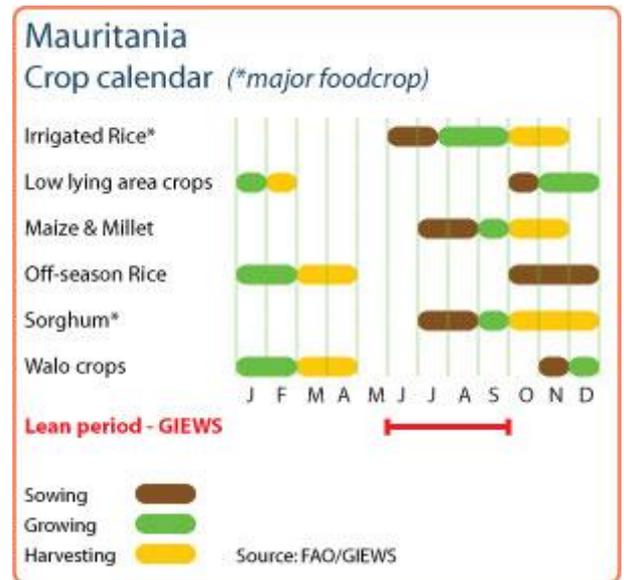
Rains started on time in late June and early July allowing for a normal start of the 2018 cropping season. Planting of maize, millet and sorghum, to be harvested from October, is expected to be completed by end-August. Planting operations for irrigated rice, to be harvested from October, was completed in July. Land preparation and planting operations for off-season rice, to be harvested from March 2019, are expected to be start in October 2018.

The favourable rainfall amounts recorded since late June also improved general pastoral conditions. However, the lingering effects of an early and harsher lean season in 2017, due to pasture and water shortages, will continue to negatively affect pastoralists in the districts of Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Tagant and northern parts of the country (eastern Adrar, Inchiri and southern Dakhlet Nouadhibou districts) until the complete establishment of the rainy season in August.

Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2017

The 2017 agricultural season was characterized by a timely onset of the rains across most regions. However, yields were adversely affected by a series of prolonged dry spells in July, followed by an early cessation of the rainy season at the end of September. As a result, the 2017 national cereal production was estimated at about 299 000 tonnes, about 5 percent lower than the previous year's output and 10 percent below the average of the last five years.

Imports account for two-thirds of the total domestic cereal requirements of the country. Wheat imports (for human consumption) are set at about 400 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total imports, followed by smaller quantities of millet and sorghum. On average, the domestic cereal production covers about 30 percent of the national utilization requirement in a given year. Despite the above-



average 2017 production, import requirements for the 2017/18 (November/October) marketing year are expected to remain similar to average levels.

Food prices generally stable reflecting adequate supplies

Prices of coarse grains and mostly imported rice remained broadly stable in June compared to May due to satisfactory supply and normal demand. In addition, off-season local rice harvests between March and April have strengthened market availability in most producing areas. However, occasional price increases were recorded for couscous in June compared to May following seasonal trends.

Humanitarian assistance needed for most vulnerable people

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economy grew at about 3.4 percent in 2017, driven mostly by investments in mining, construction, agriculture and services. However, the growth is expected to slow down at 2.2 percent in 2018 due to persisting tensions over the international maritime border with Senegal and extreme weather events in 2017. The average consumer price inflation rate was estimated at 2.6 percent in 2018, up from 2.3 percent reported in 2017 due to higher global oil and food prices.

According to the March 2018 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 350 000 people were estimated to be food insecure between March and May 2018 compared to 379 000 people in October-December 2017. However, this number is projected to increase to 538 000 during the June to August period, if mitigation measures are not taken.

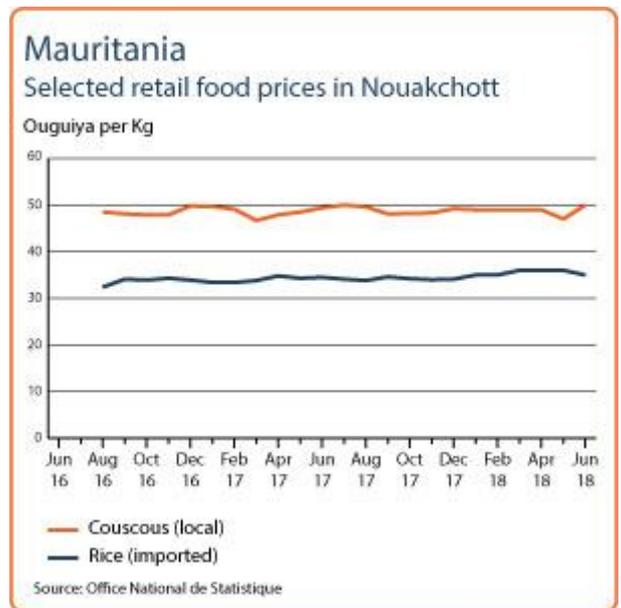
As of June 2018, UNHCR identified over 56 940 people from Northern Mali displaced into Mauritania due to the ongoing conflict. Most of the displaced households are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance following the severe disruption of their livelihoods.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mauritania
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	222	207	234	13
Sorghum	85	80	49	-39
Maize	15	16	10	-38
Others	11	12	6	-50
Total	333	315	299	-5

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





GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 07-February-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2017**
- **Food prices largely stable reflecting adequate supplies**
- **Poor harvest leading to deterioration in food security**

Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2017

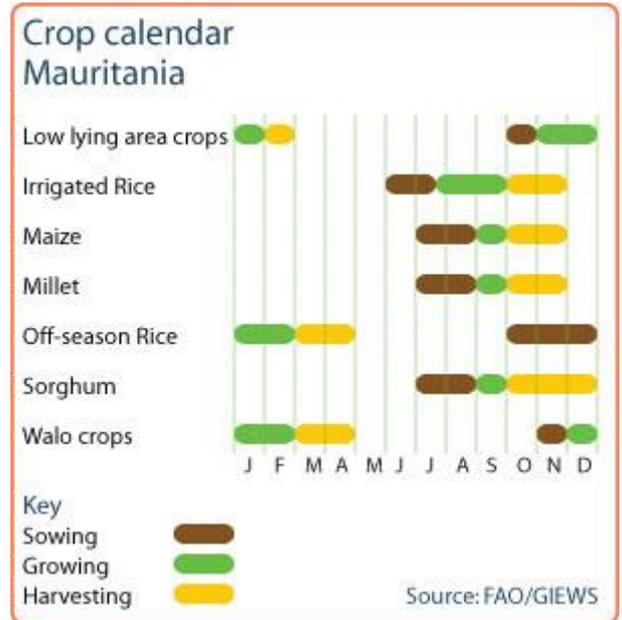
Harvesting of the irrigated rice, maize and millet crops was completed in November and that of sorghum in December 2017. Currently, walo crops (also called flood recession crops) low-lying area crops and off-season rice are in the vegetative stage. The 2017 cropping season began with a timely onset of the rains across most regions. However, a series of prolonged dry spells in July led to re-sowing of crops in some areas. An early cessation of the rainy season at the end of September 2017 negatively impacted yields. An increase in the harvested rice area, the primary grain grown in the country, partially offset the impact of the rain deficit on the aggregate production figure. As a result, the 2017 cereal production is estimated at about 291 000 tonnes, about 13 percent below the last five-year average.

The below-average and poorly-distributed precipitation in 2017 negatively affected grazing resources. Large pastoral reserves, with still a good supply of pasture (southeast of Hodh el Charghi and Hodh el Gharbi, south of l'Assaba, Guidimakha, southeast of Gorgol and south of Brakna), are increasingly under pressure due to the high concentration of animals. Pasture conditions are expected to deteriorate in ensuing months as the next rains are not expected before July.

Food prices generally stable reflecting adequate supplies

The domestic cereal production covers about 30 percent of the national utilization requirement in a given year. On average, the country imports two-thirds of its total domestic cereal requirements. Wheat imports (for human consumption) are set at about 400 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total imports, followed by smaller quantities of millet and sorghum.

Despite moderate increases in some markets in recent months, prices of grains have been largely stable. By contrast, prices of livestock recently exhibited a declining trend as forced sales of animals have increased in response to the shortage of pasture, decreasing the purchasing power of pastoralists.



Mauritania Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	222	207	227	10
Sorghum	87	80	49	-39
Maize	16	14	10	-29
Others	8	7	5	-29
Total	333	309	291	-6

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

Poor harvest aggravates food insecurity, highlighting need for continued assistance, especially for vulnerable people

A large share of the population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock-related activities to maintain their livelihoods and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. According to UNHCR, as of September 2017, about 52 000 Malian refugees were still living in the Mbera Camp in the country. Reflecting the below-average harvest outlook in 2017, the food security situation in the country is expected to deteriorate. According to the latest “Cadre Harmonisé” (Harmonized Framework) analysis, between October and December 2017, about 379 000 people were estimated to be in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above. Although this figure accounts for less than 1 percent of the total population, it reflects a substantial increase from the caseload of about 119 000 people a year earlier.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 23-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Below-average 2016 cereal harvest**
- **Cereal prices mostly stable reflecting adequate supplies, including from imported staple foods**
- **Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Malian refugees**

Below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2016

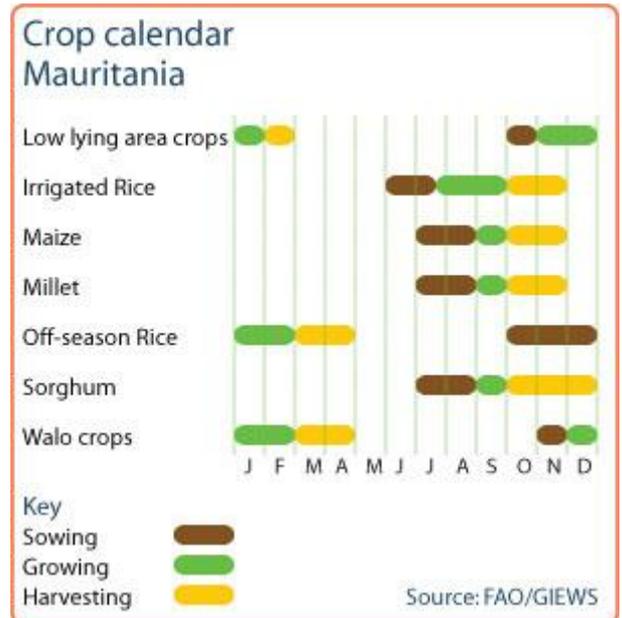
Harvesting of the 2016 rainfed cereal crops was completed in December, while harvesting of recession and off-season crops will be completed in April.

Above normal rainfall increased soil moisture in most regions from the beginning of the cropping season in June, although precipitation deficits were recorded in a few localized areas in Trarza, Brakna and Hodh El Charghi Assaba. However, due to a decline in irrigated cropped area and the failure of recession crops, preliminary estimates put the 2016 aggregate cereal production at some 280 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the 2015 above-average crop and 10 percent below the average of the previous five years. A 19 percent drop in the production of rice, the largest produced cereal, drove the decline in aggregate cereal output (compared to 2015). Production of sorghum and maize declined by 15 percent and 14 percent, respectively. The pastoral situation was good with adequate availability of green pastures throughout most of the agro-pastoral zone.

Food prices mostly stable reflecting adequate supplies

Mauritania's domestic cereal production only covers one-third of the national utilization requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as from wheat purchased on the international market.

Food prices have been generally stable in recent months, reflecting good supplies of imported staple foods from Mali, Senegal and Morocco and low wheat prices on the international market.



Mauritania Cereal production

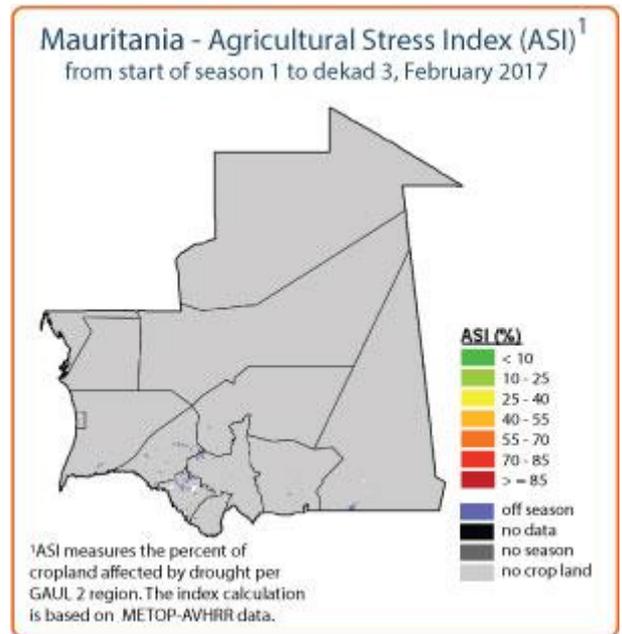
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	212	222	180	-19
Sorghum	76	93	79	-15
Maize	15	18	14	-22
Others	8	7	7	0
Total	311	340	280	-18

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

Food situation improved but continued assistance needed, especially for vulnerable people

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock-related activities to maintain their livelihoods and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. According to UNHCR, as of July 2016, about 42 000 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania, in the Mberra Camp. The results of the last “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis in the country indicates that about 119 000 people were in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above between October and December 2016.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.





GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 16-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below average 2016 cereal harvest
- Cereal prices mostly stable, reflecting adequate supplies including from imported staple foods
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Malian refugees

Below average cereal harvest gathered in 2016

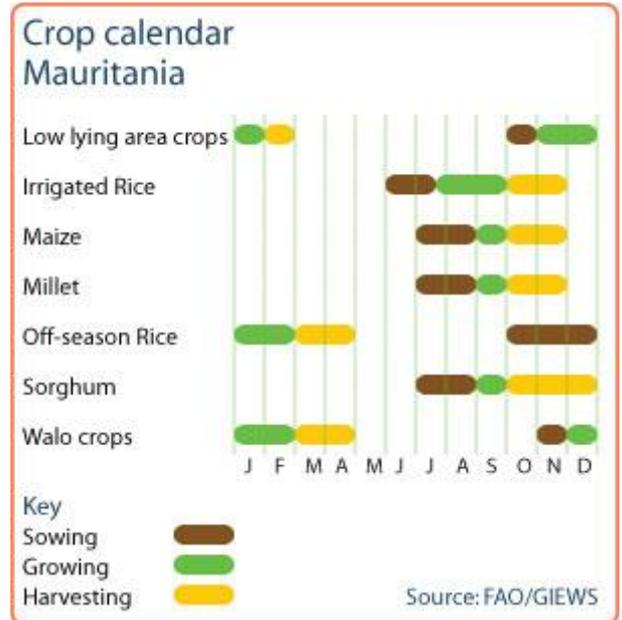
Harvesting of the 2016 rainfed cereal crops was completed in December, while harvesting of recession and off-season crops will be completed in April.

Above normal rainfall increased soil moisture in most regions from the beginning of the cropping season in June, although precipitation deficits were recorded in a few localized areas in Trarza, Brakna and Hodh El Charghi Assaba. However, due to a decline in irrigated cropped area and the failure of recession crops, preliminary estimates put the 2016 aggregate cereal production at some 280 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the 2015 above-average crop and 10 percent below the average of the previous five years. A 19 percent drop in the production of rice, the largest produced cereal, drove the decline in aggregate cereal output (compared to 2015). Production of sorghum and maize declined by 15 percent and 14 percent, respectively. The pastoral situation was good with adequate availability of green pastures throughout most of the agro-pastoral zone.

Food prices mostly stable reflecting adequate supplies

Mauritania's domestic cereal production only covers one-third of the national utilization requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as from wheat purchased on the international market.

Food prices have been generally stable in recent months, reflecting good supplies of imported staple foods from Mali, Senegal and Morocco and low wheat prices on the international market.



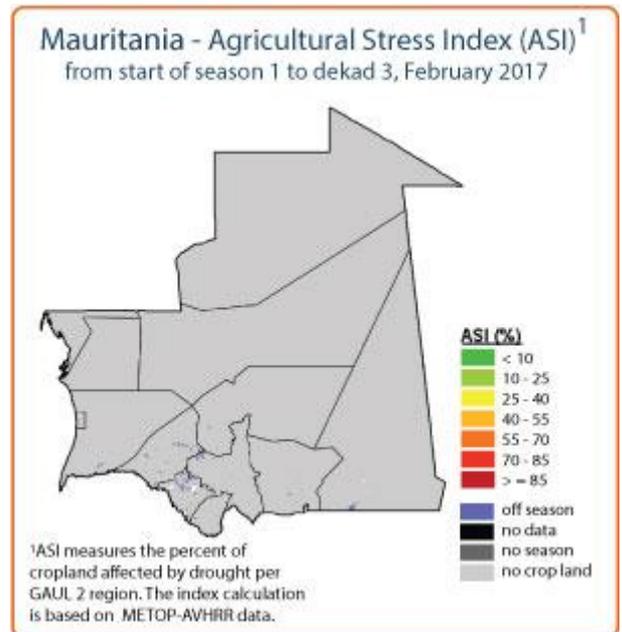
**Mauritania
Cereal production**

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	212	222	180	-19
Sorghum	76	93	79	-15
Maize	15	18	14	-22
Others	8	7	7	0
Total	311	340	280	-18

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

Food situation improved but continued assistance needed, especially for vulnerable people

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock-related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food, exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. According to UNHCR, as of July 2016, about 42 000 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania, in the Mberra Camp. The results of the last “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis in the country indicate that about 119 000 people were in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above between October and December 2016.





GIEWS Country Brief Mauritania

Reference Date: 17-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall harvest prospects favourable
- Cereal prices have been mostly stable, reflecting adequate supplies
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Malian refugees

Average to above-average cereal harvest expected this year

Harvesting of the 2016 cereal crops is underway in the agricultural and agro-pastoral zones of the country. Above normal rainfall was received in most regions from the beginning of the cropping season in June. Although rainfall deficits were recorded in a few localized areas in Trarza, Brakna and Hodh El Charghi Assaba, overall harvest prospects are favourable. Moreover, the pastoral situation is reported to be good with adequate availability of green pastures throughout most of the agro-pastoral zone.

Cereal production in 2015 was around 308 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the 2014 bumper crop but similar to the average of the previous five years. A 24 percent drop in rice production drove the decline in aggregate cereal output (compared to 2014). Production of sorghum and maize increased by 63 percent and 38 percent, respectively.

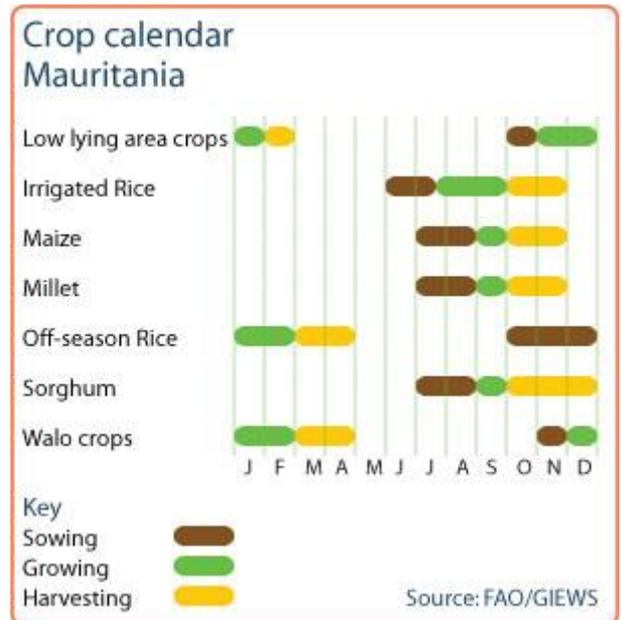
Food prices mostly stable reflecting adequate supplies

Mauritania's domestic cereal production only covers one-third of the national utilization requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market.

Food prices have been generally stable in recent months, reflecting good supplies of imported staple foods and stocks from the above-average cereal harvest gathered. In August, prices of wheat and rice were 15 and 10 percent below their year earlier levels, respectively.

Food situation improved but continued assistance needed, especially for vulnerable people

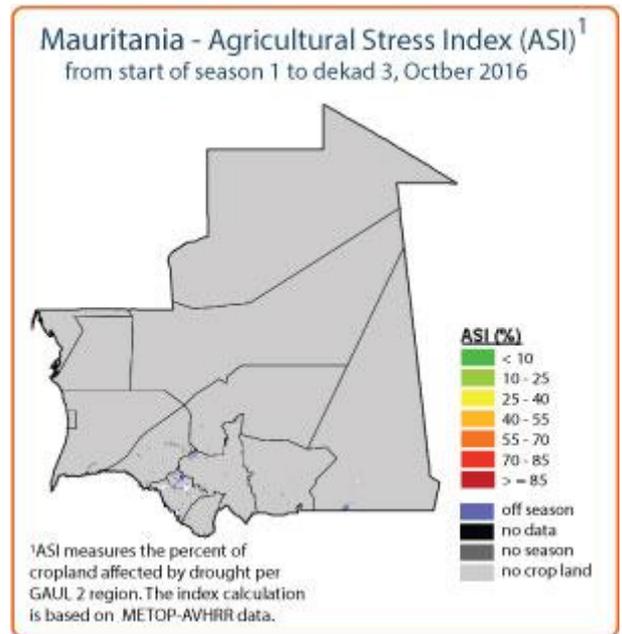
A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock-related activities to maintain



	2010-2014	2015	2016	change
	average		forecast	2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	195	190	200	5
Sorghum	80	93	85	-9
Maize	15	18	18	0
Others	7	7	7	0
Total	297	308	310	1

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

their livelihoods, and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. According to UNHCR as of July 2016, about 42 000 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania, in the Mberra Camp. The results of the last “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis in the country indicate that about 525 000 people were in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above between June and August.



Reference Date: 10-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Despite slow onset of seasonal rains, overall crop prospects remain favourable
- Food prices stable, reflecting adequate supplies
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Malian refugees

Despite irregular rains in parts of the country, above-average 2015 cereal harvest was gathered

The slow start of the rainfall during the 2015 cropping season has initially delayed plantings of rice and coarse grains in several parts of the country. However, precipitation increased significantly from July, improving soil water reserves and crop prospects across the country. Despite the late start of the rains, dieri (rainfed) crop production improved significantly compared to the previous year and the five-year average. Similarly, the irrigated coarse grains crops developed normally as the water need satisfaction index has generally remained adequate for these crops. By contrast, the rice planted area and production have been negatively affected.

A joint CILSS/FAO/FEWSNet/WFP Crop Assessment Mission that visited the country in November estimated the 2015 aggregate cereals production at some 342 000 tonnes (including off-season crop harvest forecasts), about 8 percent lower than the 2014 bumper crop but 15 percent above the average of the previous five years. The decline in aggregate cereal output (compared to 2014) was driven by a 24 percent drop in rice production. Production of sorghum and maize increased by 63 percent and 38 percent, respectively. The filling levels of most water points were adequate, pastures regenerated well and animals are reported to be in good condition.

A bumper crop was gathered last year. The aggregate 2014 cereal production was estimated at about 373 000 tonnes, 20 percent above the previous year's reduced crop and 45 percent above average.

Food prices stable reflecting adequate supplies

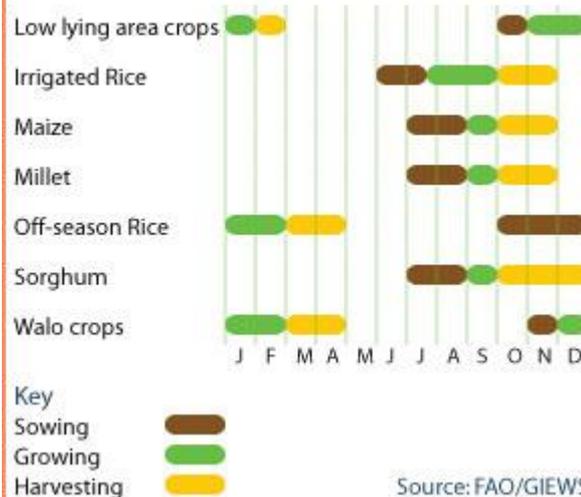
Mauritania's domestic cereal production only covers one-third of the national utilization requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market.

Food prices have been generally stable in recent months, reflecting good supplies of imported staple foods and stocks from the above-average cereal harvest gathered.

Food situation improved but continued assistance needed, especially for vulnerable people

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock-related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the

Crop calendar Mauritania



Mauritania

Cereal production

	2010-2014	2014	2015	change
	average			
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	195	295	223	-24
Sorghum	80	57	93	63
Maize	15	13	18	38
Others	7	8	8	-16
Total	297	373	342	-8

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

high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. According to UNHCR as of early February 2016, more than 52 154 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania, mostly in the Mberra Camp. Results of the last “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis in the country indicate that about 149 000 people are in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above and require urgent assistance for food.

Reference Date: 06-October-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Despite slow onset of seasonal rains, overall crop prospects remain favourable**
- **Food prices stable or declining, reflecting adequate supplies**
- **Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Malian refugees**

Above-average cereal harvest expected this year

The slow start of rainfall has initially delayed plantings of rice and coarse grains in several parts of the country. However, precipitation increased significantly from July, improving soil water reserves and crop prospects across the country. Despite the late start of the rain, dieri (rainfed) crop production is expected to increase compared to last year and the five-year average. Similarly, the irrigated crops have also been reported to be developing normally as the water need satisfaction index has generally remained adequate for most crops. Hence, the outlook for the harvest to start from October is generally favourable despite the need for continued rains in the following weeks to allow crops to reach full maturity.

A good crop was already gathered last year. The aggregate 2014 cereal production was estimated at about 373 000 tonnes, 20 percent above the previous year's reduced crop and 45 percent above average.

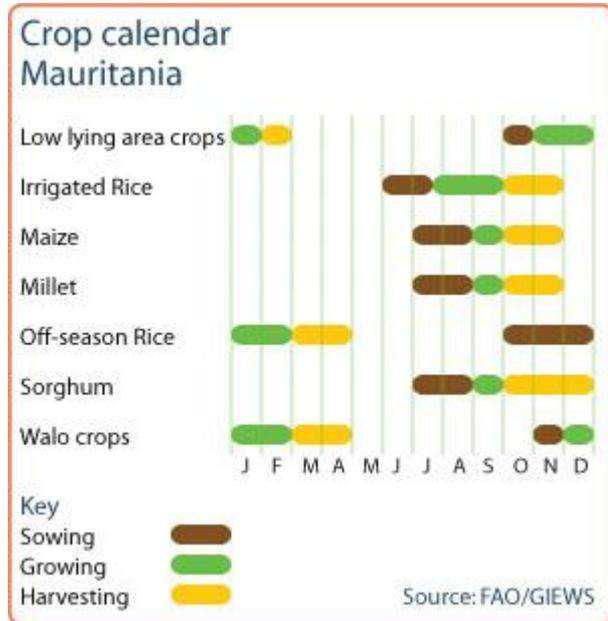
Food prices stable or declining reflecting adequate supplies

Mauritania's domestic cereal production only covers one-third of the national utilization requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market.

Coarse grain prices were on the decline in recent months, while prices of local rice remained mostly stable, reflecting last year's good production in Mauritania and Mali. Similarly, wheat prices were below their year-earlier levels in line with trends in the international market. By contrast, strong demand for livestock due to the Tabaski holidays has caused livestock prices to increase.

Continued assistance needed, especially for vulnerable people

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock-related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. As of end-August 2015, more than 50 102 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania. Results of the last "Cadre Harmonisé"



Mauritania

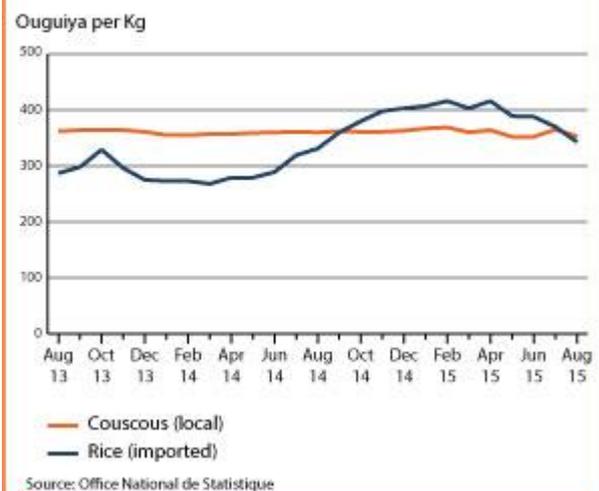
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	195	295	295	0
Sorghum	80	57	80	40
Maize	15	13	15	15
Others	7	9	9	0
Total	297	374	399	7

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

Mauritania

Selected retail food prices in Nouakchott



analysis in the country indicate that about 465 000 people were estimated to be in Phase 3: “Crisis” between June and August. Households in need of food assistance are mostly located in Gorgol, Brakna, Assaba, Tagant, Hodh el Gharbi and Hodh el Chargui.

Reference Date: 22-January-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

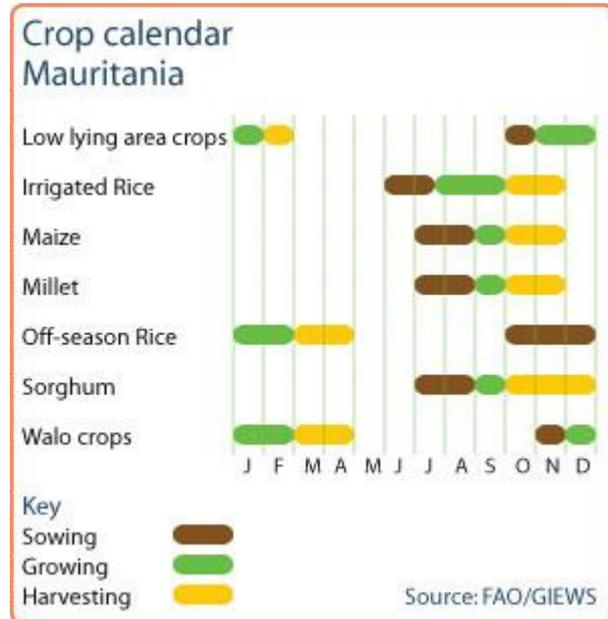
- Irregular rains affected crops and pasture in 2014
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Malian refugees

Cereal production affected by irregular rains

Growing conditions for rain-fed crops and pastures have been poor in several parts of the country, due to irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in June/July which delayed plantings and subsequent erratic precipitation through August. Dieri (rain-fed) production, which represents about one-fourth of total cereal production in a normal year, is most affected. However, the drop in Dieri (rain-fed) production has been offset by an increased output of irrigated crops. As a result, a joint CILSS/FAO/WFP Crop Assessment Mission, which visited the country recently, estimated 2014 aggregate cereal production at some 301 000 tonnes, slightly below last year's harvest but 17 percent above average. However, the erratic rains affected pasture regeneration and water points' level in several pastoral areas of the country, notably in Hodh El Chargui, Hodh El Ghrabi, Brakna and Tagant regions.

Continued assistance is needed, especially for vulnerable people

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock-related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. As of November 2014, more than 54 700 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania, mostly in southeastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that was affected by a serious food and nutrition crisis in 2012. Moreover, the sharp decline in 2014 Dieri and pasture production will have a negative impact on farmers' incomes and access to food. Preliminary results of the recent "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis in the country indicate that about 247 859 people are currently in Phase 3: "Crisis" and need urgent assistance. The number of people in need of assistance is projected to increase to 424 372 by March 2015.



Mauritania Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	147	202	215	6
Sorghum	87	87	65	-25
Maize	15	10	15	50
Others	8	10	6	-40
Total	257	309	301	-3

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

Reference Date: 11-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary forecast for 2014 harvest points to a significant decline in cereal production
- Pastures have been affected by irregular rains in parts
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed, including for Malian refugees

2014 cereal production forecast to decline due to rainfall deficits

Growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures have been poor in several parts of the country, due to irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in June/July which delayed plantings and subsequent erratic precipitation through August. Dieri (rainfed) production, which represents almost two-thirds of total cereal production in a normal year, is most affected. As a result, the National Agricultural Statistics Service has forecasted a below-average 2014 cereal harvest. Moreover, the erratic rains affected pasture regeneration and water points' level in several pastoral areas of the country, notably in Hodh El Chargui, Hodh El Ghrabi, Brakna and Tagant regions.

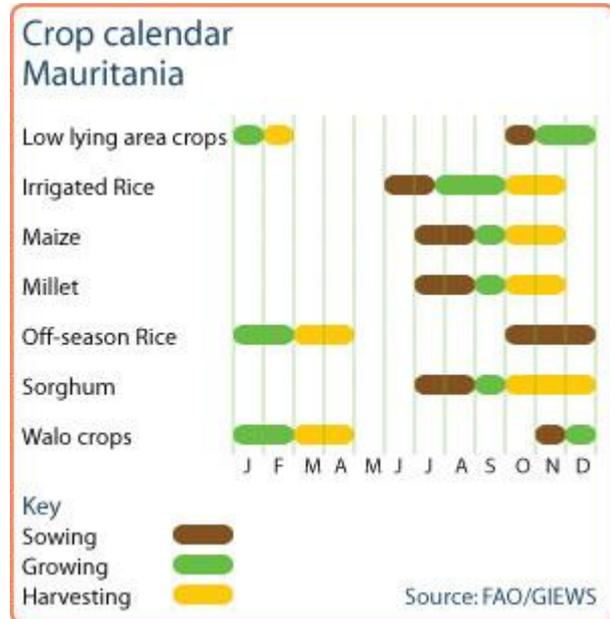
In 2013, an above-average harvest was gathered for the second consecutive year owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main cereal growing regions. The 2013 cereal output was estimated at about 301 000 tonnes, 29 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Access to food constrained by high food prices

In spite of last year's above-average harvest, access to food has remained difficult for several segments of the population due mostly to high prices of coarse grains. Mauritania's domestic cereals production only covers one-third of the national utilization requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. International wheat prices are on the decline, but coarse grains market has remained relatively tight in neighbouring Senegal (one of Mauritania's main sources of supply) due to a reduced 2013 cereal harvest. As a result, sorghum prices increased by 57 percent between February and August 2014 in Nouakchott.

Continued assistance is needed, especially for vulnerable people

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and, therefore, remain in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market. In addition, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. As of September 2014, more than 54 700 Malian refugees



Mauritania Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	136	192	150	-22
Sorghum	88	91	70	-23
Maize	14	6	6	0
Others	8	12	4	-67
Total	246	301	230	-24

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

were still living in Mauritania, mostly in southeastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that was affected by a serious food and nutrition crisis in 2012.

Reference Date: 28-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates for the 2013 harvest point to an above-average cereal production
- Pastures have been affected by irregular rains in parts
- The food security outlook remains uncertain, reflecting reduced crop in neighbouring countries
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed including for Malian refugees

An above-average crop gathered in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 cereal crops was completed in December. In spite of irregular rains in parts, an above-average cereal harvest was gathered for the second year in a row. The 2013 cereal output was estimated by a joint CILSS/FAO/FEWSNet Crop Assessment Mission at some 297 000 tonnes, similar to last year's bumper crop and 33 percent above the previous five years average. By contrast, pastures have been affected by insufficient rains in several regions, notably in Brakna, Gorgol and Guidimaka.

In 2012, an above-average harvest was already gathered owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main cereal growing regions. The 2012 cereal output was estimated at a record 304 000 tonnes, about 68 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 53 percent above the average of the previous five years.

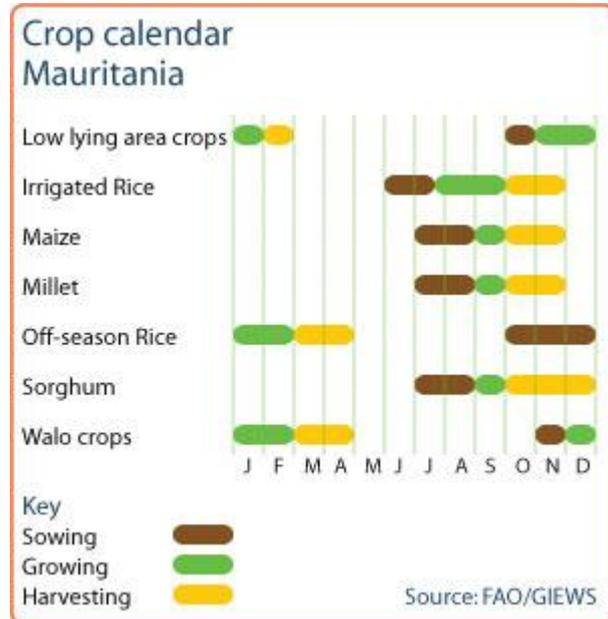
The food security outlook remains uncertain

In spite of last year's above-average harvest, the overall food security outlook remains uncertain. Mauritania's domestic cereals production only covers one-third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. International wheat prices are on the decline, but a relatively tight coarse grains market is anticipated in neighbouring Senegal and Mali due to a reduced cereal harvest in these countries.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

Mauritania has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. The food security situation remains difficult in parts, due to the lingering effects of previous crises and the impact of last year's erratic rains on crops and pastures in some regions. Moreover, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. As of November 2013, more than 67 000 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania, mostly in south-eastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that was affected by a serious food and nutrition crisis in 2012.

The Government has continued to implement emergency interventions to support vulnerable populations. Moreover, a regional Emergency



Mauritania Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	117	157	182	16
Sorghum	88	116	94	-19
Maize	16	23	14	-39
Others	7	8	8	0
Total	228	304	297	-2

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

Operation (EMOP) was implemented by WFP to assist refugees through December 2013.

Reference Date: 15-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for the 2013 cereal crops are uncertain
- The food supply situation has improved significantly in 2012/13 compared to the previous year.
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed including for Malian refugees.

Harvest prospects are uncertain due to irregular rainfall

Harvesting of the 2013 cereal crops has started in parts of the country. Overall prospects remain uncertain due to the dry spell which severely affected "dieri" (rainfed) crops in August. "Dieri" crops represent about one third of total cereal production in a normal year. Although rainfall resumed in September, allowing replanting in affected areas, yield potential and planted areas have been reduced in parts of Guidimakha, Gorgol and Brakna regions. Pastures also have been affected. Prospects for production in low-lying areas, below dams and for recession crops, although more favourable, are still uncertain, and will depend on rainfall pattern in October.

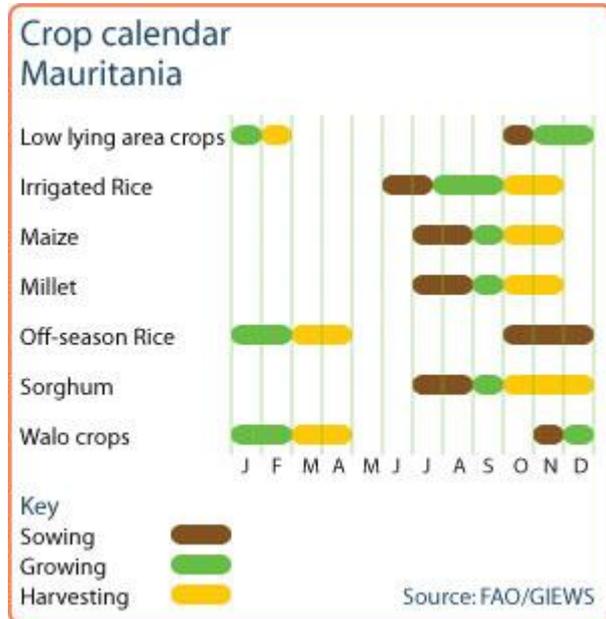
In 2012, an above-average harvest was gathered owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main cereal growing regions. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at a record 304 000 tonnes, about 68 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 53 percent above the average of the past five years.

Food supply improved in 2012/13

The 2012 good harvests coupled with adequate supply in most neighbouring countries and declining wheat prices on the international market, have led to much improved food availability during the 2012/13 marketing year (November-October). Mauritania's domestic cereals production only covers one-third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Sorghum prices in Adel Bagrou (Hodh Ech Chargui region is south-eastern Mauritania) in August 2013 were 32 percent lower than a year earlier, reflecting the good cereal harvests gathered across the subregion. Moreover, wheat prices have been declining in recent months, in line with trends in international markets. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, in view of the relatively high supply levels in the whole western Sahel region and the declining international wheat prices.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

Mauritania has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. In spite of last year's good harvests and adequate food supplies, the food security situation remains difficult in parts, due to the lingering effects of previous crises. Moreover, the armed conflict in



Mauritania Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	99	141	157	11
Sorghum	81	25	116	364
Maize	14	11	23	109
Others	5	4	8	100
Total	199	181	304	68

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

Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. As of October 2013, more than 60 000 Malian refugees were still living in Mauritania, mostly in south-eastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that was affected by a serious food and nutrition crisis in 2012.

The Government has continued to implement emergency interventions to support vulnerable populations. These include cash transfers, targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices and improving access to nutritional recuperation centres. Moreover, a regional Emergency Operation (EMOP) is being implemented by WFP to assist refugees through December 2013.

Reference Date: 31-May-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A record crop was gathered in 2012 and rangelands have recovered well
- The food supply situation has improved significantly in 2012/13 compared to the previous year
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed due to the lingering effects of last year food crisis
- Civil strife in northern Mali also had a serious impact on food security in parts

Seasonably dry conditions prevail across the country and the 2013 cropping season is expected to start in July.

A bumper cereal harvest estimated following improved weather

Harvesting of the 2012 rainfed cereal crops was completed in December 2012, while harvesting of recession and off-season crops was completed last April.

Despite flooding in parts, adequate rainfall during the main cropping season has resulted in a bumper cereal harvest. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at a record 304 000 tonnes, about 68 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 53 percent above the average of the past five years.

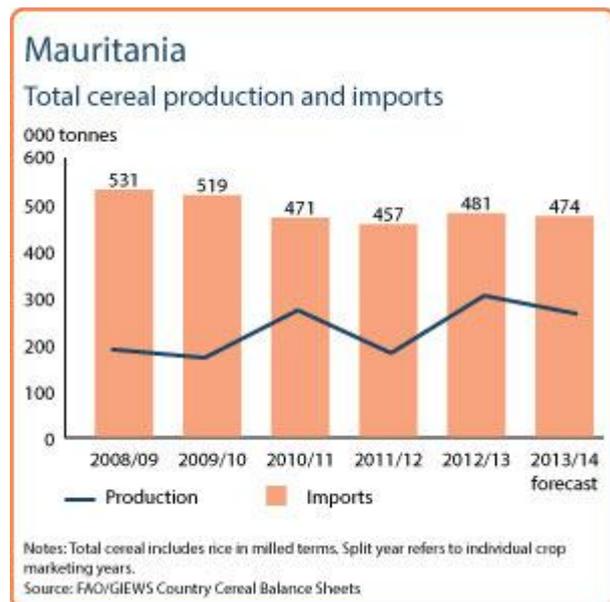
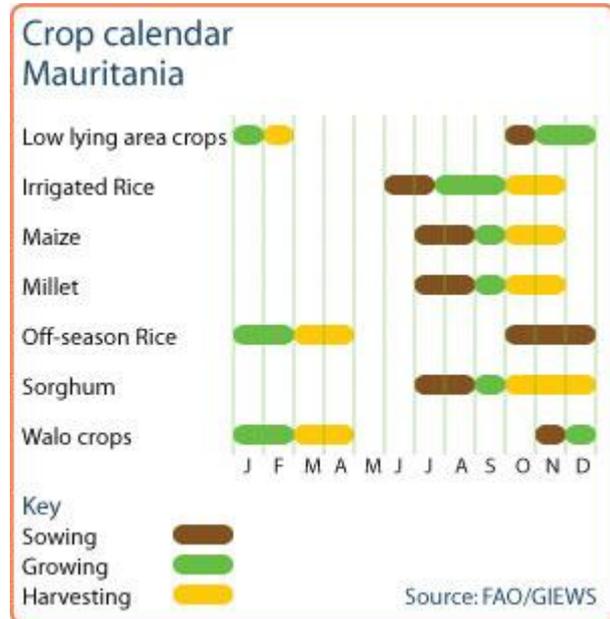
In 2011, dry spells and poor rainfall distribution during the growing period (July to October) resulted in a 30 percent decline in cereal production compared to the previous year.

Improved food availability expected in 2012/13

The improved harvest position, coupled with adequate supply in most neighbouring countries and declining wheat prices on the international market, is expected to lead to much improved food availability during the 2012/13 marketing year (November-October). Mauritania's domestic cereals production only covers one-third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Sorghum prices in Nouakchott in March 2013 were 33 percent lower than a year earlier, reflecting the good cereal harvests gathered across the subregion. Moreover, wheat prices have been mostly stable in recent months, in line with trends in international markets. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, in view of the relatively high supply levels in the whole western Sahel region and the declining international prices.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply outlook, some 560 000 people will continue to be food insecure mostly as a result of the lingering effects of the 2011 food crisis.



Moreover, the armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. As of early May 2013, more than 74 000 people have fled the conflict and crossed the border to seek refuge mostly in south-eastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that was affected by a serious food and nutrition crisis in 2012. As a result, vulnerability to food insecurity of both refugees and host communities is highly aggravated.

Reference Date: 02-April-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A record crop was gathered in 2012 and rangelands have recovered well
- The food supply situation has improved significantly in 2012/13 compared to the previous year
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed due to the lingering effects of last year food crisis
- Civil strife in northern Mali is also having a serious impact on food security in parts

A bumper cereal harvest estimated following improved weather

Harvesting of the 2012 rainfed cereal crops was completed in December, while harvesting of recession and off-season crops will be completed in April.

Despite flooding in parts, adequate rainfall during the main cropping season has resulted in a bumper cereal harvest. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at a record 304 000 tonnes, about 68 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 53 percent above the average of the past five years.

In 2011, dry spells and poor rainfall distribution during the growing period (July to October) resulted in a 30 percent decline in cereal production compared to the previous year.

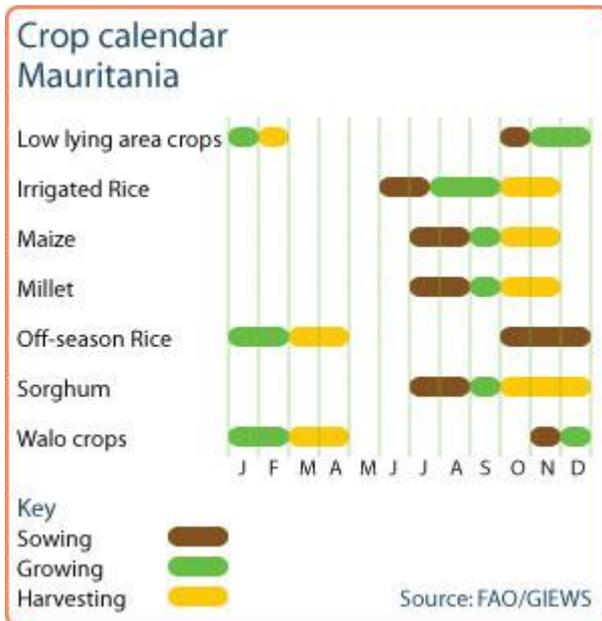
Improved food availability expected in 2012/13

The improved harvest position, coupled with adequate supply in most neighbouring countries and declining wheat prices on the international market, is expected to lead to much improved food availability during the 2012/13 marketing year (November-October). Mauritania's domestic cereals production only covers one-third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Sorghum prices in Nouakchott in January 2013 are 21 percent lower than a year earlier, reflecting the good cereal harvests gathered across the subregion. Moreover, wheat prices have been mostly stable in recent months, in line with trends in international markets. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, in view of the relatively high supply levels in the whole western Sahel region and the declining international prices.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply outlook, some 560 000 people will continue to be food insecure mostly as a result of the lingering effects of the 2011 food crisis.

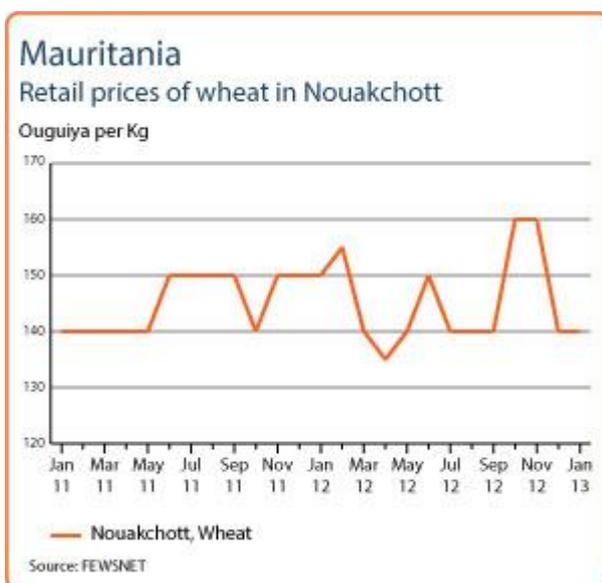
Moreover, the ongoing armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border into Mauritania. As of early



Mauritania Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	99	141	157	11
Sorghum	81	25	116	364
Maize	14	11	23	109
Others	5	4	8	100
Total	199	181	304	68

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



February, more than 64 000 people have fled the conflict and crossed the border to seek refuge mostly in south-eastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that was affected by a serious food and nutrition crisis in 2011. As a result, vulnerability to food insecurity of both refugees and host communities is highly aggravated.

Reference Date: 20-August-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2012 cereal crops are uncertain
- Sorghum prices have doubled
- Civil strife in northern Mali is having a serious impact on food security in parts
- Humanitarian assistance need to be continued and strengthened to prevent further deterioration in the food situation

Overall prospects for the 2012 cereal crops remain uncertain in spite of improved rains in August

The start of the rainy season was somewhat erratic with below average precipitation recorded in several areas through mid-July, notably in South-western parts of the country. Precipitation improved in late July and remained widespread through mid-August, thus replenishing soil water reserves and improving crop and pasture conditions. However, the prevalence of favourable conditions for the breeding and spread of Desert Locust continues to pose a serious threat to crops and pasture. Scattered mature adults were reported in the South east (Hodh ech Chargui), in parts of southern Hodh El Gharbi, northern Gorgol and south west Tagant.

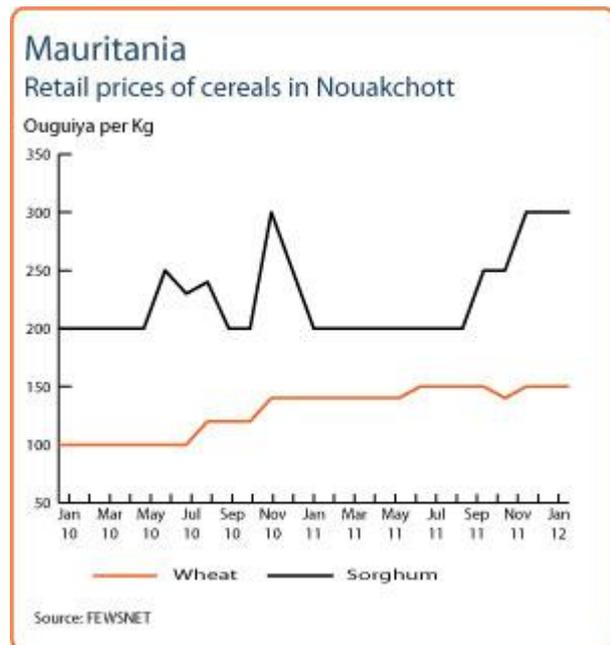
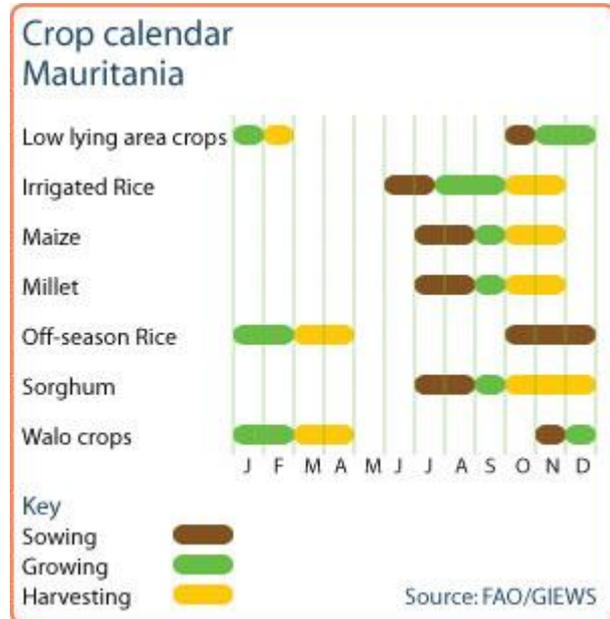
2011 coarse grains production severely reduced by irregular and insufficient rains

Last year, dry spells and poor rainfall distribution during the growing period (July to October) resulted in a sharp decline in cereal production. The 2011 cereal output was estimated at some 181 000 tonnes, about 30 percent below last year and 6 percent below the previous five-year average. The most affected areas are the rainfed agriculture zones in Guidimaka and in the South of Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi and Hodh Ech Chargui regions, and the pastoral and agropastoral zones (especially Trarza and Tagant regions), where the prolonged dryness negatively impacted pasture conditions and lowered the level of water points.

High cereal prices affect access to food

Mauritania is a food-deficit country where domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of sorghum have been rising since October 2011 due to the poor harvest and high prices in neighbouring exporting countries. In June 2012, prices were 100 percent higher than in June 2011 in Nouakchott. Sorghum prices have increased more steeply in the south-eastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. Although wheat prices have been mostly stable in recent months, overall food prices are likely to remain under upward pressure, in view of the low supply levels in the whole western Sahel region and the rising international prices.

Food insecurity exacerbated by large numbers of



refugees from neighbouring Mali

According to Government sources, about 700 000 people, almost one fourth of the households in rural areas, have been affected by food insecurity as a result of last year drop in production. The highest malnutrition rates have been recorded in Hodh Ech Chargui, Guidimaka, Gorgol and Assaba regions in the South-East of the country, where approximately one third of households are food insecure.

Generally, a large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and is in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. The high import dependency rate for food also exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market, keeping poor households in cycles of indebtedness and poverty.

Moreover, the ongoing armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border to Mauritania. As of mid-July, more than 90 000 people have fled the conflict and crossed the border to seek refuge in south-eastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that is already facing a serious food and nutrition crisis. As a result, vulnerability of both refugees and host communities is highly aggravated.

In view of the current difficult food security situation, a new poor harvest due to Desert Locust attacks would have very serious humanitarian implications.

Reference Date: 21-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates for the 2011 harvest point to a sharp decline in coarse grains production.
- Cereal prices are, unseasonably, on the increase across the country
- As of December 2011, about 600 000 people were estimated to be food insecure
- Civil strife in northern Mali is having a serious impact on food security in parts
- Urgent actions are needed to prevent a further deterioration of the food security situation

2011 coarse grains production severely reduced by irregular and insufficient rains

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops was completed in December. Dry spells and poor rainfall distribution during the growing period (July to October) resulted in a sharp decline in cereal production. Following release of the final 2011 cereal production figures, the 2011 cereal output was estimated at some 181 000 tonnes, about 30 percent below last year and 6 percent below the previous five years average. The most affected areas are the rainfed agriculture zones in Guidimaka and in the South of Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi and Hodh Ech Chargui regions, and the pastoral and agropastoral zones (especially Trarza and Tagant regions), where the prolonged dryness negatively impacted pasture conditions and lowered the level of water points.

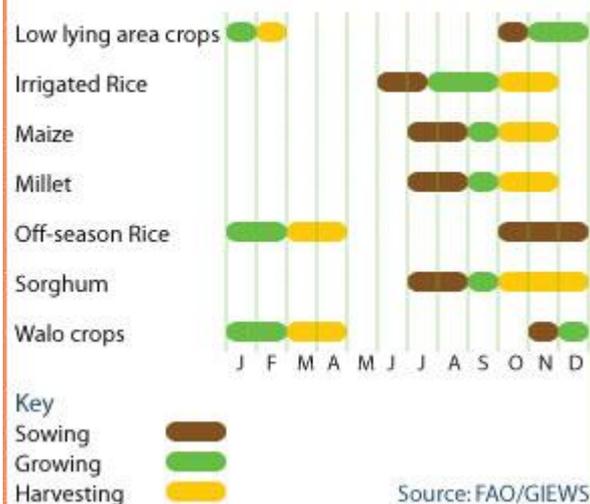
High cereal prices affect access to food

Mauritania is a food-deficit country where domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of sorghum, which unseasonably increased by 50 percent from August to November due to the poor harvest and high prices in neighbouring exporting countries, remained firm in recent months and in January 2012 they were 50 percent higher than in January 2011. Wheat prices are stable and close to the levels of the same month last year; however, in January, they were still 50 percent higher than in June 2010, when they started to increase following trends in international markets.

Food and agricultural assistance needed as the food security situation is likely to deteriorate further

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and is in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market, keeping poor households in cycles of indebtedness and poverty.

Crop calendar Mauritania



Mauritania

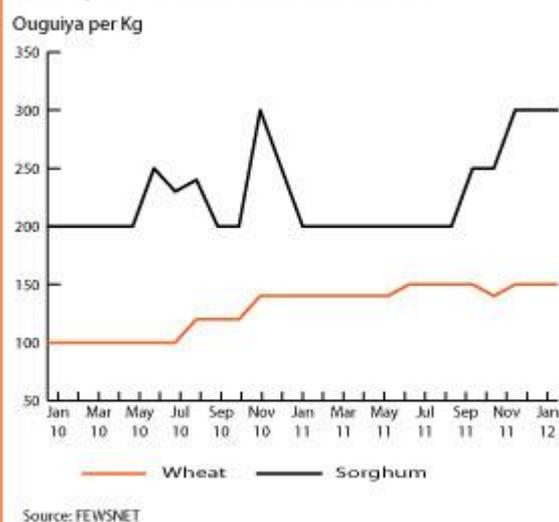
Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		estimate	2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	89	108	60	-44
Rice (paddy)	83	120	106	-12
Maize	14	20	10	-50
Others	7	12	5	-58
Total	193	260	181	-30

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

Mauritania

Retail prices of cereals in Nouakchott



According to a joint WFP/ OSA (Observatoire de la Sécurité Alimentaire) survey, in December 2011, 600 000 people, almost one fourth of the households in rural areas, were affected by food insecurity. More than half of them (12.9 percent) have been classified as “severely food insecure”. The percentage of households affected by food insecurity is almost three times higher than in December 2010. The highest malnutrition rates have been recorded in Hodh Ech Chargui, Guidimaka, Gorgol and Assaba regions in the South-East of the country, where approximately one third of households are food insecure.

Moreover, the ongoing armed conflict in Northern Mali has forced thousands of Malians to cross the border to Mauritania. As of mid-March, more than 37 000 people have fled the conflict and crossed the border to seek refuge in and around the commune of Fassala, located in the south-eastern Hodh Ech Chargui region. These refugees represent an additional burden to a region that is already facing a serious food and nutrition crisis (the percentage and the absolute number of food insecure people are the highest in the country); as a result, vulnerability of both refugees and host communities is highly aggravated.

In order to respond to the likely food and nutrition crisis, the Government launched on 10 November 2011 the Plan EMEL (Hope) for ouguiyas 31.9 billion (USD 115 million) and has requested for assistance from the international community. Specific measures include targeted distribution of food and subsidized sales of cereals and fodder to people affected by food insecurity.

To support the Government efforts, WFP planned an Emergency Operation (EMOP) for USD 29 million aiming to assist more than 450 000 people through food distribution, cash transfers, feeding centres and food for work activities.

Reference Date: 10-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates for the 2011 harvest point to a sharp decline in coarse grains production.
- Cereal prices are, unseasonably, on the increase across the country
- As of November 2011, about 838.000 people were estimated to be food insecure
- Urgent actions are needed to prevent a further deterioration of the food security situation

2011 coarse grains production severely reduced by irregular and insufficient rains

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops was completed in December. Dry spells and poor rainfall distribution during the growing period (July to October) resulted in a sharp decline in cereal production. The 2011 cereal output was estimated by a joint CILSS/FAO/FEWSNet Crop Assessment Mission at some 117 000 tonnes, about 53 percent below last year and 39 percent below the previous five years average. The most affected areas are the rainfed agriculture zones, where the cereal production recorded a 78 percent decrease compared to last year, and the pastoral and agropastoral zones (especially Trarza and Tagant regions), where the prolonged dryness negatively impacted pasture conditions and lowered the level of water points.

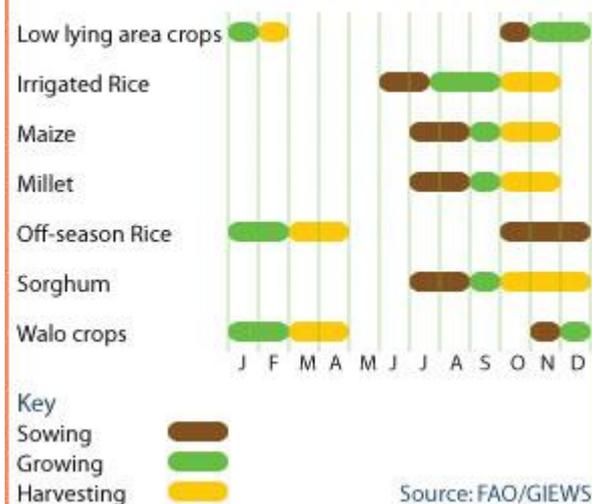
High cereal prices affect access to food

Mauritania is a food-deficit country where domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of sorghum, which had been stable since the beginning of 2011, recorded sharp unseasonal increases in the last months (+50 percent from August to November) due to the poor harvest and high prices in neighbouring exporting countries, following reduced 2011 availabilities. Wheat prices are stable and close to the levels of the same month last year; however, in November, they were still 50 percent higher than in June 2010, when they started to increase following trends in international markets.

Food and agricultural assistance needed as the food security situation is likely to deteriorate further

A large segment of the Mauritanian population relies on traditional agriculture and livestock related activities to maintain their livelihoods, and is in a state of chronic vulnerability due to unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. Moreover, the high import dependency rate for food exposes the population to fluctuations of the global market, keeping poor households in cycles of indebtedness and poverty.

Crop calendar Mauritania



Mauritania

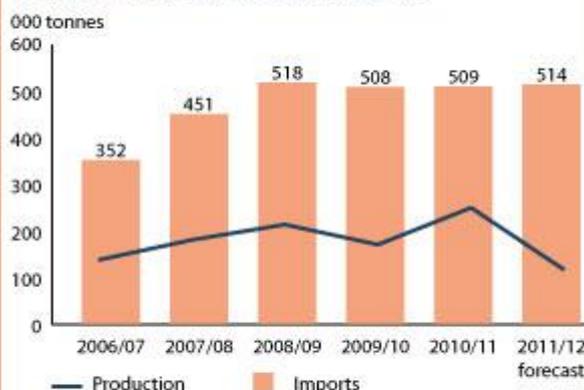
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Sorghum	89	108	27	-75
Rice (paddy)	81	110	79	-28
Maize	14	20	6	-70
Others	7	12	5	-58
Total	191	250	117	-53

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

Mauritania

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

According to a joint WFP/ OSA (Observatoire de la Sécurité Alimentaire) survey, in July 2011, 428.000 people, almost one fourth of the households in rural areas, were food insecure. In November, the estimated number increased to 838 000, and given the poor harvest this year it is anticipated that this could increase to 1.2 million by January 2012 if urgent actions are not taken.

The moderate acute malnutrition rate (MAM) of children under five years of age is increasing, and will likely deteriorate further to severe acute malnutrition (SAM) unless early action is taken. The highest malnutrition rates have been recorded in Brakna and Gorgol regions, in the south of the country.

In order to respond to the likely food and nutrition crisis, the Government launched the Plan EMEL (Hope) on 10 November 2011 and has requested for assistance from the international community. Through this plan the Government is planning to provide subsidized cereal sales through government shops and livestock fodder to people affected by food insecurity.

Reference Date: 27-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2011 cropping season is expected to start with the onset of rains, normally in July
- Cereal production increased by 52 percent in 2010
- High international food prices have generated inflationary pressure on the domestic food markets

Seasonably dry conditions prevail

The seasonal rains have not yet started and farmers are currently preparing their fields. Planting of the 2011 cereal crops is scheduled to start in July with the onset of the rains.

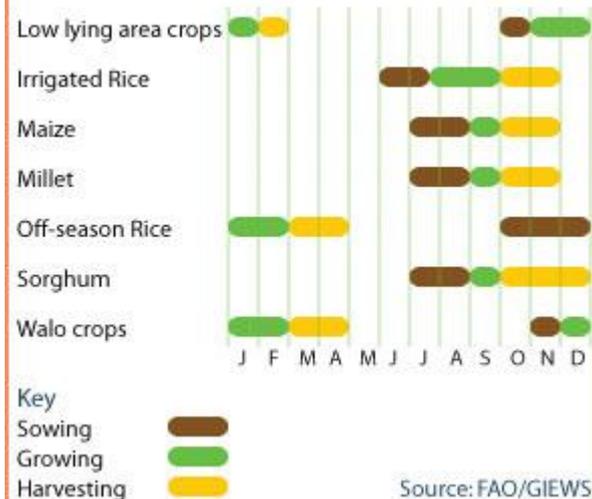
Cereal production recovered in 2010

Favourable weather conditions throughout the cropping season resulted in a good cereal crop last year. Pastures have regenerated countrywide. The official estimate puts the 2010 aggregate cereal production at about 259 000 tonnes, an increase of 52 percent over the drought affected crop of 2009. This, in addition to favourable crop prospects in neighbouring countries, particularly in Senegal and Mali, lead to a generally satisfactory food availability so far in the 2010/11 marketing year (November/October).

High wheat prices affect access to food

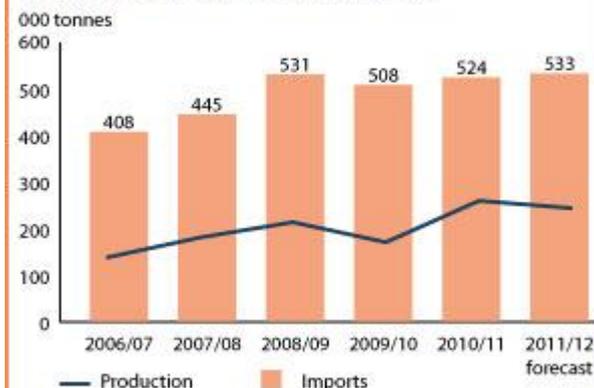
Mauritania is a food-deficit country where agricultural production fluctuates markedly from year to year due to weather variations. Domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access to food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of millet and sorghum have been mostly stable following good harvests in neighbouring countries. Wheat and rice prices also remained stable throughout July 2010. However, the recent sharp rise in international food prices, notably of wheat, maize, sugar and oils, has led to high inflationist pressure on the domestic food market eroding the purchasing power of urban and rural consumers. Average wheat prices in Nouakchott are reported to have increased by 38 percent year-on year to March 2011.

Crop calendar Mauritania



Mauritania

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

Reference Date: 1-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

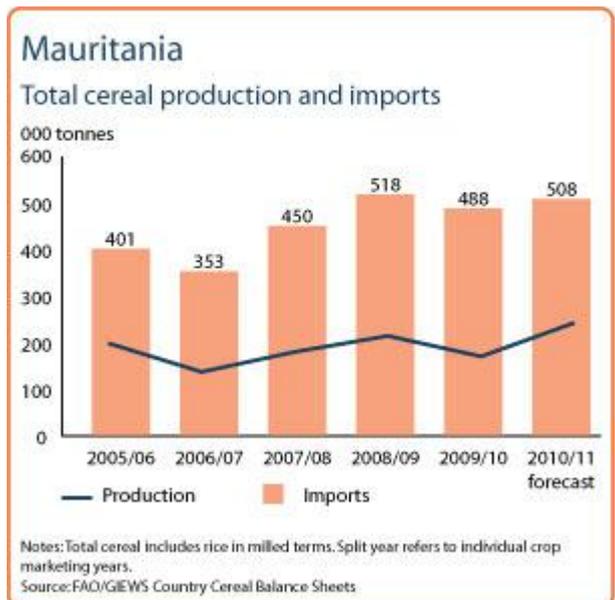
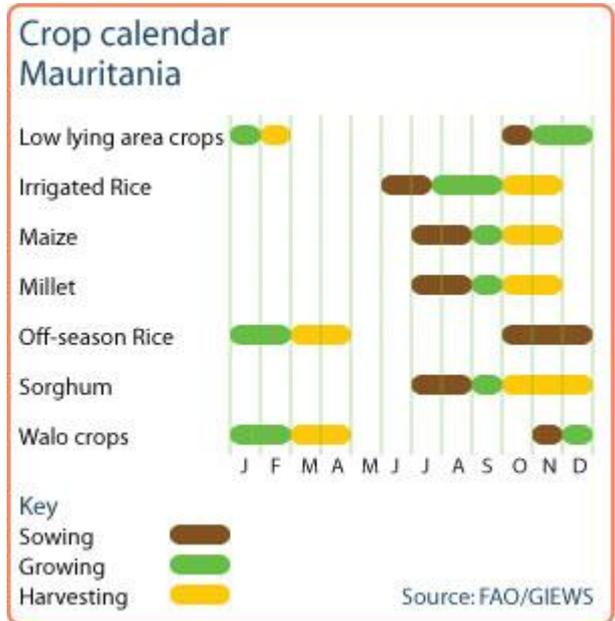
- Cereal production increased by 42 percent in 2010.
- High international food prices are likely to generate inflationist pressure on the domestic food market.

Cereal production recovered in 2010

Favourable weather conditions throughout the cropping season resulted in a good cereal crop last year. Pastures have regenerated countrywide. A recent CILSS/FAO/Government mission provisionally estimated 2010 cereal production at 242 710 tonnes, an increase of 42 percent over the drought affected crop of 2009. This, in addition to favourable crop prospects in neighbouring countries, particularly in Senegal and Mali, should result in improved food supply situation in 2010/11.

High wheat prices affect access to food

Mauritania is a food-deficit country where agricultural production fluctuates markedly from year to year due to weather variations. Domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access to food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of millet and sorghum remained mostly stable in 2010 following good harvests in neighbouring countries. Wheat and rice prices also remained stable throughout July 2010 reflecting trends on the international market. However, the recent sharp rise in international food prices, notably of wheat, maize, sugar and oils, is likely to lead to high inflationist pressure on the domestic food market and erode the purchasing power of urban and rural consumers. Average wheat prices in Nouakchott are reported to have increased by 38 percent between May and October 2010.



Reference Date: 17-October-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvest prospects are favourable, following satisfactory growing conditions since July
- High international wheat prices are likely to generate inflationist pressure on the domestic food market.

Harvest prospects are favourable

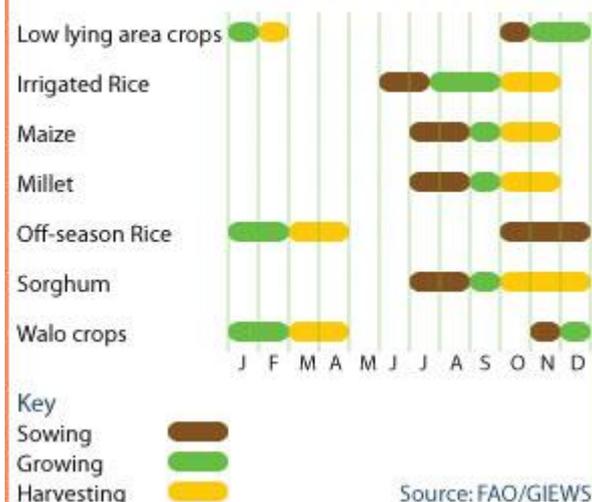
Following the first showers in June, good rains fell from July through September over most of southern and central Mauritania. As a result, soil moisture has been generally adequate to meet crops' water requirement since the beginning of the growing season, allowing satisfactory crop development in main producing zones. Harvesting of millet and sorghum has started. Pastures have regenerated countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

Last year, cereal output declined by about 24 percent compared to 2008, following irregular rains that limited areas planted in the irrigated sector and affected yields of diéri (rainfed) crops.

High wheat prices will affect access to food

Mauritania is a food-deficit country where agricultural production fluctuates markedly from year to year due to weather variations. Domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access to food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of millet and sorghum remained mostly stable this year following good harvests in neighbouring countries. Wheat and rice prices also remained stable throughout July reflecting trends on the international market. However, the recent sharp rise in international wheat prices is likely to lead to high inflationist pressure on the domestic food market and erode the purchasing power of urban and rural consumers. Retail wheat prices in Nouakchott are reported to have increased by 21 percent between July and September.

Crop calendar Mauritania



Mauritania

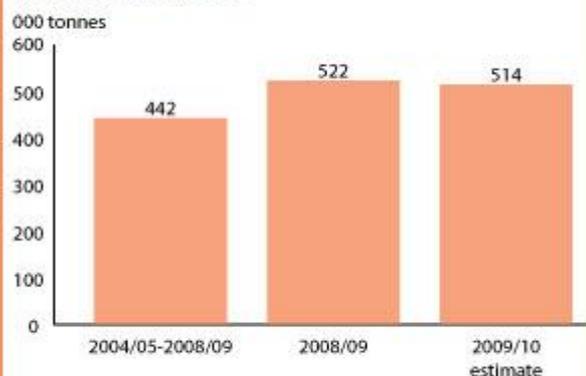
Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	83	107	67	-37
Sorghum	70	90	73	-19
Maize	13	12	19	58
Others	4	5	6	20
Total	169	215	164	-24

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

Mauritania

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

Reference Date: 16-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production dropped sharply in 2009 due to unfavourable weather conditions
- Access to food improved following a decline in prices

Irregular rains caused a decline in cereal production

Seasonably dry conditions prevail. Plantings of coarse grains will start following the onset of rains, which normally begin in July.

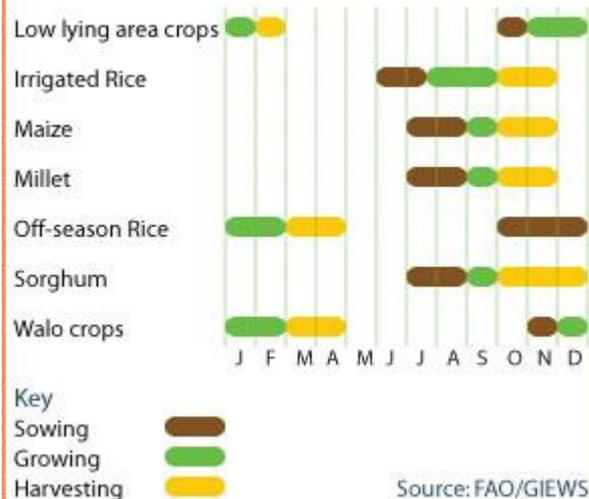
The food outlook for 2010 is uncertain due to below average harvest in 2009. The 2009 cereal output was estimated by a joint CILSS/FEWSNet Crop Assessment Mission at some 164 000 tonnes, about 24 percent below last year and 3 percent below the previous five years average. This was the result of irregular rains that limited areas planted in the irrigated sector and affected yields of diéri (rainfed) crops. However, pastures situation is reported to be adequate.

Low coarse grain prices in response to a more plentiful supply

Mauritania is a food-deficit country where agricultural production fluctuates markedly from year to year due to weather variations. Domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access to food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of millet and sorghum dropped in October 2009 in Nouakchott and remained mostly stable following good harvests in neighbouring countries. Wheat and rice prices also stabilised in recent months reflecting trends on the international market.

The food situation during the 2009/10 marketing year will depend to a large extent on the evolution of international food prices and actions the Government may take to mitigate their impact on consumers' purchasing power

Crop calendar Mauritania



Mauritania

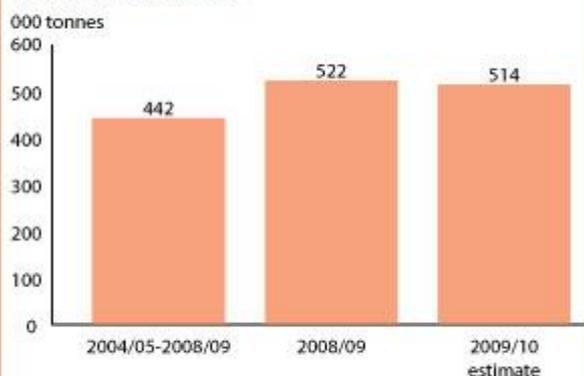
Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	83	107	67	-37
Sorghum	70	90	73	-19
Maize	13	12	19	58
Others	4	5	6	20
Total	169	215	164	-24

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

Mauritania

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

Reference Date: 29-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production dropped steeply in 2009 due to unfavourable weather conditions
- Access to food improved in 2009 and 2008.
- However, the food situation in 2010 will depend to a large extent on the evolution of international food prices and actions the Government may take to mitigate their impact on consumers' purchasing power

Irregular rains caused a decline in cereal production

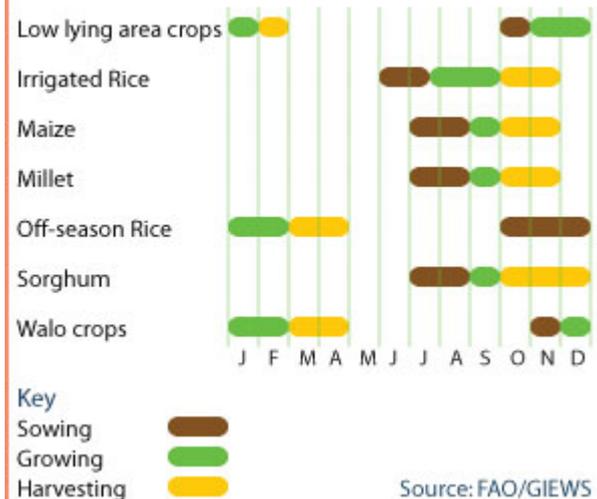
The food outlook for 2010 is uncertain due to below average harvest in 2009. A CILSS/FewsNet Crop Assessment Mission that visited the country in October 2009, estimated 2009 cereal output at some 164 000 tonnes, about 24 percent below last year and 3 percent below the previous five years average. This was the result of irregular rains that limited areas planted in the irrigated sector and affected yields of diéri (rainfed) crops.

Low coarse grain prices in response to a more plentiful supply

Mauritania is a food-deficit country where agricultural production fluctuates markedly from year to year due to weather variations. Domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement in a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access to food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. Prices of millet and sorghum dropped in October in Nouakchott following good harvests in neighbouring countries, while wheat and rice prices remain relatively high reflecting trends on the international market.

The food situation during the 2009/10 marketing year will depend on the evolution of international food prices and actions the Government may take to mitigate their impact on consumers' purchasing power

Crop calendar Mauritania



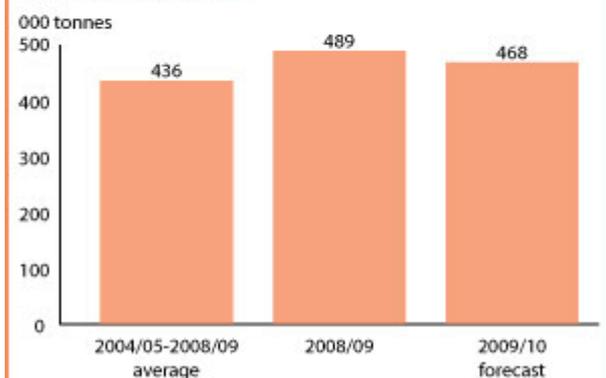
Mauritania

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice	83	107	67	-37
Sorghum	70	90	73	-19
Maize	13	12	19	58
Others	4	5	6	20
Total	169	215	164	-24

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports

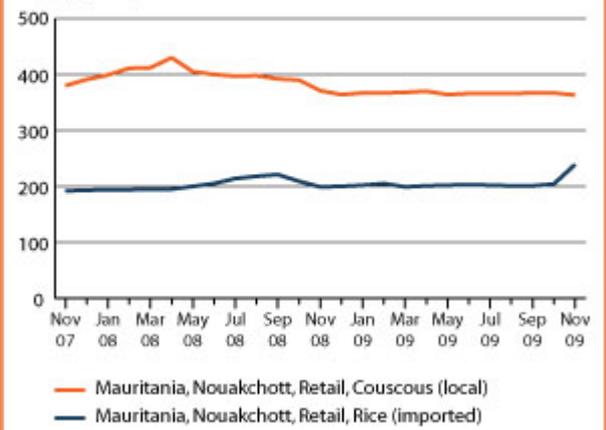


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Mauritania Selected food prices

Ouguiya per kg



Source: Office National de Statistique

Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall unfavourable harvest prospects for current cereal crops
- Floods and lack of inputs and credit will affect production
- Access to food improved this year compared to 2007 and 2008

Harvest prospects are uncertain

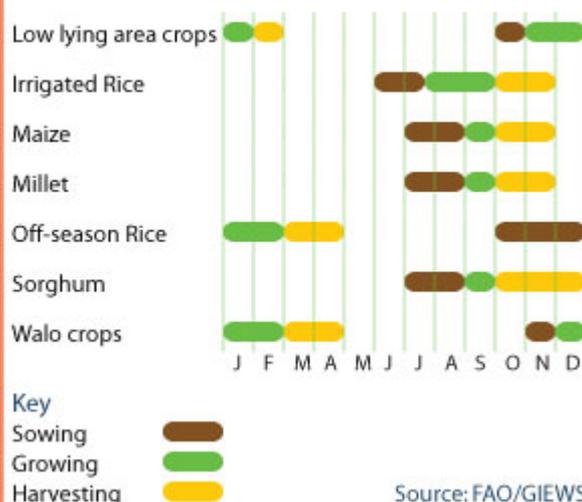
In August, there was widespread and abundant rainfall following the irregular and under-average precipitations in July, which delayed sowing in some places. Nevertheless the replenishment rate of the dams is above 60 percent in the Wilaya of l'Adrar, Gorgol, Brakna, Guidimaka and in the two Hodhs. The agriculture season also suffered from a lack of credit and farm inputs; violent storms caused flooding in several regions, moreover, causing localised damage to agriculture. Early forecasts suggest that cereal production in 2009 will be below the levels of 2008.

Low inflation in response to a more plentiful food supply

Cereals production improved in 2008/09 after a very difficult year from the point of food supplies for both the urban and the rural populations. Cereals production in 2008-09 has been estimated at about 207 000 tonnes, which is about 15 percent above the average harvest of the year before and 29 percent above average.

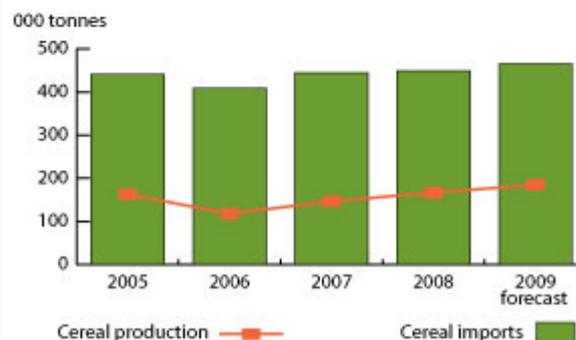
However, Mauritania is a food-deficit country and domestic cereals production only covers one third of the national utilisation requirement. It is highly dependent on imports of secondary grains (millet and sorghum) from its neighbours, Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. Food prices are therefore a key factor to access to food by the majority of the Mauritanian people. The prices of secondary grains and wheat were already quite high in 2007, due to poor harvests in Senegal and higher international wheat market prices. Despite the suspension of import duty on cereals in force since 2007, food prices reached record levels in 2008 because of another poor harvest in Senegal (in 2007) and unchanged world prices. Thanks to good harvests in 2008 in Mauritania and its neighbours, food supplies improved. In June 2009 local couscous prices at Nouakchott were 8 percent below the prior year's level.

Crop calendar Mauritania



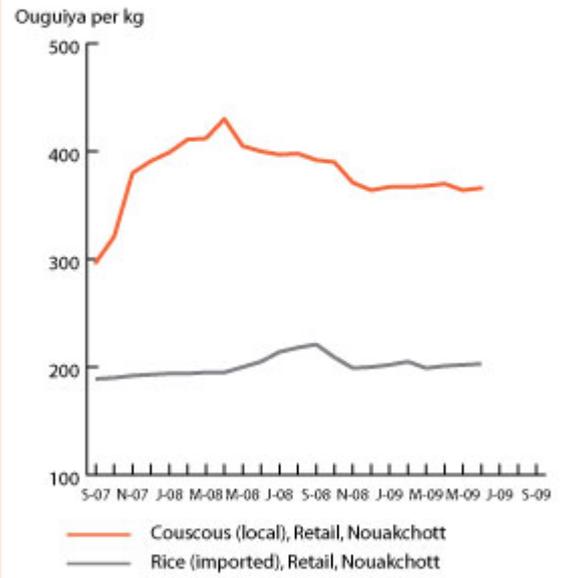
Cereal production and imports Mauritania

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes	000 tonnes	000 tonnes	percent
Sorghum	70	90	100	11.1%
Rice (milled)	49	60	62	3.3%
Maize	13	12	18	50%
Other	4	5	5	0%
Total Cereals	135	167	185	10.8%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Mauritania Selected food prices



Source: Office National de Statistique