



GIEWS Country Brief

The Kingdom of Eswatini

Reference Date: 09-August-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- National maize production estimated at above-average level in 2022, underpinned by upturn in plantings
- Import requirements forecast to decrease in 2022/23 marketing year (May/April)
- Prices of maize, main food staple, remained at elevated levels in mid-2022
- Food insecurity numbers projected to decrease at end of 2022 compared to previous year

National maize production estimated above five-year average in 2022

Harvesting of the 2022 main season cereal crops, almost entirely consisting of maize, concluded in June. Total cereal production is estimated at 127 000 tonnes, 30 percent above the previous five-year average; the bulk of this production is concentrated in the Manzini Region.

The large output results from an above-average area planted with maize, estimated at 75 000 hectares, almost 45 percent more than the short-term average. Cereal crops benefited from mostly favourable weather conditions and the average national maize yield was estimated at a near-average level. However, dry spells in February 2022 and delays in the distribution of some farm inputs under the government's input subsidy programme, resulted in low yields in localized areas, curbing overall crop productivity.

Import requirements forecast to decrease in 2022/23

Cereal import requirements, mostly maize, rice and wheat, are forecast at a below-average level of 180 000 tonnes in the 2022/23 marketing year (May/April). The low import needs reflect the large domestic outturn of maize, while imports of rice and wheat, which are produced in negligible volumes in the country, are forecast at average levels.

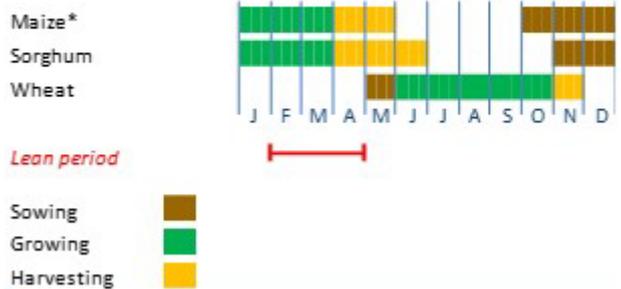
Maize prices at higher year-on-year levels, wheat prices at record highs

Prices of maize meal, the key food staple, increased in the first five months of 2022 and, in May, were 3 percent higher on a yearly basis. The higher prices principally reflect trends in South Africa, the country's main supplier of grains. Although maize

Eswatini

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Eswatini

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021 percent
	000 tonnes			
Maize	96	100	127	27.3
Rice (paddy)	1	1	1	0.0
Sorghum	1	1	0	-86.0
Total	97	102	129	25.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

grain prices in South Africa remained elevated as of early August, they have decreased since June and, in combination with the large maize harvest in 2022 and reduced import needs, pressure on domestic maize prices could ease.

Wheat flour prices were at record highs in May 2022. This mainly reflects the elevated global prices and the country's high dependence on imported wheat to satisfy national consumption needs.

Food insecurity numbers lower year on year in 2022/23

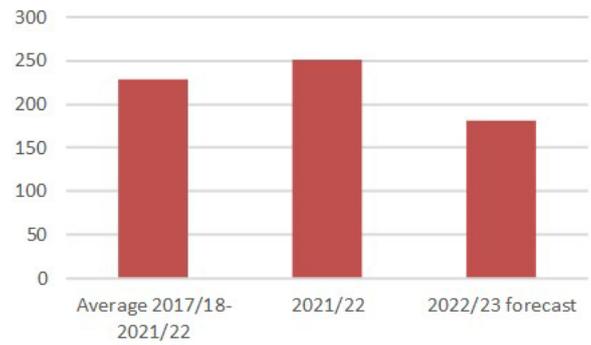
According to the latest IPC acute food insecurity analysis (July 2022), about 259 000 people between October 2022 and March 2023 are projected to face IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above levels of food insecurity. This figure is 20 percent lower than the estimate in the same period in 2021/22, owing to the overall positive impact of the large domestic cereal production on rural households' food supplies and incomes. However, the food insecure number still includes populations in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), who are likely to face large food consumption gaps and forced to adopt emergency coping strategies. The high prices of essential food products and fuel, and the impact of localized crop losses caused by weather shocks, are the main drivers of food insecurity in 2022/23.

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.

Eswatini

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

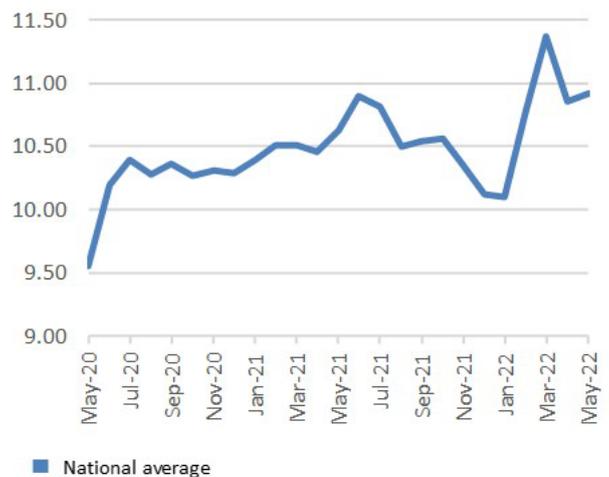


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Eswatini

Retail prices of maize meal

Lilangeni per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Kingdom of Eswatini

Reference Date: 09-April-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production forecast at above-average level in 2021
- Imports of cereals forecast at high level in 2020/21 marketing year
- Prices of key cereal staples remained stable but higher year on year
- About 210 000 people projected food insecure during 2021 harvest period, well below estimates for previous periods

Cereal production forecast at above-average level in 2021

Harvesting of the 2021 cereal crops (mainly maize) started in April and production is anticipated at an above-average level. Although rainfall amounts were slightly below average between October and December 2020, soil moisture levels were generally conducive for planting operations and early crop development. Rainfall amounts increased since the beginning of 2021, notably after the passage of tropical storm Eloise in late January, boosting yield prospects of the crops that were at maturing stages. The 2021 maize production is forecast at an above-average level of 100 000 tonnes, about 16 percent above the good 2020 output, based on an expected increase in yields and owing to favourable weather conditions that will more than offset an estimated reduction in the area planted.

Imports of cereals forecast at high level in 2020/21 marketing year

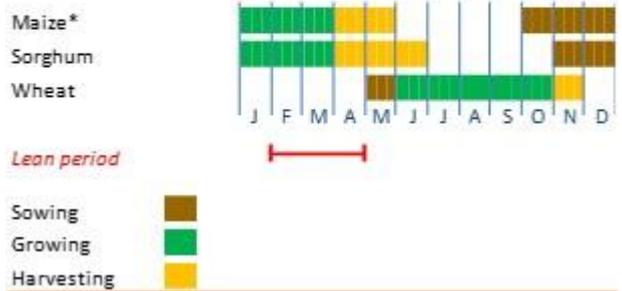
The country is a net importer of cereals, mostly maize, rice and wheat, with imports satisfying on average about three-quarters of the domestic consumption needs. Cereal imports in the 2020/21 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at 250 000 tonnes, 25 percent above the five-year average, mainly reflecting the country's drive to secure adequate staple stocks amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports of maize (both for human consumption and livestock feed) are forecast at an above-average level of 166 000 tonnes and are sourced entirely from neighbouring South Africa. Imports of rice and wheat are expected to remain stable on a yearly basis at a near-average level of 40 000 tonnes and 46 000 tonnes, respectively.

Cereal import requirements in the forthcoming 2021/22 marketing year (May/April) are foreseen to decline year on year, on account of the expected above-average maize harvest in 2021.

Eswatini

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Eswatini

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	82	87	100	15.6
Rice (paddy)	1	1	1	0.0
Sorghum	1	1	1	0.0
Total	84	89	102	15.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of key cereal staples remained stable but higher year on year

Prices of maize meal were generally stable between July 2020 and January 2021 (latest available data), reflecting an adequate supply situation stemming from above-average imports. However, prices in January 2021 were about 12 percent higher on a yearly basis, largely owing to the increasing wholesale prices in South Africa during the second semester of 2020.

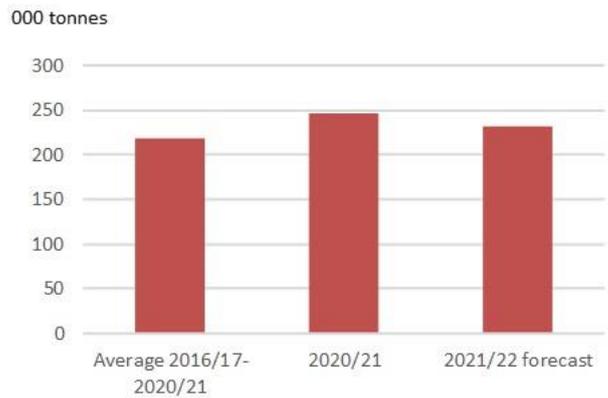
Improvements in food security expected in 2021

According to the latest IPC analysis, about 210 000 people (about 18 percent of total population, mainly located in the Shiselweni and Lubombo provinces) are projected to be facing acute food insecurity (IPC phases 3: "Crisis" and 4: "Emergency") during the April-September 2021 period, when the harvest of the main maize crops is expected to replenish households' food stocks. This level is about 40 percent below the previous estimates for the January-March 2021 period, which corresponds to the lean season, and the June-September 2020 period, when the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic drove up the number of food insecure people. The significant improvement reflects the anticipated above-average maize output and expectations of a recovery of economic activities in 2021.

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.

Eswatini

Cereals Imports

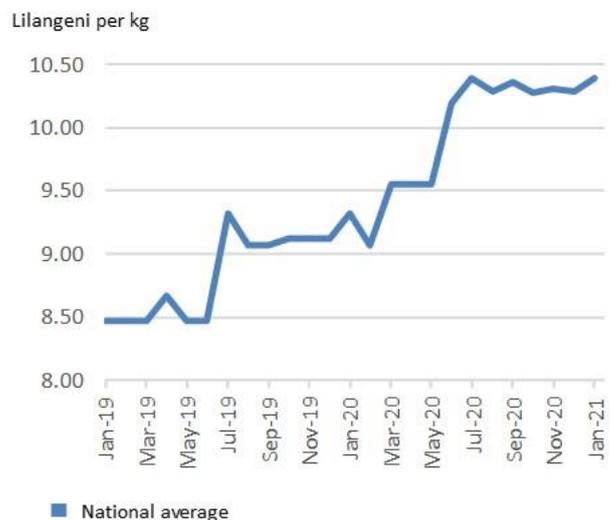


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Eswatini

Retail prices of maize meal



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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Kingdom of Eswatini

Reference Date: 20-August-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production of cereals in 2020, mostly maize, declined year on year but still remained above past five-year average
- Cereal import requirements in 2020/21 rise moderately, reflecting production decline in 2020 for second consecutive year
- Prices of maize meal stable or decreased in early 2020, but remained higher on yearly basis
- About 366 000 people estimated to be food insecure in second half of 2020, well above earlier estimations, due to reduced harvests in 2020 and effects of restrictions aimed to contain COVID-19 pandemic

Cereal production in 2020 estimated at slightly above-average level

Harvesting of the main 2020 maize crop (the major cereal grown in the country), concluded in early July, a few weeks later than normal due to delays in plantings caused by poor rainfall at the beginning of the season. Aggregate cereal production is estimated at 89 000 tonnes, a second consecutive year on year decline from the bumper level of 115 000 tonnes in 2018. Nevertheless, at the estimated level, this year's cereal output is still above the previous five-year average. Improved rainfall from January 2020 boosted soil moisture levels and aided crop development, resulting in the above-average yields that partly offset lower plantings and limited a potentially larger yearly production decline.

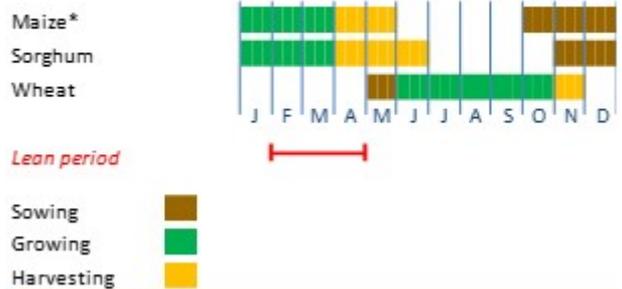
Cereal import requirement in 2020/21 estimated to remain at high levels

The country is a net importer of cereals, mostly maize, rice and wheat, with imports satisfying about three quarters of domestic consumption needs. The cereal import requirement in the 2020/21 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at about 260 000 tonnes, nearly 30 percent above the five-year average, mainly resulting from a second consecutive annual decrease in the 2020 domestic production. Imports of maize (both for human consumption and livestock feed) are forecast at an above-average level of 170 000 tonnes, almost entirely sourced from neighbouring South Africa. Imports of rice and wheat are expected at near-average levels, forecast at about 40 000 tonnes and 50 000 tonnes, respectively.

Eswatini

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Eswatini

Cereal Production

	2015-2019	2019	2020	change
	average	000 tonnes		2020/2019
			forecast	percent
Maize	81	95	87	-8.4
Sorghum	1	1	1	42.9
Rice (paddy)	0	1	1	60.0
Total	82	96	89	-7.5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of maize meal higher on year basis

Prices of maize meal increased in the first quarter of 2020 in response to an uptick in domestic demand at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted customers to increase household stocks, and mirroring trends in South Africa, the country's main supplier of cereals. Prices levelled off from April, mostly reflecting an adequate supply situation on account of the recent harvest and above-average quantities of imports. As of May, retail prices of maize were about 12 percent higher than their year-earlier values.

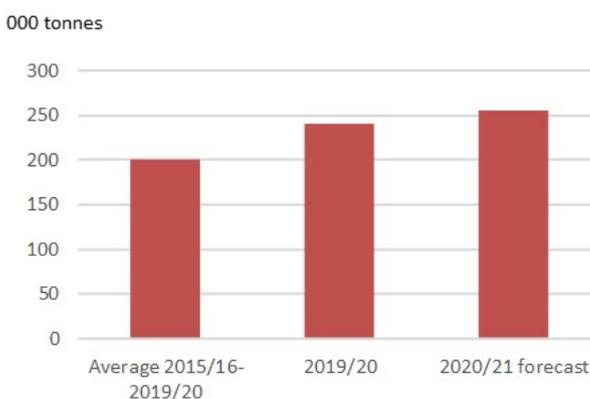
Significant increase in prevalence of food insecurity in second half of 2020

According to the last official estimates from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), an estimated 366 000 people were assessed to be food insecure between July 2020 and the end of March 2021, which would mark the start of the main harvest period for the subsequent cropping season. Of this number, 335 000 people reside in rural areas and the remaining 31 000 are in urban areas. This level is about 60 percent above the previous estimate for the October 2019-March 2020 period. The higher prevalence of food insecurity reflects the elevated prices of food and the reduced cereal harvest in 2020, which are estimated to have negatively affected farming households' food supplies and reduced income-generating opportunities from crop sales in rural areas, while the lockdown measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic are estimated to have reduced incomes, particularly for casual labourers who were reliant on daily wages. Furthermore, the economic slowdown underpinned by the COVID-19 pandemic has curbed remittances, further constraining households' income. On the supply side, the increased reliance on imports remains a concern as potential disruptions to trade channels, due to COVID-19 related restrictions, might result in supply bottlenecks and increased price volatility particularly in the informal markets.

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.

Eswatini

Cereals Imports

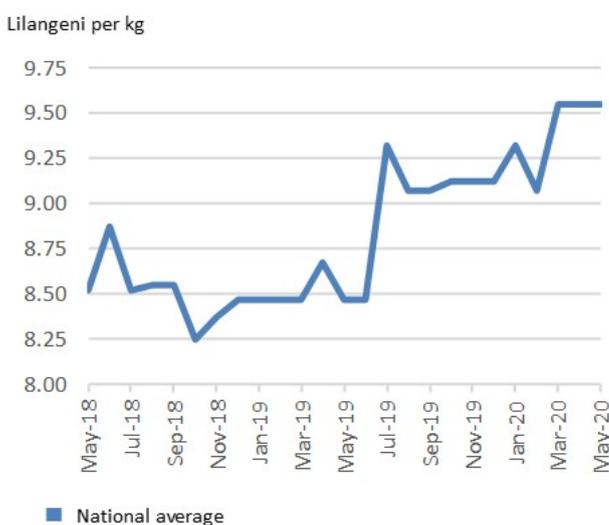


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Eswatini

Retail prices of maize meal



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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Kingdom of Eswatini

Reference Date: 22-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of 2020 cereal crops underway and production anticipated at average level
- Maize import requirements in 2019/20 (May/April) estimated at high level, following low 2019 harvest
- Prices of maize meal stable or decreased in early 2020, but remained high on yearly basis
- Large number of people in need of food assistance in early 2020

Harvesting of 2020 cereals crops underway

Harvesting of the 2020 cereal crops, mostly maize, started in early April and is expected to conclude in June.

Low rainfall amounts early in the season are reported to have caused a contraction in the area planted to cereal crops, while a limited availability of tractor services during the planting period, used by many farmers to prepare fields, delayed plantings. Rains from November 2019 to March 2020 improved and were generally beneficial for cereal crops. However, below-average rainfall totals were estimated in northern Hhohho and southern Shiselweni regions, which are likely to curb crop productivity in these areas.

As of late March, remote sensing vegetation indices indicated mostly favourable crop conditions across the country, raising expectations that average to above-average maize yields could be attained, which would partly offset the effects of a reduced sown area. Overall, cereal production in 2020 is forecast, therefore, at a near-average level, but lower than the previous year.

Increased cereal import requirements in 2019/20

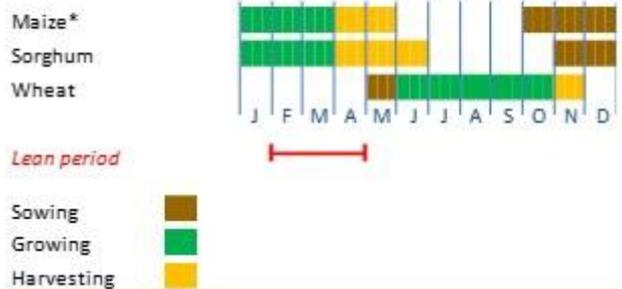
The 2019 cereal output was estimated at 96 000 tonnes, 10 percent above the five-year average, but 16 percent below the previous year's high level due to localized erratic rainfall in some areas of eastern Lubombo and southern Shiselweni regions.

Reflecting a decrease in production and a large domestic cereal deficit, import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at 230 000 tonnes, more than 20 percent above the five-year average. Maize imports are forecast at about 140 000 tonnes, almost entirely sourced from neighbouring South Africa. Imports of rice and wheat are expected at near-average

Eswatini

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Eswatini

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	86	113	95	-16.4
Rice (paddy)	1	1	1	-25.0
Sorghum	1	1	1	40.0
Total	87	115	96	-16.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

levels, forecast to reach about 40 000 tonnes and 50 000 tonnes, respectively.

Prices of maize meal stable or decreased in early 2020, but remained high on yearly basis

Prices of maize meal, the country's main staple, remained unchanged or declined slightly in the first two months of 2020, following mostly stable levels during the last semester of 2019. As of February 2020, prices of maize meal were on average 7 percent higher than their year-earlier values, mainly reflecting the high prices in South Africa, the country's main supplier of cereals.

Heightened food insecurity in first quarter of 2020

According to the latest report of the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC), in 2019, an estimated 232 000 people, about 25 percent of the rural population, were estimated to be food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance during the October 2019-March 2020 period. This figure is almost double the level compared to the previous year, when an estimated 122 000 people faced acute food insecurity. Most of the food insecure population in 2019/20 was concentrated in eastern Lubombo and southern Shiselweni regions, where cereal production shortfalls occurred in 2019.

Looking further ahead, despite an expected average harvest in 2020 that would stabilize food security conditions in the next months, the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic could cause an increase in the prevalence of malnutrition. The effects of the pandemic are expected to be primarily channeled through a reduction in economic activities and associated income losses, while potential breakdowns in food supply chains is an additional concern for food security across the country. A recent analysis by the Government and humanitarian partners indicated that almost 300 000 people are at risk of acute food security due to the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

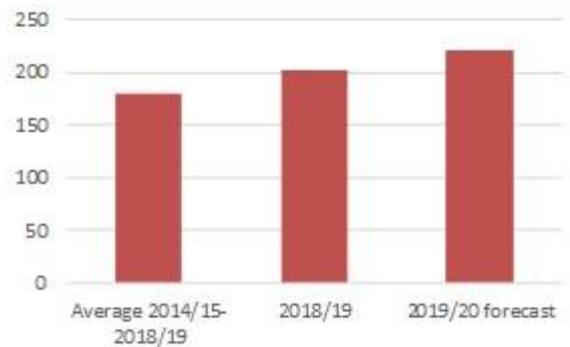
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government introduced a partial lockdown from 27 March 2020 until the first week of May. The quarantine measures allow essential economic activities to continue, including the production of food, while agricultural workers are exempt from the travel restrictions. In addition, international borders remain open for trade in food and other essential products.

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.

Eswatini

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



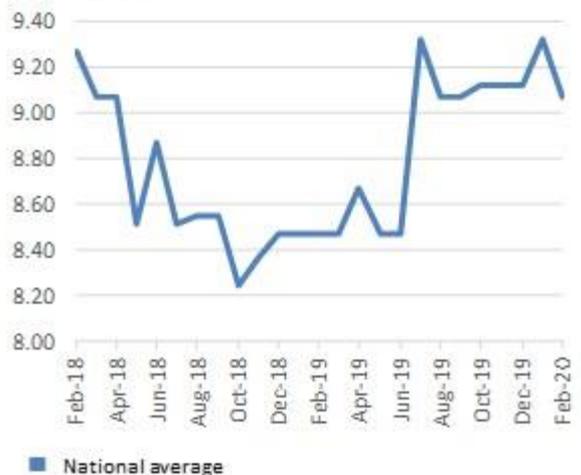
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Eswatini

Retail prices of maize meal

Lilangeni per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief The Kingdom of Eswatini

Reference Date: 04-October-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Weather forecasts indicate favourable rains for last quarter of 2019, with planting operations of 2020 cereal crops underway
- Despite production declines in eastern and southern regions, maize production in 2019 estimated at above-average level
- Maize import requirements in 2019/20 marketing year forecast to remain above average
- Prices of maize meal higher year on year as of August, reflecting increased import costs from South Africa
- Food insecurity worsens in 2019

Weather forecasts indicate favourable rainfall amounts during planting of 2020 cereal crops

Planting of the 2020 cereal crops, mainly maize, started in October and crops are expected to be harvested between April and June next year. Preliminary weather forecasts indicate a high likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall between October and December throughout most of the country, which are expected to support planting activities and early crop development.

Maize production in 2019 estimated at above-average level

The 2019 maize crop was harvested in May and production is estimated at 95 000 tonnes, 16 percent below the previous year's high level, but still 10 percent above the five-year average. The annual decrease mainly reflects production contractions in some areas of eastern Lubombo and southern Shiselweni regions, where crops were affected by erratic rainfall.

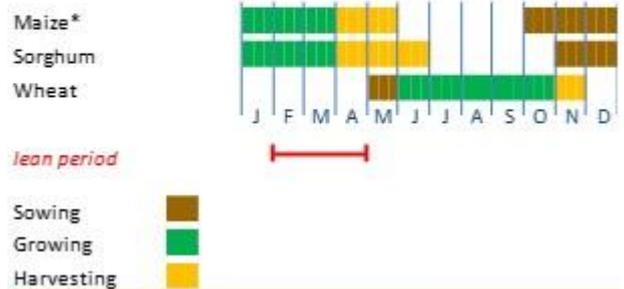
Maize import requirements in 2019/20 forecast to remain above average

Total cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at 200 000 tonnes, slightly above the average. Maize imports are estimated at about 120 000 tonnes, mostly sourced from neighbouring South Africa. Imports of rice and wheat, which are not produced in the country, are expected to reach about 40 000 tonnes, respectively.

Eswatini

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Eswatini

Cereal Production

	2014-2018	2018	2019	change
	average			2019/2018
000 tonnes				
				percent
Maize	86	113	95	-16.4
Others	1	1	1	40.0
Total	87	114	95	-16.1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of maize meal raised in July 2019, reflecting price increases in South Africa

Prices of maize meal, the country's main staple, were generally stable during the first six months of 2019. This mostly reflects the continued use of domestic market regulations, administered by the National Maize Corporation (NMC), which lessened the effect of increasing prices in South Africa, the country's main supplier of grains. However, as of mid-June, the NMC raised the retail price of maize meal, due to the sustained higher year on year prices in South Africa. As of August 2019, the national average price of maize meal was 6 percent above its year earlier value.

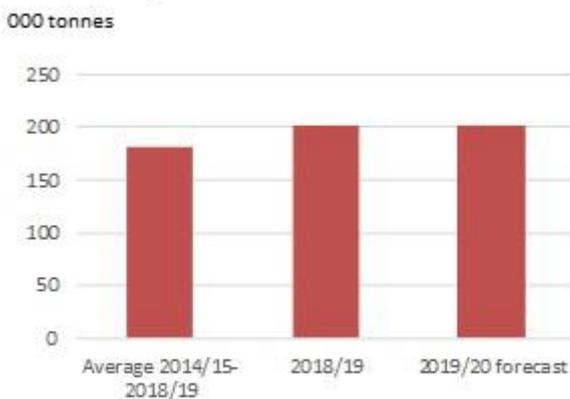
Heightened food insecurity in 2019

According to the latest report of the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC), nearly 232 000 people, about 25 percent of the rural population, are projected to be food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance during the October 2019-March 2020 period. It represents a substantial increase compared to the caseload in the previous year that was estimated at about 122 000 people. Most of the food insecure population in 2019/20 is located in eastern Lubombo and southern Shiselweni regions, where crop production was affected by erratic rains and higher maize meal prices than in the rest of the country.

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.

Eswatini

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.

Eswatini

Retail prices of maize meal



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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Kingdom of Eswatini

Reference Date: 24-August-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production estimated to have increased moderately in 2018 due to overall beneficial weather
- Imports of cereals forecast to fall in 2018/19 marketing year reflecting larger domestic harvest
- Prices of maize decline on account of lower import prices and ample national supplies
- Number of food insecure declines in 2018, but concerns remain in eastern regions due to impact of dry spells on agricultural production

Cereal production up slightly in 2018

Harvesting of the 2018 summer cereal crops was concluded in July, while the winter wheat crop was planted in May and will be harvested in November.

The 2018 maize output is estimated to be slightly higher on a yearly basis, improving further from the previous year's already above-average level. The rise is mainly on account of the overall beneficial weather conditions, particularly in the more productive western regions. Despite a period of below-average rains during January that affected some parts of the country, notably the eastern Lubombo Region, lower-than-average temperatures helped to minimise the impact of water deficits on maize crops. Good rains were received in the following months, aiding a recovery in vegetation conditions in some of the affected areas and resulting in a small upturn in average yields at the national level. Despite the overall output increase, production shortfalls are expected in the Lubombo Region mainly due to dry conditions.

Maize imports forecast to decline

Total cereal imports in the 2018/19 marketing year (May/April) are forecast to contract slightly reflecting both the ample carryover stocks and large domestic output. In the 2017/18 marketing year, an estimated 111 000 tonnes of maize were imported, with yellow maize, which is used for feed, accounting for the bulk of this volume.

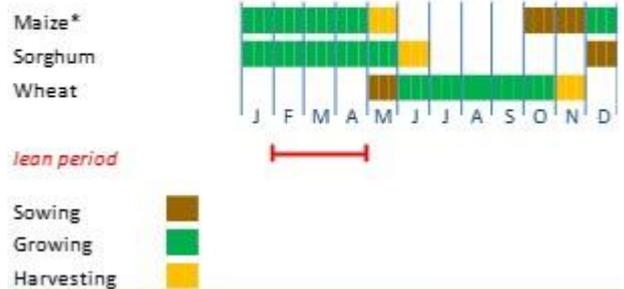
Increased supplies and lower import costs push down prices of maize meal

Prices of maize meal have been generally decreasing during the past two years. This is mainly a consequence of decreasing prices in South Africa, the country's main source of imported

Eswatini

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Eswatini

Cereal Production

	2013-2017	2017	2018	change
	average		forecast	2018/2017
000 tonnes				
				percent
Maize	80	84	88	5.0
Sorghum	1	1	1	-16.7
Total	81	85	89	4.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

grains, and generally good national supplies. In June 2018, the average price of maize meal was 14 percent lower year-on-year.

Food insecure numbers fall in 2018

An estimated 122 000 people, or 14 percent of the population, were assessed to be food insecure in 2018 according to the Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (VAC) evaluation. This figure is 23 percent lower compared to 2017 and an 80 percent decline relative to the estimate in 2016, when El Niño-induced dry weather conditions resulted in a sharp cut to the national maize harvest.

The improved food security conditions in 2018 mainly reflect the larger maize harvest and lower prices, enhancing food access. However, despite the year-on-year improvement, conditions remain poor in some areas, notably in Lubombo, which has been classified in IPC Phase 3 for the June-September period.

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.

Eswatini

Retail prices of maize meal



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



GIEWS Country Brief The Kingdom of Eswatini

Reference Date: 14-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production foreseen to recover in 2017 on account of improved weather conditions
- Import forecast cuts in 2017/18 marketing year, reflecting expectations of larger maize output
- Declining prices of maize on account of lower import prices and good production prospects
- Food security conditions expected to improve in 2017/18

Cereal production forecast to recover in 2017

Harvesting of the 2017 main season cereal crops is expected to finalize at the end of June and production is forecast to increase from the reduced output of 2016 to near-average levels. Improved weather conditions and notably increased rainfall amounts, are largely behind the expected year-on-year gain. Drier conditions in localized parts of the low-producing regions of Lubombo (east) and Shiselweni (south) and an outbreak of Fall Army Worms are likely to constrain yields in the affected areas.

Imports forecast to drop reflecting improved domestic output in 2017

Imports of maize in the 2017/18 marketing year (May/April) are forecast to fall compared to the previous year as an expected improved domestic output will limit requirements for external supplies.

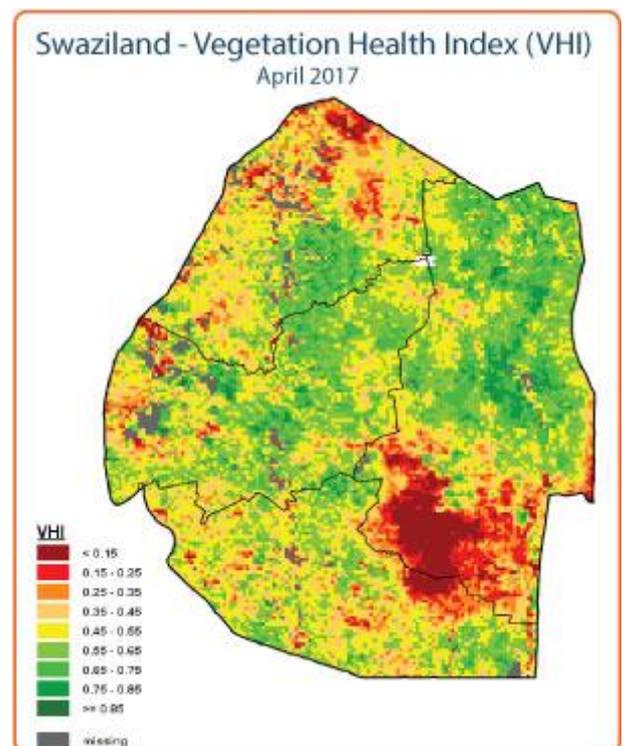
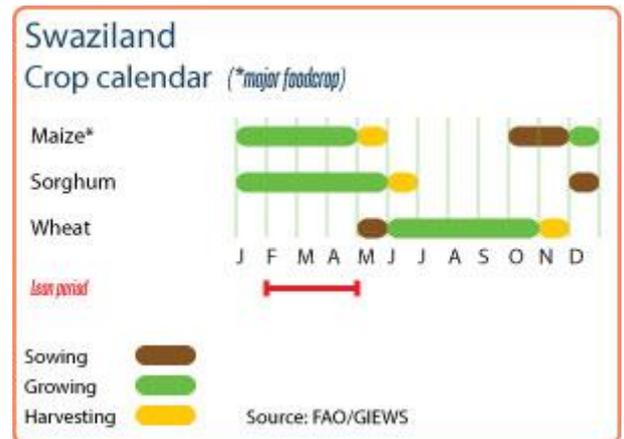
In the recently-completed 2016/17 marketing year, about 130 000 tonnes of maize were imported, nearly 30 percent above the previous year, reflecting the drought-reduced output of 2016.

Prices of maize fall

On the back of decreasing prices in South Africa, the country's main source of imported grains, and favourable prospects for the 2017 harvest, maize meal prices have declined in recent months. As of April 2017, prices were down in all monitored markets by up to 22 percent on an annual basis.

Food security expected to improve

Food security conditions are expected to improve in 2017/18, mostly reflecting the better prospects for crop and livestock production, while the lower prices are currently enhancing food access. According to the national Vulnerability Assessment



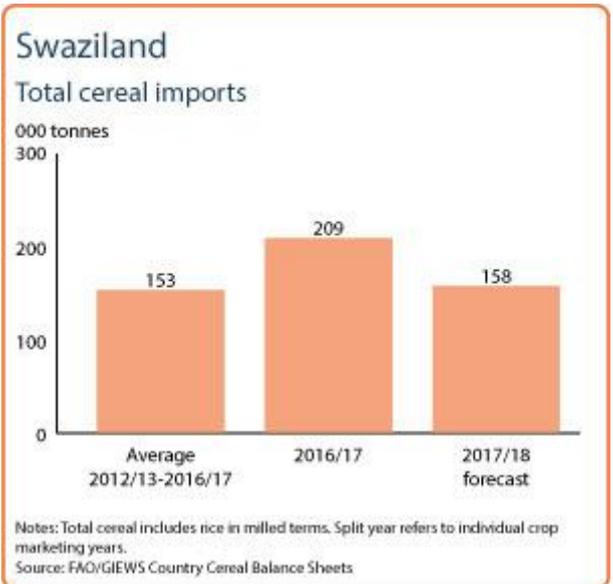
Committee's (VAC's) evaluation, the number of food insecure was estimated at 638 000 people in 2016/17, nearly double the level compared to the previous year. This number is anticipated to fall in 2017/18, with new VAC's estimates expected to be released in late June/early July 2017.

Swaziland

Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	78	33	84	155
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	79	34	85	150

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



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 Swaziland

Reference Date: 08-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production forecast to recover in 2017 on account of improved weather conditions
- Imports of maize forecast to expand in 2016/17 marketing year in response to 2016 drought-reduced harvest
- Prices of maize meal stable but at high levels
- Food security conditions expected to improve in 2017/18, following deterioration in 2016

Maize production in 2017 expected to rebound due to conducive weather conditions

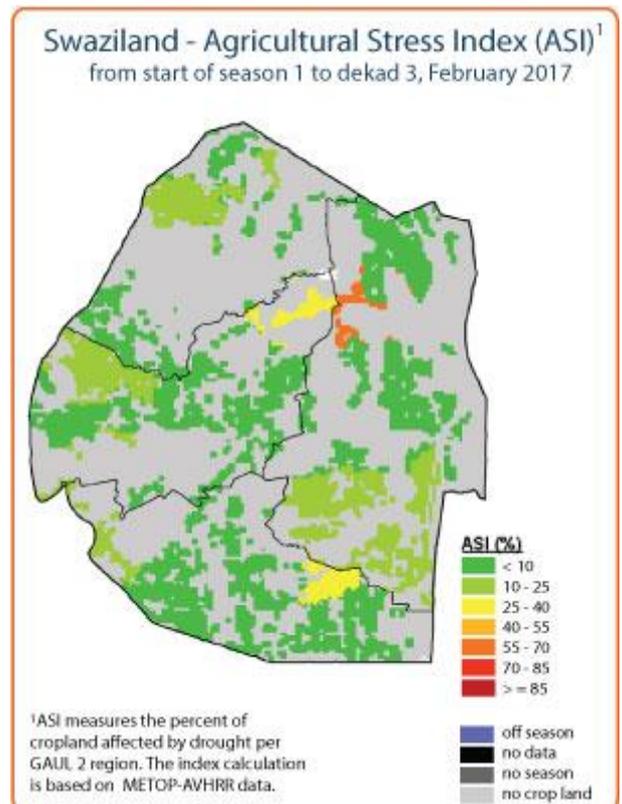
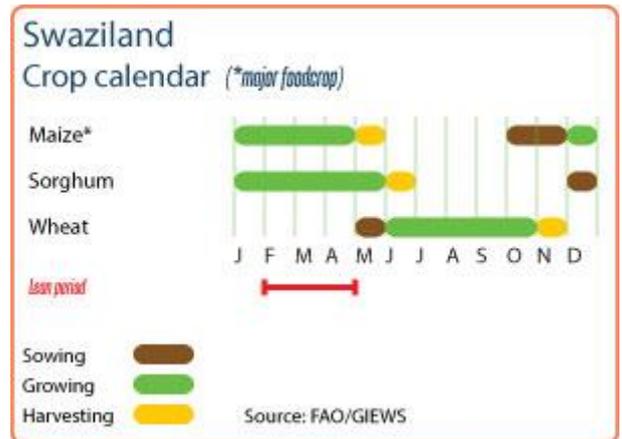
Harvesting of the 2017 cereal crops is expected to start from April/May. Production prospects point to a recovery in the maize output from the drought-reduced level of 2016. The expected increase would mainly reflect improved weather conditions this season, which are forecast to result in higher yields and a larger area harvested. However, drier conditions in parts of the low-producing regions of Lubombo (east) and Shiselweni (south), the impact of heavy rains in February and an outbreak of fall army worms, are likely to constrain yields in the affected areas, but with a limited impact at the national level. FAO supported about 12 500 households with agricultural inputs and an additional 7 500 households with supplementary water supply and livestock feed following the impact of the 2016 El Niño-related drought.

Imports forecast to rise to bolster supplies, following drought-reduced 2016 output

As a result of the reduced maize production in 2016, imports of maize are forecast to increase by about 20 percent on an annual basis in the current 2016/17 marketing year (May/April). As of February, maize imports had reached about 105 000 tonnes, already slightly above the total of the previous marketing year.

Maize meal prices stable but at high levels

Maize meal prices have remained stable and fallen moderately since April 2016, mainly on account of the declining prices in South Africa (the country's main source of imported grain) that have helped to reduce imported inflation. In January 2017, the national average maize meal price was still 41 percent above its year earlier level. Prices of wheat, which is entirely imported, had remained mostly stable in 2016 and were virtually unchanged on a yearly basis as of January 2017, reflecting trends in the international market.



Food security expected to improve, following deterioration in 2016

According to the national Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (VAC) 2016 evaluation, the number of food insecure was estimated at 638 000 people in 2016/17, nearly double the level compared to the previous year. The regions with the highest prevalence of food insecurity are Lubombo and Shiswelweni, reflecting the areas that were most affected by the drought in 2016. Conditions are expected to improve in 2017/18, which would mostly be on account of an expected improvement in agricultural production (both crop and livestock), while the lower prices will also enhance food access.

Swaziland

Cereal production

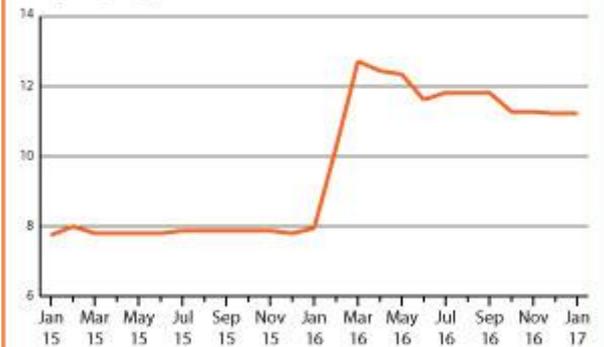
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	89	82	33	-60
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	90	83	34	-59

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

Swaziland

Retail prices of maize meal

Lilangeni per Kg



— National average

Source: Central Statistical Office (CSO)

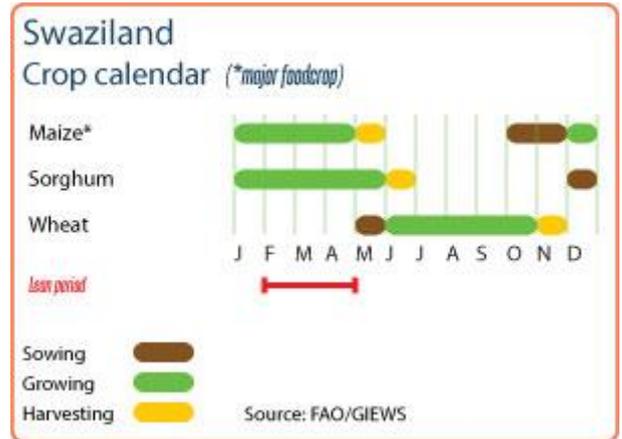


GIEWS Country Brief Swaziland

Reference Date: 15-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Forecasts point to higher likelihood of normal to above-average rainfall conditions for 2016/17 cropping season, with cereal and groundnuts crops currently being planted
- El Niño-related drought resulted in sharply lower cereal production in 2016
- Prices of maize meal remained stable but at high levels
- Food security conditions stressed due to impact of drought on agricultural production, further exacerbated by higher maize prices



Forecasts point to enhanced chance of above-average rainfall conditions for 2017 crops

Sowing of the 2017 cereal crops is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Rainfall forecasts for the 2016/17 main summer cropping season (October-June) indicate an enhanced chance for normal to above-average rainfall conditions; this follows a season that was largely characterized by severe dryness. Based on the current weather outlook, early production prospects for the 2017 crop are generally favourable, however, the agricultural productive capacity of farming households is expected to be lower than normal, particularly in regard to seed supplies as a result of the reduced 2016 crop. In response, FAO is supporting 12 500 households with agricultural inputs and an additional 7 500 households with supplementary water supply and livestock feed.

Swaziland
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	89	82	33	-60
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	90	83	34	-59

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

Dry conditions cause sharp reduction in 2016 agricultural output

Cereal production in 2016, which is almost entirely comprised of maize, is estimated to be at a well below-average level of 33 000 tonnes, 60 percent down from the previous year's output. The sharply lower production is on account of the El Niño-related drought that caused a contraction in the area planted and lower yields. The low cereal-producing regions of Shiselweni (south) and Lubombo (east), which also experienced a poor agricultural campaign in 2015, were most affected by the prolonged dryness.

Pastures and water resources for animals were also adversely affected by the dry conditions; more than 80 000 cattle were lost.

Sugarcane production is also forecast to have decreased by about 30 percent, mainly resting on a reduction in yields that offset a year-on-year increase in the area planted.

Maize prices remained at high levels

Following a sharp increase earlier in the year on account of the impact of the drought on regional export prices, maize meal prices have remained stable and fallen moderately since April. This reflects the declining prices in South Africa (the country's main source of imported grain) that have helped to reduce imported inflation. However, as of September prices of maize meal were still 50 percent up on their year earlier levels, while wheat prices were only 3 percent higher over the same period.

Food security worsens due to impact of El Niño-associated drought conditions

With a high dependence on rainfed maize production, especially in marginal producing areas, suppressed seasonal rainfall tends to translate into large negative production shocks, while the very low income levels of rural smallholders limit their capacity to respond effectively to these shocks. With the country experiencing a second consecutive poor agricultural output in 2016, food security conditions and vulnerabilities have been severely stressed. According to the national Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (VAC) 2016 evaluation, the number of food insecure is estimated at 638 000 people in 2016/17, nearly double the level compared to the previous year. The regions with the highest prevalence of food insecurity are Lubombo and Shiselweni, reflecting the areas that were most affected by the drought.





GIEWS Country Brief Swaziland

Reference Date: 26-July-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 estimated at well below average level as a result of El Niño-related drought
- Prices of maize meal at high levels, mainly due to increased import costs
- Food security worsens in 2016 due to impact of drought

Cereal production well below average in 2016

Harvesting of the 2016 cereal crops is complete. Cereal production in 2016, which is almost entirely comprised of maize, is estimated to be at a well below average level of 33 000 tonnes, 60 percent down from the previous year's output. The sharply lower production is on account of the El Niño-related drought that caused a contraction in the area planted and lower yields. The low cereal-producing regions of Shiselweni (south) and Lubombo (east), which also experienced a poor agricultural campaign in 2015, were most affected by the prolonged dryness.

Pastures and water resources for animals were also adversely affected by the dry conditions; an estimated 67 000 cattle were lost. With the next rainy season only forecast to begin from October 2016, livestock conditions are expected to remain stressed.

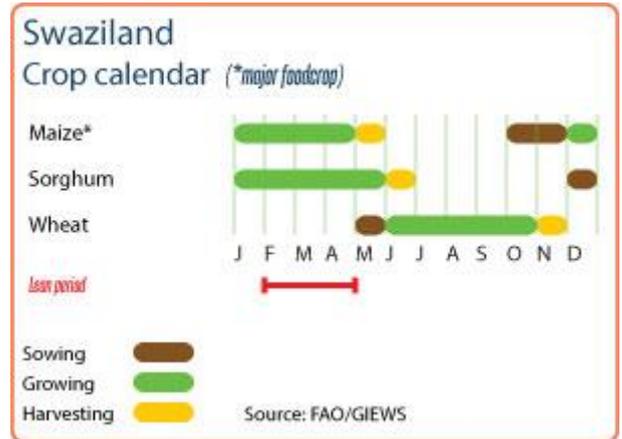
Sugarcane production is also estimated to have decreased on account of reduced irrigation water levels. The drop in production, given the large contribution of sugarcane to the country's GDP, is expected to weigh negatively on the national economy, while the reduced rainfall has also affected hydro-electric power generation.

Maize prices at elevated levels

The white maize market, including prices, is regulated by the National Maize Corporation (NMC) parastatal. In response to the record high maize prices in South Africa (the country's main source of imported grain) earlier in the year, prices of maize were revised upwards by 66 percent in February. Since the sharp increase, maize meal prices have since remained generally stable, but at elevated levels.

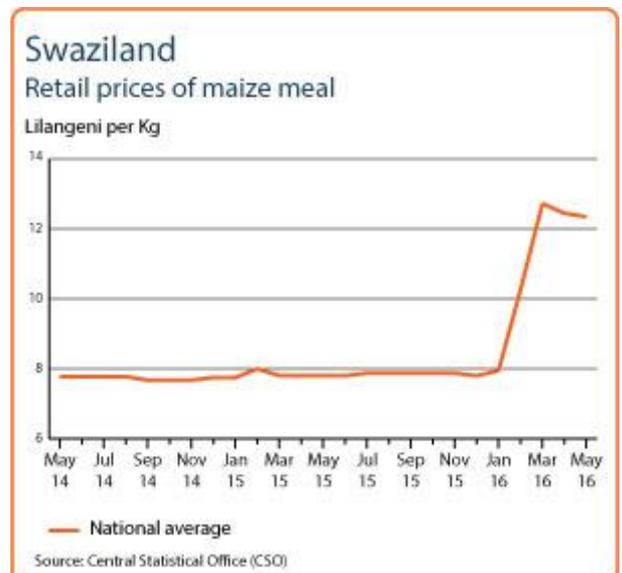
Food security worsens due to El Niño drought conditions

With a high dependence on rainfed maize production, especially in marginal producing areas, suppressed seasonal rainfall tends



	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	89	82	33	-60
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	90	83	34	-59

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



to translate into large negative production shocks, while the very low income levels of rural smallholders limit their capacity to respond effectively to these shocks. With the country experiencing a second consecutive poor agricultural output in 2016, food security conditions and vulnerabilities have been severely stressed. According to the national Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (VAC) 2016 evaluation, the number of food insecure has doubled to about 638 000 people in 2016/17, compared to the previous year.

Furthermore, the weak economic performance, due to a combination of the impact of the drought, a slowdown in regional economic growth and declining revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which constitute a significant proportion of the country's income, is also weighing negatively on the food security situation.

Reference Date: 18-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2016 forecast to fall for second consecutive year, due to El Niño-related drought conditions
- Prices of maize increased sharply at start of 2016, following stable levels in 2015
- Food security worsens in 2016 due to impact of drought

Cereal production forecast to decline in 2016

Harvesting of the 2016 cereal crops is expected to begin in April and current production prospects point to a second successive year-on-year decline, which would push the national maize output to a well below-average level. The poor production expectations mainly reflect the impact of El Niño-associated dry conditions that have adversely affected plantings and crop development since the start of the 2015/16 cropping season in October. The below-average cumulative seasonal rains have been insufficient to support normal crop growth, resulting in severe drought stress to vegetation in most cropped areas, particularly in the low cereal-producing regions of Shiswelweni (south) and Lubombo (east). These regions also suffered a poor agricultural season in the previous year on account of prolonged dry conditions. Although official estimates for the 2016 harvest are not yet available, production is expected to be around 50 percent down on the 2015 output, reflecting both an anticipated reduction in yields and a contraction in the harvested area.

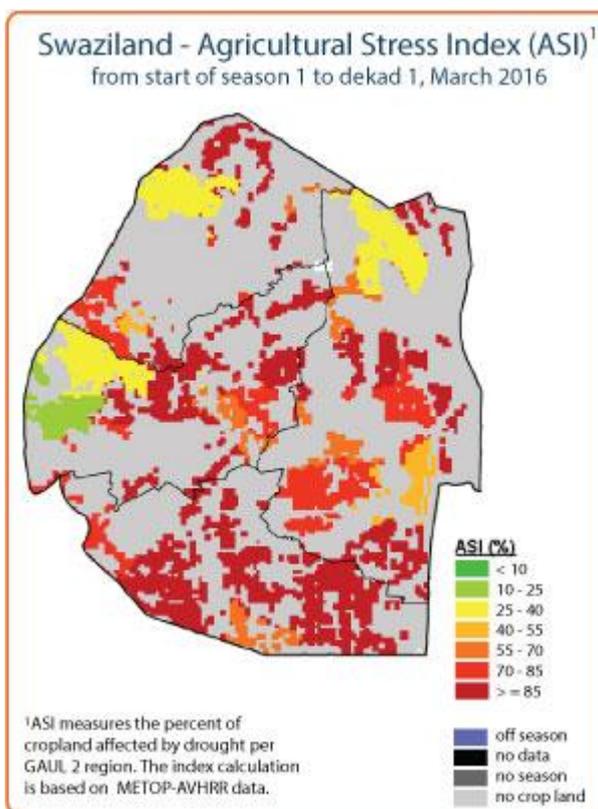
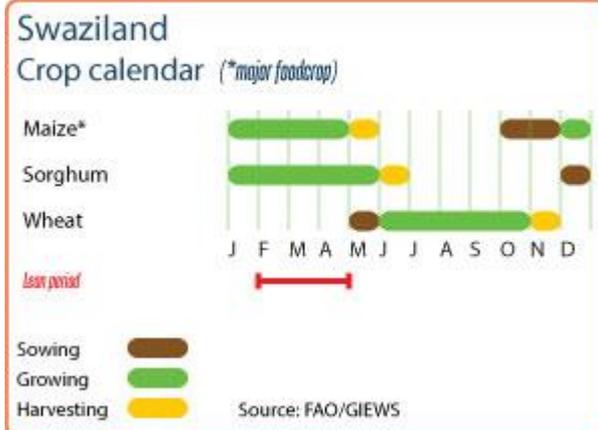
Pastures have also been adversely affected by the dry conditions, and resulted in the loss of an estimated 44 000 cattle. With seasonal rains forecast to end in the coming months, livestock conditions are expected to remain stressed until the start of the subsequent rainy season in October 2016. Furthermore, sugarcane production is also expected to decrease, on account of reduced irrigation water levels. A drop in production, given its large contribution GDP, will weigh negatively on the national economy.

Maize prices increase in 2016, following stable period in 2015

With the white maize market regulated by the parastatal National Maize Corporation (NMC), prices of maize meal remained generally stable in 2015 despite upward pressure from the reduced 2015 domestic output and increasing import costs from South Africa. However, at the start of 2016, the NMC announced a 66 percent increase in the sale price of maize to reflect the record high maize grain prices in South Africa, the country's main source of food.

Food security worsens due to El Niño drought conditions

An expected second consecutive year of a markedly reduced cereal harvest and higher maize prices, have resulted in an upward revision in the number of people requiring food assistance, now estimated at 300 000, about one-quarter of the population, up from an early estimate of 200 000. With a high dependence on rainfed maize production,



Swaziland Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	87	119	82	-31
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	88	120	83	-31

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

especially in marginal producing areas, reduced rains can translate into large production shocks, while the very low income levels of rural small-holders limit their capacity to respond effectively. In response to the current situation, the Government declared a drought emergency in February 2016 and jointly launched a national response plan. The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and partner organizations are providing food assistance during the current lean period, which is set to end in March.

The Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (VAC) 2016 evaluation is expected to take place in May/June, and will provide updated figures on the number of food insecure in 2016/17.

Reference Date: 17-August-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2015 decreases on account of poor seasonal rains that mostly impacted eastern and southern parts of the country
- Cereal imports forecast to increase in 2015/16 to compensate for reduced 2015 harvest
- Food security conditions deteriorate, reflecting tighter maize supplies

Cereal production decreases in 2015

The 2015 maize crop, harvested in May/June, was estimated 31 percent down from the above-average output of the previous year, and 6 percent below the five-year average. This decline was largely due to an extended dry period between January and March 2015, corresponding with a critical maize development stage, which caused widespread crop losses and reduced yields, offsetting a marginal 1 percent increase in plantings from last year's high level. However, the poor rains mainly affected the less productive southern and eastern regions; more favourable outputs were registered in the north and western regions, preventing a steeper production decline at the national level. These results are from the joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), conducted in May, the report of which was released in July.

Pastures were also affected by the poor rains and livestock conditions are anticipated to worsen until the start of the 2015/16 seasonal rains, expected in October.

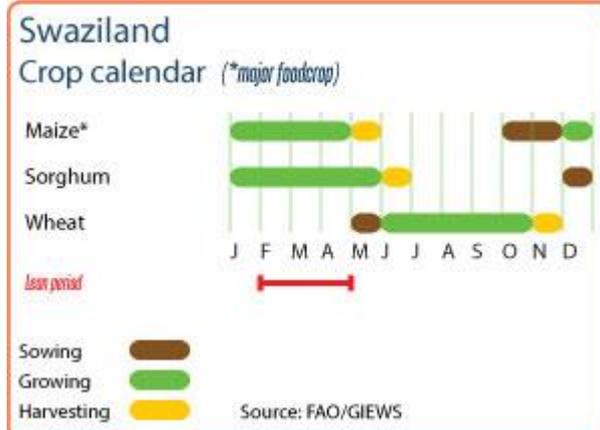
Imports forecast to rise in 2015/16

As a result of the lower domestic cereal output, the maize import requirement for the 2015/16 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at about 88 000 tonnes, comprising of 43 000 tonnes of white maize (for human consumption) and 45 000 tonnes of yellow maize (mainly for feed). In the previous 2014/15 marketing year, about 70 000 tonnes were imported, mostly yellow maize.

Although maize import needs are expected to be met, tighter regional maize supplies and rising prices in South Africa, the country's main source of imported grains, could put upward pressure on domestic maize prices. However, the regulated price system has so far maintained generally stable maize meal prices in 2015.

Food security conditions tighter in 2015/16 on account of lower cereal production

The 2015 FAO/WFP CFSAM results indicated an increase in the number of food insecure, with an estimated 5.5 percent of the population classified as severely food insecure, compared to a low of 3 percent in 2014. The Lubombo Plateau in the eastern part of the country has the highest prevalence of food insecurity, mainly reflecting the poor seasonal rains and low harvests in these areas. The CFSAM report found that the main drivers of food insecurity and the factors that exacerbate households' vulnerability to shocks are: the high



Swaziland
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	87	119	82	-31
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	88	120	83	-31

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

dependence on rainfed maize production, especially in marginal producing areas; the very low income levels of rural small-holders; and the poorly integrated food markets, together with high import prices of food and agricultural inputs.

Reference Date: 20-October-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains forecast for 2014/15 cropping season
- Maize output in 2014 increased by 22 percent
- Food security improves, reflecting larger 2014 harvest

The 2014/15 cropping season begins under a favourable weather forecast

Land preparation and planting of cereal crops, to be harvested from April/May 2015, is underway. Weather forecasts point to normal to above-normal rains between October 2014 and March 2015, favouring a generally positive start to crop production.

A bumper maize crop was harvested in 2014

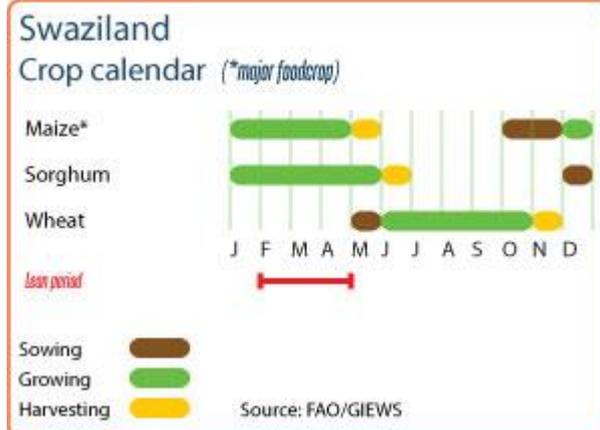
The 2014 maize output, harvested from in June 2014, estimated at about 100 000 tonnes, is 22 percent higher than the above-average harvest of 2013. Favourable weather conditions encouraged increased plantings and the continued input support for small-holder farmers contributed to the production gains.

Reduced import requirements forecast in 2014/15

Reflecting the improved domestic output in 2014, import requirements of maize in the 2014/15 (May/April) marketing year are estimated at about 55 000 tonnes, about 9 000 tonnes lower than the volume imported in 2013/14.

Food security improves in 2014/15

According to the 2014 Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) report, there were 223 249 food insecure people, about 23 percent less than the previous year, largely reflecting the improved domestic cereal production. Despite this improvement, high levels of unemployment and the HIV/AIDS caseload continues to negatively affect food security.



Swaziland Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	78	82	100	22
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	79	83	101	22

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

Reference Date: 11-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable cropping conditions for 2014 cereal crops, for harvest from May 2014
- Maize production in 2013 increased by 8 percent
- Lingering effects of economic downturn stresses food security conditions

Generally favourable rains benefit 2014 cereal crop

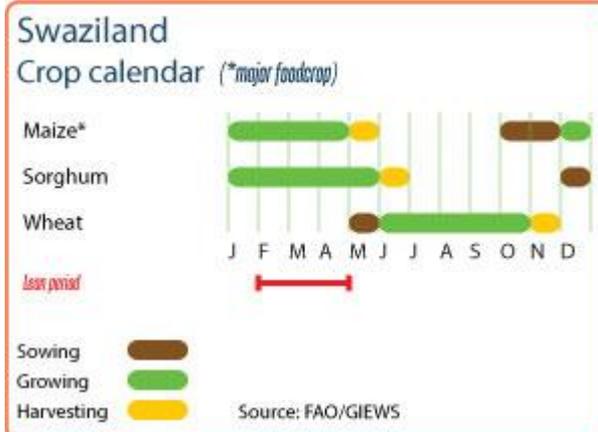
Harvesting of the 2014 cereal crops, mainly maize, is expected to commence in May. Overall, production prospects are favourable, with remote sensing imagery indicating satisfactory maize crop conditions.

Smaller national deficit in 2013/14

The national maize import requirement for the 2013/14 (May/April) marketing year, is estimated at a slightly lower level than the previous year, reflecting the improved 2013 domestic harvest. Currently, about two thirds of the estimated maize import requirements have been imported from South Africa.

Slow economic recovery stresses food security

Despite the improved cereal output in 2013, an estimated 290 000 persons were assessed to be at risk of food insecurity in 2013/14, partly attributable to the sluggish economic recovery. According to a 2013 assessment conducted by the government and WFP, malnutrition and food shortages resulted in a national loss of USD 92 million in 2009, the equivalent of 3.1 percent of the country's GDP. In addition, the record maize prices in South Africa, are expected to exert some imported inflationary pressure on domestic prices, with negative implications on food access for low-income households.



Swaziland
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	74	76	82	8
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	75	77	83	8

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

Reference Date: 29-November-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains received at the start of the 2013/14 cropping season (October-June), benefiting early crop development
- Maize production in 2013 increased by 8 percent
- Lingering effects of economic downturn continue to stress food security conditions

Planting of 2014 crops is underway benefiting from favourable weather conditions

Land preparation and planting of the 2014 cereal crops, mainly maize, began in October. Rains have generally been average since October 2013, which marks the start of the rainy season, supporting cropping activities and early crop development. Forecasts point to average to above average rains until March 2014.

Larger 2013 maize harvest estimated

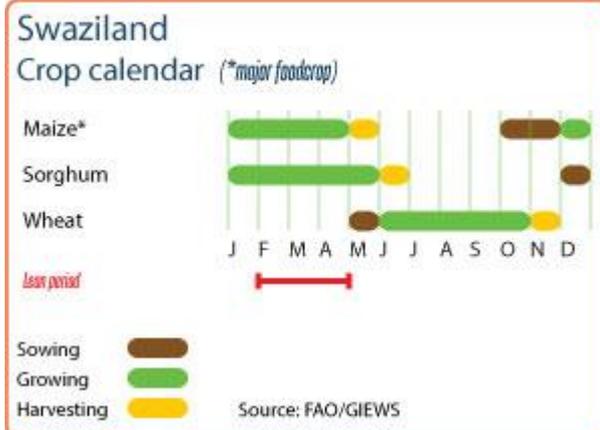
Production of maize in 2013 was estimated at about 82 000 tonnes, some 8 percent higher than the previous season's above average output, benefiting from generally favourable weather conditions.

Smaller national deficit in 2013/14

The national maize import requirement for the 2013/14 (May/April) marketing year, is estimated at a slightly lower level than the previous year, reflecting the larger 2013 domestic harvest. Currently, about 32 000 tonnes of maize has been imported from South Africa, which supplies the bulk, if not all, of the country's requirements, satisfying approximately 45 percent of the national import needs. In addition, lower year-on-year maize prices in South Africa have contributed to stabilising inflation rates.

Food insecurity conditions stressed by slow economic recovery

Despite the slightly higher cereal output in 2013, an estimated 290 000 persons were assessed to be at risk of food insecurity in 2013/14, partly attributable to the sluggish economic recovery. According to a recent 2013 assessment conducted by the government and WFP, malnutrition and food shortages resulted in a national loss of USD 92 million in 2009, the equivalent of 3.1 percent of the country's GDP.



Swaziland
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	74	76	82	8
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	75	77	83	8

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

Reference Date: 11-March-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Generally favourable weather during the 2012/13 cropping season. Maize production declined by 11 percent in 2012, but remained above average.
- Lower domestic harvest in 2012 and economic downturn negatively impacts on food security.

Beneficial rains received during the 2012/13 cropping season

Harvesting of the main maize crop is expected to begin in April/May. Seasonal rains began on time in October, and cumulative levels have so far remained at average levels throughout the cropping season. Despite the good rains however, limited access to inputs, including fertilisers, may have resulted in a reduced planted area, similar to the previous season.

For the subsequent 2013/14 cropping season, the Government has announced a new food security and mechanization project, targeting an increase in maize production by 40 000 tonnes.

Lower maize production in 2011/12

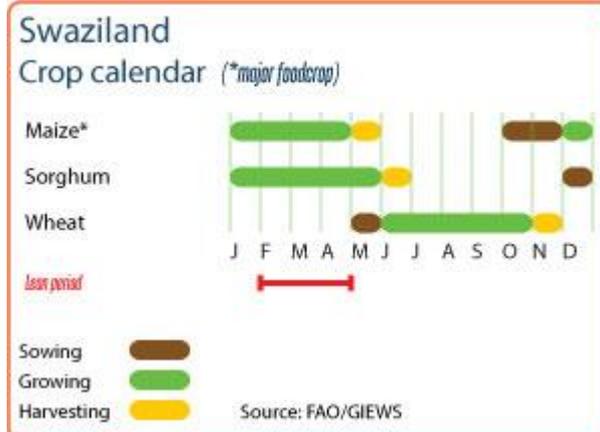
Production of maize in 2012 was estimated at 76 091 tonnes, some 11 percent below the previous season's output, but above the short-term average. The decline reflects a sharp 15 percent contraction in the area planted, due to erratic rains at the start of the cropping season.

Maize import needs expected to be met in current marketing year

The import requirement for maize in the current 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at 75 000 tonnes, moderately higher than the previous year, to compensate for the reduced 2012 domestic output. So far, an estimated 63 000 tonnes have been imported from South Africa, the country's main trading partner, since the start of 2012/13 year, averaging at about 6 300 tonnes a month. If the current rate continues, the country will satisfy its import needs for maize.

Sluggish economy and poor cereal output in 2012 adversely impacts on food security

Approximately 116 000 persons are currently estimated to be food insecure, up 31 percent from the previous year. The reduced 2012 crop output and a weakened economy, following the reduction in Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues, contributed to the deterioration in food security conditions. The projected increase in SACU revenues for 2012/13, however, alleviated the tight fiscal situation, improving the economic outlook in the short-term.



Swaziland
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	68	85	76	-11
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	69	86	77	-10

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

Reference Date: 26-June-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2011/12 estimated to be below the previous season, but remains above average
- Economic downturn negatively impacts on food security

Lower maize production in 2011/12

Harvesting of the 2011/12 maize crop was completed in May, under generally dry conditions. Despite a favourable start to the season in October 2011, below average rains were recorded in November and December 2011. Cumulative rainfall levels improved as the season progressed into the second half of the rainy season (January-March 2012). However, torrential rains, caused by tropical cyclones in the Mozambique Channel, and a short dry spell also characterised this period. The irregular and insufficient rainfall levels at the start of the season impacted on planting activities and consequently led to a reduction in maize plantings to an estimated at 52 064 hectares, compared to 61 251 planted in the previous season. In addition, reduced revenue from the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) and the consequent fiscal tightening in 2011, prompted the government to temporarily suspend its agriculture input support programme. Given the high cost of fertiliser in the private sector, farmers' access to seeds and fertilisers was further constrained, contributing, in part, to the reduced plantings. Production of maize in the 2011/12 cropping season is therefore estimated at 76 091 tonnes, some 11 percent below the previous season's output, but still above average, with yields increasing moderately.

Production of sugar cane, the country's most important cash crop, is estimated at a similar level to last season. However, in the forthcoming 2012/13 cropping season production forecasts indicate an increase, based on an expected expansion in the area under irrigation and a general increase in plantings.

Prices of maize continued to rise

In February 2012 maize meal prices were more than twice their level of same month last year, pushed mainly by higher prices in South Africa, the country's main trading partner. In April 2012 food inflation reached 14 percent, up marginally from the previous month. The introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in April, a measure to improve and strengthen tax collection, partially contributed to the higher inflation rates recorded in April.

Lower maize imports anticipated in 2012/13 marketing year

Maize import requirements for the current 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) are forecast to rise relative to last season, on account of the lower national harvest. However, the increase is expected to be moderate. In the previous 2011/12 marketing year, imports of maize were estimated at 66 000 tonnes.

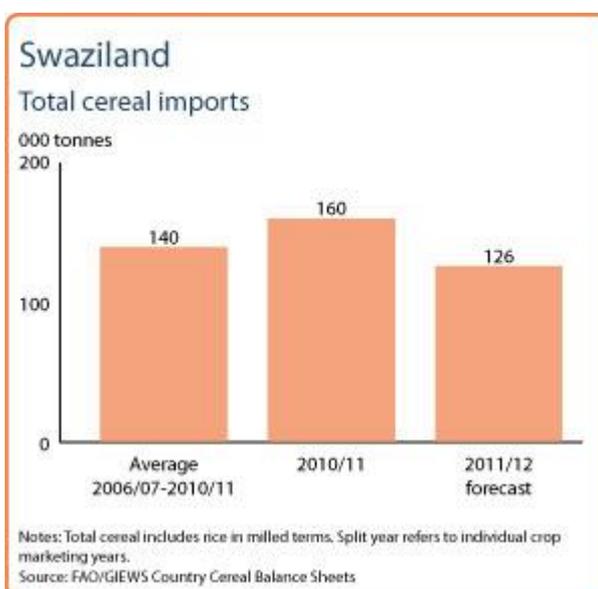
The government has announced recently that the National Maize Corporation (NMC) will purchase maize at a rate of SZL 2 435 per



Swaziland Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	64	75	85	13
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	65	76	86	13

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



tonne, up 25 percent from last season's level.

Economic downturn impacts food security conditions

The fiscal crisis that gripped the country, following the reduction in SACU revenues, has aggravated food insecurity in 2011. The weakened labour market and the cuts in social services were further compounded by rising prices, particularly for the main staple, maize. Many households were forced to employ a range of coping strategies to mitigate the impact, including reducing food consumption and switching to more affordable alternatives. The projected increase in SACU revenues for 2012/13, however, will help to ease the tight fiscal situation, and may result in an improvement in the economic situation, with food security benefits.

The report on the findings of the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) is scheduled for release in mid-July and is expected to provide more details on the food insecurity situation, number of people affected and possible interventions required.

Reference Date: 22-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2011/12 is forecast at an average level
- Economic downturn negatively impacts food security conditions

Drop in maize production forecast for 2011/12 season

The 2011/12 maize crop, for harvest from May, is forecast at just over 64 000 tonnes, below last year's good crop but similar to the average of the previous five years.

Despite a favourable start to the season in October, below average rains were received during November and December 2011. This resulted in some early seasonal deficits, particularly in eastern areas, impacting on planting activities. At the start of 2012, the passing of tropical cyclones in the Mozambique Channel brought heavy rains to the country, helping to alleviate some moisture deficits.

In addition, reduced revenue in the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) and the consequent fiscal tightening in 2011, led to the temporary cancellation of the Government's agriculture input support programme. Given the high cost of fertiliser in the private sector, farmers' access to seeds and fertilisers is expected to have diminished this season and contributed, in part, to the reduction in plantings for the 2011/12 season. The erratic rains and early dry spell also had a negative bearing on land preparation and planting activities.

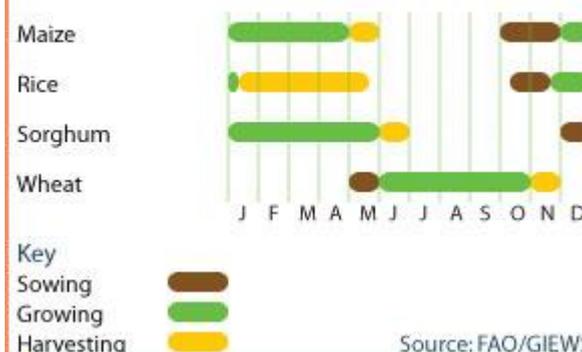
Lower maize imports in current marketing year

Monthly maize imports from South Africa (the country's main trading partner) during the current 2011/12 marketing year (May/April) are below the rate recorded last year, reflecting, in part, last year's good production and high prices in South Africa. On average approximately 5 300 tonnes of maize were imported each month between May 2011 and February 2012, compared to 8 000 tonnes in the previous marketing year.

Lower number of food insecure, but economic downturn impacts food security conditions

The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) estimated that 88 511 people (about 7 percent of the total population and 50 percent below last year's level) will not be able to meet their basic food requirements and as a result require assistance during 2011/12. The majority of the food insecure are located in the eastern Lubombo region. Furthermore, the fiscal crisis that gripped the country as a result of the reduction in SACU revenues, aggravated food insecurity conditions in 2011 due to several factors, including a weakened labour market and a cut in social service deliveries. The effects of limited income opportunities were further compounded by the increasing prices. A recent report from the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Swaziland indicates that many households employed a number of coping strategies to mitigate the impact, including reducing food consumption and switching to more affordable alternatives. The projected increase in SACU revenues for 2012/13, however, will help to

Crop calendar Swaziland

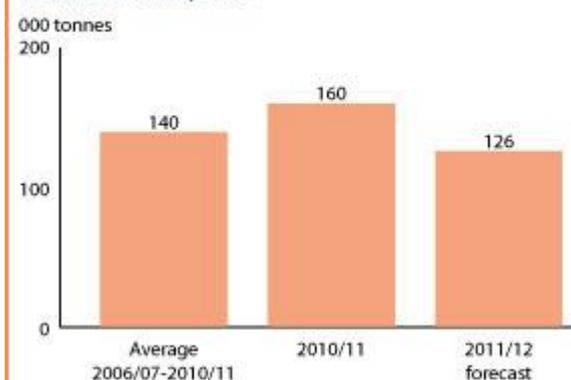


Swaziland Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	64	75	85	13
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	65	76	86	13

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

Swaziland 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

ease the tight fiscal situation, and may trigger an improvement in economic performance, with beneficial effects for the food security.

Reference Date: 06-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mixed rains during the start of the 2011/12 season impact planting activities
- Slow down in monthly cereal imports

Irregular rains received at the start of the 2011/12 agricultural season

Despite a normal start of the 2011/12 rainy season (October-March), precipitation levels have so far been erratic. Average rainfall in October was followed by a period of below normal rains in November and the start of December. This has resulted in some early seasonal deficits, particularly in eastern areas, impacting planting activities that normally take place between October and November. However, maize crops are relatively tolerant to water deficits during the earlier stages of development, and therefore an improvement in rains during the second half of the season (as is forecast for January-March) could offset any negative effects resulting from the insufficient rains.

Furthermore, the economic downturn as well as a reduction in revenue from the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) and consequent fiscal tightening in 2011, has led to the temporary cancellation of the government's agriculture input support programme. This may impact farmers' access to seeds and fertilisers, which in turn will have a bearing on both the area planted and the potential yield performance. As yet however, there is no indication of the size of the planted area.

Lower maize imports in 2011/12 marketing year

Monthly maize imports from South Africa (the country's main trading partner) during the current 2011/12 marketing year (May/April) are below the rate recorded last year, reflecting, in part, the lower national maize import requirement and high prices in South Africa. On average approximately 4 600 tonnes of maize were imported each month between May and November 2011, compared to 6 400 tonnes in 2010. By November, just over half way through the marketing year, imports received from South Africa have satisfied about 50 percent of the country's estimated import requirement.

The rate of wheat imports in 2011/12 is similarly lower compared to 2010/11, partly in response to the high prices recorded in South Africa. Import requirements for wheat are estimated at 42 000 tonnes.

Lower number of food insecure, but poor crop performance in 2011/12 could worsen food insecurity conditions

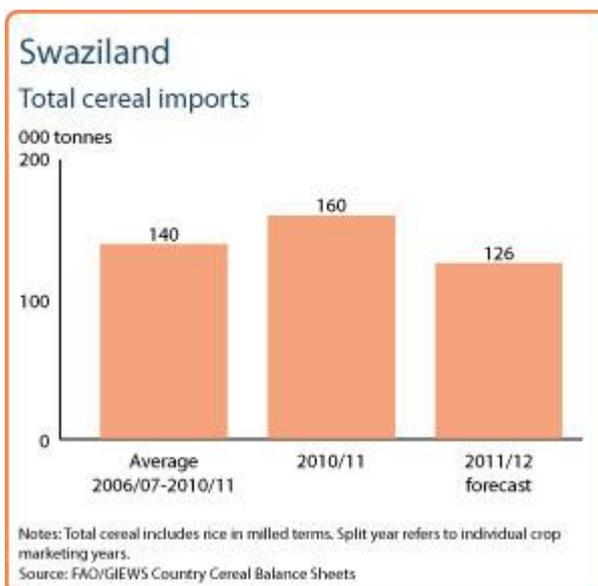
The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) estimated that 88 511 people (about 7 percent of the national population and 50 percent below last year's level) will not be able to meet their basic food requirements and as a result require assistance during 2011/12. The majority of the food insecure are located in the eastern Lubombo region. However, given that most households are dependent on subsistence farming, a potential drop in cereal production resulting from



Swaziland Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	64	75	85	13
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	65	76	86	13

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



the early poor rains and input access constraints, may combine to aggravate the current food insecurity situation in 2012.

Reference Date: 14-July-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Despite mixed rainfall performance during the 2010/11 season, maize production increases, on account of larger plantings
- Wheat imports lower than previous year, but maize imports higher

Irregular rains contribute to drop in productivity

Despite an expansion in maize plantings for the 2010/11 crop, irregular rains during the growing season (October-April) negatively impacted yields, with the country experiencing a short-dry spell in February that affected other countries of the subregion. As a result, production gains were proportionally lower relative to the growth in area planted, with national maize production estimated at about 85 000 tonnes.

Slow down in maize imports at the beginning of 2011/12 marketing year

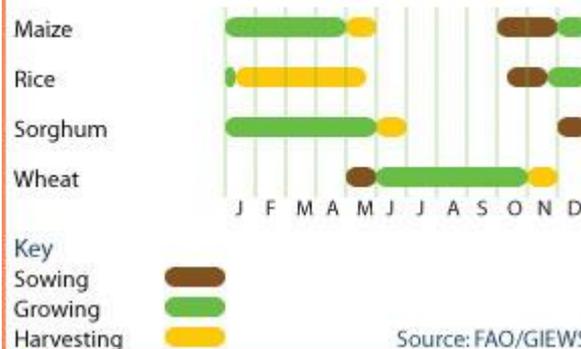
During the first two months of the current 2011/12 marketing year (May/April), the rate of maize imports from South Africa are estimated to be below the levels recorded last season over the same period, reflecting, in part, the larger maize harvest in 2011. Approximately 4 300 tonnes of maize were imported in May and June, compared to nearly 10 000 tonnes during the same months in 2010.

During the previous 2010/11 marketing year (May/April) total maize imports from South Africa are estimated at about 104 000 tonnes. This volume is higher than what was forecast at the beginning of the year by about 30 percent. However, wheat imports during the year were low, estimated at 27 000 tonnes, compared to 42 000 tonnes imported during the 2009/10 marketing year. This can be partly explained as a response to the increasing wheat prices in South Africa, which have been on average about 20 percent higher during 2010/11 compared with the previous year. In aggregate, the increase in maize imports compensated for the lower wheat imports, with latest estimates indicating that approximately 146 000 tonnes of cereals have been imported commercially.

Lower number of people facing food deficits in during 2011/12

The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) estimates that 88 511 people (about 7 percent of the national population) will not be able to meet their basic food requirements and require assistance during 2011/12. However, the assessment also indicates that approximately 132 000 persons will confront livelihood deficits, due to economic and income constraints. The majority of the food insecure are located in the eastern Lubombo region.

Crop calendar Swaziland



Swaziland

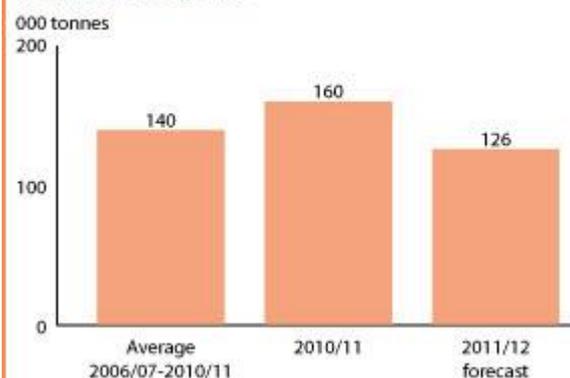
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	64	75	85	13
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	65	76	86	13

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

Swaziland

Total cereal imports



Reference Date: 27-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mixed rainfall performance during the 2010/11 season
- Wheat imports lower than previous year, but maize imports higher
- The government has distributed maize meal to 20 constituencies during March

Irregular rains contribute to drop in productivity

Harvesting of the 2010/11 cereal crop is underway. Favourable rains during the end of November and December helped to reduce some localised early seasonal deficits, however, heavy rains in January caused some water logging, affecting crop development. Precipitation levels declined during most of February compared with the long-term average, but rainfall levels improved towards the end of March and into April. Despite indications that the area planted grew relative to the previous season, the irregular rains are likely to have resulted in a drop in crop productivity.

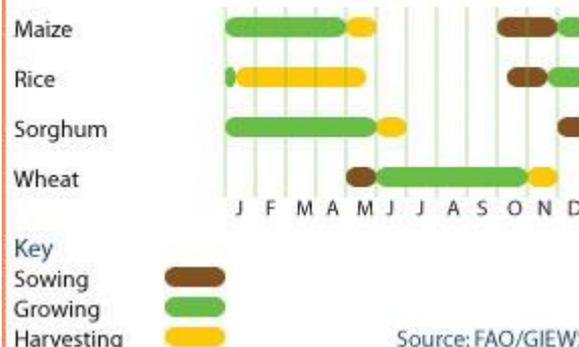
Maize imports increase, but wheat imports decline in 2010/11 marketing year

Despite the increase in production in 2010, the maize harvest was estimated to have covered approximately 50 percent of the country's consumption requirements. Maize imports from South Africa during the 2010/11 marketing year (May/April) are estimated at about 104 000 tonnes. This volume of imports is higher than what was forecast at the beginning of the year by about 30 percent. However, over the same period wheat imports have been low and are estimated at 27 000 tonnes, compared to 42 000 tonnes imported during the last marketing year. This can be partly explained as a response to the increasing wheat prices in South Africa, which have been on average about 20 percent higher during 2010/11 compared with the previous year, as well as on the international market. In aggregate, the increase in maize imports has compensated for the lower wheat imports, with latest estimates indicating that approximately 146 000 tonnes of cereals have been imported commercially.

Lower number of food insecure people during 2010/11

The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee estimated that 161 000 people were in need of food assistance (about 13 percent of the total population) in 2010/11, down 40 percent from the previous year. About 40 percent of the food insecure are located in the eastern Lubombo region. The global economic downturn has also affected remittances from South Africa, which has heightened the food insecurity situation for recipient households. However, the recently released household income and expenditure survey indicates that the poverty rate dropped from 69 percent in 2000/01 to 63 percent in 2009/10. As of March 2011, about 2 750 tonnes of maize meal, targeting the elderly, child headed households and people living with chronic illnesses had been delivered by the Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

Crop calendar Swaziland

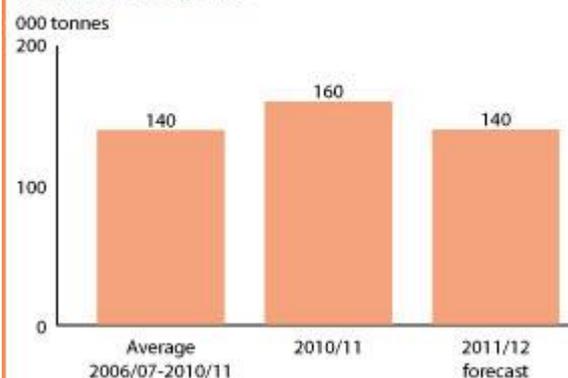


Swaziland Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	60	71	75	6
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Wheat	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	62	72	76	6

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

Swaziland 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: 18-April-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mixed rainfall performance during the 2010/11 season
- Wheat imports lower than previous year, but maize imports higher
- An estimated 161 000 people require food assistance until the next harvest, scheduled to commence in May

Mixed performance of rains during 2010/11 agricultural season

The 2010/11 agricultural season is approaching harvest time (May-June). Favourable rains during the end of November and December helped to reduce some localised early seasonal deficits, however, heavy rains in January caused some water logging, affecting crop development. Precipitation levels declined during most of February compared with the long-term average, but rainfall levels improved towards the end of March. Vegetation indexes indicate generally favourable conditions throughout the season.

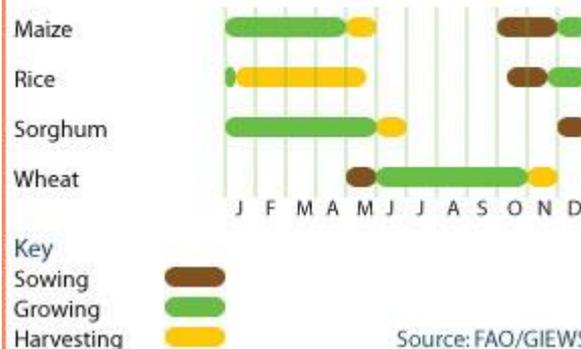
Maize imports increase, but wheat imports decline in 2010/11 marketing year

Despite the increase in production in 2010, the maize harvest will cover approximately 50 percent of the country's consumption requirements. Maize imports from South Africa during the current 2010/11 marketing year (May/April) are estimated at about 98 000 tonnes and are anticipated to reach 100 000 by the end of April. This volume of imports is higher than what was forecast at the beginning of the year by about 30 percent. However, over the same period wheat imports have been below last year's levels, and are currently estimated (FAO-GIEWS) at 24 000 tonnes, compared to 42 000 tonnes imported during the last marketing year. This can be partly explained as a response to the increasing wheat prices in South Africa, which have been on average about 20 percent higher this marketing year compared with the previous year, as well as on the international market. In aggregate, the increase in maize imports has compensated for the lower wheat imports, with latest FAO-GIEWS estimates indicating that approximately 98 percent of the country's commercial cereal import requirements in 2010/11 (May/April) have been met, as of the beginning of April.

Lower number of food insecure people during 2010/11

The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee estimated that the number of people in need of food assistance declined from 262 000 people last year, to 161 000 people (about 13 percent of the total population). About 40 percent of the food insecure persons are located in the eastern Lubombo region. The global economic downturn has also affected remittances from South Africa, which has heightened the food insecurity situation for recipient households. However, the recently released household income and expenditure survey indicates that the poverty rate dropped from 69 percent in 2000/01 to 63 percent in 2009/10. As of March 2011, about 2 750 tonnes of maize meal,

Crop calendar Swaziland



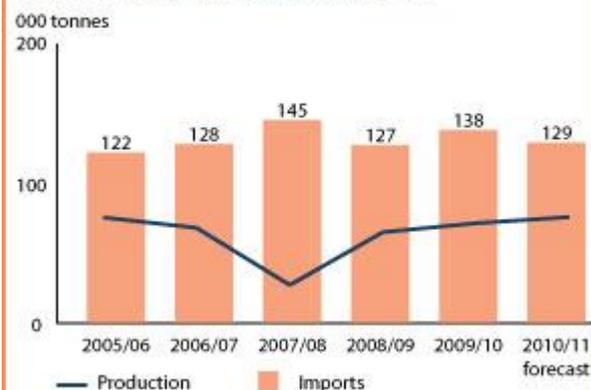
Swaziland Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	60	71	75	6
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Wheat	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	62	72	76	6

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

Swaziland

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

targeting the elderly, child headed households and people on living with chronic illnesses had been delivered by the Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), while WFP's protracted relief and recovery operation is targeting about 200 000 people over the current marketing year.

Reference Date: 03-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Improved rainfall in late November and early December benefits 2010/11 plantings
- Despite the mid-season dry spell, maize production for 2009/10 season increased over last year's output
- An estimated 161 000 people require food assistance until the next harvest in April/May 2011

Good rains benefit 2010/11 plantings

Despite low rainfall during the second dekad of November, heavy rains at the end of the month and beginning of December benefited seasonal cropping activities and helped to reduce early seasonal deficits.

Production of sugar cane, an important cash crop, is forecast to increase for the current season, due to favourable international prices. Modifications to trade rules in the EU in late 2009, including duty-free access to the market, are also expected to support the domestic sugar industry, which is a main market for sugar exports after the South African Customs Union (SACU).

Increased plantings contribute to a larger 2010 maize harvest

The national maize harvest – virtually the only cereal crop grown in the country – is estimated at 75 068 tonnes for the 2009/10 season, 25 percent above the previous five-year average. The maize crop benefited from abundant rainfall at the beginning of the season, which provided sufficient moisture levels to maintain crop conditions during a dry spell in December. However, erratic and low rainfall levels received in Lowveld region led to crop failures in localised areas.

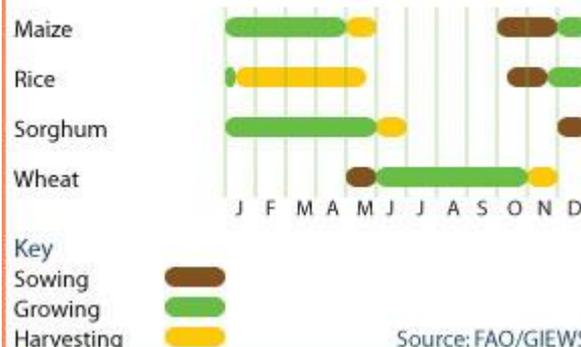
Import requirements decline marginally for the current marketing season

Despite the increase in production, the maize harvest will cover approximately 50 percent of the country's consumption requirement. Maize imports from South Africa are expected to cover the remaining national deficit, and are forecast at approximately 62 000 tonnes, slightly below the level recorded during the 2009/10 marketing year (May/April).

Improved crop production contributes to lower number of food insecure people

The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee estimates that the number of people in need of food assistance has declined from last year, to 161 000 people (about 13 percent of total population); about 40 percent of the food insecure persons are located in the eastern Lubombo region. The global economic downturn has also affected remittances from South Africa, which has heightened the food insecurity situation for recipient households. Furthermore, the closure of several textile and clothing manufacturers has led to an increase in unemployment, negatively impacting the affected households' incomes.

Crop calendar Swaziland

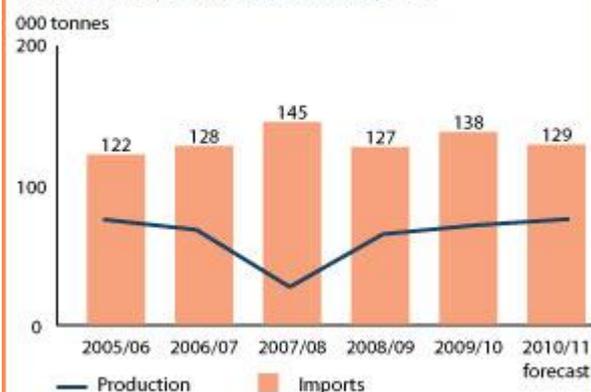


Swaziland Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	60	71	75	6
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Wheat	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	62	72	76	6

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

Swaziland 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: 15-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Improved maize harvest for the 2009/10 agricultural season, despite mid-season dry spell
- Decrease in number of food insecure persons, due to better cereal harvest; but reduced remittances and closure of textile companies is negatively affecting household income

Larger planted area contributes to an improved maize harvest

The national maize harvest – virtually the only cereal crop grown in the country – is estimated at 75 068 tonnes for the 2009/10 season. This season's output is 25 percent above the previous five-year average and marks the third consecutive year of rise in production. The maize crop benefited from abundant rainfall at the beginning of the season, which provided sufficient moisture levels to maintain crop conditions during a dry spell in December. However, erratic and low rainfall levels received in Lowveld region led to crop failures in localised areas.

Late seasonal rains improved pasture conditions and water availability for livestock.

Prices remain high, but import requirements drop slightly

Despite the increase in production, the maize harvest will cover approximately 50 percent of the country's consumption requirement. Maize imports from South Africa are expected to cover the remaining national deficit, and are forecast at approximately 62 000 tonnes, slightly below the level recorded during the 2009/10 marketing year (May/April).

At the beginning of July, the parastatal, National Maize Corporation (NMC) increased its procurement price to SZL 2 000 per tonne, an intervention aimed at encouraging an expansion in maize production. However, this has also led to higher prices for millers, who are now purchasing maize grain at SZL 2 340 up from SZL1850 per tonne. In addition, the retail price of maize meal has also risen to SZL 120 per 50kg from SZL 100.

Decline in the number of people in need of food assistance

The latest Swaziland VAC assessment estimates that the number of people in need of food assistance has declined from last year, to 161 000 people (about 13 percent of total population); about 40 percent of the food insecure persons are located in the eastern Lubombo region. The global economic downturn has also affected remittances from South Africa, which has heightened the food insecurity situation for recipient households. Furthermore, the closure of several textile and clothing manufacturers has led to an increase in unemployment, negatively impacting the affected households' incomes.



Swaziland Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	60	71	75	6
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Wheat	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	62	72	76	6

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

Reference Date: 16-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2010 maize crop outlook mostly favourable
- In 2009 an above average maize crop was harvested, but maize prices remain high
- A large section of the population remains food insecure

Conditions of 2010 maize crop mostly favourable

The rainy season started earlier than usual in October with above average precipitation and floods in some areas recorded until the first decade of December. These have delayed maize plantings but were beneficial for crop development. Precipitations were below normal in the remainder of December, but in view of the abundant soil moisture reserves crop conditions have remained good. Rains resumed in the first dekad of January in the Middle and Highveld but were below normal in the Lowveld. The crop is at grain filling to maturing stage and it is reported to be in good condition in most areas except in the Lowveld where low yields are anticipated because of water stress. Pasture conditions are also reported to be good nationwide. A first crop assessment is underway and results are expected shortly.

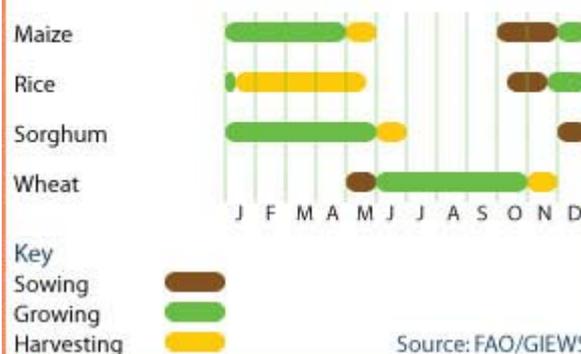
Maize production larger in 2009, but prices remain high

Despite a reduction in area planted, and late rains, Swaziland harvested an 11 percent larger maize production in 2009. The higher production level reflects the implementation of input support programmes by the Government and favourable weather during the second half of the rainy season. The country remains highly dependent on food imports, mainly from neighbouring South Africa. Cereal import requirements for the 2009/10 marketing year (April/March) are estimated at 124 000 tonnes slightly below the previous year. However despite the larger domestic availability and lower prices in South Africa, food prices as measured by the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages sub-index of the National CPI have steadily increased in 2009 although the rate of increase has been sliding, as compared to a year earlier from 15.7 percent in January 2009 to 2.9 percent in January 2010.

Approximately a fifth of the population remain food insecure

The latest Swaziland VAC assessment estimates that in total 256 000 people (about 20 percent of total population) are facing food deficits in 2009/10, of which 114 000 are categorised as highly food insecure and 148 000 chronically food insecure. The global economic downturn has also affected remittances from South Africa, which has heightened the food insecurity situation for recipient households.

Crop calendar Swaziland

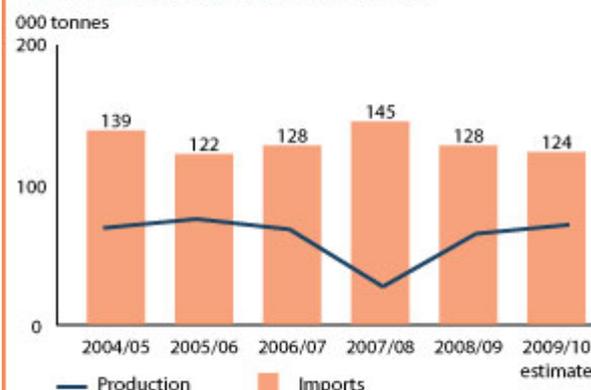


Swaziland Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	60	64	71	11
Sorghum	1	1	1	0
Wheat	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0
Total	61	65	72	11

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

Swaziland 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: 12-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2010 maize crop conditions favourable so far
- In 2009 an above average maize crop was harvested, but maize prices remain high
- A large section of the population remains food insecure

Conditions of 2010 maize crop favourable so far

The rainy season started earlier than usual in October with above average precipitation and floods in some areas recorded until the first decade of December. These have delayed maize plantings but were beneficial for crop development. Precipitations were below normal in the remainder of December, but in view of the abundant soil moisture reserves crop conditions have remained good. Rains resumed in the first dekad of January in the Middle and Highveld but were below normal in the Lowveld. The crop is in good condition, save for some waterlogging caused by flooding in some parts of the Highveld and Middleveld. Pastures conditions are also reported to be good nationwide.

The revised seasonal rainfall forecast for the January-March 2010 period now indicates the probability of below-normal to normal rainfall over all of Swaziland.

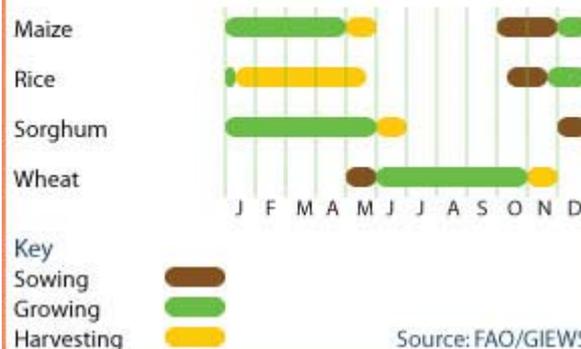
Maize production larger in 2009, but prices remain high

Despite a reduction in area planted, and late rains, Swaziland harvested an 11 percent larger maize production in early 2009. The higher production level reflects the implementation of input support programmes by the Government and favourable weather during the second half of the rainy season. The country remains highly dependent on food imports, mainly from neighbouring South Africa. Cereal import requirements for the 2009/10 marketing year (April/March) are estimated at 124 000 tonnes slightly below the previous year. However despite the larger domestic availability and lower prices in South Africa, maize price records up to September 2009 show a steady increase in the year to levels above a year earlier.

Approximately a fifth of the population remain food insecure

Due to the high food prices and the continuing impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, food security in the country remains difficult. The latest Swaziland VAC assessment estimates that in total 256 000 people are facing food deficits in 2009/10, of which 114 000 are categorised as highly food insecure and 148 000 chronically food insecure. The global economic downturn has also affected remittances from South Africa, which has heightened the food insecurity situation for recipient households.

Crop calendar Swaziland

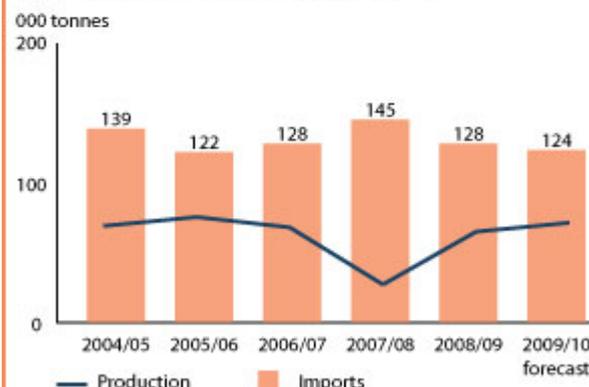


Swaziland Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	68	36	37	3
Maize	52	54	57	6
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Total	61	65	71	9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

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: 04-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Increased maize harvest in 2009
- Maize prices remain high, due to the higher procurement price last year and high transport costs
- Overall food security has improved due to generally good harvest. However, a large section of the population remains food insecure

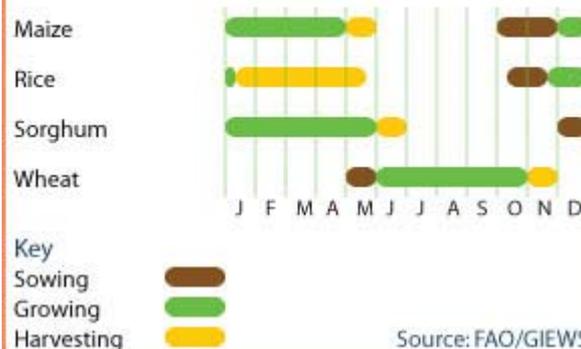
Official estimates indicate an increase in 2009 maize production

Despite the late start of the main rains and a reduction in area planted, Swaziland recorded an increase in maize production for 2009. The National Early Warning Unit (NEWU) for the Ministry of Agriculture (May 2009), estimates maize production at just over 70 000 tonnes, representing an 11 percent increase compared to the previous season. The higher production level is attributed to an increase in precipitation levels during the second half of the rainy season (January-March 2009). Given the total cereal availability of approximately 80 000 tonnes, cereal import requirements for the 2009/10 marketing year (April/March) is set at 127 000 tonnes. Planting of the 2009/10 maize crop is scheduled to begin in October. Rainfall forecasts for the forthcoming season are mixed, with poor rains expected during the beginning of the season, but an improved performance of seasonal rains is forecast for the period from January to March 2010.

Approximately a fifth of the population food insecure

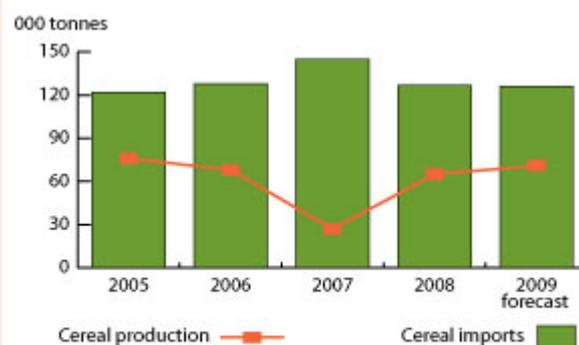
Due to the recent high food price crisis and the continuing impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, food security in the country has been adversely affected. The Swaziland VAC assessment findings reveal that in total 256 000 people are facing food difficulties, of those 144 000 are categorised as highly food insecure and 148 000 chronically food insecure. The current global economic downturn may also affect remittance transfers from South Africa, which could heighten the food insecurity situation for recipient households.

Crop calendar Swaziland



Cereal production and imports Swaziland

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	60	64	71	10.9%
Sorghum	1	1	1	0%
Total Cereals	61	65	71	9.2%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets