GIEWS Country Brief
The Dominican Republic

Reference Date: 31-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Cereal production in 2019 forecast at near-average level
- Cereal imports in 2018/19 marketing year anticipated at very high level
- Prices of rice were higher year on year in April due to higher production costs

Cereal production in 2019 forecast at slightly above-average level
Harvesting of the main 2019 rice crop is underway under dry weather conditions in the main producing northwestern and northeastern regions. FAO’s preliminary forecasts on paddy production point to slightly above-average level, reflecting large plantings in the current season, similar to the last year’s high level, instigated by high prices of the crop. Despite the similar planted area, the 2019 forecast production points to decline by 7 percent from the last year’s record output, mainly reflecting limited rainfalls in early 2019 that are contributing to accumulated moisture deficits and lower water level in reservoirs in the key producing regions.

Maize is produced all around the year and production for the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) is expected at above-average 47 000 tonnes, mainly reflecting a slight increase in plantings and good yields. Plantings of maize for 2019/20 are expected to remain high on account of well above year-earlier prices. However, uncertainties on the 2019 production remain, on account of increasing input costs and lower maize prices of the major exporters such as the United States of America and Brazil.

Cereal imports in 2018/19 marketing year anticipated at very high level
Cereal imports in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at above-average 1.9 million tonnes, raised from the last year’s already high level. Yellow maize imports, which account for 70 percent of all cereal imports, are expected at 1.4 million tonnes, mainly as a result of high demand from the feed sector.
Prices of rice and maize were higher year-on-year in April

Prices of rice weakened in April with the start of the harvest. Prices, however, remained somewhat higher than a year earlier mainly due to higher fuel prices and increased production costs. Prices of maize were well-above values a year earlier despite increased imports during the first quarter of 2019. By contrast, wholesale prices of red and black beans were below year-earlier levels, due to the good 2018 outputs.
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.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.
GIEWS Country Brief
The Dominican Republic

Reference Date: 19-December-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Cereal production in 2017 estimated at above average level
- Cereal imports in 2017/18 marketing year forecast to increase
- Prices of rice and maize were stable in November, prices of beans increased

Cereal production in 2017 estimated at above average level
Cereal production for 2017 is estimated by FAO at 996 000 tonnes, marginally above last year’s level and significantly above the country’s five-year average. The increase reflects a good rice output. Despite significant flooding caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria, between September and October, rice production is estimated at 953 000 tonnes above last year’s level and 6 percent above the five-year average. The high rice output is due to the good main first season rice crop, harvested in August before the storms. Continued Government assistance in the form of provision of high yielding varieties and fertilizers also contributed to the increase in production. Maize output is estimated virtually unchanged from 2016 at 41 000 tonnes and about average. Due to uncertainty about this year’s weather, after two years of continuous droughts, farmers marginally reduced the planted area.

Cereal imports in 2017/18 marketing year forecast to increase
Cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to increase from last year and reach close to 1.7 million tonnes. Maize imports, which account for almost 70 percent of all cereal imports, are expected to increase by 1 percent to 1.1 million tonnes, mainly as a result of high demand from the feed sector.

Prices of rice and maize stable in November, prices of beans increased
Prices of rice in November were unchanged and about 2 percent above year-earlier levels reflecting seasonal trends. Prices of maize were also stable in November and less than 3 percent above year-earlier levels pressured by seasonal factors and high demand from the feed sector. Prices of red and black beans
increased in November and were above year-earlier levels, as seasonal trends strengthened by a reduction in 2017 output of beans.

**Dominican Republic**

**Total cereal imports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average 2011/12-2015/16</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17 forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1661</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>1629</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Dominican Republic**

**Selected retail prices in Santo Domingo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Maize</th>
<th>Rice (second quality)</th>
<th>Beans (black)</th>
<th>Beans (red)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura

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
The Dominican Republic

Reference Date: 08-May-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Cereal production in 2017 forecast to remain high
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year forecast to decline
- Prices of rice and maize pressured by seasonal trends in March
- Excessive rainfall levels affected 18 provinces in late April

Cereal production in 2017 forecast to remain high
Planting of the main 2017 first season rice crop concluded in March, while planting of the main 2017 maize crop is underway and will be completed in May. Although official planting data is not yet available, preliminary reports point to a normal start to the season with some localized dryness. Production of the 2017 cereal crops is expected to remain close to last year’s high level as continued Government support to the agricultural sector, particularly for rice, and favourable prices are anticipated to support sowings. Some uncertainty exists, however, due to excessive rainfall levels towards the end of April which may reduce crop yields, particularly for maize.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year forecast to decline
Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decline from last year’s high level and reach 1.7 million tonnes. Maize imports, which account for almost 70 percent of all cereal imports, are expected to decrease by some 9 percent reflecting this year’s recovery in output and high stock levels. However, maize imports will remain above their five-year average.

Prices of rice and maize pressured by seasonal trends in March
Rice prices in March were relatively stable from the previous month and moderately above last year’s level in anticipation of the harvest in May of the first season crop. Maize prices strongly increased from a month ago and a year earlier as seasonal trends continue to pressure prices.
Excessive rainfall levels affected 18 provinces in late April

According to official reports, 18 of the country’s 32 provinces received excess rainfall levels during the last week of April, resulting in localized floods. Particularly affected were the northeast, southeast, north and central provinces of the country. Some 2 000 homes were affected and over 10 000 people were temporarily displaced. The Government’s response included the deployment of emergency teams as well as the prepositioning of 94 000 dry rations to meet the needs of the people in the ten most affected areas.

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.
Cereal production in 2016 forecast at bumper level

Cereal production for 2016 is anticipated to increase by 2 percent from last year’s high level and reach 962,000 tonnes. Official reports point to no significant damage to cereal crops and minor damages to horticultural and fruit crops as a result of the excessive rainfall caused by the passing of Hurricane Matthew on 2 October in neighbouring Haiti. The increase in cereal output mainly reflects an above average 2016 rice production, which is the main cereal produced locally, and is expected to reach a bumper level of 920,000 tonnes (paddy equivalent). Increased levels of irrigation, made possible by improved irrigation infrastructure and more widespread use of higher yielding varieties, are expected to increase yields. Maize output is forecast to recover from last year’s drought-reduced level reflecting the recovery in precipitation and the Government’s provision of subsidized inputs such as seeds of higher yielding varieties. Preliminary reports point to a good first season maize harvest and average planting levels for the second season, both of which concluded in October. Early forecasts point to a maize output of 40,000 tonnes in 2016, the highest level since 2013.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year forecast to decline

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year are forecast to decline sharply from last year’s high level and reach 1.7 million tonnes. Maize imports, which account for almost 70 percent of all cereal imports, are expected to decrease by some 12 percent reflecting this year’s recovery in output and high stock levels. By contrast, rice imports are forecast to increase reflecting high local demand.

Prices of rice and maize remained stable in October

Rice prices in October were relatively unchanged from the previous month but were moderately above last year’s level,
reflecting seasonal trends as less product from the main harvest, concluded in September, enters the market. Retail maize prices in October were also unchanged and well below year-earlier levels reflecting adequate supplies, as product from the recent harvest supplied local markets.
GIEWS Country Brief
The Dominican Republic

Reference Date: 23-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Cereal production in 2016 forecast at bumper level
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year forecast to decline
- Prices of rice and maize remained stable in July

Cereal production in 2016 forecast at bumper level
The harvest of the main cereal season is well advanced. According to latest remote sensing data, the season developed normally, with a recovery in precipitation from last year’s reduced levels, following the dissipation of the El Niño phenomena in June. Rice output, which accounts for 96 percent of cereal production, is expected to increase 2 percent from last year’s already high level and reach 920 000 tonnes. Increased levels of irrigation, made possible by improved irrigation infrastructure and more widespread use of higher yielding varieties are expected to increase yields. Maize output is forecast to recover from last year’s drought-reduced level reflecting the recovery in precipitation and Government provision of subsidized inputs such as seeds of higher yielding varieties. Unlike rice, maize cultivation is rainfed and was severely impacted by the El Niño phenomena in 2015. Early forecasts point to an output of 40 000 tonnes in 2016, the highest level since 2013.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 marketing year forecast to decline
Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year are forecast to decline sharply from last year’s high level and reach 1.7 million tonnes. Maize imports, which account for almost 70 percent of all cereal imports, are expected to decrease by some 12 percent reflecting this year’s recovery in output and high stock levels. By contrast, rice imports are forecast to increase reflecting high local demand.

Prices of rice and maize remained stable in July
Rice prices in July were relatively unchanged from the previous month and from the same month last year, prices have remained relatively stable over the last few weeks as the product from the recent harvest began to enter the market.
Retail maize prices in July were unchanged and well below year-earlier levels reflecting adequate supplies, mainly from imports in the market.
GIEWS Country Brief
Dominican Republic

Reference Date: 30-December-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Cereal production limited by drought again in 2015
- Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year forecast at last year’s high level
- Prices for major food staples were unchanged in December: bean prices remain at near record levels

Cereal production limited by drought again in 2015
Cereal production in 2015 is expected to remain virtually unchanged from last year’s drought-reduced level at 933 000 tonnes. For a second consecutive year the El Niño phenomenon has caused prolonged dry weather during the cropping season limiting the production potential of the country. Rice production is estimated tentatively at 900 000 tonnes (paddy equivalent), mainly reflecting the good harvest of the main first season. Despite the severe and prolonged drought conditions since May, main rice producing areas could rely on adequate water reserves for irrigation, which benefitted crops. By contrast, the 2015 maize production was more affected by the reduced precipitation, with preliminary estimates pointing to a production of 31 000 tonnes or 14 percent below last year’s drought reduced output and well below the average. Production of red and black beans, major food staples, was also lowered by the drought conditions. While no official estimates for production are yet available, FAO preliminary estimates that the area planted in 2015, for both red and black beans contracted by at least 16 percent as a result of dry weather.

Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year forecast at last year’s high level
Reflecting a second consecutive year of drought-reduced outputs, imports of cereals in the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain above the country’s five-year average and relatively unchanged from the 2014/15 high level. Cereal imports consist mainly of maize and wheat. Imports of maize are expected to increase almost 7 percent to 1.2 million tonnes, in line with this year’s lower output, while wheat imports are forecast to remain relatively stable at above 500 million tonnes.

Prices for major food staples were unchanged in December: bean prices remain at near record levels
Retail maize retail prices in December remained relatively unchanged from the previous month but 9 percent higher than December last year reflecting the 2015 reduced output. Retail prices of rice by contrast remained unchanged in November and close to the levels of the same month last year.

Retail prices of red and black beans were also relatively unchanged in December but both types remained some 40 percent above their levels a year earlier due to supply shortages, following a decline in...
production and insufficient import volumes. Imports of beans are being regulated by the Government in order to prevent a fall in producer prices.
The aggregate 2014 rice production forecast similar to last year’s average level
Harvest of the 2014 main season rice crop, which accounts for 70 percent of total production, was concluded in August. Aggregate rice output is forecast at 830,000 tonnes (paddy), slightly above the 2013 production and around the five-year average. This mainly reflects a projected increase in yields as area planted is expected to remain relatively unchanged from 2013.

Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) forecast at average levels
Imports of cereals in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are tentatively forecast at 1.6 million tonnes, close to the previous year’s average level, mainly reflecting sustained maize imports in order to satisfy strong demand for feed consumption. Imports of sorghum for feed, which have grown in the last three years since it is a cheaper alternative to maize, are also expected to remain firm.

Rice and maize prices declined in August
Reflecting the entry of new products from the recent good main season harvests, rice prices declined and remain unchanged from their level a year-earlier.

Maize prices declined almost 3 percent in August, mainly reflecting adequate levels of imports and the entry of product from the recently concluded harvest.

Notes:
- The aggregate 2014 rice production forecast similar to last year’s average level
- Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) forecast at average levels
- Rice and maize prices declined in August
The aggregate 2014 rice production forecast similar to last year's average level
Harvest of the 2014 main season rice crop, which accounts for 70 percent of total production, will be concluded by the end of August. Aggregate rice output is forecast at 830,000 tonnes (paddy), slightly above the 2013 production and around the five-year average. This mainly reflects a projected increase in yields as area planted is expected to remain relatively unchanged from 2013.

Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) forecast at average levels
Imports of cereals in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are tentatively forecast at 1.6 million tonnes, close to the previous year’s average level, mainly reflecting sustained maize imports in order to satisfy strong demand for feed consumption. Imports of sorghum for feed, which have grown in the last three years since it is a cheaper alternative to maize, are also expected to remain firm.

Rice prices remained unchanged in July
Rice prices remained overall unchanged in July and close to their year-earlier level, reflecting adequate supplies in the market from the ongoing main season harvest.
Dominican Republic
Selected retail prices in Santo Domingo

Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura
GIEWS Country Brief
Dominican Republic

Reference Date: 19-February-2014

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- The 2013 rice crop recovered from the 2012 lows
- Cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) forecast at average levels
- Rice prices increased in January

The 2013 rice crop recovered from the 2012 lows
Harvest of the second rice season is virtually concluded. Just as with the harvest of the main season—which finished in August and accounts for 70 percent of production—estimates for the harvest point to an increase from last year due to favourable weather conditions during the development of crop. Aggregate rice output is estimated 8 percent higher than the hurricane-reduced 2012 production, at 820 000 tonnes (paddy), marginally lower than the five-year average. This mainly reflects an increase in yields as area stayed relatively unchanged from 2012.

Cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) forecast at average levels
Imports of cereals in the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are tentatively forecast at average levels of around 1 million tonnes, marginally up from the previous year, mainly reflecting sustained maize imports in order to satisfy strong demand for feed consumption. Imports of sorghum for feed, which have grown in the last two years since it is a cheaper alternative to maize, are also expected to remain firm.

Rice prices increased in January
Reflecting low supplies in the market, as the 2013 main rice production was not sufficient to overcome the shortfall in stocks due to the reduced 2012 crop, rice prices moderately increased for a second month in January and were slightly above their year earlier levels.
Dominican Republic
Selected retail prices in Santo Domingo

Dominican Peso per Kg

- Rice (first quality)
- Maize
- Rice (second quality)

Source: Secretaria de Estado de Agricultura
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- 2013 rice production forecast to remain high
- Cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) forecast at average levels
- Rice prices slightly increase in September

2013 rice production estimated to remain high
Harvesting of the 2013 main season rice crop, which accounts for 70 percent of the aggregate production was completed in late August. Favourable weather conditions during the season benefited crop development and resulted in higher yields than in the previous year. Planting of the 2013 second season rice crop has just been completed and assuming normal precipitation in the remainder of the season, the aggregate 2013 rice output is expected to reach 860,000 tonnes (570,000 tonnes, milled basis), 11 percent above last year's reduced level.

Cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) forecast at average levels
Imports of cereals in the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are tentatively forecast at average levels of around 1 million tonnes, marginally up from the previous year, mainly reflecting sustained maize imports in order to satisfy local demand for feed consumption. Imports of sorghum for feed, which have grown in the last two years since it is a cheaper alternative to maize, are also expected to remain firm.

Rice prices slightly increased in September
In September, retail prices of rice, the main food product in the national diet, seasonally strengthened compared to the previous month and were 7 percent higher than in September 2012. This mainly reflects an increase of 5 percent from last year of the minimum producer price set up by the Government. By contrast, maize prices in September were relatively unchanged at the same low levels of last year, following the 2013 adequate levels of imports.
Food Security Snapshot

- 2013 rice production forecast to increase
- Cereal imports in 2012/13 (July/June) remained at average levels
- Rice and maize prices stable and low

2013 rice production forecast to increase
Harvesting of the 2013 main season rice crop, which accounts for 70 percent of the aggregate production is well underway and due to be completed by the end of August. In May, heavy rains were recorded throughout the country, thus concluding the dry season which generally runs from December to April. Despite localized light floods in marginalized lowland areas close to rivers and streams, rainfall conditions during the season benefited food crops, favouring vegetative development. Higher yields than last year’s same season are anticipated. Planting of the 2013 second season rice crop is ongoing. Assuming normal precipitation in the remainder of the season, the aggregate 2013 rice output is forecast to recover from last year’s poor harvest reaching 860,000 tonnes (570,000 tonnes, milled basis).

Cereal imports in 2012/13 (July/June) remained at average levels
The country is self-sufficient in rice but imports large amounts of maize for animal feed as well as wheat, which is not produced domestically. More recently, the country has also started importing sorghum for feed, which is a cheaper alternative to maize. Imports of cereals in the 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) were estimated at about average levels of 1.5 million tonnes.

Rice and maize prices stable and low
In June, retail prices of rice, the main food product in the national diet, remained relatively unchanged at the same low levels of last year, reflecting the favourable prospects for this year’s main harvest. Similarly maize prices in June also remained stable at last year’s low levels, following the 2013 adequate levels of imports.
Dominican Republic
Selected retail prices in Santo Domingo

Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura.
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for the 2012 rice crop
- Rice prices declining

Favourable prospects for the 2012 rice crop

Harvesting of the 2012 main season rice crop, which represents about 70 percent of the aggregate production, is near completion in the main producing areas of the north-east and north-west. This season’s output is anticipated to increase from last year’s levels, mainly as a result of favourable weather conditions during the growing period, despite of heavy rains in late April and early May which caused crop damages at local level. Planting of the 2012 second season rice crop is underway. Assuming normal growing during the season, the aggregate rice production (first and second crops) for 2012 is estimated at around 850,000 tonnes, 3 percent above average. Production this year was sustained by the Government’s introduction of higher paddy support prices and by the implementation of the “pignoración nacional” program. The program, which includes rice, beans, garlic and milk, aims to store the pledged products and release them as and when the market allows, avoiding saturation and low prices. The program has encouraged producers to make large investments in the agricultural areas.

Cereal imports in 2012/13 (July/June) remain high

The country is self-sufficient in rice but imports large amounts of maize for animal feed, as well as wheat, which is not produced domestically. Imports of cereals are expected to remain at about 1.6 million tonnes in the 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) to satisfy sustained fodder demand.

Rice prices declining

Prices of rice, the main food product in the national diet, have decreased by 6 percent in the past three months following the arrival into the markets of the new harvest. In July, rice prices were 7 percent below their levels of a year earlier. Prices of maize remained relatively firm in the past months and in July were 15 percent down from the levels of a year earlier.
Dominican Republic
Selected retail prices in Santo Domingo

Dominican Peso per Kg

- Orange line: Rice (first quality)
- Black line: Maize

Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura
Dominican Republic

Reference Date: 27-February-2012

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- 2011 rice production at record levels
- Rice prices stable

### Adequate rainfall for the 2012 rice planting
Planting of the 2012 main season rice crop is ongoing in the main producing areas of the north-east and north-west. Rains in December and January were beneficial to the development of agricultural activities.

### 2011 rice production at record levels
Harvesting of the 2011 second season rice crop has just ended. Rice production (first and second crops) for 2011 is estimated at a record 900 000 tonnes. This reflects the good harvest obtained in the main season (December/August) which accounts for about 70 percent of annual production. Weather conditions were favourable and there were no crop diseases, while the Government provided productive assistance by distributing enhanced seeds and implementing the National Rice Pledging Programme. This mechanism, which includes rice, beans, garlic and milk, aims to store the pledged products and release them as and when the market allows, avoiding saturation and depressed prices. The programme has encouraged producers to make large investments in the agricultural areas with a consequent increase in production.

### Cereal imports in 2011/12 (July/June) remain stable
The country is self-sufficient in rice but imports large amounts of maize for animal feed, as well as wheat, which is not produced domestically. Imports of these cereals are expected to remain at about 1.6 million tonnes in the 2011/12 marketing year (July/June), owing to a sustained increase in demand.

### Rice prices stable
The price of rice, the main food product in the national diet, has remained relatively stable since September 2011. In December, rice prices were 8 percent below their levels of a year earlier. The price of maize, which is only produced in very small quantities, rose by 7 percent in the last three months of 2011, reflecting the general trend on export markets. In December, maize prices were 4 percent above the levels of a year earlier. A preliminary report presented by the Government shows that the national economy grew by 4 percent in 2011, with inflation at 7.6 percent, its highest level since 2007. This mainly reflected higher international oil prices, which fed through to transport, fuel, electricity, and basic food prices.
**Dominican Republic**

Selected retail prices in Santo Domingo

- **Dominican Peso per Kg**

![Graph showing selected retail prices in Santo Domingo](image)

- Rice (second quality)
- Rice (first quality)
- Maize

*Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura*
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
• Below-average rainfall may affect production of rice and other crops of the 2011 first season
• Price of rice stable

Uncertain prospects for the 2011 first season rice crop
Harvesting of the 2011 main season rice crop has begun. Sowing of 2011 second season crops is delayed due to dry weather in March and April. Almost all of the rice crops are irrigated, but below-average rainfall during the agricultural season may have affected the availability of water and lowered yields. Above-average rainfall during the second half of May alleviated the water stress situation of other food crops, mainly banana and vegetable crops, but may have arrived too late to prevent a reduction in production.

Slight increase in 2010/11 (July/June) cereals imports
The country is self-sufficient with regard to rice but it imports substantial amounts of maize for animal feed and wheat which is not produced domestically.

It is forecast that imports of these cereals in the 2010/11 (July/June) marketing year will increase by almost 4 percent, to a level of around 1.6 million tonnes, due to the sustained increase in demand.

Prices of rice stable but bean prices increase
Prices of rice, the main food product in the national diet, have remained stable since the start of 2011 after the favourable harvest in December last year. In April, prices of second quality rice were 8 percent lower than those of April 2010. Prices of maize, which is produced in very limited amounts, and of beans, have increased in recent months, reflecting the general trend in export markets as the country imports substantial amounts of both crops. In April, prices of maize and beans in the capital, Santo Domingo, were respectively 11 and 15 percent higher than those of last year.
Dominican Republic
Selected retail prices in Santo Domingo

Dominican Peso per kg

- Beans (red)
- Maize
- Rice (second quality)

Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Record 2010 rice harvest
- Price down in October on the Santo Domingo market

Higher rice output in 2010
There are good prospects for the 2010 secondary rice harvest which will be gathered beginning in December. Since the start of the season in July this year, weather conditions have been very good throughout the country. Adequate rainfall and the absence of any tropical storms and flooding have benefited the development of the main rice crop, maize and other food crops such as plantains and vegetables. The main 2010 rice season crop, which was harvested up to August this year, also benefited from abundant and evenly distributed rainfall and by an increase in the acreages under rice.

Aggregate rice production in 2010 (the main and secondary season harvests) have been provisionally estimated at an unprecedented level of 900 000 tonnes, approximately 6 percent above the previous year's figure. Maize production is expected to remain unchanged at 40 000 tonnes.

Cereals imports in 2010/11 will rise slightly
In the 2010/11 (July/June) commercial season imports of wheat and maize (for the animal feed industries), which are not grown in the country, are expected to continue increasing in tandem with population growth. It is forecast that approximately 380 000 tonnes of wheat and 1.1 million tonnes of maize will be imported.

Lower rice prices in October
First and second quality rice prices on the Santo Domingo market fell by 6 percent and 5 percent below September’s. This price reduction was due to the good prospects for the rice harvest which will begin in December.

Bean prices, which had begun to rise in November last year, have stabilised in recent months, falling marginally in October. But at DP 32.51/pound red bean prices in October were 11 percent above last year's.
Dominican Republic
Selected retail food prices in Santo Domingo
Dominican Peso per kg

- Rice (second quality)
- Maize
- Beans (red)

Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura
In May, abundant rains favoured vegetative main season crops

Following a prolonged dry spell over the most important agricultural areas, good rainfall in May brought much needed relief. Precipitation was abundant in the Regional Norte and in the Regional Este while the rest of the country saw moderate but still beneficial rainfall. Recent torrential rains, however, caused flooding and resulted in localized damage to agriculture in the North-western province of Dajabón.

Favourable prospect for crop production in 2010

Planting of the 2010 main maize and sorghum crops is complete while harvesting of the main rice crop is well advanced. Abundant and well distributed rains have helped crop growth. Rice area is estimated to have increased by approximately 6 percent and production is expected to reflect this increase.

According to a Central Bank’s latest report, in the first quarter of 2010 agriculture was placed again among the country’s main three sectors of the economy. Agricultural production contributed 9.6 percent to economic growth in 2010.

Prices of rice and maize remain stable

In Santo Domingo, second quality rice prices showed only a slightly increasing trend since the last quarter of 2009 due to the good harvest last year. However, at this level prices were still 26 percent above the levels of the same period of 2008. Price of maize declined in November 2009 following the good main season maize harvest. However, in May 2010 prices rose again by about 26 percent compared to November 2009.

The price of red beans remains high and steadily increasing since the beginning of 2010. In May 2010 the price of red beans was 6 percent higher than at the same period of 2008.
Planting of 2010 main rice cropping season is underway

Land preparation and sowing activities are underway for the main 2010 rice cropping season. Despite the generally dry conditions that prevailed over all the most important farming areas, preliminary planting intentions point to an increase by 10 percent in sowed area compared to 2009 also on account of the expanded food demand of Haitian population, devastated by the quake of January.

Increased rice production in 2009

Total rice production in 2009 (harvests of both secondary and main cropping season) is provisionally estimated in 847 000 tonnes, showing an increase of approximately 9 percent compared to the already good result obtained the previous year (778 000 tonnes) mainly due to favourable weather. In addition, governmental support measures such as the Programa Nacional de Pignoración, which promotes rice stocking in controlled warehouses to avoid market saturation and the Proyecto de Apoyo a la Transición y a la Competitividad Agroalimentaria (PATCA), which provides technology transfer and training to 21 000 beneficiaries, contributed to higher yields and an expansion of the food production.

Prices of rice and maize remain favourably stable

Prices of major staples have maintained a steady trend reflecting the good performance of the agricultural sector in the last year. Quotations of rice superior (of a lower quality compared to rice selecto) showed a stable trend in the last year with a minimum price increase (2 percent). Similarly, the price of maize, mainly used in the feed industry, has not showed major fluctuations guaranteeing access to the poultry meat, among the most important sources of animal proteins for the Dominicans. However, price of red beans remains high with an increase by 11 percent compared to the level of two years ago.

The import requirements for cereals in 2009/10 forecast to slightly increase

In the marketing year 2009/10 (July/June) imports of wheat and maize (mainly yellow maize for the feed industry) are forecast at approximately 370 000 tonnes and 1 million tonnes respectively, similar volumes as the levels of previous year, although there is an increase in the total cereal requirements.
Dominican Republic
Selected food prices

Dominican Peso per kg

- Orange line: Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Retail, Rice (second quality)
- Blue line: Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Wholesale, Maize
- Gray line: Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Wholesale, Beans (red)

Source: Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura
Adequate soil humidity for rice sowing
According to National Meteorological Office data there is sufficient soil humidity to support the crops currently being sown.

Despite being at the height of the cyclone season and notwithstanding the effects of Hurricane Bill in the north-east of the country, no damage has been reported to agriculture due to excessive rainfall.

In September, tropical waves continued to batter the Dominican Republic bringing very heavy rainfall.

A 15 percent fall in rice production according to preliminary estimates
In the central part of the country the harvesting of rice sown between February and April has now begun.

The 275 000 tonne production forecast at the beginning of the season must now be revised downwards by 15 percent to 233 000 tonnes.

Conversely, the first stage of the spring harvest (July-September) is now being sown in the north and north-east of the country, to be harvested beginning in April next year.

This stage is expected to produce 324 000 tonnes.
Rice prices remain stable
The average retail price of rice remains comparatively stable on the domestic markets because of last season’s good harvests.

However, prices are still some 30 percent above the all-time high recorded before the mid-2008 crisis.

Conversely, bean prices (both red and black), which are a major source of protein for the people, remain stable.