



GIEWS Country Brief Guatemala

Reference Date: 05-June-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of main maize crop ongoing under favourable weather conditions
- Cereal import requirements anticipated to increase in 2018/19 marketing year
- Prices of maize seasonally increased in April and higher year on year

Planting of main maize crop ongoing under favourable weather conditions

Planting of the main 2019 maize crop is ongoing. Based on the Regional Committee of Hydraulic Resources (CRRH)'s forecast on probability of rainfall in the May-July period, average and above-average rainfall is expected in Guatemala. During May, although the start of rainy season was somewhat erratic, but generally abundant rainfall was registered across the country, except in the northern region, where the rainy season normally starts in early June. Assuming favourable weather conditions, FAO forecasts a likely increase in production to a slightly above average level. The forecast also reflects higher maize sowings, instigated by higher prices.

In 2018, the prolonged dry conditions in the late June-early August period adversely affected yields of the main maize crops. The Government estimated that about 300 000 families were affected by dryness, more than in 2015, when an El Niño-induced drought affected production. However, maize production in 2018 was estimated at an average level of 1.86 million tonnes as some farmers planted maize crop in the second season following improved rainfall in August and September.

Cereal import requirements anticipated to increase in 2018/19 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to increase and reach an above-average level of 1.8 million tonnes, reflecting the low 2018 maize production and the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry. Wheat imports are expected to increase, following a higher demand of wheat-based food products.

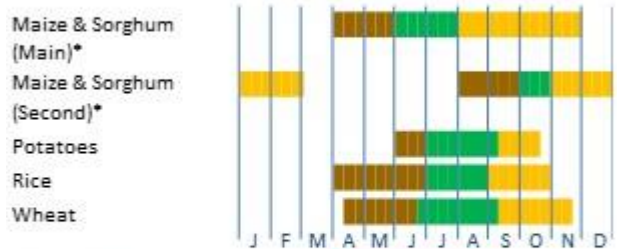
Prices of maize seasonally increased in April and higher year on year

In April, prices of white maize increased slightly in line with seasonal trends. Prices were 8 percent above their levels a year

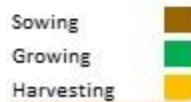
Guatemala

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 842	1 917	1 860	-3.0
Sorghum	42	41	42	2.4
Rice (paddy)	38	60	38	-36.2
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	1 925	2 021	1 943	-3.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

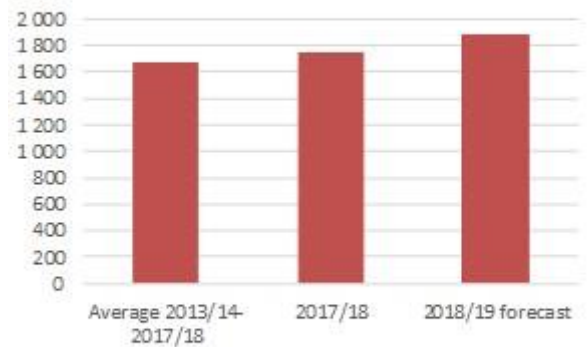
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

earlier, as the seasonal upward pressure was limited by imports from Mexico and supplies from northern producing areas. Prices of black beans declined slightly in April as a result of new supplies from northern producing areas and were down from a year earlier due to the good 2018 output.

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Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



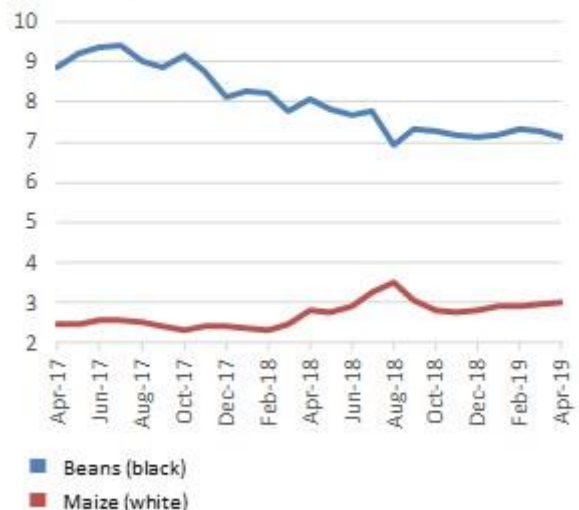
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City

Quetzal per kg



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

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