



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Benin

Reference Date: 18-October-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2024 forecast at above-average level
- Prices of key food staples higher on a yearly basis
- Over 309 000 people acutely food insecure during 2024 lean season

Cereal production in 2024 forecast at above-average level

Harvesting of the 2024 main season maize crop concluded in September in southern bimodal rainfall areas, which account for about half of the domestic maize output. In most areas, cumulative rainfall amounts between March and July were generally adequate to satisfy crop water requirements, supporting yields. In some parts of southern coastal regions, prolonged dry spells between June and July affected maize crops during critical stages of development, leading to localized production losses. Planting of the second season maize crop was completed by the end of September.

In northern unimodal rainfall areas, harvesting operations of 2024 coarse grain crops just started in October. Near-average cumulative rainfall amounts between April and September supported crop establishment and development in most cereal-producing areas. However, persistent pockets of dryness led to localized crop losses in the departments of Alibori, Atakora and Borgou. Furthermore, civil insecurity continued to disrupt agricultural activities in parts of the departments of Alibori and Atakora, which resulted in localized production shortfalls.

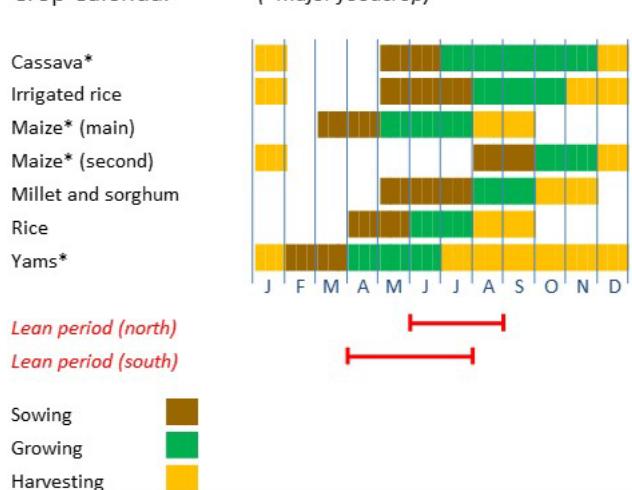
The 2024 aggregate cereal production, including the output of the second season maize crop, to be harvested between December 2024 and January 2025, is forecast at nearly 2.9 million tonnes, about 22 percent above the five-year average.

Prices of key food staples higher on a yearly basis

Following increases of between 40 and 65 percent from January to April 2024, retail prices of locally produced maize, the most consumed cereal in the country, showed mixed trends between May and August 2024. In August 2024, prices of maize were up to 25 percent higher on a yearly basis across the country.

Benin

Crop Calendar



Benin

Cereal Production

	2019-2023 average	2023	2024 forecast	change 2024/2023
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 700	2 059	2 084	1.2
Rice (paddy)	471	493	590	19.8
Sorghum	143	150	152	0.8
Others	31	35	37	4.3
Total	2 345	2 738	2 862	4.5

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Retail prices of imported rice increased by 10 to 15 percent between January and May 2024, and subsequently, remained stable until August 2024, when they were 10 to 20 percent above their year-earlier levels. The elevated prices of imported rice are partially due to high prices on the international market.

The elevated prices of cereals reflect high production and transport costs, in particular due to the increased price of fuel informally imported from Nigeria. Furthermore, strong export demand from neighbouring countries supported the higher year-on-year prices of cereals. In May 2024, as a measure to contain further price increases, the government banned, until further notice, the export of basic food commodities, including maize, rice, millet and sorghum.

Over 309 000 people acutely food insecure during 2024 lean season

According to the March 2024 *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis, over 309 000 people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) during the June to August 2024 lean season period. This shows a substantial decrease in the number of acutely food insecure people compared to the same period in 2023, when about 412 000 people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. However, this improvement can be mainly attributed to variations in coverage between the 2023 and 2024 analyses, with the population analysed decreasing by nearly a quarter in the 2024 projection.

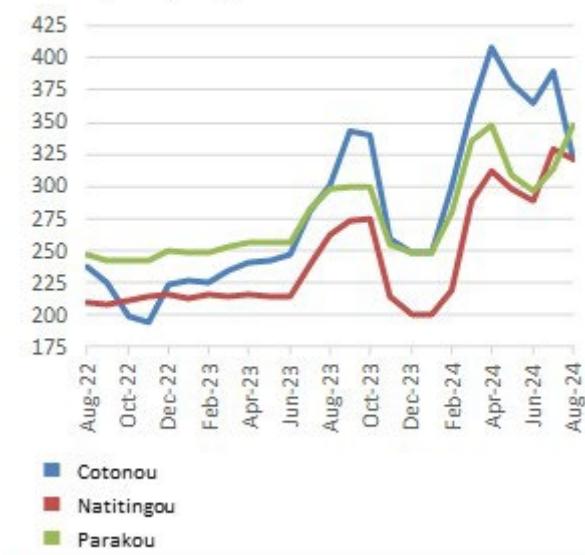
The spread of violence by non-state armed groups from central Sahel into northern areas of the country, mainly the regions of Atakora and Alibori, continues to disrupt agricultural activities and cause population displacement. In addition, these regions host the majority of the 17 000 refugees and asylum seekers that sought shelter in the country as of August 2024, which has exerted significant pressure on local food stocks and livelihoods.

New CH estimates of the number of people facing acute food insecurity in the last quarter of 2024 are expected to be released by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) in December.

Benin

Retail prices of maize

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg



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This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:

FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS)

<https://www.fao.org/gIEWS/data-tools/en/>

FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool

<https://fpma.fao.org/>

FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring

<https://www.fao.org/gIEWS/earthobservation/>

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



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Benin

Reference Date: 12-October-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output in 2023 forecast at above average level
- Prices of coarse grains higher year-on-year
- Over 412 000 people acutely food insecure during 2023 lean season

Cereal output in 2023 forecast at above average level

In southern bimodal rainfall areas, harvesting of the 2023 main season maize crop and rainfed rice was concluded by the end of September. Weather conditions were overall conducive between March and July 2023, supporting good yield expectations.

Planting of the second season maize crop was completed by the end of September.

In northern unimodal rainfall areas, rainfall amounts were generally below average between March and July 2023. Abundant rainfall in August and September improved soil moisture conditions in most producing areas, supporting the establishment and development of the 2023 millet, sorghum and maize crops. However, rainfall amounts were below average during these two months in parts of Alibori Region, with a negative impact on crop development in localized areas. Harvesting operations have just started and will finalize in November.

According to the [latest weather forecast](#) by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), average to above-average rainfall amounts are expected between October and November over most cropping areas, benefitting the establishment and development of second season maize crops, but also heightening the risk of flooding at harvest time in the country's northern areas.

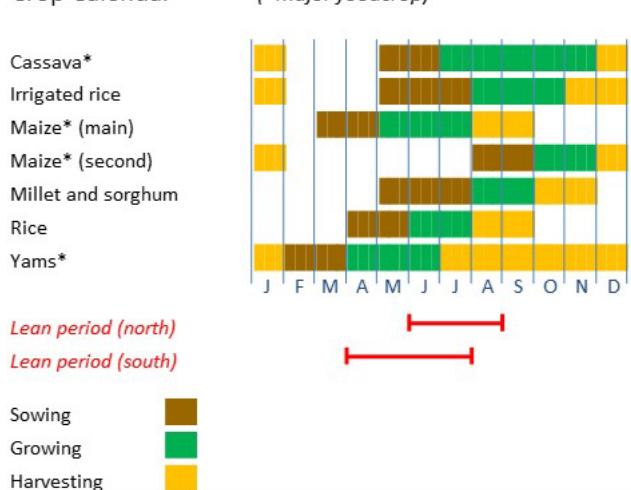
The 2023 aggregate cereal production is forecast at 2.4 million tonnes, 6 percent above the previous year's level and 9 percent above the five-year average, reflecting an increase in the planted area as well as good yields due to overall conducive weather conditions.

Prices of coarse grains higher year-on-year

Retail prices of locally produced maize remained generally stable between January and May 2023, while prices of local sorghum declined by up to 15 percent during the same period. During the

Benin

Crop Calendar



Benin

Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 forecast	change
				2023/2022
		000 tonnes		percent
Maize	1 590	1 620	1 719	6.1
Rice (paddy)	447	525	555	5.7
Sorghum	177	124	139	11.5
Others	29	29	30	5.2
Total	2 243	2 298	2 443	6.3

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

2023 lean season, between June and August, prices of both maize and sorghum increased by about 15 to 25 percent across the country. In August, prices of maize were between 10 and 20 percent higher year-on-year, while prices of sorghum were 25 percent above their year-earlier levels.

The high prices of cereals reflect the elevated prices of fuel and agricultural inputs, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, inflating production and transport costs. In addition, transport costs have increased due to the high cost of informal imports of fuel from Nigeria following the removal of the fuel subsidy in that country last May.

Over 412 000 people acutely food insecure during 2023 lean season

According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, over 412 000 people were estimated to face acute food insecurity during the June to August 2023 lean season period, including nearly 10 400 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). This shows a substantial decrease in the number of acutely food insecure people compared to the previous year, when about 830 000 people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. However, this improvement may be partly due to variations in the geographical coverage between the 2022 and 2023 analyses.

In February 2022, the government implemented several measures with the aim to improve the food access of vulnerable households, including the adoption of export taxes on basic food commodities, exemption of the Valued added tax (VAT) for imported and locally produced basic food products and reduction of custom duties on imported food products. These measures are still in place and are expected to remain until further notice.

The spread of violence by non-state armed groups from central Sahel into northern areas of the country, mainly the regions of Atacora and Alibori, remains a cause for serious concern for the security situation of these areas. Insecurity also poses a threat to economic activities as the northern regions are the primary producers of cotton, Benin's main cash crop.

New CH estimates of the number of people facing acute food insecurity in the last quarter of 2023 are expected to be released by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) in late November 2023.

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

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

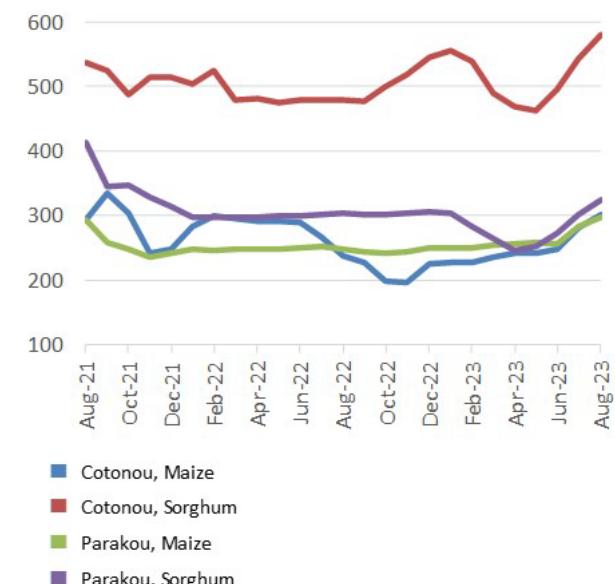
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/gIEWS/earthobservation/>.

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

Benin

Retail prices of maize and sorghum

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg





GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 27-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- About 830 150 people estimated to be acute food insecure in 2022
- Production of cereals in 2022 expected slightly above-average levels
- Above-average cereal imports forecast in 2022
- Prices of locally produced and imported cereals stable or declining in 2022

About 830 150 people estimated to be acute food insecure in 2022

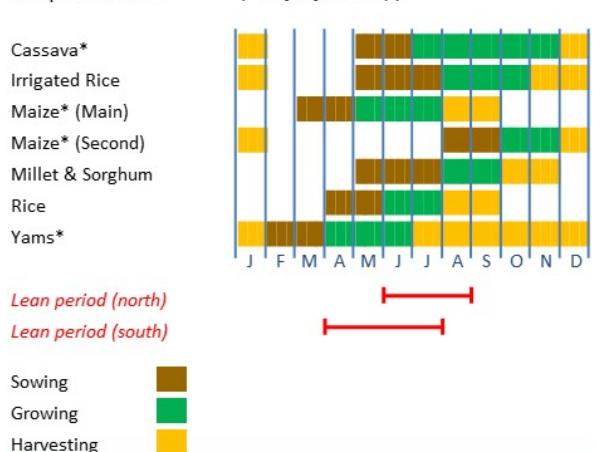
According to the March 2022 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, about 830 150 people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) during the June-August 2022 period, including about 24 000 people in CH Phase 4 Emergency). This is about three times the people estimated to face acute food insecurity during the same period in 2021. The sharp increase of acute food insecurity levels is mainly due to the high food prices that have severely constrained access to food, especially during the lean season. The most vulnerable households facing acute food insecurity are located in northern and southern areas as well as in urban centres. Between March and May 2022, the government implemented a number of measures aiming to improve the food security conditions of the most vulnerable households, including export bans to limit uncontrolled outflows of agricultural products, Value added tax (VAT) exemptions and reduced custom duties for imported food products as well as price ceilings on basic foodstuffs.

The ongoing cereal harvests and the recent seasonal decline in prices of locally produced coarse grains are expected to improve food availability and access during the remainder of 2022. However, concern remains about the food security situation of households in northern areas bordering with Burkina Faso and the Niger. Here, the number of conflict-related incidents and fatalities tripled since 2019, reflecting a spillover from the central Sahel security crisis. Some attacks have targeted local communities, raising the risk of displacements and disruption of agricultural livelihoods.

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

Benin

Crop Calendar



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWS NET.

Benin

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 559	1 637	1 600	-2.3
Rice (paddy)	415	520	530	2.0
Sorghum	183	150	140	-6.5
Others	30	32	25	-22.9
Total	2 186	2 339	2 295	-1.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Production of cereals in 2022 expected slightly above-average levels

Harvesting of the 2022 main season coarse grains and rainfed rice crops was completed in southern parts of the country by the end of September, while it is expected to be completed in northern parts by the end of November. Some pest attacks, in particular Fall Armyworms, were observed in the main season maize crops, but were kept under control. Planting of the secondary maize crops in the south was completed recently and production prospects are overall favourable.

The rainy season had a timely start in April, enabling land preparation and planting activities of the main season crops. Cumulative rainfall amounts through October were overall favourable and supported crop establishment and development across most parts of the country. However, below-average rainfall amounts were registered in pocket areas in the south in July and August. In addition, heavy rains in August and early September resulted in localized flooding, mostly in central and northern areas, causing some damages to standing crops and losses of livestock and productive assets, and hampering farmers' access to their fields.

In order to support crop production, amid the high international prices of energy and agricultural inputs, the government has implemented the distribution of improved seeds and agrochemicals at subsidized prices.

Despite localized crop losses caused by floods and dry spells, the 2022 national cereal production, including an average output of secondary crops to be harvested by January 2023, is preliminarily forecast at 2.3 million tonnes, near the previous year's level and about 5 percent above the five-year average.

Above-average cereal imports forecast in 2022

The country relies on imports to meet its domestic cereal requirements. Cereal imports, mostly rice and wheat, in the 2022 calendar year are anticipated at about 690 000 tonnes, over 30 percent above the previous year and the five-year average. This increase mostly reflects a significant year-on-year increase in imports of rice, forecast at 570 000 tonnes, underpinned by the country's need to bolster the local supply.

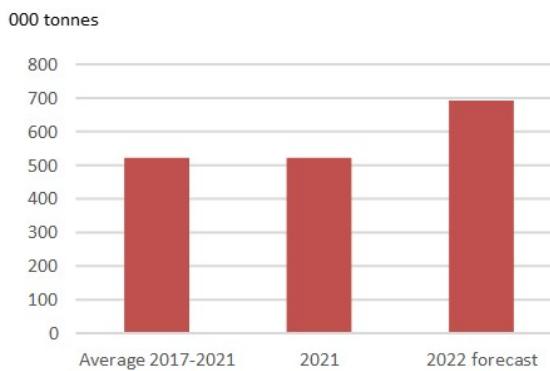
Prices of locally produced and imported cereals stable or declining in 2022

Prices of locally produced coarse grains, mainly maize and sorghum, have been generally stable or declined in 2022, reflecting adequate market supply. As of August, they were about 15 percent lower on a yearly basis. Prices of imported rice were generally stable in 2022 and remained near their year-earlier levels.

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Benin

Cereals Imports

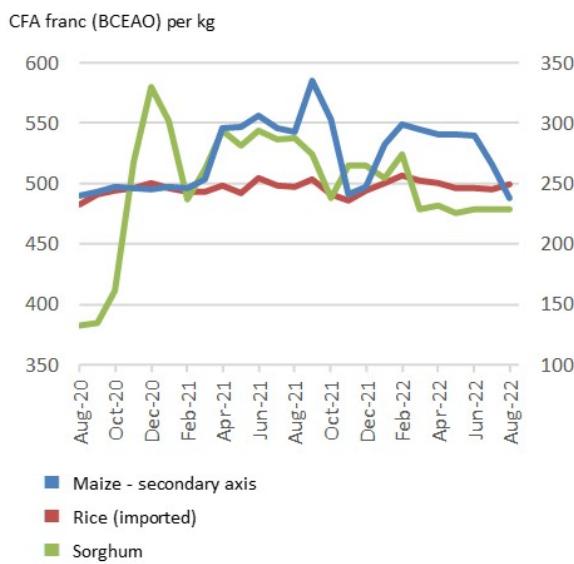


Note: Includes rice in milled terms.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou



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



GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 15-January-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average cereal production gathered in 2020
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21
- Prices are overall stable, but remain higher on yearly basis
- Effects of COVID-19 pandemic drive up food insecurity

Above-average cereal production gathered in 2020

Harvesting activities of millet, sorghum, rainfed rice and main season maize crops have almost finalized, while harvesting of irrigated rice and second season maize crops is still ongoing and will be completed by end-January. Despite some localized losses of crops due to flooding and attacks of Fall Armyworm (FAW) on maize as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population movement, the 2020 aggregate cereal output is estimated at a near-record level of 2.1 million tonnes as favourable rains benefitted yields in most parts of the country.

Natural pasture is the main source of livestock feed in the country. The current forage availability is overall satisfactory in the main grazing areas of the country due to abundant rainfall amounts. The animal health situation is generally good and stable, with just some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases, including Trypanosomiasis, Contagious Bovine Peripneumonia, Peste des Petits Ruminants, African Swine Fever, Foot-and-Mouth disease, bronchitis and rabies.

Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21

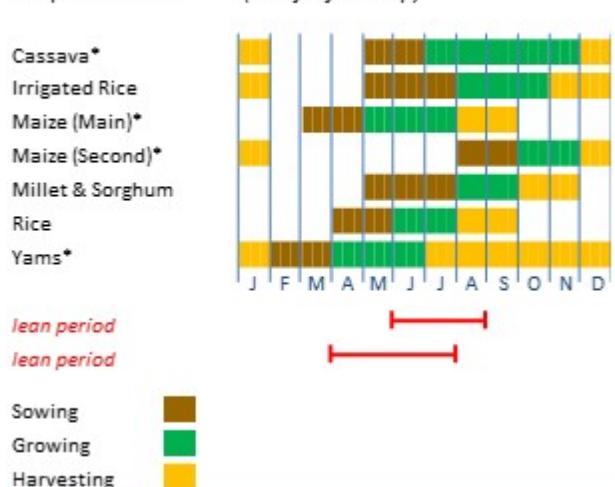
Cereal import requirements for the 2020/21 (November/October) marketing year, mostly rice and wheat for human consumption, are estimated at 520 000 tonnes, 30 percent above the average and more than double compared to the previous year. The significant increase in import follows the re-opening of the border with Nigeria in late December 2020 as traders aim to replenish their stocks that are at their lowest level over the past two years.

Prices of maize overall stable, but remain higher on yearly basis

The ongoing harvest improves stocks at household and market levels. Prices of maize grains in October 2020 (last available

Benin

Crop Calendar



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Benin

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change
				2020/2019
<hr/>				
		000 tonnes		percent
Maize	1 498	1 581	1 587	0.4
Rice (paddy)	343	393	379	-3.6
Sorghum	147	160	156	-2.5
Others	29	31	31	0.0
Total	2 017	2 166	2 153	-0.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

data) showed a relative stability over the past two months, but remained above the level of a year earlier due to strong domestic and institutional demand from neighbouring Sahelian countries. The high level of maize prices is also due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures implemented to contain it that hampered market functioning and increased transportation costs. Prices of imported rice were also relatively stable in October 2020 but below their levels in October 2019 due to the regular supply from the international markets.

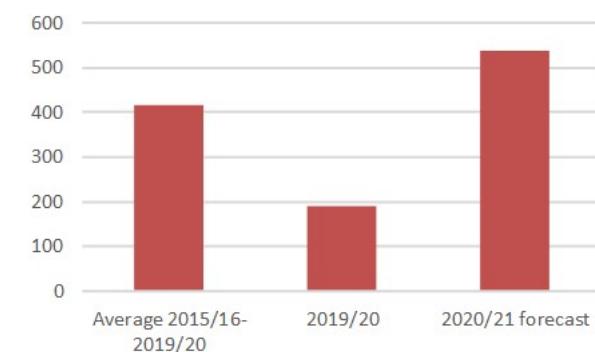
Effects of COVID-19 pandemic drive up food insecurity

According to the November 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 385 000 people were estimated to need food assistance from October to December 2020, well above the level of 25 000 food insecure in October to December 2019. However, this number is projected to decline to nearly 282 000 people between June and August 2021 as a result of the harvests of maize crops and yams, which will improve food availability and access in southern and central regions. The increase in the prevalence and severity of food insecurity in 2020 has been predominantly driven by the effects of the lockdown measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions on the movement of people and the closure of non-essential industries resulted in the loss of jobs and incomes, reducing people's capacity to access adequate diets. In addition, the closure of the border with Nigeria imposed by the Government of Nigeria since August 2019 has resulted in widespread disruption of cross-border marketing activities, diminishing livelihood opportunities of households and their food security.

Benin

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



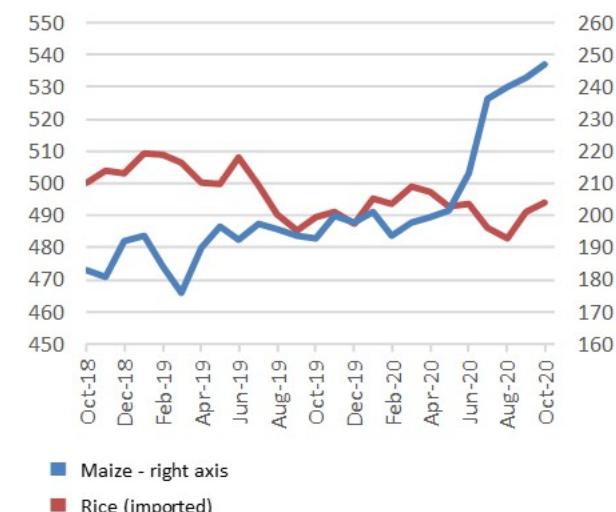
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 23-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2020 main season maize ongoing in south under normal moisture conditions
- Above-average 2019 cereal crop harvested
- Prices of coarse grains overall stable in March
- Pockets of food insecurity persist

Start of 2020 cropping season in south follows timely onset of rains

Following the timely onset of seasonal rains in the south, planting of yams was completed in March, while planting of the main season maize crop is ongoing and will be completed by the end of April. The harvest of yams is expected to start in July, while harvesting operations of maize will start in August. Planting of rice crops, to be harvested from August, is underway. The cumulative rainfall amounts since early March have been average to above average in most planted areas and supported the development of yams and maize crops, which are at sprouting, seedling and tillering stages. Weeding activities are normally taking place in most cropped areas. In the north, seasonal dry weather conditions are still prevailing and planting operations for millet and sorghum, to be harvested from October, are expected to begin in May-June with the onset of the rains.

In April, despite the ongoing pastoral lean season, forage availability was overall satisfactory in the main grazing areas of the country. The seasonal movement of domestic livestock, returning from the south to the north, started in early March following the normal onset of the rains in the south. The animal health situation is generally good and stable, with just some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases, including Trypanosomiasis and Contagious Bovine Peripneumonia.

Above-average 2019 cereal crop harvested

Harvesting activities for the 2019 rainfed and irrigated crops was completed by end-January. Favourable rainfall across the country and adequate supply of inputs by the Government and several NGOs benefited the 2019 national cereal production, estimated at 1.9 million tonnes, about 5 percent above the five-year average.

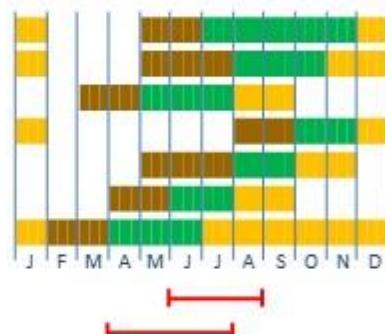
Cereal import requirements for the 2019/20 (November/October) marketing year, mostly rice and wheat for human consumption are estimated at 400 000 tonnes, about 20 percent below the previous year and 17 percent below the average. The country

Benin

Crop Calendar

Cassava*
Irrigated Rice
Maize (Main)*
Maize (Second)*
Millet & Sorghum
Rice
Yams*

lean period
lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Benin

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 417	1 454	1 455	0.0
Rice (paddy)	291	375	325	-13.3
Sorghum	126	128	133	3.9
Others	26	28	32	14.3
Total	1 860	1 985	1 945	-2.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

usually re-exports rice to neighboring Nigeria to cover household consumption needs. Following the closure of the border with Nigeria imposed by the Nigerian Government since late 2019, traders are unable to re-export their rice stocks into Nigeria. This will likely result in the decline of the quantity imported by the country.

Stable food prices due to increased supply

Most agricultural markets are well supplied following the commercialization of newly harvested crops and the relatively high level of carryover stocks from the previous year. Prices of maize have been broadly stable since the start of the harvests in October on account of good domestic availabilities. Prices of imported rice were also relatively stable due to the regular supply from the international markets.

Pockets of food insecurity persist

Despite overall favourable food security conditions, some vulnerable households need external food assistance. According to the March 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 14 500 people (less than 0.5 percent of the population analysed) are estimated to need food assistance from June to August 2020, below the level of 20 000 food insecure people in June-August 2019. The main drivers of food insecurity are localized crop shortfalls in 2019 due to floods, mostly in northern areas, including Alibori and Donga regions.

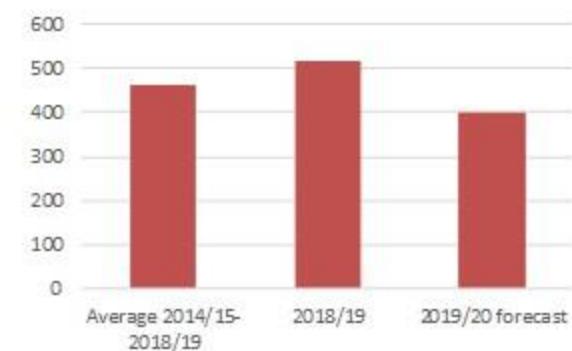
COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Government has decreed a total country lockdown. The Government has also taken some sanitary, social and economic measures, including the free diagnosis and treatment of all suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19. Official restrictions on population movements, combined with heightened levels of fear, have led many people to stay at their homes. Although these measures have not affected access to food, further restrictions on population movements could hamper access to land and have a negative impact on 2020 agricultural production. In addition, the measures taken by the Government to limit population movements in 15 high-risk communes in southern parts of the country could lead to atypical price increases for basic foodstuffs.

Benin

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



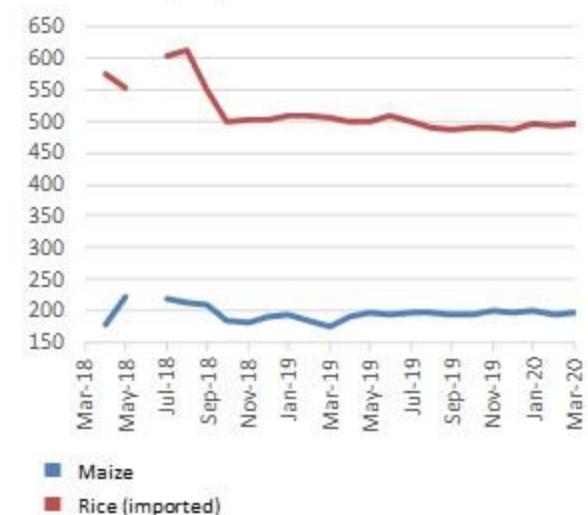
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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

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GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 26-September-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects point to above-average harvest in 2019
- Prices of coarse grains remained overall stable in July
- Pockets of food insecurity persist in country

Prospects point to above-average harvest in 2019

In the south, harvesting of the 2019 main season maize and rice crops are underway and will be completed by end-September, while millet and sorghum crops are at grain setting or maturity stages in the rest of the country. Planting operations for second season maize crops, to be harvested from December, are underway. The rainy season has been characterized by a timely onset in February/March and above-average rainfall amounts, improving vegetation conditions and lifting production prospects. Rains continued into mid-August, allowing late-planted crops to fully mature.

The favourable weather conditions in 2019 resulted in an average cereal crop production forecast of 1.9 million tonnes, 7.9 percent below the bumper 2018 output, but similar to the average of the previous five years. The rice output is estimated at below average 285 000 tonnes due to flooding during July and August.

Cereal import requirements for the 2019/20 (November/October) marketing year are forecast at above average 500 000 tonnes as traders aim at replenishing their stocks.

Grazing conditions and availability of water for livestock have improved by early September compared to previous months, ending the pastoral lean season in the main natural reserves of the country. The animal health situation is generally stable, apart from some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases.

Stable food prices due to increased supply

Despite the peak of the lean season (July-August), prices of coarse grains remained overall stable across most of the country as a result of well supplied markets. In September, the newly-harvested maize, rice and tubers in the southern areas are increasing market supplies compared to the previous months. As a result, prices are expected to decline with the generalization of the harvests in October following their normal seasonal trends.

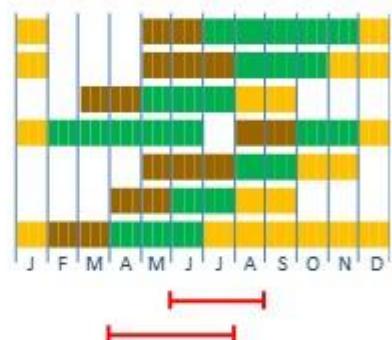
Benin

Crop Calendar

Cassava*
Irrigated Rice
Maize (Main)*
Maize (Second)*
Millet & Sorghum
Rice
Yams*

lean period
lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Benin

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1 417	1 454	1 455	0.0
Rice (paddy)	308	458	285	-37.7
Sorghum	126	128	133	3.9
Others	26	28	32	14.3
Total	1 877	2 068	1 905	-7.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

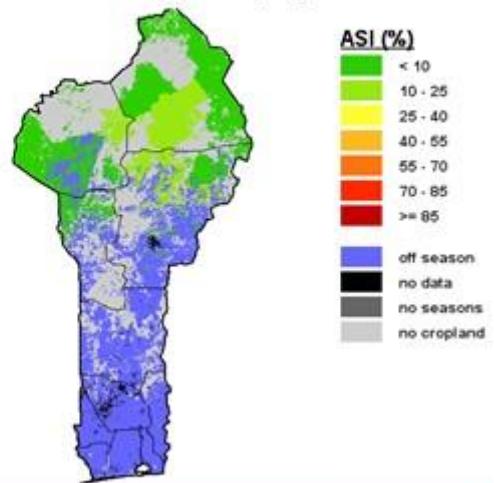
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Pockets of food insecurity persist in country

Despite overall favourable food security conditions, some vulnerable households need external food assistance. According to the March 2019 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 20 000 people (less than 2 percent of the population) are estimated to be in need of food assistance from June to August 2019, down from the 31 000 food insecure people in June-August 2018.

Benin - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

From start of season 1 to dekad 2, August 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.



GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 20-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of cereal crops ongoing under favourable weather conditions
- Above-average cereal production gathered in 2018
- Prices of coarse grains remained overall stable
- Strong economic growth projected, low food inflation
- Pockets of food insecurity persist in the country

Planting of cereal crops ongoing under favourable weather conditions

Following a timely onset of the seasonal rains in the south, planting of the 2019 main season maize crop started in February/March and it is about to be completed. Rainfed rice, to be harvested in August, was planted in April. Weeding activities are normally progressing in most cropped areas. Planting operations for millet, sorghum and irrigated rice, to be harvested from October, are underway.

Grazing conditions and availability of water for livestock have improved in May compared to previous months in the main natural reserves of the country. The animal health situation is generally stable, apart from some localized outbreaks of seasonal diseases.

Above-average 2018 cereal crop harvested

Despite localized flooding, favourable weather conditions in 2018 resulted in an above-average cereal crop production of about 2 million tonnes. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, is estimated at about 1.4 million tonnes, nearly 3 percent above the five-year average and 11 percent below the record of the previous year. A record production has been observed for rice, 26 percent above the 2017 harvest and 73 percent above the five-year average levels.

Cereal import requirements, mostly rice and wheat for human consumption, in 2019 (October 2018/September 2019) are estimated at a high level of 500 000 tonnes, about 16 percent below the previous year and 25 percent above the average due to higher demand for human and industrial use.

Stable food prices slightly increased

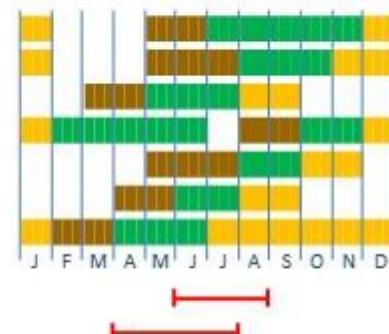
Prices of maize generally strengthened in April, supported by seasonal demand for human consumption and seeds as well as by export sales to neighbouring Sahelian countries.

Benin

Crop Calendar

Cassava*
Irrigated Rice
Maize (Main)*
Maize (Second)*
Millet & Sorghum
Rice
Yams*

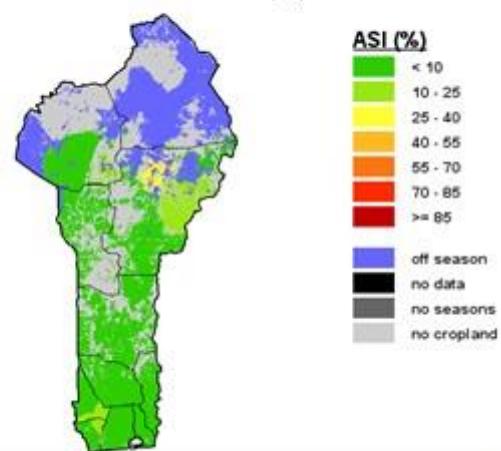
lean period
lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Benin - Agricultural Stress index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, April 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Strong economic growth projected, low food inflation

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the country's real GDP is expected to remain robust in 2019 at 6.5 percent, slightly up from the estimated 6 percent in 2018. This growth is supported by strong activity in agriculture (and particularly the cotton industry), high public investment in infrastructure, growing domestic demand and high private investments. The food inflation in 2019 is expected to slightly decline from 0.8 percent in 2018 to 0.7 percent in 2019 due to the good performance of the agricultural sector. Inflation is well below the UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) convergence rate of 3 percent.

Pockets of food insecurity persist in the country

Despite the overall favourable food security conditions, some vulnerable households still need external food assistance. According to the March 2019 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 32 000 people (0.27 percent of the population) are estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2019, showing an increase from 8 500 food insecure people in March-May 2018. The increase is explained mainly by the impacts of floods and Fall Armyworm on cultivated areas.

Benin

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 390	1 617	1 428	-11.7
Rice (paddy)	258	361	458	26.7
Sorghum	118	140	128	-8.7
Others	25	26	28	6.1
Total	1 790	2 144	2 042	-4.8

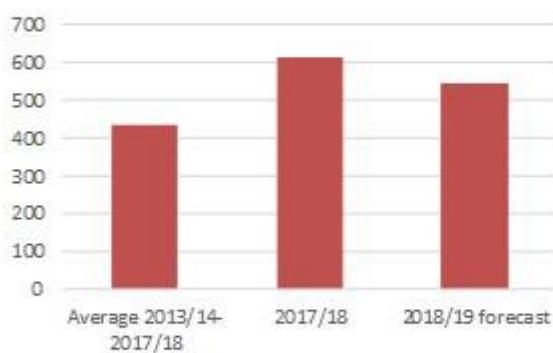
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Benin

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief

Benin

Reference Date: 24-July-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of cereal crops ongoing under favourable conditions
- Cereal production in 2017 estimated at above average level
- Humanitarian assistance needed for vulnerable population

Normal progress of 2018 cropping season

Following a timely onset of the seasonal rains in the south, planting of maize and yams started in February/March and harvesting operations are expected to start in August. Rice, for harvest in September, was planted in April. Planting operations for millet and sorghum, for harvest from October, are underway. Weeding activities are normally progressing in most cropped areas.

Land preparation for the 2018 minor season maize crop is ongoing and planting activities are expected to finalize in August 2018. The crop will be harvested between December 2018 and January 2019.

Above-average 2017 cereal crop harvested

Despite some disruptions to the network for distribution of agricultural inputs following the installation of the new authorities, the 2017 cropping season was characterized by favourable rainfall conditions. The overall 2017 cereal production is estimated at about 2 million tonnes, 12 percent above the 2016 harvest and 23 percent of the five-year average levels. Major increases were observed in maize and rice production.

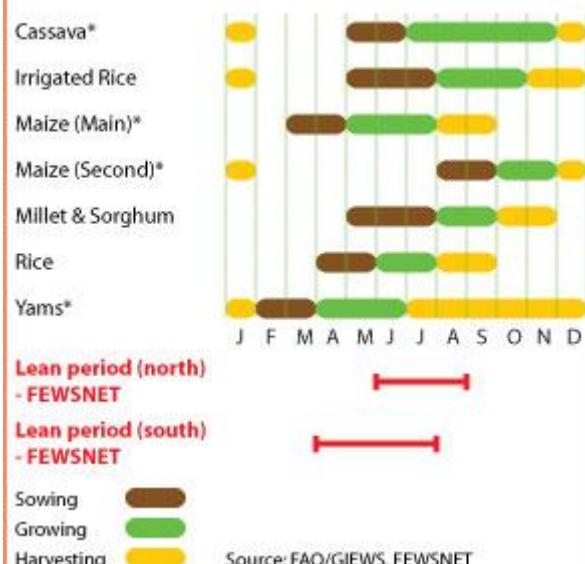
Imports account for over 25 percent of the national cereal utilization, equivalent to about 400 000 tonnes of cereals, mostly rice and wheat. Small quantities of maize (less than 200 000 tonnes) are also annually exported. Despite the above-average 2017 production, import requirements for the 2017/18 (November/October) marketing year are expected to increase by about 20 percent compared to previous year and about 40 percent above the average due to higher demand for human and industrial use.

Small pockets of food insecurity persist

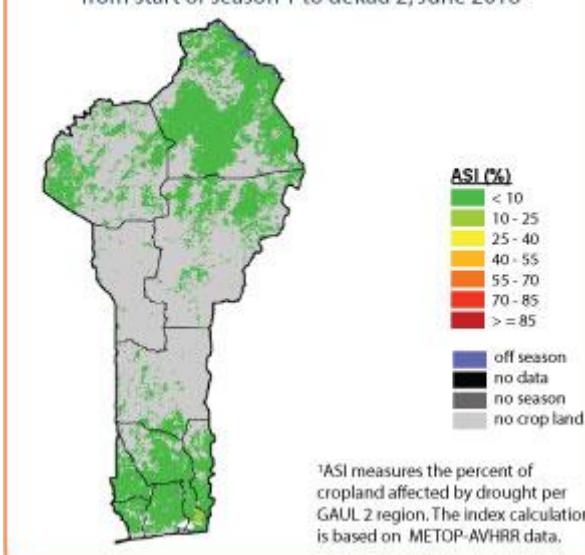
According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, the country's real GDP is expected to grow in 2018 by about 6 percent, up from an estimated 5.6 percent in 2017, supported by strong activity in

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹ from start of season 1 to dekad 2, June 2018



agriculture (and particularly the cotton industry), high public investment and growing domestic demand. Food inflation in 2018 is expected to remain low at 1.3 percent as in 2017, driven by the good performance of the agricultural sector, which will keep local food prices low, and a strengthening of the local currency.

Despite the aggregate above-average agricultural production, some households in rural areas early depleted their stocks during the lean season. As a result, pockets of food insecurity still persist in some areas. According to the March 2018 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 8 500 people were estimated to be in need of food assistance between March and May 2018 compared to 60 000 people in October-December 2017. The number was projected to increase to 31 000 people during the June to August period, if mitigation measures are not taken. However, this still only represents a minor proportion of the total population of 11 million and, in general, the food security conditions are favourable.

Benin

Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maïze	1 304	1 617	1 428	-12
Rice (paddy)	229	279	285	2
Sorghum	118	140	128	-9
Others	26	26	28	8
Total	1 677	2 062	1 869	-9

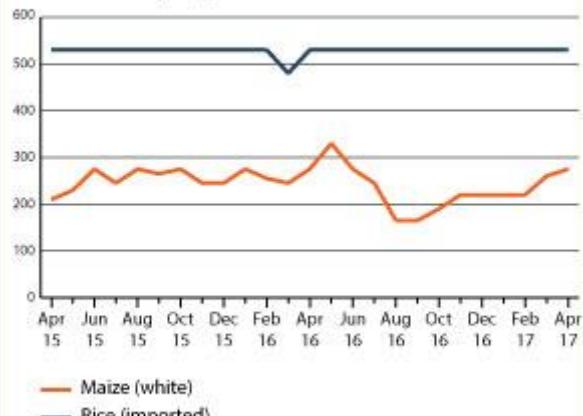
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc BCEAO per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire

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 Benin

Reference Date: 13-February-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average 2017 cereal crop harvested due to favourable rainfall during cropping season
- About 60 000 people in need of urgent assistance for food

Above-average harvest gathered in 2017

Harvesting of the 2017 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in November last year.

The 2017 cropping season was characterized by well-distributed rains in time and space in most parts of the country. However, a series of prolonged dry spells in May led to the re-sowing of crops in some areas, including Djidja, Zangnanado, Zakpota and Zogbodomey communes.

According to preliminary reports, despite some Fall Armyworm outbreaks, the 2017 aggregate cereal production is estimated at about 2 million tonnes, 14 percent above the previous year's output and almost 23 percent above the five-year average. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, is estimated at about 1.6 million tonnes, 18 percent above the 2016 production as well as the five-year average.

Owing to favourable rainfall, natural pasture and watering conditions are currently favourable but are likely to seasonally deteriorate until the onset of the next rainy season in April.

On average, less than 400 000 tonnes of cereals (mostly rice and wheat) are imported every year, corresponding to about 25 percent of the domestic cereal consumption requirements. Small quantities of maize (less than 200 000 tonnes) are annually exported.

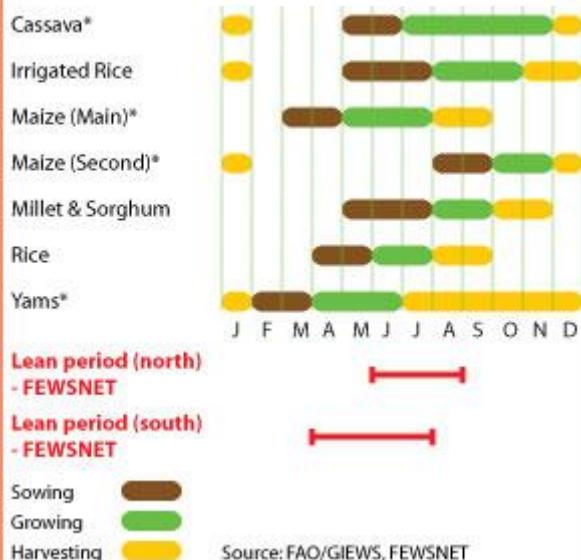
Small pockets of food insecurity prevail

Over 70 percent of the population is engaged in agricultural activities, contributing to about one-fourth of the total GDP. Cotton is the main export crop, contributing to over 10 percent of the GDP and over one-third of the export earnings, exposing the country to changes in world cotton prices.

In December 2017, the annual food inflation in the country reached 5 percent, down from the almost 10 percent recorded in

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1 307	1 376	1 617	18
Rice (paddy)	229	281	277	-1
Sorghum	116	130	140	8
Others	26	27	26	-4
Total	1 679	1 814	2 060	14

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

August 2017, but well above the negative rates of the food inflation reached in the first half of 2017. Rice imports represent about one-third of the import bill, transferring changes in world prices into the domestic markets.

Small pockets of food insecurity prevail due to localized production shortfalls. According to the last analysis of the "Cadre Harmonisé" (Harmonized Framework) conducted in November 2017, about 60 000 people (less than 0.5 percent of the total population) were estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above between October and December 2017, with a substantial increase if compared to about 18 000 food insecure people between March and May 2017.

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GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 05-April-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average 2016 cereal harvests due to favourable rainfall during the cropping season
- Food prices are mostly stable, reflecting increased supplies from recent harvests
- About 22 000 people in need of urgent assistance for food

Above-average harvest gathered in 2016

Planting of the 2017 main maize crop is expected to start soon in the southern part of the country where farmers have finalized land preparation. Planting will progress northwards with the onset of the rains. Harvesting of the 2016 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in November last year.

The 2016 cropping season was characterized by well-distributed rains in time and space in most parts of the country. According to preliminary reports, the 2016 aggregate cereal production is estimated at about 1.8 million tonnes, 9 percent above the previous year's output and almost 11 percent above the five-year average. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, is estimated at about 1.39 million tonnes, 8 percent above the 2015 production.

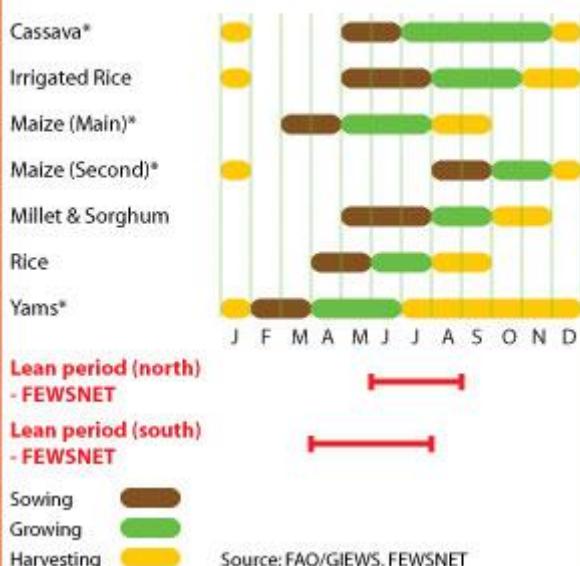
Maize prices declined significantly, reflecting increased supplies

The 2016 good harvests had put significant downward pressure on prices in most monitored markets between June and September. For example, prices of maize, the main staple food, dropped by 50 percent between June and September 2016 in Cotonou and Abomey markets. Although prices recovered substantially during the last quarter of 2016, they were still well below their year-earlier levels in December.

About 18 000 people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above between March and May 2017, according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis conducted in the country. This represents a notable improvement compared to last year. The significant decrease in the number of food insecure people was driven mostly by the well-distributed rainfall and increased food supplies in most parts of the country.

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Cereal production

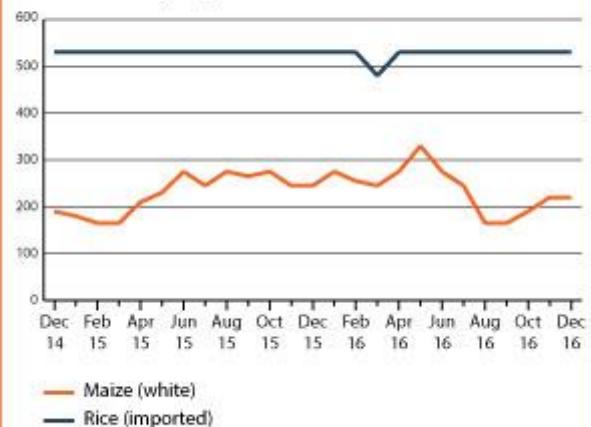
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1 265	1 286	1 391	8
Rice (paddy)	217	204	243	19
Sorghum	117	130	137	5
Others	26	24	28	17
Total	1 625	1 644	1 799	9

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

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc BCEAO per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire

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GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 31-March-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average 2016 cereal harvests due to adequate rainfall during cropping season
- Food prices mostly stable, reflecting increased supplies from recent harvests
- About 22 000 people in need of urgent assistance for food

Above-average harvest gathered in 2016

Planting of the 2017 main maize crop is expected to start in the weeks ahead in the southern part of the country where farmers are currently preparing their fields. Planting will progress northwards with the onset of the rains. Harvesting of the 2016 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in November last year.

The 2016 cropping season was characterized by well-distributed rains in time and space in most parts of the country. According to preliminary estimates, the 2016 aggregate cereal production will be at about 1.8 million tonnes, 9 percent above the previous year's output and almost 11 percent above the five-year average. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, was estimated at about 1.39 million tonnes, 8 percent below the 2015 production.

In 2015, cereal production declined by about 5 percent over the previous year's harvest to 1.6 million tonnes. This level of production was about 6 percent above the average of the previous five years.

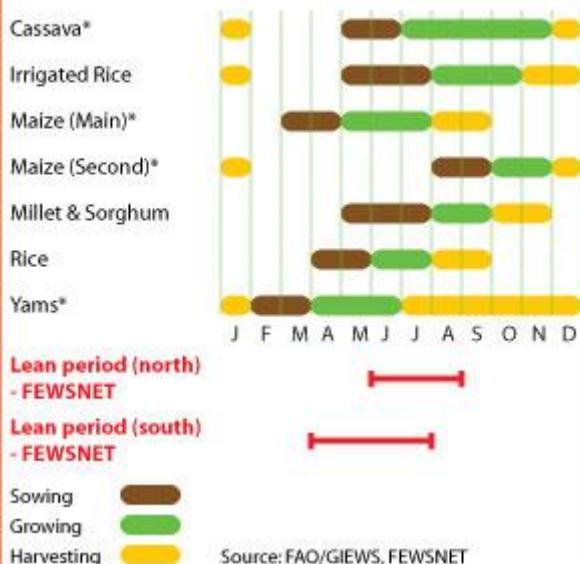
Maize prices declined significantly, reflecting increased supplies

The 2016 good harvests had put significant downward pressure on prices in most monitored markets between June and September. For example, prices of maize, the main staple food, dropped by 50 percent between June and September in Cotonou and Abomey markets. Although prices recovered substantially during the last quarter of 2016, they were still well below their year-earlier levels in December.

About 22 000 people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above between March and May 2017, according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis conducted in the country. This represents a notable improvement compared to last year. The significant

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2016		change 2016/2015
		2015	estimate	
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1 265	1 286	1 391	8
Rice (paddy)	217	204	243	19
Sorghum	117	130	137	5
Others	26	24	28	17
Total	1 625	1 644	1 799	9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

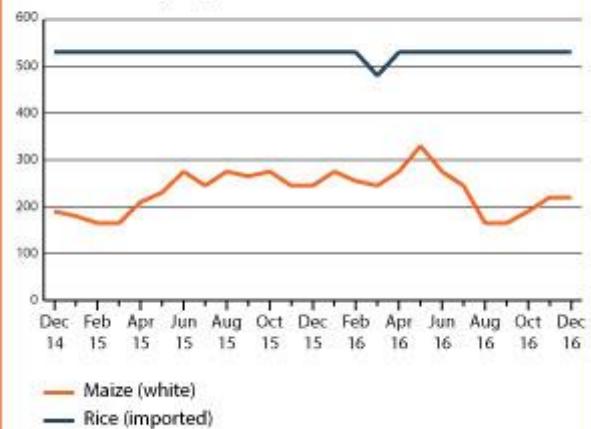
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

decrease in the number of food insecure people was driven mostly by the well-distributed rainfall and increased food supplies in most parts of the country.

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc BCEAO per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire



GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 14-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects favourable for 2016 cereal harvests due to adequate rainfall during cropping season
- Significant downward pressure on coarse grain prices due to increased supplies from first season crop harvests
- About 77 000 people in need of urgent assistance for food

Overall prospects favourable for 2016 food crops production

Harvesting of coarse grains is underway in the northern part of the country, which has only one rainy season. In the South, harvesting of the 2016 second season maize crop is about to start. Overall, harvest prospects are good following well-distributed rains in time and space during planting and subsequent favourable precipitation in most parts of the country. An above-average 2016 production of cereal and roots and tubers is forecast.

Last year, cereal production declined by about 5 percent over the previous year's harvest to 1.6 million tonnes. This level of production was about 6 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, was estimated at about 1.29 million tonnes, 5 percent below the 2014 production.

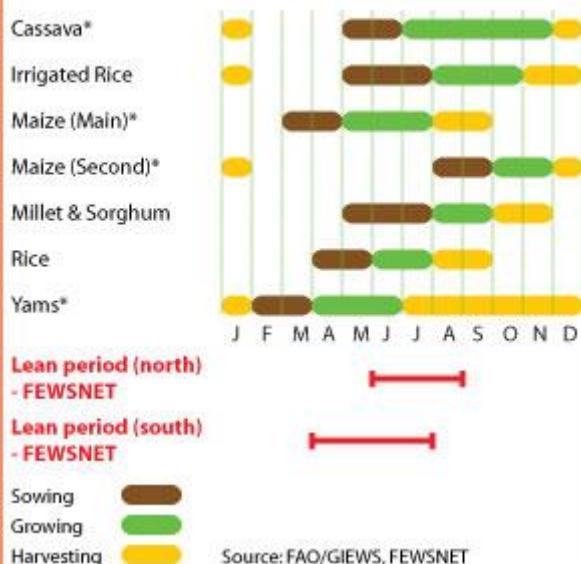
Maize prices on the decline, reflecting increased supplies

Harvesting of the 2016 first season crops has put significant downward pressure on prices in most monitored markets. For example, prices of maize, the main staple food, dropped by 50 percent between June and August in Cotonou and Abomey markets.

About 77 000 people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, were estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above between June and August, compared to 51 000 in 2015, according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis conducted in the country. The significant increase in the number of food insecure people was driven mostly by the impact of last year's dry spells on crop production in the north.

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET

Benin

Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2015		2016 forecast	change 2016/2015 percent
		000 tonnes			
Maize	1 211	1 286	2 301	79	
Rice (paddy)	201	204	215	5	
Sorghum	123	130	270	108	
Others	27	24	23	-4	
Total	1 561	1 644	2 809	71	

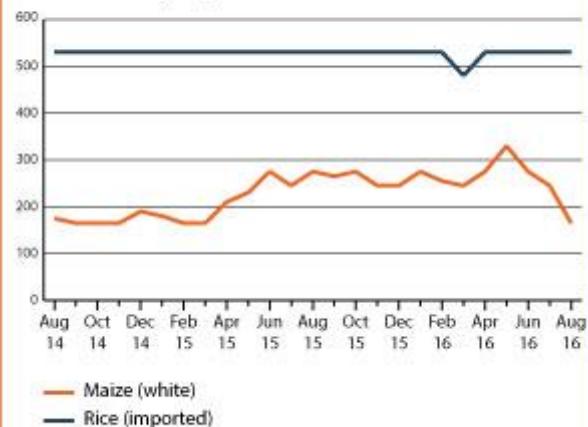
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Benin

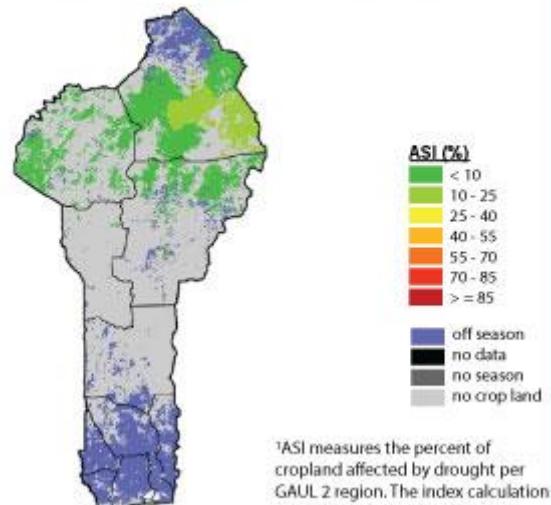
Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc BCEAO per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire

Benin - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹ from start of season 1 to dekad 3 October 2016





GIEWS Country Brief Benin

Reference Date: 01-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects mixed for 2016 cereal harvests
- Coarse grain prices increased significantly over last few months
- About 77 000 people in need of urgent assistance for food

Early crop prospects mixed due to rainfall deficits in parts of the country

Harvesting of the 2016 first maize crop is set to begin in August in southern parts of the country. According to remote sensing analysis, the onset of the cropping season was delayed and characterized by irregular precipitation, resulting in rainfall deficits in parts. Harvest prospects remain uncertain in the south in spite of increased precipitation in recent weeks.

In the north, which has only one rainy season, planting of coarse grains is expected to conclude in July. Weather conditions have been mostly favourable so far in northern regions, and coarse grains are developing satisfactorily.

Last year, cereal production declined by about 5 percent over the previous year's harvest to 1.6 million tonnes. This level of production was about 6 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, was estimated at about 1.29 million tonnes, 5 percent below the 2014 production.

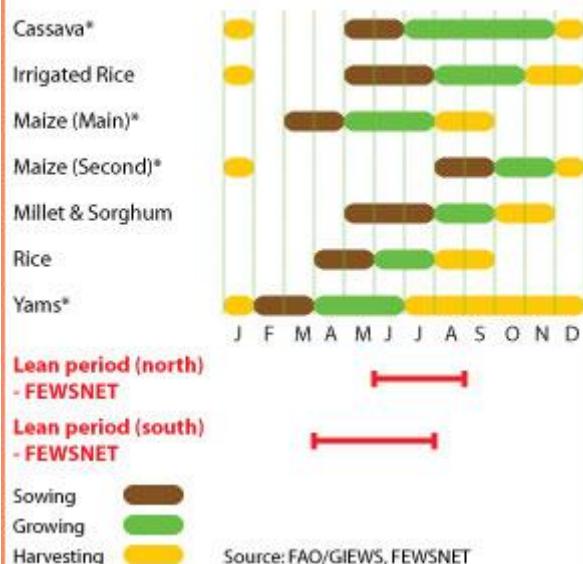
Maize prices on increase

Prices of maize, the main staple food, have showed significant increase in recent months, driven mostly by the reduced 2015 maize output and mixed prospects for the 2016 harvests. As a result, prices are significantly higher than a year earlier. Maize prices in Cotonou markets in May 2016 were 44 percent higher than in May 2015.

The number of people in need of food assistance is forecast to increase in the marketing year 2015/16, reflecting the impact of last year's dry spells on agricultural production. About 77 000 people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above and require food assistance, compared to 51 000 in 2015, according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis conducted in the country.

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014		2015 estimate	change 2015/2014 percent
		000 tonnes			
Maize	1,211	1,354	1,286		-5
Rice (paddy)	201	234	204		-13
Sorghum	123	100	130		30
Others	27	24	24		0
Total	1,561	1,712	1,644		-4

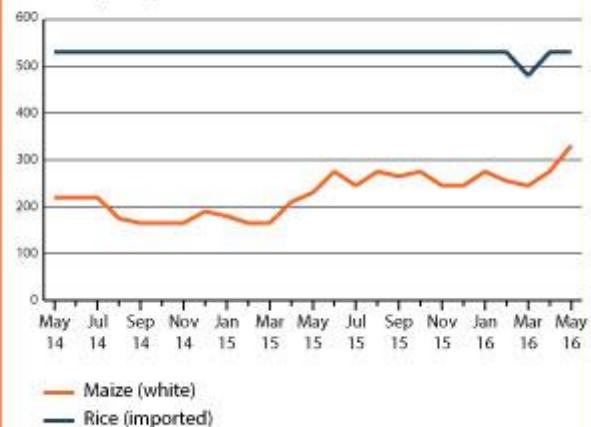
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Benin

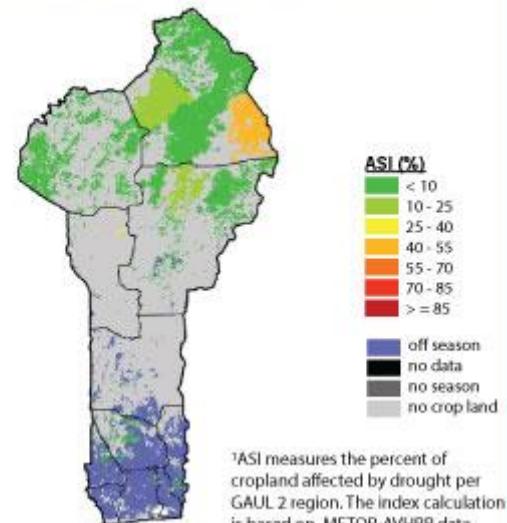
Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire

Benin - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹ from start of season 1 to dekad 2 July 2016



Reference Date: 08-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average harvest gathered in 2015 in spite of erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Cereal prices have been mostly stable in recent months, but still significantly above previous year's levels
- About 115 000 people in need of urgent assistance for food

Above-average harvest gathered in 2015

Planting of the 2016 main maize crop is expected to start in the weeks ahead in the southern part of the country where farmers are currently preparing their fields. Planting will progress northwards with the onset of the rains.

Harvesting of the 2015 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in November last year. The start of the rainy season was delayed in several parts of the country and cumulated precipitation was below the 2014 level, with negative impact on planted areas and crop yields. Preliminary estimates indicate that cereal production declined by about 5 percent in 2015, over the previous year's harvest, to 1.6 million tonnes. However, this level of production is about 5 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, was estimated at about 1.26 million tonnes, 5 percent below the 2014 production.

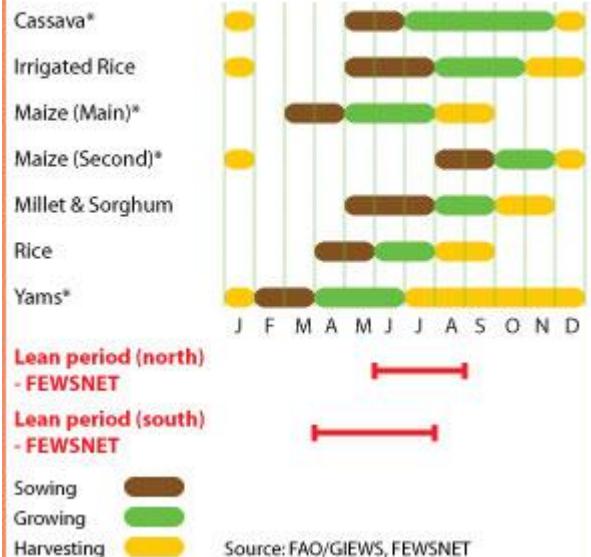
Cereal prices remained mostly stable in recent months but higher than year-earlier levels

Prices of maize, the main staple food, have followed an upward trend throughout 2015. Although they have remained mostly stable in the last few months, prices are still significantly higher than a year earlier. Maize prices on Cotonou markets in February 2016 were 53 percent higher than in February 2015.

The number of people in need of food assistance is forecast to increase in marketing year 2015/16, reflecting the impact of last year's dry spells on agricultural production. About 114 998 people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above and require food assistance, compared to 51 000 in 2015, according to the last Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 205	1 354	1 260	-7
Rice (paddy)	201	234	235	0
Sorghum	120	100	111	11
Others	26	23	27	17
Total	1 552	1 713	1 634	-5

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

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire

Reference Date: 03-June-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good crop harvest was gathered in 2014 in spite of erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Markets are well supplied and cereal prices have fallen significantly
- However, about 51 000 people need urgent assistance

Cropping season in 2015 has started in South

Seasonal rains commenced in April in the southern part of the country, allowing land preparation and planting of the first maize crop to start. In the North, which only has one rainy season, planting of the 2015 cereal crops is expected to start in the weeks ahead with the onset of the rains.

Good food crop harvest was gathered in 2014

In spite of erratic rains in parts of the country, the 2014 aggregate cereal production, mostly maize, is estimated to be similar to the previous year's good harvest. The decline in millet and sorghum production was partially offset by an increased maize output. The aggregate 2014 cereal production was estimated at about 1.6 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's harvest, but about 9 percent above the five-year average. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, is estimated to be similar to the previous year's above-average level of 1.3 million tonnes. Production of root crops is also estimated to have increased significantly.

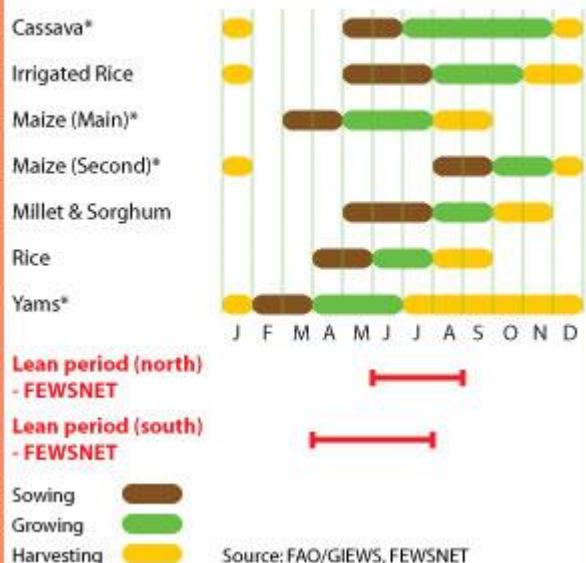
Cereal prices remained mostly stable in recent months

Prices of maize, the main staple food, have been following a downward trend over the past few months and remained significantly lower than a year earlier reflecting adequate supplies across the country. Maize prices on the Cotonou markets in March 2015 were 25 percent lower than in March 2014. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, remained stable across the country, in line with trends in international markets.

In spite of the favourable food supply situation, about 51 000 people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above and require food assistance, according to the last Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.

Benin

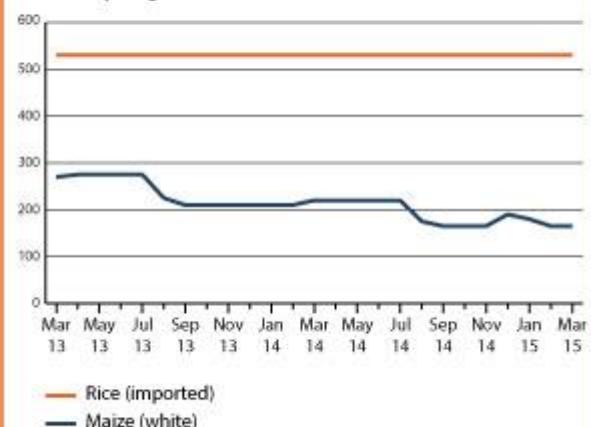
Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per Kg



Reference Date: 11-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates indicate a below-average cereal production in 2014, following erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Significant price declines registered in recent months

Below-average 2014 cereal production expected to be offset by strong growth in root and tuber production

Harvesting of coarse grains is underway in the northern part of the country which has only one rainy season. In the South, harvesting of the 2014 second season maize crop is about to start. Erratic precipitation in parts of the country has affected crop yields, leading to a reduced 2014 cereal harvest. The National Agricultural Statistics Service has forecasted a below-average 2014 cereal harvest of about 1.3 million tonnes. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, is forecast to decline by 4 percent compared to last year's below-average level of 1.058 million tonnes. By contrast, a good production of roots and tuber crops is expected, with cassava output forecast to expand by nearly 40 percent over last year's level.

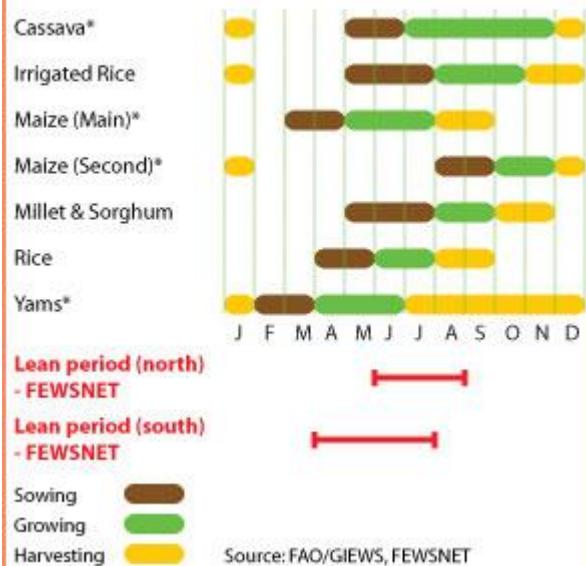
In 2013, cereal output was estimated at about 1.4 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than the previous year's good crop. This level of production was similar to the average of the previous five years.

Coarse grains prices declined in recent months

Prices of maize, the main staple food, were mostly stable in recent months, and remained significantly lower than a year earlier reflecting adequate supplies as well as generally favourable prospects for the 2014 cropping season across the subregion. The beginning of the 2014 first harvesting season in August has put downward pressure on prices in most markets across the country. Maize prices declined by up to 35 percent between July and September 2014. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, remained stable across the country, in line with trends in international markets.

Benin

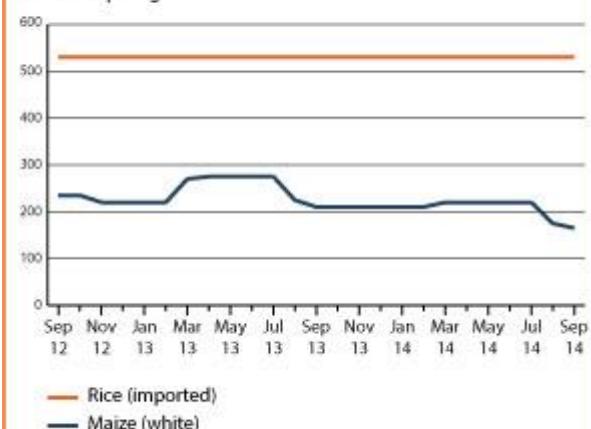
Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per Kg



Reference Date: 07-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates indicate above-average cereal production in 2013, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- Generally stable cereal prices from August 2013 following large increase in preceding months

Despite erratic rains in parts, another good cereal crop was gathered in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 second season maize crop is nearly complete in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in November. In spite of erratic precipitation in parts of the country, preliminary estimates indicate that cereal production expanded by 13 percent in 2013, over previous year's level, to 1.7 million tonnes. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, was estimated at a record 1.4 million tonnes.

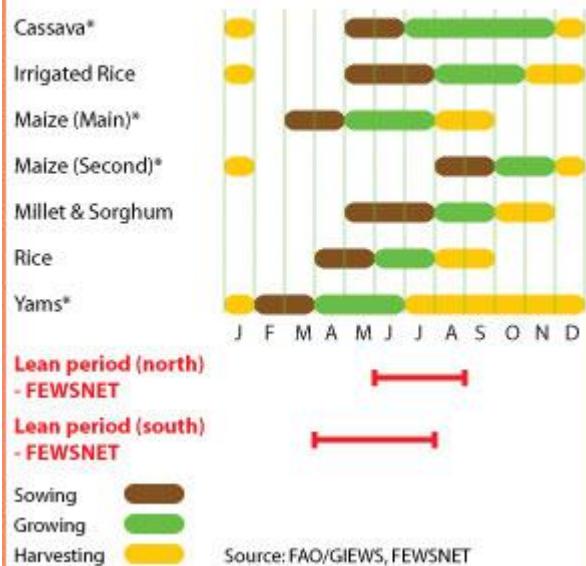
A good crop was already gathered in 2012. The 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's good crop. This level of production was 12 percent above the average of the previous five years. The improvement was also driven by a significant growth in rice production which increased by 75 percent over the previous two years.

Coarse grains prices stabilised from October following steep rises in early 2013

Maize prices have been mostly stable since October 2013 following the large increase recorded in preceding months. Cereal prices increased steeply last year (in spite of the bumper crop gathered in 2012), due to reduced imports from neighbouring Nigeria and increased cross-border export to Niger. Cereal markets have been disrupted in Nigeria due to insecurity and reduced supplies from the 2012 flood-affected crop, limiting exports to neighbouring countries. However, the beginning of the harvesting season in August has pushed prices down across the subregion. Maize prices declined in Benin by up to 40 percent between July and September 2013, and have remained mostly stable since then. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, remained stable across the country in recent months, in line with trends in international markets.

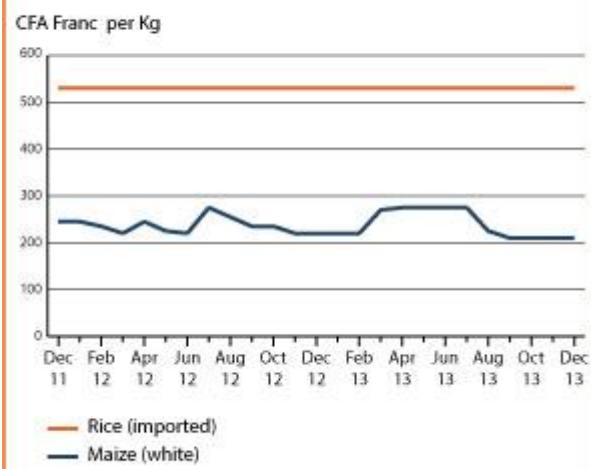
Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou



Benin

Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	1 111	1 175	1 400	19
Rice (paddy)	163	219	199	-9
Sorghum	133	108	115	6
Others	30	32	25	-22
Total	1 437	1 534	1 739	13

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

GIEWS Country Brief

Benin



Reference Date: 24-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvest prospects are uncertain due to irregular rains during 2013 cropping season
- Cereal market affected by reduced supplies and insecurity in Nigeria

Harvest prospects mixed following irregular rains

Harvesting of first season maize crop has just been completed in the South. In the North, which only has one rainy season, the harvesting of cereals has begun. Harvest prospects are mixed following below-normal rains at planting and subsequent erratic precipitation in several parts of the country, notably in the North. Food production in 2013 is likely to be lower than last year's bumper crop.

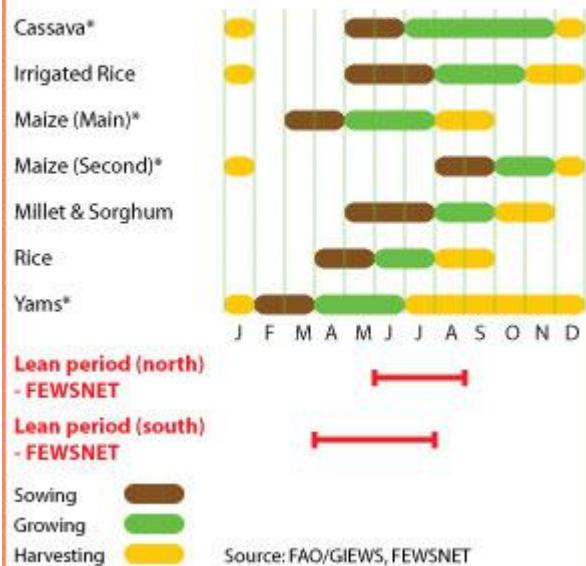
A good crop was gathered in 2012 for the second time in a row. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's record crop. This level of production was 12 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, was estimated at a record 1.1 million tonnes. The improvement was also driven by a significant growth in rice production which increased by 75 percent over the previous two years.

Coarse grains prices affected by reduced supplies in Nigeria

In spite of the bumper crop gathered last year, cereal prices have remained relatively higher due to reduced imports from neighbouring Nigeria and increased cross-border export to Niger. Cereal markets have been disrupted in Nigeria due to insecurity and reduced supplies from last year's flood-affected crop, leading coarse grains prices to follow a sustained upward trend in the past months and limiting exports to neighbouring countries. However, the beginning of the harvesting season in August has pushed prices down across the subregion. Maize prices declined in Benin by up to 36 percent between July and August 2013. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, remained stable across the country in recent months, in line with trends in international markets.

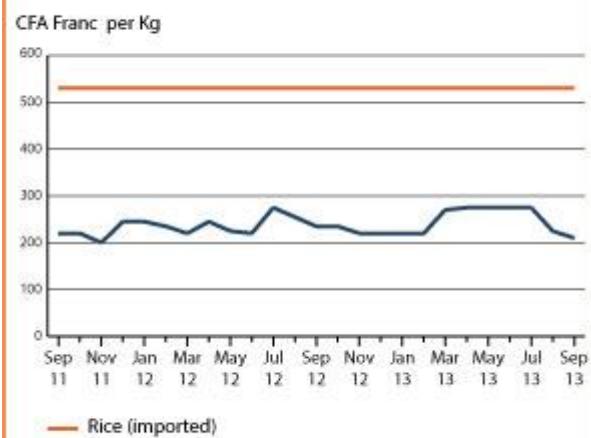
Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou



Reference Date: 10-June-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The first maize crop is developing in the South
- Estimates for the 2012 harvest point to another above average cereal production
- Cereal markets remain well supplied, following last year's good crop

The 2013 maize crop is developing satisfactorily in the South

The rainy season started in April in southern parts of the country, allowing sowing of the first 2013 maize crops, for harvest from July. Planting of coarse grains will progress northwards in June following the onset of the rains. Weather conditions have been mostly favorable so far in the South and the main season maize crop is developing satisfactorily.

A good crop was gathered in 2012 for the second year in a row

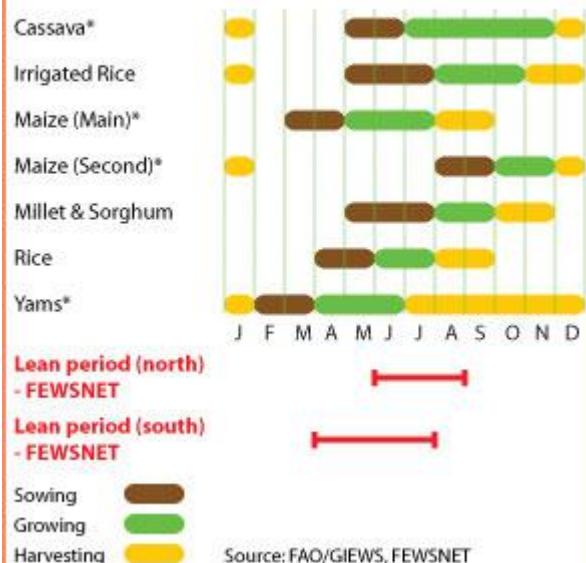
Harvesting of the 2012 cereal crop was completed last January. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's record crop. This level of production is 12 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, is estimated at a record 1.1 million tonnes. The improvement is also driven by a significant growth in rice production which increased by 75 percent over the past two years.

Coarse grains prices affected by reduced supplies in Nigeria

Reflecting last year's good harvests, coarse grains prices have been following normal seasonal patterns in general. For example maize prices remained mostly stable in Cotonou from September 2012 through February 2013, before increasing by 23 percent in March. Although maize prices remained stable in April, they were 12 percent above their levels a year earlier. The sharp price increases in April was driven by reduced supplies in neighbouring Nigeria and increased cross-border export to Niger. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, remained stable across the country in recent months, in line with trends in international markets.

Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

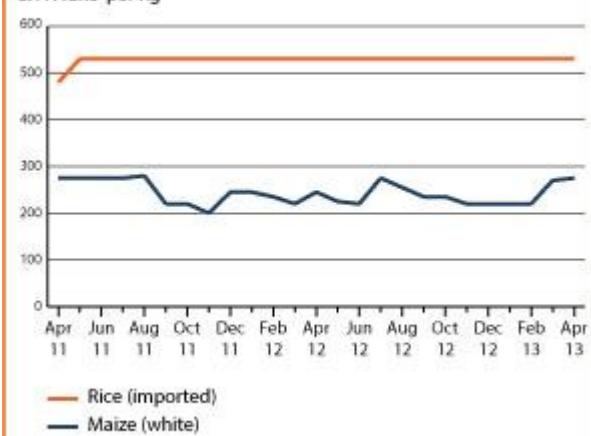


Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire

Reference Date: 24-April-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates for the 2012 harvest point to another above average cereal production
- Cereal markets remain well supplied, following last year's good crop

The 2013 rainy season has started in the South

The raining season has started in the southern part of the country, where planting of the first maize crop is underway. Planting will progress northwards with the onset of rains.

A good crop was gathered in 2012 for the second year in a row

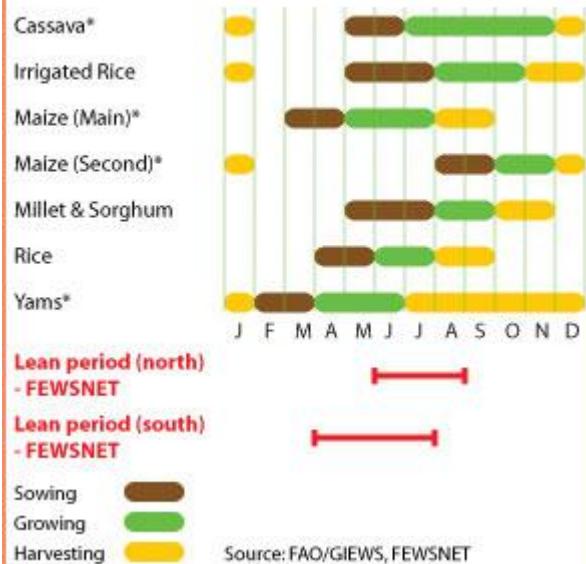
Harvesting of the 2012 cereal crop was completed last January. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes, similar to the previous year's record crop. This level of production is 12 percent above the average of the previous five years. Production of maize, the main staple cereal, is estimated at a record 1.17 million tonnes. The improvement is also driven by a significant growth in rice production which increased by 75 percent over the past two years.

Prices of coarse grains continue to follow normal seasonal patterns in general

Reflecting last year's good harvests, markets remain generally well supplied and coarse grains prices continue to follow normal seasonal patterns in most parts of the country. For example, in Cotonou, maize prices remained mostly stable since November 2012, and in February 2012 they were 6 percent below their levels a year earlier. However, maize prices increased by 40 percent in February in the northern city of Malanville, driven by reduced supplies in neighbouring Nigeria and increased cross-border export to Niger. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, remained stable across the country in recent months, in line with trends in international markets.

Benin

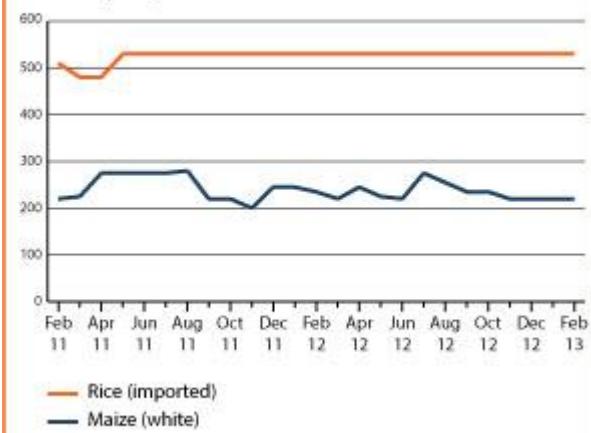
Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per Kg



Reference Date: 26-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Final estimates indicate above-average cereal production in 2011, despite erratic precipitation in parts of the country
- However, high food prices continue to affect consumers

Despite erratic rains in parts, a good cereal crop was gathered in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 second season maize crop was completed in January in the South. In the North, which has only one rainy season, harvesting of coarse grains was completed in November. In spite of erratic precipitation in parts of the country, final official estimates indicate that cereal production expanded by 17 percent in 2011, over previous year's floods-affected crop, to about 1.5 million tonnes.

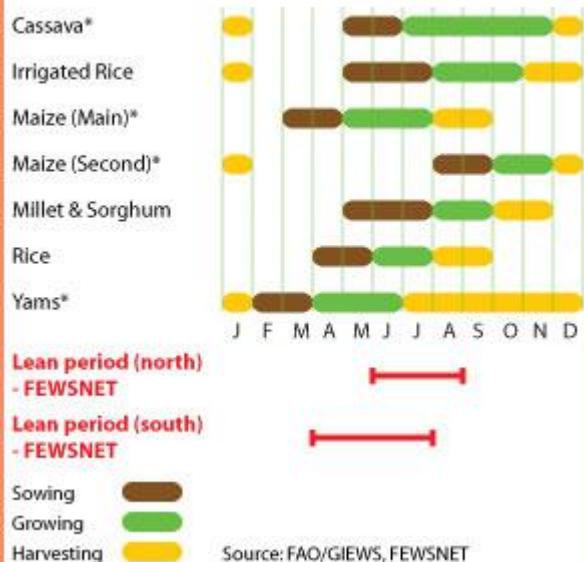
Commercial cereal imports, normally accounting for about 20 percent of the country's needs, are estimated at about 335 000 tonnes in the 2012 marketing year (January/December).

High food prices make access to food difficult

In spite of last year's good harvest, cereal prices remained at relatively high levels. For instance, prices of maize (the main staple, cereal) in Cotonou were 7 percent higher in February 2012 than in February 2011. In other monitored markets, maize prices were up to 54 percent higher than last year. This is partly due to tight cereal supply in the Sahel region and increased purchases by neighbouring countries and humanitarian operators. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban areas, remained stable in the capital Cotonou at the same levels of February 2011.

Benin

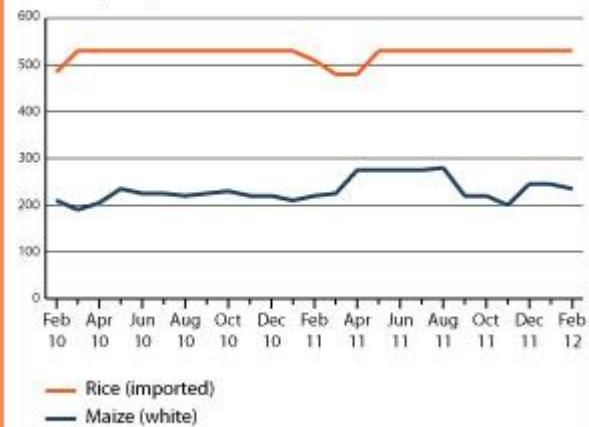
Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per Kg



Reference Date: 12-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early crop prospects are uncertain due to irregular rains in most parts of the country
- High food prices continue to affect urban consumers

Harvest prospects mixed following irregular rains

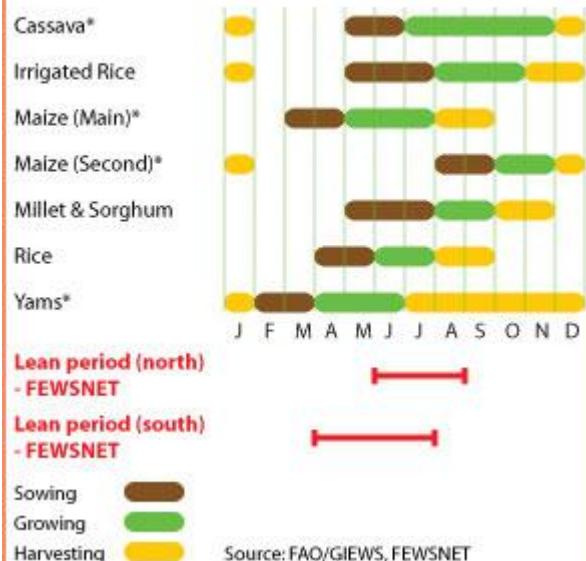
Harvesting of the first season maize crop and planting of the second season crop are underway in the South. In the North, which only has one rainy season, the harvesting of cereals is about to begin. Harvest prospects are mixed following below-normal rains at planting and subsequent erratic precipitation in most parts of the country. Food production is not likely to recover significantly this year after the flood-affected 2010 harvest.

High food prices make access to food difficult

Following last year's reduced crop, prices of maize, the main staple, remained significantly above their levels of the previous year in most regions. In Cotonou, although maize prices were mostly stable over the past few months, in July 2011 they were about 22 percent above their level of a year earlier. Moreover, the Government has started implementing new trade reforms which are having inflationary effects in the food sector. Rising food prices have made access to food difficult for large segments of the population.

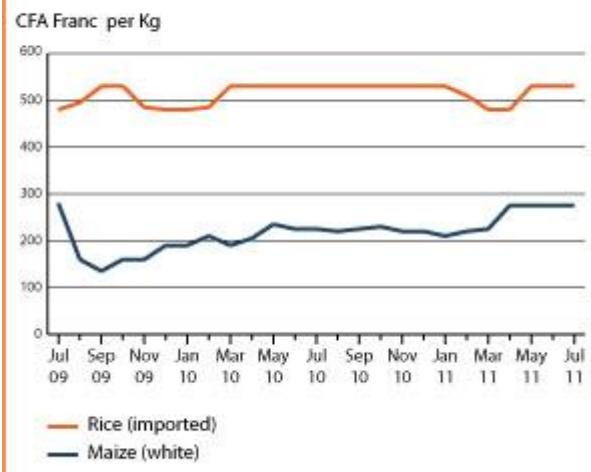
Benin

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou



GIEWS Country Brief

Benin



Reference Date: 20-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2011 cropping season has started in the South, while seasonably dry conditions still prevail in the north
- Last year, heavy rains and floods led to massive destruction of community and individual assets
- Cereal production in 2010 was 20 percent lower than in 2009 due to irregular rains and floods
- Maize prices increasing due mostly to the impact of the floods

The 2011 cropping season has started in the South

Seasonal rains commenced in April in the southern part of the country, allowing land preparation and maize planting to start. Dry conditions prevail in the North, with the rainy season expected to begin in June.

Irregular rains and floods caused a steep drop in cereal production in 2010

Last year, below-normal rains at planting and subsequent erratic precipitation and floods caused serious damage to crops and livestock in several areas. Cereal production declined by 20 percent in 2010 compared to the previous year.

The floods alone destroyed over 68 000 hectares of crop land (maize, rice, sorghum, cassava, millet and yam) and killed 141 000 animals. 55 out of the country's 77 communes and an estimated 680 000 people have been affected. The hardest hit communes include Malanville, Karimama (Alibori Department), Tchaourou (Borgou Department), Zagnanado, Ouinhi (Zou Department), Bonou, Dangbo, Adjohoun, Aguégués (Ouémé Department), So-Ava, Zè, (Atlantique Department), Athiéme (Mono Department) and Lalo (Couffo Department).

Maize prices on the increase

Price of maize, the main staple food, has been increasing steeply reflecting lower supplies. Maize price in April 2011 in Cotonou, the capital city, was 34 percent higher than in April 2010 and 6 percent above its level of three years ago. This has made access to food difficult for large segments of the population.

An emergency operation (EMOP) is currently underway, distributing food to 410 000 flood-affected people, from January to June 2010.

Crop calendar

Benin



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Benin

Cereal production

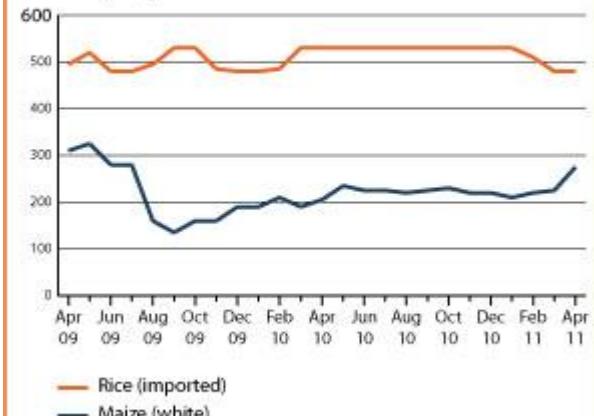
	2006-2010 average	2010		2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
		000 tonnes	percent		
Maize	990	979	979	979	0
Sorghum	118	107	107	107	0
Rice (paddy)	101	90	90	90	0
Others	158	132	132	132	0
Total	1 249	1 201	1 201	1 201	0

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

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per kg



Source: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire

Reference Date: 01-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Heavy rains and floods led in 2010 to massive destruction of community and individual assets.
- Cereal production in 2010 was 20 percent lower than 2009's crop due to irregular rains and floods.
- Maize prices increasing due mostly to the impact of the floods.

Irregular rains and floods caused a steep drop in cereal production in 2010

Below-normal rains at planting and subsequent erratic precipitation and floods caused serious damage to crops and livestock in several areas. The 2010 aggregate cereal production is estimated at 1.2 million tonnes, which is 20 percent lower than the previous year's good output and 3 percent below the average of the previous five years.

The floods alone destroyed over 68 000 hectares of crop land (maize, rice, sorghum, cassava, millet and yam) and killed 141 000 animals. 55 out of the country's 77 communes and an estimated 680 000 people have been affected. The hardest hit communes include Malanville, Karimama (Alibori Department), Tchaourou (Borgou Department), Zagnanado, Ouinhi (Zou Department), Bonou, Dangbo, Adjohoun, Aguégues (Ouémé Department), So-Ava, Zè, (Atlantique Department), Athié (Mono Department) and Lalo (Couffo Department).

Maize prices on the increase

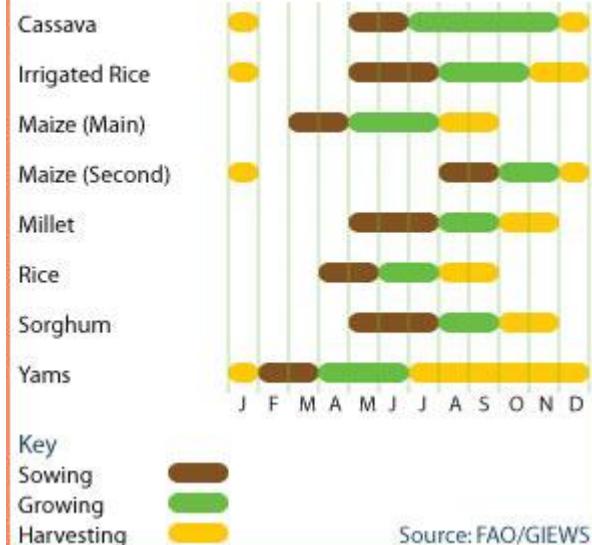
In spite of the reduced crop, prices of main staple maize declined from July to September in the main producing regions, reflecting the arrival of new harvests into the markets. In October, however, widespread floods disrupted harvesting and transport causing prices to increase in several areas. Maize price in October 2010 in Cotonou, the capital city, was 44 percent higher than in October 2009 and 77 percent higher than the pre food prices crisis level of three years ago. This has led to a serious deterioration of the food situation in parts of the country.

An emergency operation (EMOP) is currently underway, distributing food to 410 000 most affected people, from January to June 2010.

Cotton producers are particularly vulnerable to high food prices

Low cotton prices, compounded by problems associated with cotton input and output markets, have negatively impacted on farmers' incomes in the last few years. This has considerably worsened the vulnerability of about 2 million people whose subsistence depends on cotton, mainly in the north of the country which includes the poorest zones where malnutrition levels are the highest. This has made the 2008 prices shock and current floods particularly difficult for these population groups. The plight of the vulnerable groups and market conditions need to be closely monitored in order to provide timely assistance if and when needed.

Crop calendar Benin



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Benin

Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009 percent
	000 tonnes			
Maize	962	1205	978	-19
Sorghum	131	124	107	-14
Rice (paddy)	97	151	90	-40
Others	44	28	25	-11
Total	1234	1508	1200	-20

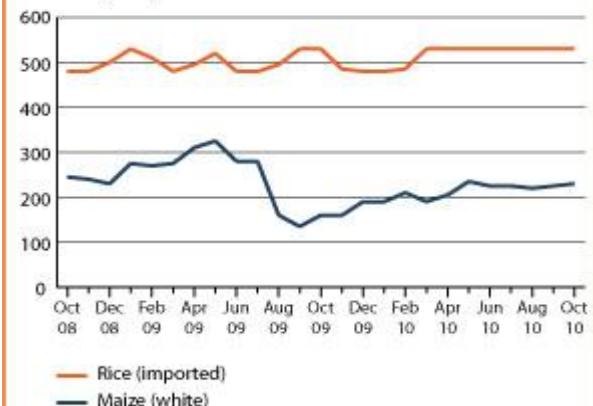
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Benin

Retail prices of cereals in Cotonou

CFA Franc per kg



Source: Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche, Office national d'Appui à la Sécurité alimentaire

Reference Date: 10-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvest prospects are uncertain due to irregular rains during 2010 cropping season
- Maize prices remain low following last year's good crop, but high prices of rice continue to affect urban consumers

Harvest prospects mixed following irregular rains

Harvesting of first season maize crop is underway in the South while planting of the second season crop is about to start. In the North, which only has one rainy season, the harvesting of cereals has begun. Harvest prospects are mixed following below-normal rains at planting and subsequent erratic precipitation in most parts of the country. Food production in 2010 is likely to be significantly lower than last year's record crop.

Maize price remains low following good harvest in 2009

The 2009 cereal output – mostly maize – was 19 percent above average. As a result, prices of maize, the main staple, have declined significantly countrywide from their very high levels of 2008 and early 2009. Although coarse grain prices have increased in recent months, reflecting normal lean period trend, maize price in July 2010 in Cotonou were 50 percent and 25 percent lower than in July 2009 and July 2008 respectively. By contrast, rice prices have remained high, eroding the purchasing power of urban consumers. In Cotonou, rice prices in July 2010 were still 18 percent higher than in July 2008.

Cotton producers are particularly vulnerable to high food prices

Low cotton prices, compounded by problems associated with cotton input and output markets, have negatively impacted on farmers' incomes in the last few years. This has considerably worsened the vulnerability of about 2 million people whose subsistence depends on cotton, mainly in the north of the country which includes the poorest zones where malnutrition levels are the highest. This has made the 2008 prices shock particularly difficult for these population groups. In spite of recent improvements in the food supply situation, the plight of the vulnerable groups and market conditions need to be closely monitored in order to provide timely assistance if and when needed.

Crop calendar

Benin



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Benin

Cereal production

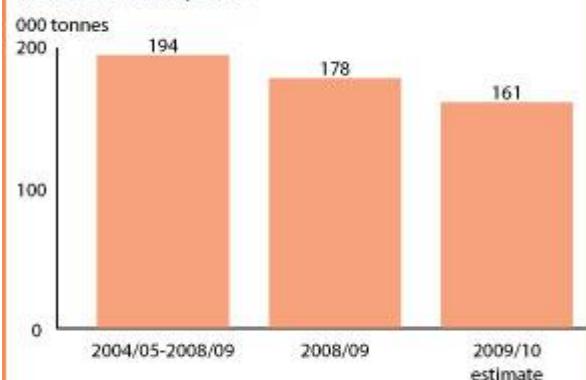
	2004-2008 average	2008		2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
		000 tonnes	percent		
Maize	890	995	1050	6	
Sorghum	138	142	122	-14	
Rice (paddy)	80	109	136	25	
Others	46	38	63	66	
Total	1154	1284	1371	7	

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Benin

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: 14-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable growing conditions boost coarse grain production in 2009
- Maize prices declined but high prices of rice continue to affect urban consumers.

Maize price declined following good harvests in 2009

Land preparation is underway in the South for planting of the 2010 main maize crop, which normally starts in April-May. Following favourable growing conditions, the 2009 cereal output – mostly maize – is estimated at 1.37 million tonnes, about 5 percent higher than the previous year's good crop and 19 percent above average. As a result, prices of maize, the main staple, have declined significantly countrywide. For example, maize price in February 2010 in markets of Bohicon in the centre of the country were 55 percent lower than in February 2009. By contrast, rice prices have remained high, although a slight decline is observed over the last year, eroding the purchasing power of urban consumers. In Cotonou, rice prices in February 2010 were still more than 21 percent higher than in February 2008.

Cotton producers were particularly affected by 2008 food crisis

Low cotton prices, compounded by problems associated with cotton inputs and outputs markets, have negatively impacted on farmers' incomes in the last few years. This has considerably increasing the vulnerability of about 2 million people whose subsistence depends on cotton, mainly in the north of the country. This has made the 2008 prices shock particularly difficult for these population groups. In spite of recent improvements in the food supply situation, the plight of the vulnerable groups and market conditions need to be closely monitored in order to provide timely assistance if and when needed.

Crop calendar Benin



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Benin

Cereal production

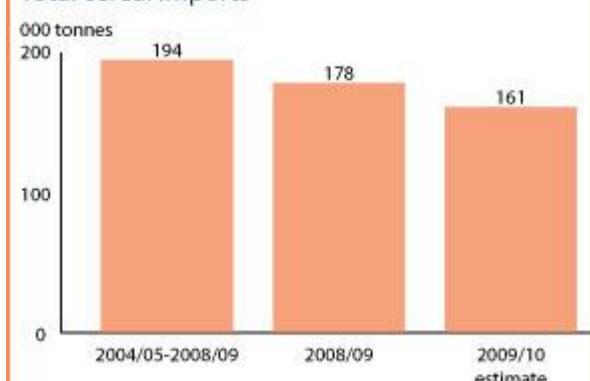
	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	890	995	1050	6
Sorghum	138	142	122	-14
Rice (paddy)	80	109	136	25
Others	46	38	63	66
Total	1154	1284	1371	7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Benin

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: 26-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable growing conditions boost coarse grain production
- Maize prices declined but high prices of rice continue to affect urban consumers.

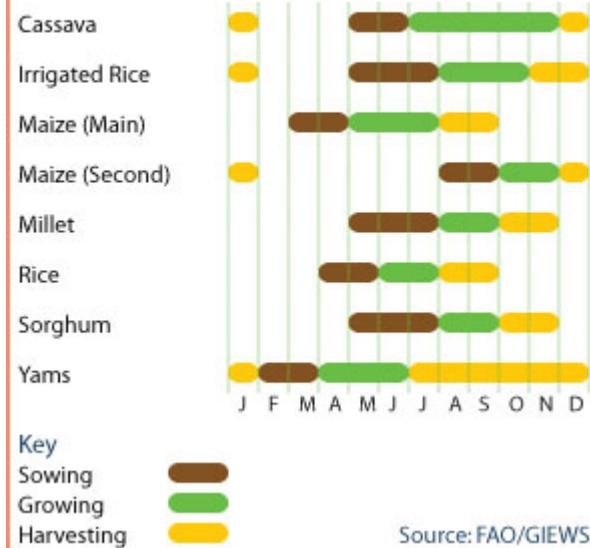
Maize price declined following good harvests in 2009

Following favourable growing conditions, the 2009 cereal output – mostly maize – is estimated at 1.77 million tonnes, about 45 percent higher than previous year. As a result, prices of maize have declined significantly countrywide. By contrast, rice prices have remained high, eroding the purchasing power of urban consumers. In Cotonou for example, rice prices in December 2009 were still more than 45 percent higher than in December 2007.

Cotton producers were particularly affected by 2008 food crisis

Low cotton prices, compounded by the problems on the cotton inputs and outputs markets, had negative repercussions on farmers' incomes in recent years, considerably increasing the vulnerability of about 2 million people whose subsistence depends on cotton, mainly in the north of the country. This has made the 2008 prices shock particularly difficult for these population groups. In spite of recent improvement in the food supply situation, market conditions and the plight of the vulnerable groups need to be constantly monitored in order to provide timely assistance if and when needed.

Crop calendar Benin



Source: FAO/GIEWS

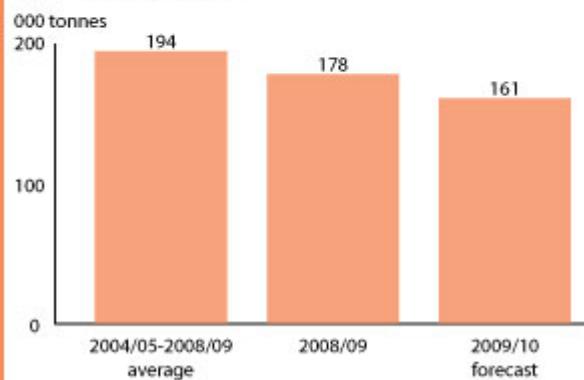
Benin

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	887	978	1450	48
Sorghum	138	142	173	22
Rice	80	109	148	36
Others	46	38	63	66
Total	1151	1268	1835	45

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable harvest prospects for maize crop in the south
- Food security outlook remains uncertain due to persisting high food prices

Good harvest prospects following favourable rainfall

In the South, the harvesting of first season maize is practically completed while the second season crop is currently being sown. In the North, which only has one rainy season, the harvesting of cereals has begun. The harvest prospects are good following adequate rainfall from the beginning of the season and also thanks to incentives provided by the government since last year which have helped both to expand the acreages under crops and to improve yields. Cereals production in 2009 rose by 12 per cent over 2008, according to initial government estimates.

Despite good harvests in 2008, high prices are still hampering access

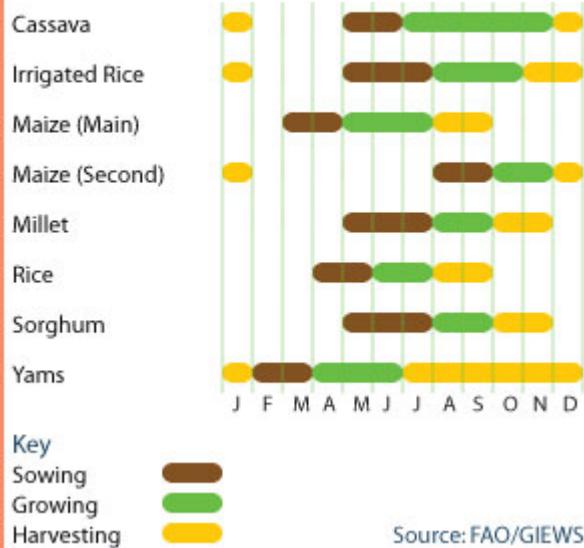
Thanks to favourable cropping conditions, cereals production in 2008 (mainly maize) rose by about 12 percent over the previous year to 1.3 million tonnes. Nevertheless, food access is difficult for a considerable proportion of the population because of persistent high food prices.

Despite the reductions in prices in comparison with the peak reached in June and July 2008, maize prices on the Cotonou markets in July 2009 were still more than 20 percent higher than in July 2007. This situation has major negative repercussions on food access by urban and rural consumers alike. The expected good harvests should help to further lower prices.

Cotton producers are particularly affected

Low cotton prices, compounded by the problems on the cotton inputs and outputs markets, had negative repercussions on farmers' incomes in recent years, considerably increasing the vulnerability of about 2 million people whose subsistence depends on cotton, mainly in the north of the country. This has made the prices shock particularly difficult for these population groups. Market conditions and the plight of the vulnerable groups must be constantly monitored in order to provide any assistance that may be needed.

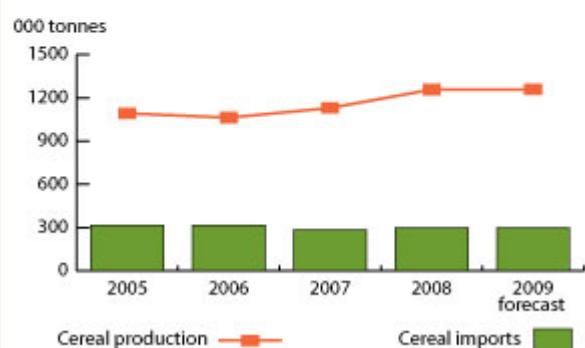
Crop calendar Benin



Source: FAO/GIEWS

Cereal production and imports Benin

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008 000 tonnes	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	percent			
Maize	897	1031	1031	0%
Sorghum	137	133	133	0%
Rice (milled)	47	60	60	0%
Other	45	34	35	2.9%
Total Cereals	1126	1258	1259	0.1%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets