



GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 08-June-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dire food security situation in Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions
- Planting of 2023 cereal crops underway
- Cereal production in 2022 estimated above average
- Prices of cereals below year-earlier levels

Dire food security situation in Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions

According to the latest “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 3.35 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity between June and August 2023. This includes nearly 605 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) and a 42 700 people in CH Phase 5 (Catastrophe) in Boucle du Mouhoun and Sahel regions. This would be a slight overall decrease in the number of acutely food insecure people compared to the previous year, when 3.45 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. However, it marks the highest figure of people in catastrophic conditions that has ever been projected for the country.

Acute food insecurity is underpinned by deteriorating conflict, mostly in northern and eastern areas. At least ten municipalities in Sahel Region are under siege by non-state armed groups, which have severely restricted the movement of goods and people to and from the affected areas. Great concern is for households in the town of Djibo, which has been under blockade since February 2022 and where visible signs of wasting and hunger-related deaths have been reported.

Rising insecurity continued to disrupt agricultural activities and, according to satellite-based analyses, the cultivated area during the 2022 cropping season has declined, especially in Sahel and Centre-Nord regions. In addition, while persistent high food prices affect vulnerable people across the country, they limit, in particular, the food access of households in the conflict-affected areas due to limited opportunities to engage in livelihood activities and very high humanitarian access constraints.

Humanitarian needs are particularly high for internally displaced persons, 75 percent of whom are located in areas with poor security conditions. In March 2023, nearly 2.1 million people were internally displaced, a 10 percent increase compared to the same period in 2022.

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 estimate	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 744	1 854	1 810	-2.3
Sorghum	1 730	1 644	2 014	22.5
Millet	930	705	908	28.7
Others	401	459	447	-2.5
Total	4 805	4 661	5 179	11.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Planting of 2023 cereal crops underway

Planting of the 2023 rice, maize, millet and sorghum crops, for harvest from September, started in early May in southern cropping areas, where a timely onset of the rainy season benefited germination of early-planted crops. In central and northern areas, planting is about to begin as rains are expected to start in mid-June.

Weather forecasts point to average to above-average rainfall amounts from June to September in the Sahelian regions. While these rains could lead to a good prospect for crop production, they also heighten the risk of flooding.

Cereal production in 2022 estimated above average

The 2022 aggregate cereal production is estimated at 5.1 million tonnes, over 10 percent above the near-average level of the previous year. However, there were significant differences in cereal output among regions. Production declines were recorded in 18 out of the country's 45 provinces, mostly areas with poor security conditions, while in central and southern regions increases of up to 55 percent were registered. Localized crop losses were caused by flooding, mainly in the Boucle du Mouhoun Region and by Fall Armyworm infestations.

Prices of cereals below year-earlier levels

Wholesale prices of locally produced sorghum and millet generally decreased or remained stable between February and May 2023, apart from markets in conflict-affected regions where they increased by about 15 percent. In May 2023, prices of both sorghum and millet were between 5 and 25 percent below their very high year-earlier levels across the country.

Wholesale prices of imported rice remained stable or decreased slightly between January and May 2023, except in markets located in areas with poor security conditions, including Dédougou and Dori, where price increases of 5 and 8 percent, respectively, were registered. Prices of imported rice were near or at their year-earlier levels in May 2023.

In order to mitigate the price increases and improve market availability, an export ban on grains and millet, maize and sorghum flours was introduced in January 2021 and it is still in place ([FPMA Food Policies](#)).

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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/>.

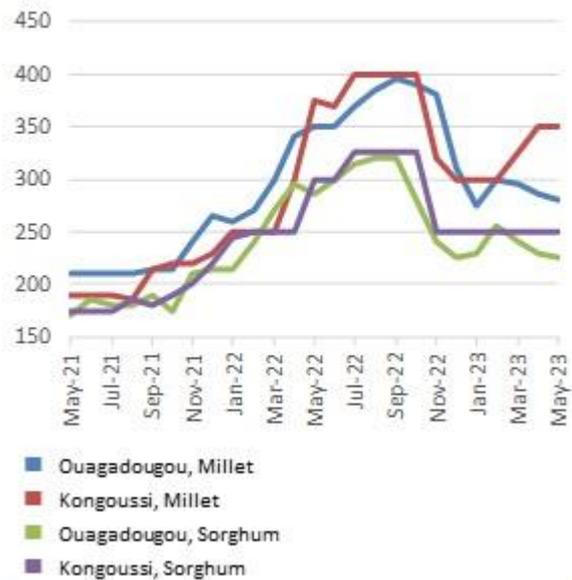
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

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

Burkina Faso

Wholesale prices of selected cereals

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg





GIEWS Country Brief

Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 11-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below-average cereal production expected in 2022 due to worsening conflicts
- Below-average cereal imports forecast in 2021/22 marketing year
- Prices of coarse grains well above year-earlier levels
- Acute food insecurity at unprecedented levels for 3.45 million people in 2022

Below-average cereal production expected in 2022 due to worsening conflicts

Harvesting of the 2022 main season cereal crops is ongoing and is expected to conclude in December. The rainy season had a timely start in June with average to above-average rainfall cumulative amounts until September, supporting planting activities and crop development across most of the country. However, worsening armed conflicts in 2022, mostly concentrated in northern and eastern parts of the country, have hampered agricultural activities and caused large population displacements, limiting the extent of planted area to cereal crops. Remote sensing data indicates pockets of below-average vegetation conditions in Central-East and East regions, mostly due to restricted farmers' access to the fields. In addition, availability of fertilizers during the early stages of the cropping season was extremely low in the country, according to a recent subregional assessment conducted by FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Reduced availability, high prices and low subsidized volumes of fertilizers led to severe access constraints, curbing yield expectations.

Despite general conducive weather conditions, the national cereal production in 2022 is preliminarily forecast at 4.3 million tonnes, about 10 percent below the 2021 near-average level, reflecting the adverse effects of conflicts on cropping activities and low application of fertilizers.

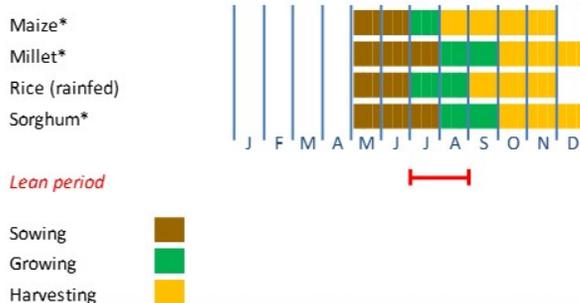
Below-average cereal imports forecast in 2021/22 marketing year

The country relies on cereal imports to cover its consumption needs. In the previous five years cereal imports, mostly rice and wheat, were estimated on average at 700 000 tonnes. In the

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2017-2021	2021	2022	change
	average		forecast	2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 755	1 913	1 750	-8.5
Sorghum	1 725	1 617	1 500	-7.2
Millet	912	718	620	-13.6
Others	401	459	400	-12.9
Total	4 793	4 707	4 270	-9.3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

2021/22 marketing year (November/October), cereal imports are forecast at about 525 000 tonnes, near the previous year's level and 25 percent below the five-year average. The decline in imports mostly reflects conflict-related disruptions, political instability in the subregion and the introduction of cereal export bans in neighbouring countries, particularly Mali.

Prices of coarse grains well above year-earlier levels

Prices of sorghum levelled off in August and September after nine consecutive months of steady gains, while prices of millet continued on an upward trend. As of September 2022, prices of sorghum and millet were 80 and 100 percent, respectively, higher than one year before, reflecting tight market availabilities due to the severe deterioration of security conditions in the conflict-affected areas. Strong import demand in neighbouring countries also supported the year-on-year increase of cereal prices. In order to contain the upward price movements, an export ban on grains and millet, maize and sorghum flours has been in place since 2021 ([FPMA Food Policies](#)).

Acute food insecurity at unprecedented levels for 3.45 million people in 2022

According to the March 2022 *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis, about 3.45 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) and in need of humanitarian assistance during the June to August 2022 period, including 628 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). This is the highest number on record since the first CH analysis conducted in 2014 and well above the 2.86 million people estimated to be acute food insecure during the same period in 2021.

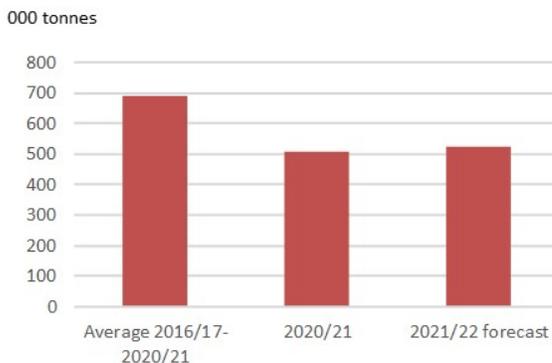
The high prevalence of acute food insecurity in 2022 mainly reflects the high food prices, low availability of cereals and worsening conflicts, mainly in Centre-Nord, Nord, Sahel and Est regions, which have resulted in high levels of displacement. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of August 2022, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was estimated at about 1.5 million. The majority of IDPs is concentrated in the regions of Centre-Nord and Sahel, where about 29 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, sought shelter.

High levels of acute food insecurity are expected to persist in the second half of 2022. Food availability and access are likely to remain limited by below-average cereal production in 2022, conflict-related market disruptions and high food prices, exacerbated by the unfolding effects of the war in Ukraine on international trade and commodity prices. New CH estimates of the number of people facing acute food insecurity in the last quarter of 2022 are expected to be released in November by CILSS.

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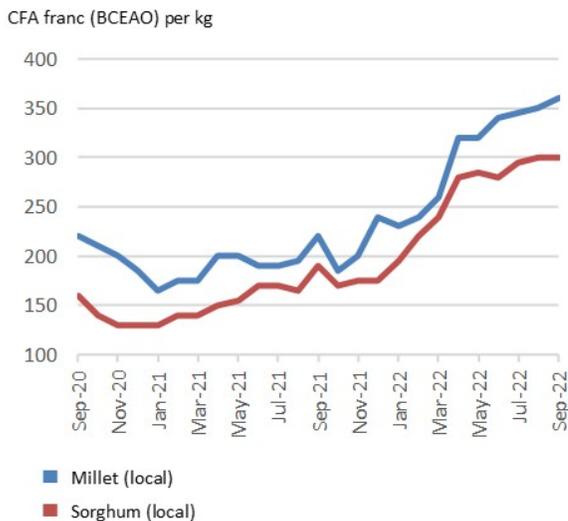
Cereals Imports



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

Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Dédougou



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



GIEWS Country Brief

Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 11-March-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2021 estimated at a near-average level
- Increased cereal import requirements in 2021/22
- Prices of coarse grains increased generally since early 2021 and in January 2022 at near-record levels
- Food insecurity projected at alarming levels in 2022

Cereal production in 2021 estimated at near-average level

Harvesting of the 2021 main cereal crops was completed by the end of last year. Aggregate cereal production is officially estimated at 4.7 million tonnes, slightly below the five-year average and 9 percent below the bumper output in 2020, when favourable weather conditions and government support boosted yields.

The near-average output reflects an overall expansion of the planted area, estimated at an above-average level, that partially offset localized production shortfalls, mostly of sorghum and millet. In the main producing southern, western and central areas, the negative effects of erratic rains and pest attacks caused a reduction of yields. Meanwhile, in northern and eastern areas, a severe deterioration of the insecurity situation through 2021 resulted in significant production deficits. The increased insecurity limited farmers' access to agricultural inputs and labour, forcing many rural households to abandon their crops in the fields.

Increased cereal import requirements in 2021/22

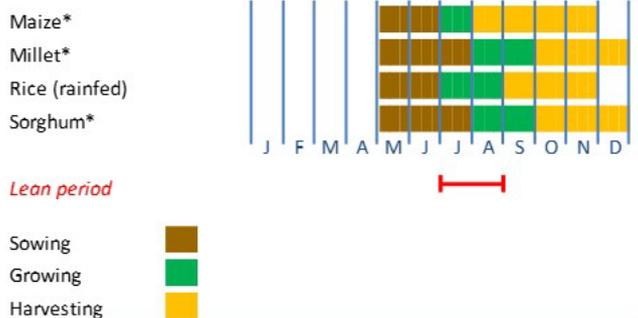
The country relies on cereal imports to cover its consumption needs and, in the 2021/22 marketing year (November/October), cereal import requirements, mostly rice and wheat, are estimated at 845 000 tonnes, 12 percent above the previous year and 14 percent higher than the five-year average. The increase in import needs is mainly due to the country's drive to build up stocks of rice.

The country, however, might not be able to meet the entire import requirements as trade flows are likely to be constrained by cross-border disruptions due to political instability in the

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 734	1 840	1 617	-12.1
Maize	1 693	1 920	1 913	-0.4
Millet	970	957	718	-25.0
Others	388	462	462	0.0
Total	4 786	5 179	4 709	-9.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

subregion as well as by export bans of cereals in neighbouring countries, particularly Mali.

Prices of coarse grains increased generally since early 2021 and in January 2022 at near-record levels

Prices of locally produced coarse grains have generally increased since early 2021. Following some seasonal easing in September and October, prices have strengthened steadily since November 2021. As of January 2022, coarse grain prices were at near-record levels, up to 40 percent higher on a yearly basis, mostly reflecting conflict-related disruptions to markets and reduced 2021 cereal outputs. In the conflict-affected northern and eastern areas, the high concentration of internally displaced persons has increased local food demand, weighing on prices.

Strong export demand from neighbouring countries also contributed to add pressure on cereal prices. As a measure to contain further price increases, the government banned, in February 2022, the export of millet, maize and sorghum flours until further notice. This measure complements an export ban of cereal grains that has been in place since January 2021.

Food insecurity projected at alarming levels in 2022

The food security situation is projected at alarming high levels in 2022. According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, about 1.65 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) between October and December 2021, including nearly 120 000 people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency). In the upcoming peak of the lean season, between June and August 2022, if appropriate humanitarian measures are not implemented, about 2.63 million people are projected to face severe food insecurity, the second highest level on record, just below the 2.9 million people estimated during the same period in 2021. The projected figure includes about 436 000 people facing CH Phase 4 (Emergency), above the 340 000 people estimated a year before.

The high prevalence of food insecurity in 2022 mainly reflects high food prices, low availability of cereals and increased insecurity, mainly in the Centre-Nord, Nord, Sahel and Est regions, which have resulted in high levels of displacement. According to the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of December 2021, the number of IDPs was estimated at about 1.6 million, about 35 percent higher compared to a year before. The majority of IDPs is concentrated in the regions Centre-Nord and Sahel, where about 25 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, also sought shelter.

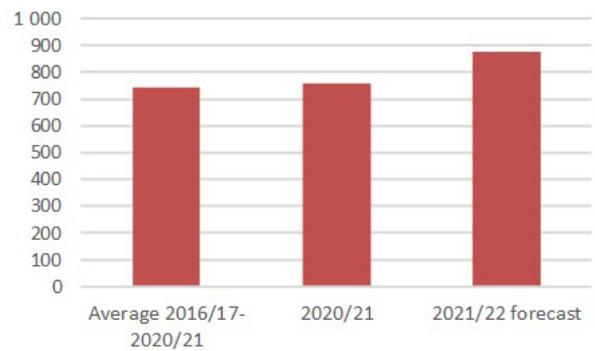
The “coup d'état” on 24 January 2022 is an additional factor that could increase civil insecurity and further stress the already severe food insecurity conditions.

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Burkina Faso

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



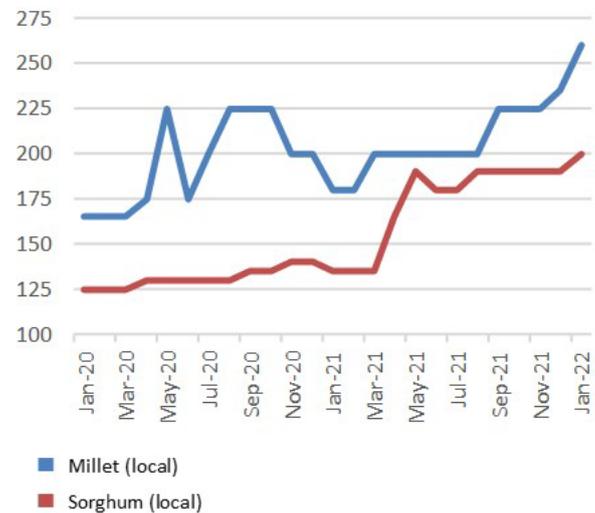
Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Bobo Dioulasso

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 15-October-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production in 2021 forecast well above average
- Cereal import requirements in 2020/21 estimated above average
- Prices of coarse grains continued to increase and were well above year-earlier levels
- Severe acute food insecurity in northeastern regions

Cereal production in 2021 forecast well above average

Harvesting of the 2021 main season coarse grains and paddy crops is underway and is due to conclude in December. Overall favourable weather conditions since the beginning of the cropping season supported planting operations and crop establishment. Following a timely onset of seasonal rains in the south at the end of April 2021 that progressed towards the north in May and June, well distributed rainfall were at average to above-average levels through late September across most of the country leading to generally favourable vegetation conditions of cereal crops. However, below-average rainfall amounts were recorded in parts of northwestern and northern provinces in July and August, and this likely had a negative impact on yields in the affected areas. The government's support to access subsidized agricultural inputs encouraged farmers to increase plantings in the main producing southern and central regions, while a deterioration of the security situation in northeastern regions hampered agricultural activities. Increased violent events perpetuated by non-State armed groups (NSGAs) limited farmers' access to inputs and labour, and forced many rural households to abandon their crops in the fields, particularly in the Sahel, Centre-Nord, Nord and Est regions.

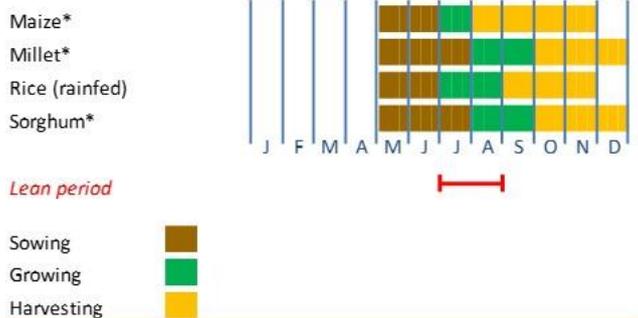
Cereal production in the south and centre is expected at above-average levels, while production in the northeast is expected at a reduced level. At the aggregate level, cereal production is officially forecast at 5.72 million tonnes, 10 percent higher on a year basis and about 20 percent above the previous five-year average.

The favourable rainfall amounts also supported pasture conditions across most parts of the country, benefitting livestock body conditions and milk production. In northern areas affected by conflicts and localized dryness, the pastoral lean season is

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 734	1 840	2 153	17.0
Maize	1 693	1 920	2 076	8.1
Millet	970	957	1 020	6.5
Others	388	462	469	1.5
Total	4 786	5 179	5 718	10.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

expected to have an early start in February 2022 due to limited fodder availability and pasture access.

Cereal import requirements in 2020/21 estimated above average

Cereal import requirements, mostly rice and wheat, are estimated at 785 000 tonnes in the 2020/21 marketing year (November/October), 10 percent above the previous year and 16 percent higher than the five-year average. The increased import needs reflect strong consumers' demand for rice and wheat products.

Prices of coarse grains continued to increase and were well above year-earlier levels

Following an upward trend since the end of 2020, prices of coarse grains, particularly sorghum and maize, spiked in September, despite the arrival to the markets of newly harvested grains and were over 20 percent above their year-earlier levels. Price gains are mostly due to market disruptions caused by insecurity conditions and strong domestic and export demand. As a measure to contain the price increases, the government banned exports of cereals since January 2021. However, reports from the country indicate that cereal exports continued through informal channels, specially to neighbouring Ghana and the Niger.

To improve access to food, in August, the government set temporary ceiling prices for cereals in regions where the upward pressure has been more pronounced, particularly in the conflict-affected northeast and in areas with high presence of Internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Severe acute food insecurity in northeastern regions

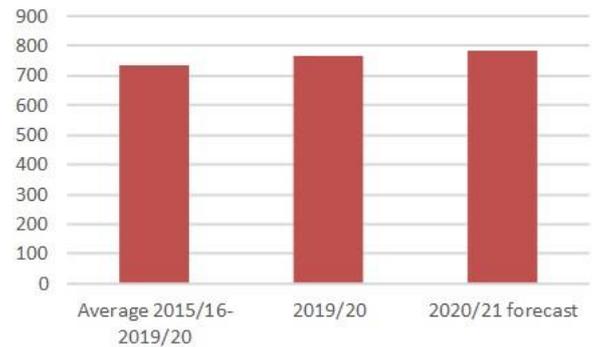
The food security situation has deteriorated throughout 2021, particularly in conflict-affected Centre-Nord, Nord, Sahel and Est regions. Since early 2021, inter-communal disputes and violent incidents perpetrated by NSAGs, increased in the northeast compared to the previous year, further displacing populations. According to the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of August 2021, the number of IDPs was estimated at about 1.4 million, about 40 percent higher compared to the level a year before. The majority of IDPs is concentrated in the Centre-Nord and Sahel regions, where about 20 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, also sought shelter. The widespread disruption of agricultural livelihoods and markets, which supported high food prices, has hindered access to food and driven an increase in the prevalence of food insecurity among IDPs and poor households. According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, about 2.9 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3 [Crisis] and above) between the June to August 2021 period, well above the 2.2 million people assessed to be food insecure in the same period one year before. Of particular concern, the number of people in CH Phase 4 (Emergency) was estimated at about 350 000, with a twofold increase from previous estimates.

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Burkina Faso

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



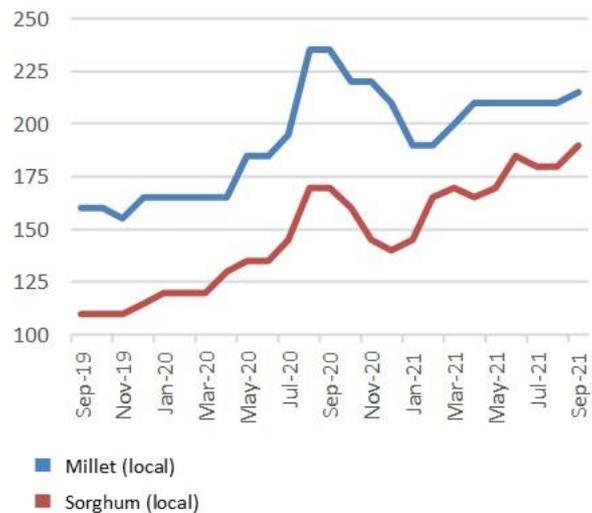
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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



GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 23-October-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below-average cereal output expected in 2020 due to climate events and persistent insecurity
- Above-average harvest gathered in 2019, except in conflict-affected zones
- Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but rising in conflict-affected areas
- About 3.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure during June-August 2020

Below-average cereal output expected in 2020 due to climate events and persistent insecurity

Harvesting operations of the 2020 main season crops are underway for rice, millet, maize and sorghum crops across the country. Abundant rains allowed a timely start of planting activities in May in the south and west (Banfora, Bobo Dioulasso, Gaoua districts) and in May/June in the north. Precipitation amounts were above average in most areas since May, favouring crop germination, establishment and development as well as improving vegetation conditions. In addition, the Government supported farmers by providing improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides as well as services of land use planning.

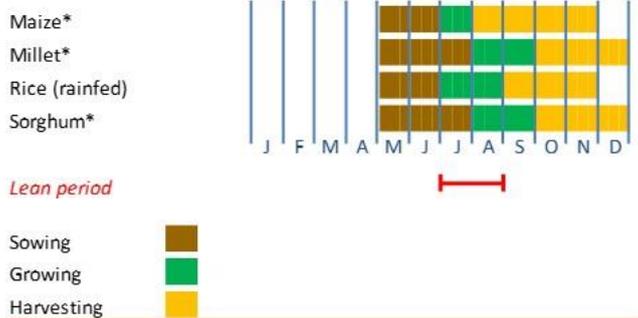
However, in September, below-average rainfall and moisture deficits had a negative impact on the main season cereals in the southwestern part of the country. This situation will likely to result in a reduction of income through the declining opportunity of labour and the sale of production surpluses, increasing the food insecurity in these areas. Moreover, periods of heavy rains resulted in localized flooding in August and September across North Central Region, Kaya and Ouagadougou districts, causing human casualties, loss of livelihoods and damage to crops, livestock and infrastructures. This will likely reduce crop yields in lowland areas across the country. Furthermore, the widespread high levels of the conflict in the Sahel and North Central regions, coupled with and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, limit the access to land and agricultural inputs, disrupting agricultural activities. In addition, localized Fall Armyworm (FAW) and desert locust outbreaks were reported, especially in South-West, Cascades and Hauts Bassins regions. Overall, 2020 cereal crop production is estimated at below the last five-year average.

Seasonal rains since July 2020 increased the quantity and quality of pastures and allowed the replenishment of surface water to satisfactory levels, improving livestock body conditions and

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 653	1 868	1 562	-16.4
Maize	1 613	1 759	1 399	-20.5
Millet	979	1 025	985	-3.9
Others	364	388	404	4.3
Total	4 608	5 039	4 350	-13.7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

enhancing animal market value in most parts of the country. However, in the Sahel and Center-North regions, animals' access to natural resources is often limited by persistent insecurity, armed and community conflicts, theft and banditry. In accessible areas, high livestock concentration are observed, ensuing rapid degradation of fodder and water resource and leading to an early start of the lean pastoral lean season. The animal health situation is overall stable, with only some outbreaks of seasonal contagious epizootic diseases including Contagious Bovine Peripneumonia (CBPP), anthrax diseases, pasteurellosis, poultry diseases and Peste de Petits Ruminants.

Above-average harvest gathered in 2019, except in conflict-affected zones

Favourable rainfall in 2019 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. The national cereal production in 2019 is estimated at an above-average level of 5 million tonnes. However, production shortfalls were recorded in several areas due to a late onset of the rains, pockets of drought in September, excessive moisture conditions in October and some attacks by birds on crops in the Eastern and Western regions. Similarly, in conflict-affected areas, most households have been unable to cultivate or have abandoned their fields due to increased security incidents, leading to a below-average production in these areas.

Despite the above-average cereal production in 2019, import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October) are expected at a slightly above-average level due to strong demand by local traders aiming at replenishing their stocks.

Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but rising in conflict-affected areas

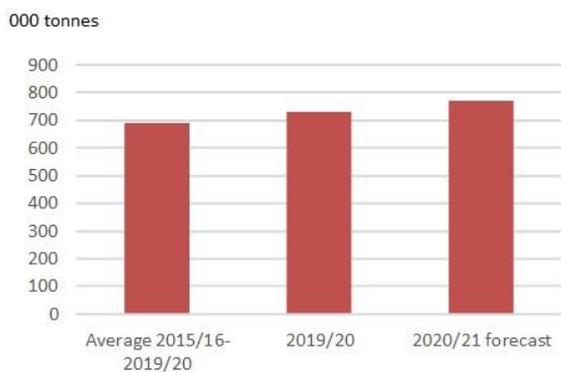
Prices of coarse grains were stable at high levels between August and September 2020. This situation is explained by seasonally tight market availabilities, exacerbated by institutional purchases to support IDPs, the strong import demand by the Niger and the increased transportation costs due to poor road conditions during the rainy season. In particular, very high prices of grains are reported in the areas with a strong presence of IDPs, including the provinces of Djibo, Dori, Namounou and Diapaga due to the impact of the persistent insecurity situation.

About 3.3 million people estimated to be severely food insecure during June-August 2020

According to the results of the updated Cadre Harmonisé analysis released by the Government last June, about 3.3 million people were estimated to need external food assistance during the June-August 2020 period, well above the 687 000 food insecure people that were estimated for the same period in 2019. This sharp increase is mainly due to the deterioration of the security situation in the Centre-Nord and Sahel regions as well as the impact of the restrictive measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic on households' ability to earn income. In the Centre-Nord and Sahel regions, the exactions and threats of terrorist groups continue to lead to population displacements, further deteriorating the food security situation of the already vulnerable population. The majority of the displaced households are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance to satisfy their basic needs. According to the UNHCR, as of September 2020, about 1 million people were internally displaced due to insecurity,

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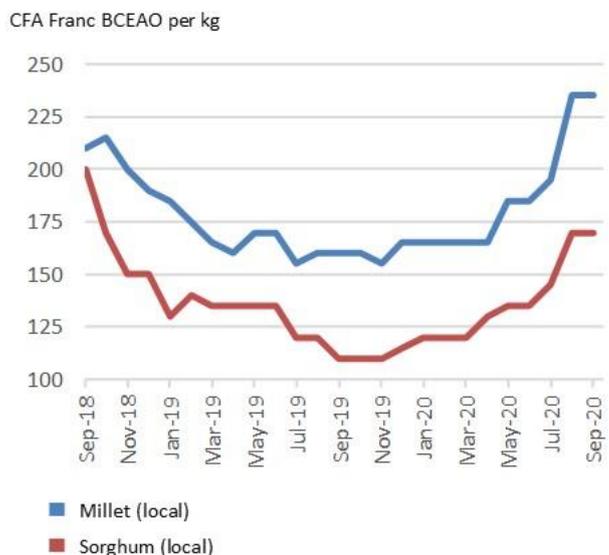
Cereals Imports



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

Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



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

with the majority of them living in Centre-Nord Region. In addition, about 20 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, are still residing in the Sahel Region.

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GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 27-July-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of 2020 crops
- Above-average harvest gathered in 2019, except in conflict-affected zones
- Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but rising in conflict-affected areas
- About 2.1 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of 2020 crops

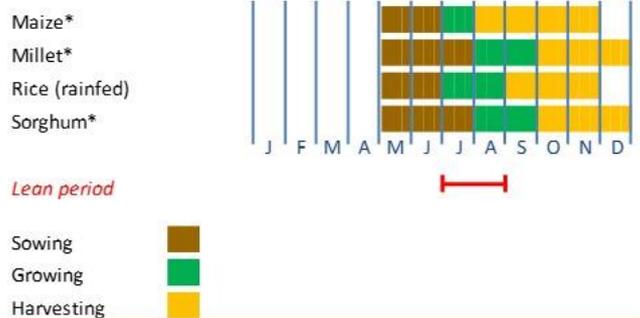
In southern and western parts of the country (Banfora, Bobo Dioulasso, Gaoua), abundant rains since early May benefited planting activities as well as germination and establishment of crops. In other parts of the country, planting of sorghum and millet, to be harvested from October, is ongoing under favourable moisture conditions. The latest weather forecast by the Forum of the Agro-Hydro-Climatic Seasonal Forecast in Sudano-Sahelian Africa (PRESASS) points to average and above-average precipitation amounts between June and September 2020, with likely positive impacts on yields and availability of pasture and water for livestock. Across the planted areas, crops are at sprouting, seedling and tillering stages, and weeding activities are regularly underway. Despite the favourable weather conditions expected during the season, some localized production shortfalls are likely to occur in the Sahel and North Central regions due to the persisting conflict that limits agricultural activities.

Seasonal rains increased water and pasture availability in July 2020, improving livestock body conditions and enhancing animal market value in most parts of the country. The animal health situation is overall stable, with only seasonal outbreaks of epizootic diseases as the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goats and the Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) in cattle. In conflict-affected areas, pasture conditions are affected by armed and community conflicts, theft and banditry, which are increasing livestock concentration in the accessible areas with ensuing rapid degradation of fodder and water resource.

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 621	1 930	1 868	-3.2
Maize	1 547	1 700	1 759	3.5
Millet	968	1 189	1 025	-13.8
Others	357	362	388	7.1
Total	4 494	5 181	5 039	-2.7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Above-average harvest gathered in 2019, except in conflict-affected zones

Favourable rainfall in 2019 benefitted crop development in most parts of the country. The national cereal production in 2019 is estimated at 5 million tonnes, 12 percent above the average of the last five years. However, several areas experienced production shortfalls due to the late onset of the rains, pockets of drought in September, the extended rainfall through end of October that caused excessive moisture conditions for grains to dry and some attacks by birds on crops in the Eastern and Western regions.

Despite the above-average 2019 cereal production, import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October), mainly imported rice and wheat flour, are set at an above-average level of 750 000 tonnes due to the strong demand by traders aiming at replenishing their stocks.

Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but rising in conflict-affected areas

Adequate domestic availabilities and the gradual lifting of restrictive measures implemented to contain the pandemic kept prices of coarse grains generally stable in June. By contrast, in the conflict-affected areas of the provinces of Soum, Sanmatenga, Yagha, Gnagna and Komandjoari, persisting civil insecurity continued to hamper market activities and kept food prices at relatively high levels. In these areas, the terms of trade for livestock/cereals are generally unfavourable to pastoralists as cereal prices have increased while livestock prices declined due to low local demand.

About 2.1 million people estimated to be severely food insecure

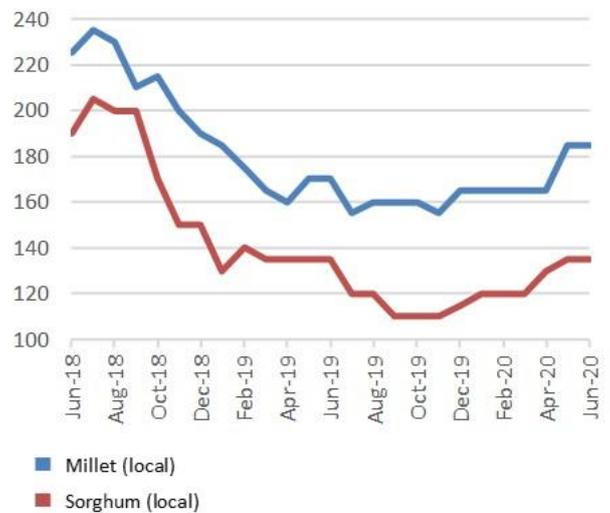
According to the March 2020 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 2.1 million people are estimated to need external food assistance during the June to August 2020 period, well above the 687 000 food insecure people that were estimated for the same period in 2019. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the increase in the number of food insecure population was mainly due to the effects of adverse climate events (drought and excessive moisture), birds’ attacks on crops and persisting insecurity. The situation was exacerbated by a reduced food availability due to travel restrictions for security reasons, localized production shortfalls, limited households’ coping mechanisms and low levels of food assistance. It is very likely that the food security situation will further deteriorate as livelihood activities have been affected by the expansion of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government’s containment measures. These measures have negatively affected households’ incomes, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas, where most people rely on daily work, casual labour, petty trade and food vending activities.

As of July 2020, the CONASUR¹ identified 978 744 people that have been displaced in Burkina Faso with 50 percent of them living in Centre Nord Region. In addition, about 21 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, are still residing in the Sahel region. Most displaced households are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance to satisfy their basic needs. According to the

Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou

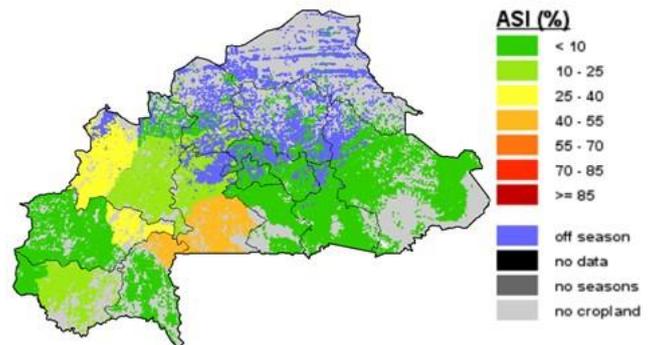
CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



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

Burkina Faso - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 3, June 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2.9 million people need humanitarian assistance.

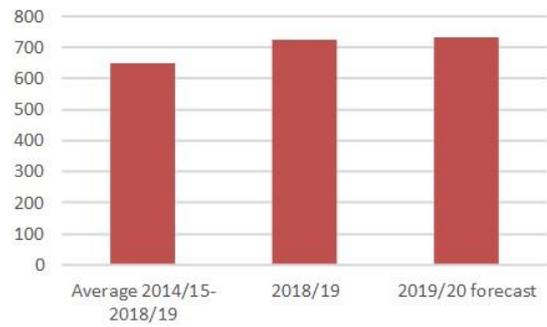
¹ Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation, a Government body in charge of IDPs.

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Burkina Faso

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 Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 03-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Localized deficits despite above-average production harvested in 2019
- Above-average imports expected in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of coarse grains stable except in conflict areas
- Food insecurity rising in early 2020 as conflicts impinge food access for most vulnerable households

Above-average harvest gathered in 2019, except in conflict-affected zones

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

Harvesting of the 2019 crops finalized in December 2019, while harvesting of off-season rice and sorghum is underway and will be completed by end-April. The national cereal production in 2019 is estimated at 5 million tonnes, 12 percent above the average of the last five years and slightly below the previous year's output. Millet and sorghum recorded the major year on year production declines. Despite above-average production at the national level, many areas experienced production declines due the late onset of the rains, pockets of drought during September, the extended rainfall through end-October that caused excessive moisture conditions for grains to dry and some attacks by birds on crops in the eastern region.

In pastoral areas, insufficient rains in September 2019 affected pastures leading to a significant forage deficit, estimated at about 5.6 million tonnes of dry matter. The most affected regions were Hauts Bassins, Sahel, Centre West and East, where livestock body conditions are expected to gradually deteriorate with the start of the pastoral lean season in March 2020 and animal/cereals terms of trade for pastoralists are expected to worsen.

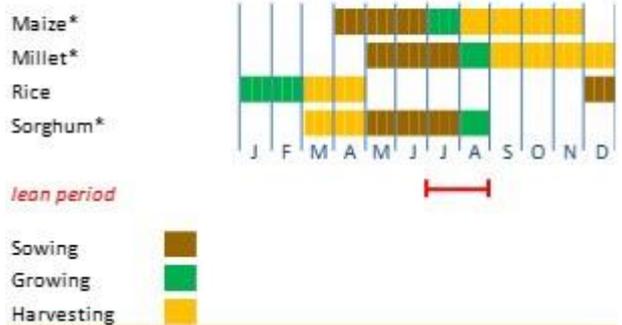
Imports of cereals in 2019/20 forecast above average

Despite the 2019 above-average production, import requirements for the 2019/20 marketing year (November/October) are forecast at an above-average level of 750 000 tonnes as local traders are aiming to replenish their stocks.

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 621	1 930	1 868	-3.2
Maize	1 547	1 700	1 759	3.5
Millet	968	1 189	1 025	-13.8
Others	357	362	377	4.2
Total	4 494	5 181	5 029	-2.9

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but down from year-earlier

Most agricultural markets are well supplied following the commercialization of the newly harvested crops and the relatively high level of carryover stocks.

Prices of millet and sorghum remained broadly unchanged in February 2020 and down from a year earlier on account of good domestic availabilities. Similarly, prices of imported rice remained relatively stable due to the regular supply from the international markets. By contrast, in conflict-affected areas of the provinces of Soum, Sanmatenga, Yagha, Gnagna and Komandjoari, persisting civil insecurity continued to hamper market activities and to keep food prices at relatively high levels.

Although most livestock markets are well supplied, livestock trade is negatively impacted by persistent insecurity and weak export demand towards the Nigerian markets. Domestic livestock prices in February 2020 were generally stable, but below last year's level. The terms of trade for livestock/cereals are generally favourable to pastoralists because of the stable cereal prices. However, in the coming months, the market value of the animals is expected to moderately decrease as their body conditions are likely to deteriorate.

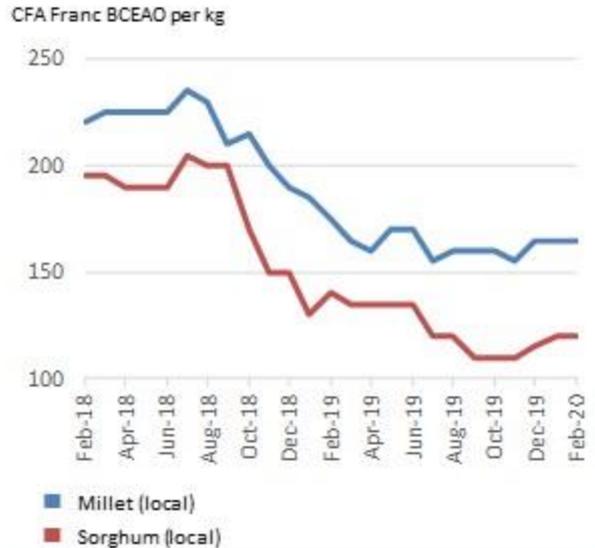
Food insecurity on rising in early 2020 as conflicts impinge food access for most vulnerable households

Food security conditions worsened significantly in 2019, particularly in the Sahel and North Central regions. The main causes of the deterioration have been some localized crop production declines in 2019 and persistent civil insecurity, associated with renewed attacks, robberies, banditry and inter-community clashes. As of February 2020, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) identified over 779 000 people that have been displaced in the communes of Djibo, Arbinda and Kelbo (Soum Province) and Barsalogo (Sanmatenga Province). In addition, about 26 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, are still residing in the Sahel Region. Most displaced households are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance.

According to the March 2020 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 1.6 million people are estimated to need external food assistance in March-May 2020, about four times more than the corresponding period in 2019. This figure is expected to increase to 2.1 million during the lean season between June and August 2020 if no mitigation actions are taken. This situation is fundamentally due to a large food consumption deficit, limited households' coping mechanisms and low levels of food assistance.

Burkina Faso

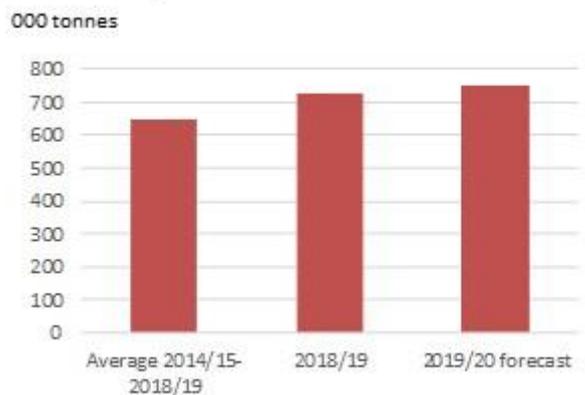
Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



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

Burkina Faso

Cereals Imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Government has decreed a total lockdown and a curfew from 21 March to 20 April 2020. In response to the COVID-19, the Government decided to provide free health care services for sick people and to implement actions to guarantee the supply of basic foodstuffs, while ensuring price controls. The most important markets in Ouagadougou and surrounding municipalities have been closed and are not expected to open before 20 April. Official restrictions on population movements, combined with heightened levels of fear, have led to a significant reduction of income-earning opportunities. Field reports indicate cases of hoarding in several local markets.

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GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 31-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of crops in the south
- Above-average harvest gathered in 2018
- Strong economic growth rate and low inflation rate
- Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but down from year earlier
- Food assistance to be continued for people affected by insecurity

Planting of cereal crops starts in the south under favourable conditions

In southern parts of the country (Banfora, Bobo Dioulasso and Gaoua), seasonal accumulation of rainfall since early May resulted in favorable moisture conditions for crop establishment. Planting of rice, maize, sorghum and millet, to be harvested from September, just started is underway. In other parts of the country, rains are expected to start from June and land preparation is ongoing.

Pasture availability has seasonally declined in May. Field reports indicate large concentrations of livestock and overgrazing difficulties in conflict-affected areas, including Djibo and Koutougou (province of Soum), Gorom-gorom (Oudalan) and Dori (Séno).

Above-average harvest gathered in 2018

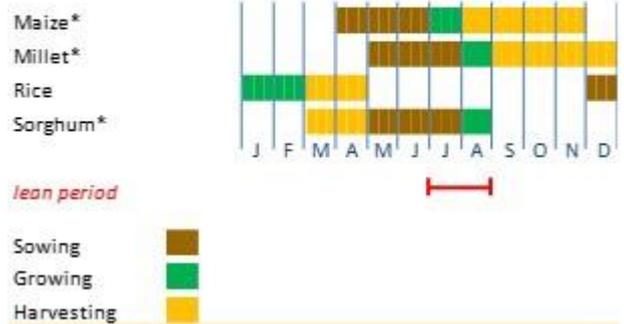
The 2018 agricultural season was characterized by abundant, timely and well-distributed rainfall as well as continued Government support to farmers through free/subsidized delivery of seeds and tools. As a result, the 2018 cereal production is estimated at 5.1 million tonnes, 16 percent above the last five-year average and about 27 percent above the previous year's poor output. Major year-on-year production increases, over 40 percent, have been registered for millet and sorghum.

Despite the above-average 2018 cereal production, import requirements for the 2018/19 marketing year (November/October), mainly imported rice and wheat flour, are set at above-average level of 700 000 tonnes due to the higher demand by traders to replenish their stocks.

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

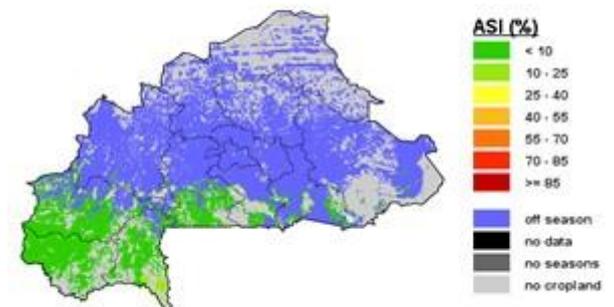
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

From start of season 1 to Dekad 2, May 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Strong economic growth rate and low inflation rate

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is expected to remain strong and relatively stable at an average of 6.1 percent in 2019, driven mostly by high levels of public investment, improved political stability, development in the agricultural and mining sectors and improved power supply. Food inflation is minimal, averaging 1.83 percent from 2010 until 2019, reflecting stable domestic demand and food prices. Inflation will overall remain well below the UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) convergence rate of 3 percent.

Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but down from year earlier

Despite the seasonal decline of cereal stock, market supply is overall satisfactory with regular internal trade flows. Prices of millet and sorghum remained stable or continued to decline in April and were generally well below their year-earlier levels due to good domestic availabilities. Prices of imported rice remained relatively stable due to the regular supply from the international market.

Although livestock markets are also well supplied, civil insecurity continues to limit the transfer of animals towards conflict-related areas in the provinces of Soum, Oudalan and Séno. Prices of small ruminants (goats and rams) have increased from 10 to 20 percent in conflict-affected areas between April and March. By contrast, prices have declined in April by 10 percent in Dori as a result of the increased supply of livestock from neighboring Niger.

Continued assistance needed for vulnerable people

As of April 2019, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) identified over 148 000 people that have been displaced, in the communes of Djibo, Arbinda and Kelbo (Soum province) and Barsalogo (Sanmatenga province). In addition, about 25 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, are still residing in the Sahel region. The activities of armed groups and inter-community clashes limit the movement of people, the humanitarian assistance and functioning of markets. Most of displaced households are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance.

According to the March 2019 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 420 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance in March to May 2019, down from 742 000 people in March to May 2018. The figure is expected to increase to 687 000 people during the June to August 2019, if no mitigation actions are taken.

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Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

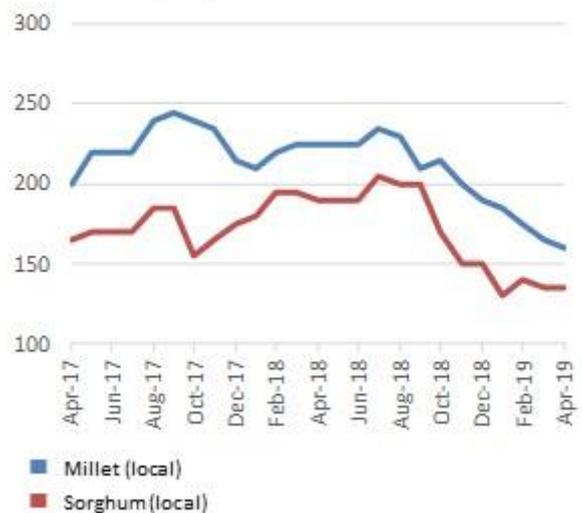
	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 611	1 366	1 930	41.3
Maize	1 524	1 533	1 700	10.9
Millet	946	828	1 189	43.6
Others	350	336	362	7.7
Total	4 431	4 063	5 181	27.5

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

Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

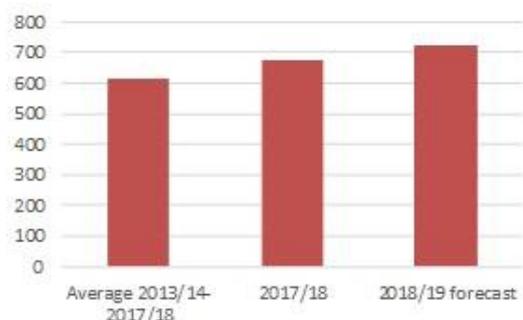


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Burkina Faso

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 Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 31-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable moisture conditions allow timely planting of crops in the south
- Above-average harvest gathered in 2018
- Strong economic growth rate and low inflation rate
- Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but down from year earlier
- Food assistance to be continued for people affected by insecurity

Planting of cereal crops starts in the south under favourable conditions

In southern parts of the country (Banfora, Bobo Dioulasso and Gaoua), seasonal accumulation of rainfall since early May resulted in favorable moisture conditions for crop establishment. Planting of rice, maize, sorghum and millet, to be harvested from September, just started is underway. In other parts of the country, rains are expected to start from June and land preparation is ongoing.

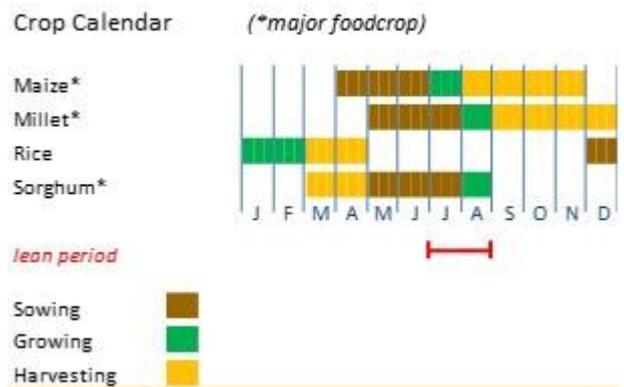
Pasture availability has seasonally declined in May. Field reports indicate large concentrations of livestock and overgrazing difficulties in conflict-affected areas, including Djibo and Koutougou (province of Soum), Gorom-gorom (Oudalan) and Dori (Séno).

Above-average harvest gathered in 2018

The 2018 agricultural season was characterized by abundant, timely and well-distributed rainfall as well as continued Government support to farmers through free/subsidized delivery of seeds and tools. As a result, the 2018 cereal production is estimated at 5.1 million tonnes, 16 percent above the last five-year average and about 27 percent above the previous year's poor output. Major year-on-year production increases, over 40 percent, have been registered for millet and sorghum.

Despite the above-average 2018 cereal production, import requirements for the 2018/19 marketing year (November/October), mainly imported rice and wheat flour, are set at above-average level of 700 000 tonnes due to the higher demand by traders to replenish their stocks.

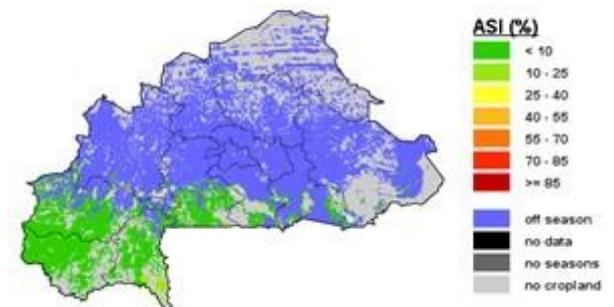
Burkina Faso



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

From start of season 1 to Dekad 2, May 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Strong economic growth rate and low inflation rate

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is expected to remain strong and relatively stable at an average of 6.1 percent in 2019, driven mostly by high levels of public investment, improved political stability, development in the agricultural and mining sectors and improved power supply. Food inflation is minimal, averaging 1.83 percent from 2010 until 2019, reflecting stable domestic demand and food prices. Inflation will overall remain well below the UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) convergence rate of 3 percent.

Prices of coarse grains generally stable, but down from year earlier

Despite the seasonal decline of cereal stock, market supply is overall satisfactory with regular internal trade flows. Prices of millet and sorghum remained stable or continued to decline in April and were generally well below their year-earlier levels due to good domestic availabilities. Prices of imported rice remained relatively stable due to the regular supply from the international market.

Although livestock markets are also well supplied, civil insecurity continues to limit the transfer of animals towards conflict-related areas in the provinces of Soum, Oudalan and Séno. Prices of small ruminants (goats and rams) have increased from 10 to 20 percent in conflict-affected areas between April and March. By contrast, prices have declined in April by 10 percent in Dori as a result of the increased supply of livestock from neighboring Niger.

Continued assistance needed for vulnerable people

As of April 2019, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) identified over 148 000 people that have been displaced, in the communes of Djibo, Arbinda and Kelbo (Soum province) and Barsalogo (Sanmatenga province). In addition, about 25 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, are still residing in the Sahel region. The activities of armed groups and inter-community clashes limit the movement of people, the humanitarian assistance and functioning of markets. Most of displaced households are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance.

According to the March 2019 “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis, about 420 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance in March to May 2019, down from 742 000 people in March to May 2018. The figure is expected to increase to 687 000 people during the June to August 2019, if no mitigation actions are taken.

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Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

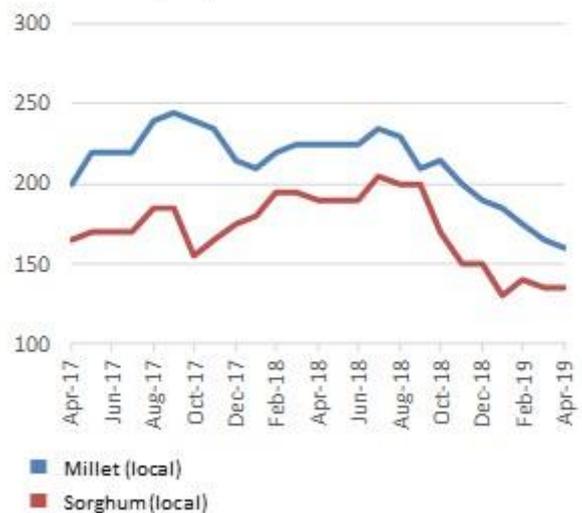
	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 611	1 366	1 930	41.3
Maize	1 524	1 533	1 700	10.9
Millet	946	828	1 189	43.6
Others	350	336	362	7.7
Total	4 431	4 063	5 181	27.5

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

Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

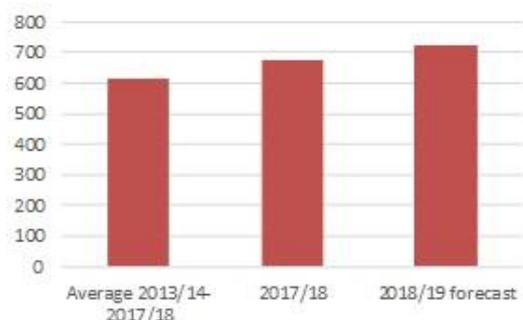


Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Burkina Faso

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 Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 24-January-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average harvest gathered in 2018
- Strong economic growth rate and declining inflation rate
- Prices of coarse grains declining in most markets
- Food assistance to be continued for people affected by insecurity

Above-average harvest gathered in 2018

Harvesting activities of the 2018 millet and maize crops have almost finalized, while harvesting of off-season rice and sorghum will start in early March and will be completed by end-April. The national cereal production is estimated at 4.9 million tonnes, 12 percent above the average of the last five years and about 22 percent above the previous year's poor output. Major year-on-year production increases have been registered for millet and sorghum.

Above-average rainfall amounts over most of the country resulted in good pasture conditions. The 2018 fodder balance shows a supply of 19 million tonnes of dry matter against the 17 million tonnes estimated for the theoretical total needs of the resident livestock, with a consequent forage surplus of about 2 million tonnes. However, this availability is unevenly distributed across all provinces and 17 out of 35 provinces are declared to be in deficit. In these areas, with the start of the pastoral lean season in March 2019, livestock body conditions are expected to deteriorate and animal/cereals terms of trade for pastoralists are expected to worsen.

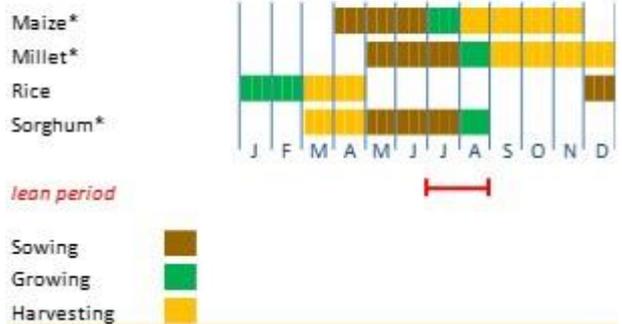
Strong economic growth rate and declining inflation rate

According to the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the economic growth is expected to remain strong and relatively stable at an average of 6.1 percent in 2019 driven mostly by the high levels of public investment, improved political stability, good prospects in the agricultural and mining sectors and improved power supply. The average consumer price inflation rate is forecast at 1 percent in 2019, down from the 1.3 percent reported in 2018, reflecting stable domestic demand and food prices as well as an expected moderate strengthening of the local currency.

Burkina Faso

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burkina Faso

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 611	1 366	1 766	29.3
Maize	1 524	1 533	1 784	16.4
Millet	946	828	1 056	27.5
Others	350	336	352	4.9
Total	4 431	4 063	4 958	22.0

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

Prices of coarse grains seasonally declined on most markets

Food availability is gradually improving with the new harvest. The overall demand for staple cereals on the local markets is relatively stable, with most households relying on their own production for food consumption. In general, staple food prices for cereals, including maize, millet and sorghum, have declined in December 2018 compared to the previous month and one year earlier. Prices of imported rice remained relatively stable due to the regular supply from the international market.

Livestock markets are also well supplied. The export demand of animals is declining, especially due to the persisting civil conflict in Nigeria. Domestic livestock prices remained generally below last year's level and the terms of trade for livestock/grain remained weak compared to December 2017.

Insecurity increases the need for assistance of affected populations

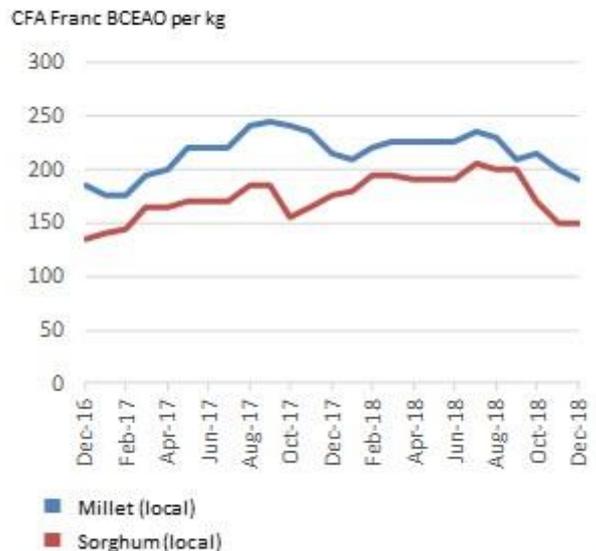
The security situation continued to deteriorate in December 2018, particularly in the eastern regions and the Sahel, where about 137 security incidents have been recorded according to UN-OCHA as of November 2018. Terrorist threats and attacks also resulted in about 41 000 internally displaced persons, of which 86 percent are based in the province of Soum. In addition, about 23 500 refugees, mostly from Mali, are still residing in the Sahel region.

According to the November 2018 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 307 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance from October to December 2018, up from 133 000 people in October-December 2017. This figure is expected to increase to 676 000 people during the June to August 2019 period, if mitigation measures are not taken.

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Burkina Faso

Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



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



GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 18-June-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of cereal crops and tubers (yams) starts in southern part under favourable conditions
- Below-average harvest gathered in 2017 compared to average of last five years
- Atypical increase of prices of coarse grains since harvests due to strong demand from households
- Population in need of humanitarian assistance significantly increased compared to situation of March-May 2018

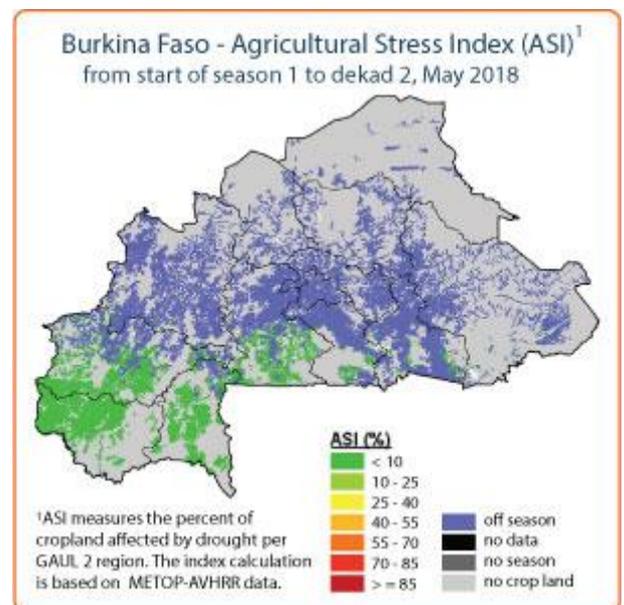
Planting of cereal crops starts in south under favourable conditions

In the southern part of the country (Banfora, Bobo Dioulasso, Gaoua), where seasonal accumulation of rainfall since early May resulted in favourable moisture conditions for crop establishment, the agricultural season is progressing normally, with land preparation and planting of rice, maize and sorghum. In other parts of the country, the season is yet to start with the arrival of the rains in June and the activities are limited to land preparation and the search for additional quantities of seeds.

Pastures conditions remain at below-average levels. However, field reports indicate large concentrations of livestock and over-grazing problems in certain areas. The animals cannot access the traditional grazing areas due to the civil conflict in Djibo and Koutougou (Province of Soum).

Below-average harvest gathered in 2017

Despite average to above average cumulative rainfall, significant dry spells and Fall Armyworm infestations and grain-eating birds affected the outcome of the 2017/18 cropping season. As a result, the national cereal production was estimated at 4.5 million tons, about 5 percent less than the last season and 2 percent less than the average of the last five years. Production of both sorghum and millet decreased by 10 percent compared to 2016. A below-average surplus production at household level has led to lower incomes from agricultural sales and decreased purchasing power, thus limiting non-food expenditures related to health, education, transportation and social ceremonies.



Prices of coarse grains seasonally increased in recent month

Most markets are well supplied with cereals, despite a slightly below average 2017 production. The demand remains high especially for millet and sorghum due to the low level of household stocks. Overall, cereal prices remain generally higher compared to last year and to the average of the last five years. Compared to the previous year, the biggest price increases (around 20 percent) were recorded in Fada Gourma market in the Eastern Region for sorghum and millet. Elsewhere, increases were limited to not more than 10 percent following the seasonal trend.

Livestock markets are also well supplied. In addition, there is an atypical entry of small ruminants from Niger, probably due to the civil conflict in Nigeria (which is a traditional outlet of Nigerien livestock) and the low value of the Nigerian naira. However, demand is low for large ruminants whereas it is just average for small ruminants because of the low purchasing power of households. Livestock prices remained generally stable in the main reference markets.

Food assistance needs to be maintained for vulnerable people

Poor households in the Sahel and Northern regions are facing difficult food security conditions due to depleted stocks in a context of high cereal prices ahead of the coming season. Security issues in these parts of the country complicate the pastoralist situation and contribute to the deterioration of the households' food consumption.

According to the March 2018 "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis, about 742 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance from March to May 2018. This figure is expected to increase to 960 000 people during the June to August period mainly due to localized production deficits in the past season. More than 25 000 refugees, mostly from Mali, are living in the country and are highly dependent on food assistance.

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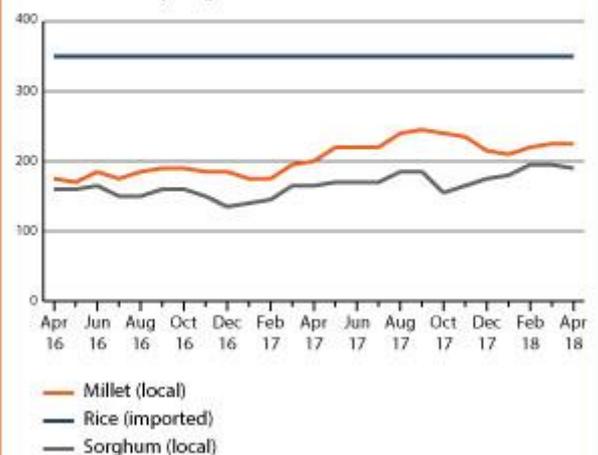
Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2012-2016	2016	2017	change
	average		estimate	2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 738	1 742	1 576	-10
Maize	1 525	1 583	1 649	4
Millet	1 027	1 057	953	-10
Others	351	396	338	-15
Total	4 641	4 778	4 516	-5

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

Burkina Faso Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou

CFA Franc BCEAO per Kg



Source: Afrique verte



GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 15-May-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average harvest gathered in 2016
- Coarse grain prices seasonally increased in recent months and are above their year-earlier levels
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in northern Sahel region

Starting of 2017 rainy season in south

Early but limited rains were registered in the southern part of the country in May allowing land preparation and first plantings to start. Elsewhere, seasonably dry conditions prevail.

Above-average harvest gathered in 2016 due to adequate rainfall and continued Government support

Harvesting of maize, millet and sorghum was completed in November, while harvesting of rice concluded in April 2017. Rainfall was generally adequate, allowing satisfactory development of crops throughout the growing season. Moreover, the Government continued to support farming activities by distributing seeds and providing farm equipment. Despite some localized crop losses due to flooding and attacks of maize crops by caterpillars, official estimates put the 2016 cereal production at about 4.5 million tonnes, 9 percent above the previous year's level and 3 percent above the five-year average. Production of sorghum, the most important staple, increased by 17 percent from 2015, while millet production increased by 5 percent. Pastures have regenerated countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

Coarse grain prices showed seasonal increases in recent months

Prices of locally-produced millet and sorghum have been increasing since January. Prices rose further in April despite the good availabilities from the 2016 bumper harvest. Large institutional purchases compounded the seasonal upward trend, pushing prices to levels above those of a year earlier.

Continued assistance still needed, especially for vulnerable people

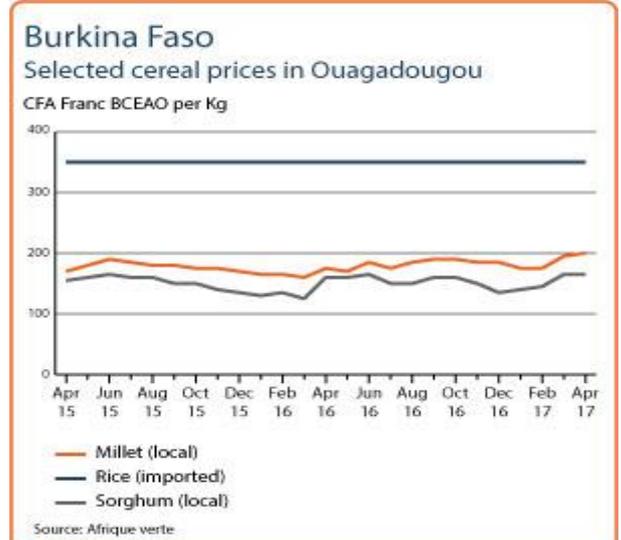
Food security conditions remain difficult in several regions, especially in the Sahel and Northern regions. Moreover, the



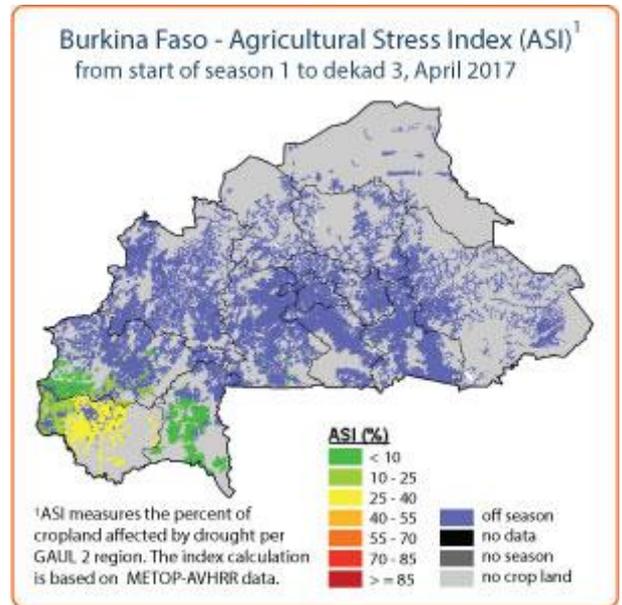
Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1,690	1,436	1,679	17
Maize	1,422	1,470	1,501	2
Millet	986	946	996	5
Others	323	338	392	16
Total	4,421	4,190	4,568	9

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



country continues to host a large number of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, as of end of March 2017, there were still about 33 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has already been facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates. More than 116 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above, according to the last analysis of the “Cadre Harmonisé” (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.





GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 17-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Early crop prospects are favourable due to adequate rainfall since beginning of cropping season**
- **Coarse grain prices seasonally increased in recent months and slightly above their year-earlier levels**
- **Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in northern Sahel region**

Cereal production forecast to increase in 2016 due to adequate rainfall and continued Government support

Harvesting of the 2016 cereal crops is underway. According to satellite-based estimates, rains have been generally adequate allowing satisfactory development of crops since the beginning of the growing season. First significant rains were recorded in early April in the south and southwest. Precipitation progressed northwards over the entire country in May and June and remained generally well-distributed in time and space, with sufficient amounts. Moreover, the Government has been supporting planting activities by distributing seeds and providing farm equipment. Despite some localized crop losses due to flooding and attacks of the maize crop by caterpillars, the 2016 crop production is preliminarily estimated at slightly above average levels. Pastures have regenerated countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

The 2015 aggregate cereal production was estimated at some 4.2 million tonnes, 6 percent below the previous year's output and 7 percent below average. Production of sorghum, the most important staple, dropped by 16 percent from 2014, while millet production declined slightly by 3 percent. Similarly, a below average harvest was gathered in 2014, owing to delayed plantings of rice and coarse grains in several parts of the country. The 2014 cereal output was estimated at about 4.47 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than the 2013 record crop gathered and 0.5 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Coarse grain prices have showed seasonal increases in recent months and are slightly above their year-earlier levels

Prices seasonally increased in recent months and are slightly above their year-earlier levels. However, the seasonal upward pressure was somewhat offset by favourable prospects for the 2016 cropping season.

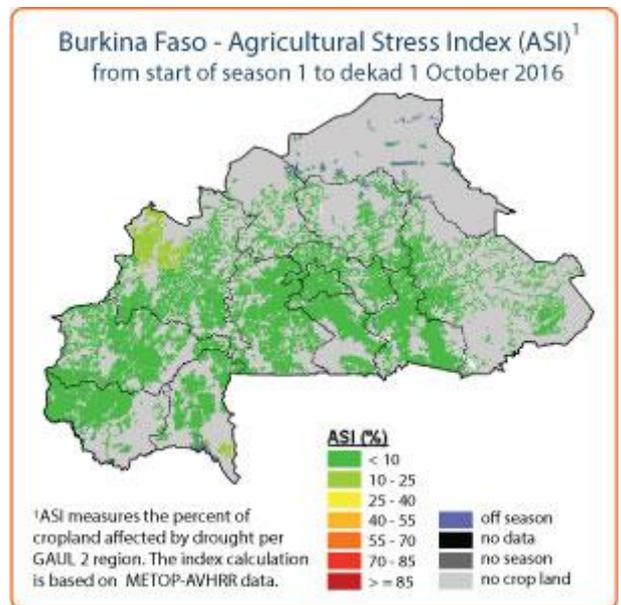


Burkina Faso Cereal production				
	2010-2014 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 800	1 436	1 587	11
Maize	1 355	1 470	1 529	4
Millet	1 026	946	996	5
Others	313	338	357	6
Total	4 495	4 190	4 469	7

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

Continued assistance still needed, especially for vulnerable people

Food security conditions remain difficult in several regions, especially in Oudalan and Soum provinces, mostly due to rainfall and cereal production deficits in 2015. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel and Northern regions. Moreover, the country continues to host a large number of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to OCHA, as of end of September 2016 there were still about 32 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has already been facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates. About 638 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above, according to the last analysis of the "Cadre Harmonisé" (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.





GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 01-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early crop prospects are favourable due to adequate rainfall since beginning of cropping season
- Coarse grain prices seasonally increased in recent months but remain similar to year-earlier levels
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in the northern Sahel region

Early prospects favourable for 2016 cropping season due to adequate rainfall

According to satellite images, rains have been generally adequate since the beginning of the growing season, allowing land preparation and planting of crops to progress. First significant rains were recorded in early April in the south and south-west. Precipitation progressed northwards over the entire country in May and June and remained generally widespread and sufficient since then. Crops are generally in the leafing stage in the Sudanian zone and emerging/tillering in the north and the Sahelian zone. Pastures are regenerating countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

The 2015 aggregate cereal production was estimated at some 4.2 million tonnes, 6 percent below the previous year's output and 7 percent below average. Production of sorghum, the most important staple, dropped by 16 percent, while millet production declined slightly by 3 percent. Similarly, a below-average harvest was gathered in 2014, owing to delayed plantings of rice and coarse grains in several parts of the country. The 2014 cereal output was estimated at about 4.47 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than the 2013 record crop gathered and 0.5 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Coarse grain prices have showed seasonal increases in recent months but are similar to year-earlier levels

In spite of the reduced harvests, prices of locally grown millet, sorghum and maize, the main staples in the country, have shown a sustained downward trend from the beginning of the year to March 2016, reflecting adequate regional supplies. Prices seasonally increased in recent months but remain similar to their year-earlier levels.



Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2010-2014	2014	2015	change
	average			
000 tonnes				
				percent
Sorghum	1,800	1,708	1,436	-16
Maize	1,354	1,433	1,470	3
Millet	1,026	972	946	-3
Others	314	357	338	-5
Total	4,495	4,470	4,190	-6

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

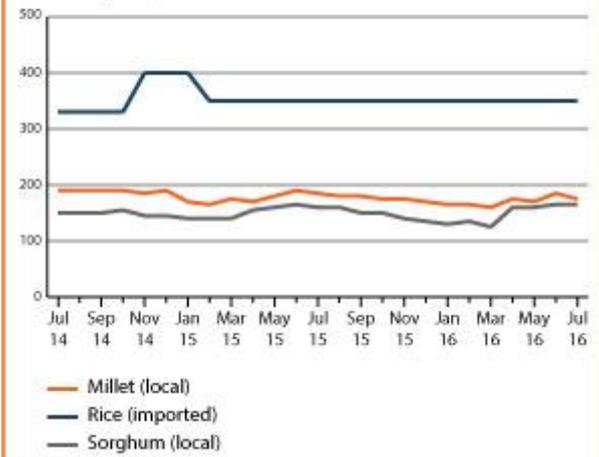
Continued assistance still needed, especially for vulnerable people

Food security conditions remain difficult in several regions, especially in Oudalan and Soum provinces, mostly due to rainfall and cereal production deficits in 2015. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel and Northern regions. Moreover, the country continues to host a large number of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were still about 33 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has already been facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates. About 126 000 people are estimated to be in Phase: 3 “Crisis” and above, according to the last analysis of the “Cadre Harmonisé” (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.

Burkina Faso

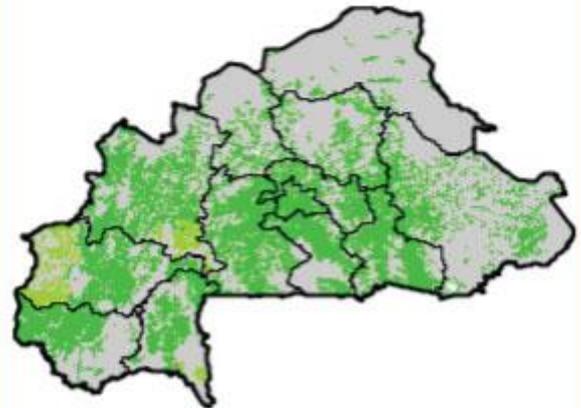
Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou

CFA Franc per Kg

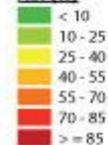


Source: Afrique verte

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



ASI (%)



¹ASI measures the percent of cropland affected by drought per GAUL 2 region. The index calculation is based on METOP-AVHRR data.





GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 01-August-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early crop prospects are favourable due to adequate rainfall since beginning of cropping season
- Coarse grain prices seasonally increased in recent months but remain similar to year-earlier levels
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in the northern Sahel region

Early prospects favourable for 2016 cropping season due to adequate rainfall

According to satellite images, rains have been generally adequate since the beginning of the growing season, allowing land preparation and planting of crops to progress. First significant rains were recorded in early April in the south and south-west. Precipitation progressed northwards over the entire country in May and June and remained generally widespread and sufficient since then. Crops are generally in the leafing stage in the Sudanian zone and emerging/tillering in the north and the Sahelian zone. Pastures are regenerating countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

The 2015 aggregate cereal production was estimated at some 4.2 million tonnes, 6 percent below the previous year's output and 7 percent below average. Production of sorghum, the most important staple, dropped by 16 percent, while millet production declined slightly by 3 percent. Similarly, a below-average harvest was gathered in 2014, owing to delayed plantings of rice and coarse grains in several parts of the country. The 2014 cereal output was estimated at about 4.47 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than the 2013 record crop gathered and 0.5 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Coarse grain prices have showed seasonal increases in recent months but are similar to year-earlier levels

In spite of the reduced harvests, prices of locally grown millet, sorghum and maize, the main staples in the country, have shown a sustained downward trend from the beginning of the year to March 2016, reflecting adequate regional supplies. Prices seasonally increased in recent months but remain similar to their year-earlier levels.



Burkina Faso
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1,800	1,708	1,436	-16
Maize	1,354	1,433	1,470	3
Millet	1,026	972	946	-3
Others	314	357	338	-5
Total	4,495	4,470	4,190	-6

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

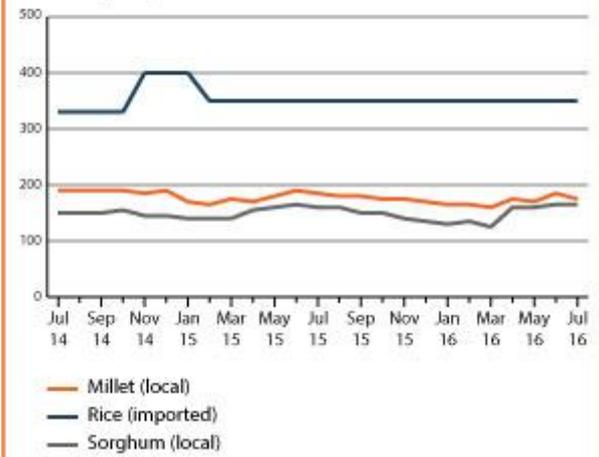
Continued assistance still needed, especially for vulnerable people

Food security conditions remain difficult in several regions, especially in Oudalan and Soum provinces, mostly due to rainfall and cereal production deficits in 2015. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel and Northern regions. Moreover, the country continues to host a large number of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were still about 33 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has already been facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates. About 126 000 people are estimated to be in Phase: 3 “Crisis” and above, according to the last analysis of the “Cadre Harmonisé” (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.

Burkina Faso

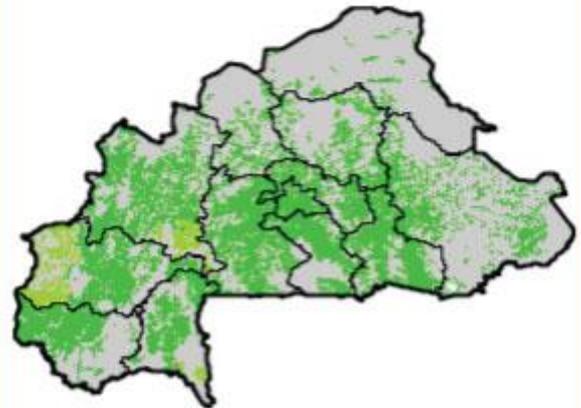
Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou

CFA Franc per Kg

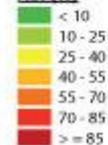


Source: Afrique verte

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



ASI (%)



¹ASI measures the percent of cropland affected by drought per GAUL 2 region. The index calculation is based on METOP-AVHRR data.





GIEWS Country Brief Burkina Faso

Reference Date: 09-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slightly above-average cereal crop in 2015
- Coarse grain prices mostly stable in recent months and similar to year-earlier levels
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in northern Sahel region

Slightly above-average harvest gathered in 2015

There was a slow start of the rainy season in several parts of the country. However, precipitation increased significantly from July, improving soil water reserves and crop prospects across the country. Crop production increased slightly compared to last year and the five-year average. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, Sanitation and Food Security gave a provisional estimate of the aggregate output of cereals at around 4.5 million tonnes, an increase of 1 percent over the average of the previous five years. In 2014, a below-average harvest was gathered owing to delayed plantings of rice and coarse grains in several parts of the country. The 2014 cereal output was estimated at about 4.47 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than the 2013 record crop gathered and 0.5 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Coarse grain prices have been mostly stable in recent months and similar to year-earlier levels

Markets remain generally well-supplied and coarse grain prices have remained mostly stable in recent months. In February, millet and sorghum prices are generally stable and similar to their year-earlier levels reflecting increased supplies from the 2015 harvests. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns in view of the relatively high supply levels in neighbouring countries and the declining international rice prices.

Continued assistance still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply situation, food security conditions remain difficult in parts, especially in Oudalan and Soum provinces, mostly due to localized rainfall and cereal production deficits in 2015. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel and Northern regions. Moreover, the country continues to host a large number of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were still about 34 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, mostly in



Burkina Faso Cereal production				
	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 800	1 708	1 671	-2
Maize	1 354	1 433	1 529	7
Millet	1 026	972	988	2
Others	314	357	357	0
Total	4 495	4 470	4 545	2

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

Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has already been facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates. About 126 000 people are estimated to be in Phase: 3 “Crisis” and above, according to the last analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.



Reference Date: 11-December-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slightly above-average cereal crop expected in 2015
- Coarse grain prices stable or declining, reflecting ample supplies
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in northern Sahel region

Cereal production expected to be slightly above-average in 2015

There was a slow start of the rainy season in several parts of the country. However, precipitation increased significantly from July, improving soil water reserves and crop prospects across the country. Crop production is expected to increase slightly compared to last year and the five-year average. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, Sanitation and Food Security gave a provisional estimate of the aggregate output of cereals at around 4.5 million tonnes, an increase of 1 percent over the average of the previous five years. In 2014, a below-average harvest was gathered owing to delayed plantings of rice and coarse grains in several parts of the country. The 2014 cereal output was estimated at about 4.47 million tonnes, 8 percent lower than the 2013 record crop gathered and 0.5 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Coarse grains prices declined in most markets, reflecting increased supplies

Markets remain generally well supplied and coarse grains prices have remained mostly stable in recent months. In November, millet and sorghum prices declined in most markets and were generally lower than their year-earlier levels reflecting increased supplies from the 2015 harvests. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns in view of the relatively high supply levels in neighbouring countries and the declining international rice prices.

Continued assistance still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply situation, the food security situation remains difficult in parts, especially in Oudalan and Soum provinces, mostly due to localized rainfall and cereal production deficits in 2015. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel and Northern regions. Moreover, the country continues to host a large number of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were still about 34 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso as of October 2015, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has been already facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates. About 126 000 people are estimated to be in Phase: 3 "Crisis" and above, according to the last analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé (Harmonized Framework) conducted in the country.



Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 800	1 708	1 671	-2
Maize	1 354	1 433	1 529	7
Millet	1 026	972	988	2
Others	314	357	357	0
Total	4 495	4 470	4 545	2

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



Reference Date: 27-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Another above-average cereal crop was gathered in 2014
- Cereal prices stable or declining, reflecting adequate regional supplies
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in northern Sahel region

An above-average harvest was gathered in 2014

There is little agricultural activity in this period, except for limited cultivation of some off-season crops. Planting of the 2015 cereal crops are expected to begin with the start of the rainy season from April.

Harvesting of the 2014 cereal crops was completed in December. A joint CILSS/FAO/WFP Crop Assessment Mission, which visited the country last November, estimated 2014 aggregate cereal production at some 4.6 million tonnes, 5 percent below the previous year's record crop but 7 percent above average. Production of sorghum and millet, the most important staples, increased by 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively, compared to the average.

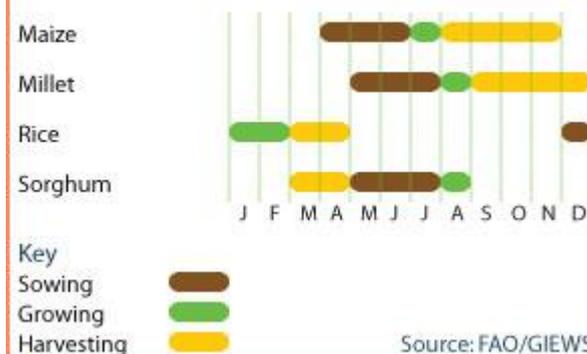
Cereal prices are mostly stable, reflecting ample regional supplies

Reflecting three consecutive years of good production, markets remain generally well supplied and coarse grains prices have remained mostly stable over the last two years. Similarly, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained at almost the same level since 2010, in line with trends in international markets. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, in view of the relatively high supply levels in neighbouring countries and the declining international rice prices.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply situation, the food security situation remains difficult in parts, mostly as a result of localized rainfall deficits in 2014. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel and North regions. Moreover, the country has been seriously affected by the influx of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were still about 32 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso as of early January 2015, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has been already facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates. About 264 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) and above, according to the last Cadre Harmonisé analysis conducted in the country.

Crop calendar Burkina Faso

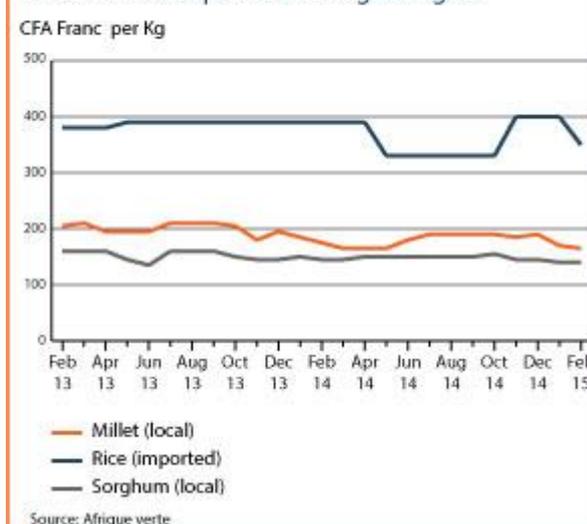


Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1,763	1,880	1,836	-2
Maize	1,247	1,585	1,420	-10
Millet	1,026	1,079	1,038	-4
Others	290	325	342	5
Total	4,326	4,869	4,636	-5

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

Burkina Faso Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



GIEWS Country Brief

Burkina Faso



Reference Date: 16-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Another record cereal crop was gathered in 2013
- Pasture conditions have also improved countrywide
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed mostly for Malian refugees in the northern Sahel region

A record crop gathered in 2013

Favourable weather conditions and continued government support towards the agriculture sector contributed to a good national cereal production for the second year in a row. A joint CILSS/FAO/FewsNet Crop Assessment Mission in November 2013 gave a provisional estimate of the aggregate output of cereals at around 5.1 million tonnes, an increase of 21 percent over the average of the previous five years.

In 2012, an above-average harvest was already gathered owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main cereal growing regions. The 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 4.89 million tonnes, 33 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 27 percent above the average of the previous five years.

A satisfactory food supply situation expected during the 2013/14 marketing year (November/October)

Reflecting two consecutive years of good production, markets remain generally well supplied and coarse grains prices have remained significantly lower than the 2012 crisi-affected levels. For example, in Ouagadougou, millet prices have been mostly stable since January 2013 and in December they were 14 percent below their levels two years earlier. Similarly, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained relatively stable in recent months, in line with trends in international markets. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, in view of the relatively high supply levels in neighbouring countries and the declining international rice prices.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply situation, the food security situation remains difficult in parts, mostly as a result of localized rainfall deficits in 2013. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel, North and East regions.

Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were about 50 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso as of early November 2013, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has been already facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates.



Burkina Faso
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 762	1 924	1 940	1
Maize	1 133	1 556	1 709	10
Millet	1 061	1 078	1 109	3
Others	268	340	367	8
Total	4 224	4 898	5 125	5

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



GIEWS Country Brief

Burkina Faso



Reference Date: 08-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Another record cereal crop is anticipated this year
- Pasture conditions have also improved countrywide
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be needed including for Malian refugees in the northern Sahel region

Cereal production is forecast to increase in 2013, for the second year running

Harvesting of the 2013 cereal crops has started in parts of the country, and overall prospects are favourable. The late onset of the cropping season was followed by adequate precipitation and soil water reserves from July over the main producing areas. Satellite imagery analysis in early October indicates that good rains continued to fall over most of the country. The National Agricultural Statistics Service has forecasted another record harvest for this year. Moreover, pastures have been regenerating countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

In 2012, an above-average harvest was already gathered owing to favourable climatic conditions in the main cereal growing regions. According to the final estimates, the 2012 cereal output was estimated at about 4.89 million tonnes, 33 percent higher than the 2011 drought-affected output and 27 percent above the average of the past five years.

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

Reflecting the favourable prospects for this year's crop and the 2012 good harvests, markets remain generally well supplied and coarse grains prices continue to follow normal seasonal patterns. For example, in Ouagadougou, millet prices have been mostly stable since January 2013 and in September they were 21 percent below their levels a year earlier. Similarly, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained relatively stable in recent months, in line with trends in international markets. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, in view of the relatively high supply levels in neighbouring countries and the declining international rice prices.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply situation, the food security situation remains difficult in parts, mostly as a result of localized rainfall deficits in 2012 and the lingering effects of last year's food crisis. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel, North and East regions.

Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of refugees from neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were about 50 000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso as of early September 2013, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has been already facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates.



Burkina Faso
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1 679	1 500	1 924	28
Millet	1 039	855	1 078	26
Maize	928	1 065	1 556	46
Others	217	257	340	32
Total	3 862	3 677	4 898	33

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



Reference Date: 02-April-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

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

Food supply situation improves in the 2012/13 marketing year (November/October)

Seasonably dry conditions prevail. The 2013 cropping season is expected to start in May.

Harvesting of the 2012 rainfed cereal crops was completed in December, while harvesting of recession and off-season crops will be completed in April. Favourable weather conditions throughout the cropping season resulted in a record cereal crop last year. The official estimate puts the 2012 aggregate cereal production at 4.8 million tonnes, an increase of 33 percent over the drought affected crop in 2011 and 27 percent over the average of the past five years. The improved harvest position, coupled with adequate supply in most neighbouring countries is expected to lead to much improved food availability during the 2012/13 marketing year (November-October).

In 2011, dry spells and poor rainfall distribution during the growing period (July to October) resulted in a 20 percent decline in cereal production compared to the previous year.

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

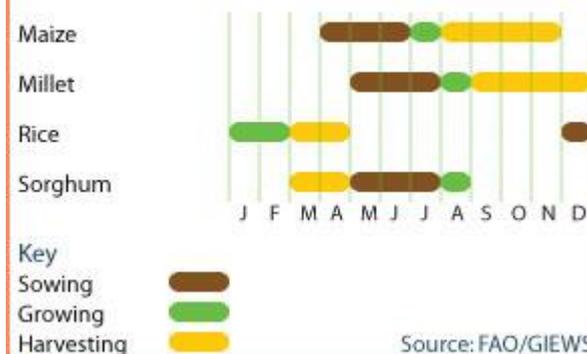
Reflecting last year's good harvests, markets remain generally well supplied and coarse grains prices continue to follow normal seasonal patterns. For example, in Ouagadougou, millet prices started increasing in February 2013 after several months of declines. However, in March they were still 5 percent below their levels a year earlier. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained relatively stable in recent months, in line with trends in international markets. Overall, food prices are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, in view of the relatively high supply levels in the whole region and the stable international rice prices.

Continued assistance is still needed, especially for vulnerable people

In spite of the generally favourable food supply outlook, some 1.8 million people (about 10 percent of the population) will continue to be food insecure mostly as a result of localized rainfall deficits in 2012 and the lingering effects of last year's food crisis. The food insecure people are located mostly in the Sahel, North and East regions.

Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of refugees from

Crop calendar Burkina Faso

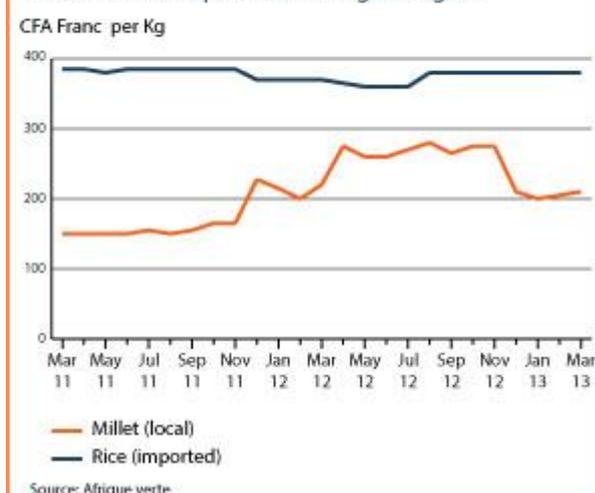


Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	'000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1,679	1,500	1,924	28
Millet	1,039	855	1,078	26
Maize	928	1,065	1,556	46
Others	217	257	340	32
Total	3,862	3,677	4,898	33

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

Burkina Faso Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



neighbouring Mali. According to UNHCR, there were over 43 600 Malian refugees registered as of early February 2013, mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which has been already facing food insecurity and high malnutrition rates.

Reference Date: 22-August-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2012 cereal crops are favourable
- Coarse grains prices remained high, reflecting reduced production last year
- Civil strife in northern Mali is having serious impact on food security in parts of Burkina Faso
- Assistance continues to be needed for large segments of the population, especially in the northern provinces

Early harvest prospects are favourable

Following irregular and insufficient precipitation in parts of the country in June, good rains from July remained widespread over the main producing areas in early August. As a result, crops, for harvest from October are developing satisfactorily and pastures regenerating in most parts of the country.

Coarse grains production in 2011 was reduced sharply following irregular and insufficient rains

Last year, a late onset and irregular distribution of rains throughout the growing period was coupled with an early cessation of rains in some areas. This combination damaged and delayed harvesting of crops in several parts of the northern regions (Nord, Sahel, Centre-Nord) but also in the centre and in the east of the country (Centre-Ouest and Centre-Est regions). Moreover, the dry conditions caused pasture and fodder deficits and lowered levels of water points in the pastoral and agropastoral areas in the north of the country.

Aggregate 2011 cereal production was estimated at around 3.66 million tonnes, which is 20 percent lower than the previous year and 5 percent below the five year average.

Significant price increases registered in locally produced crops

Prices of locally produced cereals have increased sharply across the country. Although the rate of increase has slowed down in recent months, millet prices in the capital Ouagadougou in early August were 87 percent higher than in the same month last year. Similarly, in Bobo Dioulasso, the second largest city in the country, prices have increased by 67 percent over the same period. Prices of sorghum followed a similar pattern, and in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso they are currently 57 and 33 percent higher than in August 2011, respectively.

By contrast, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained mostly stable.

Food and agricultural assistance continues to be needed

An early start of the lean season and the high cereal prices that followed the poor 2011 cereal production, have led to severe food insecurity in several parts of the country. About 46 percent of the country's



communes, mainly in the North, East, Plateau central, Sahel and Centre regions, have been classified “at risk” of food insecurity by the country’s early warning system (Comité de Prévision de la Situation Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (CPSA)) as of mid-January 2012. About 2 million people (nearly 12 percent of the population) will still need assistance between July and September according to recent updates by the Government.

Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of refugees from neighbouring Mali. As of early-August, according to OCHA, nearly 110 000 people have fled the conflict and crossed the border to seek refuge mostly in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which is already facing food shortages, high cereal prices and high malnutrition rates (the chronic malnutrition rate, at 40.2 percent, is the highest among all the regions).

Reference Date: 21-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production declined by 20 percent in 2011
- Coarse grains prices remained high, reflecting the reduced production
- Civil strife in northern Mali is having serious impact on food security in parts of Burkina Faso.
- Assistance is needed for large segments of the population, especially in the northern provinces

Coarse grains production reduced by irregular and insufficient rains

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops was completed in December. A late onset and irregular distribution of rains throughout the growing period was coupled with an early cessation of rains in some areas. This combination damaged and delayed harvesting of crops in several parts of the northern regions (Nord, Sahel, Centre-Nord) but also in the centre and in the east of the country (Centre-Ouest and Centre-Est regions). Moreover, the dry conditions caused pasture and fodder deficits and lowered water points level in the pastoral and agropastoral areas in the north of the country.

Following release of the final 2011 cereal production figures, aggregate cereal production is estimated at around 3.66 million tonnes, which is 20 percent lower than previous year and 5 percent below the five year average.

Reduced supplies resulted in unseasonal price increases

In contrast to normal seasonal patterns that follow crop harvests, prices of locally produced cereals (millet and sorghum) have remained firm in recent months in several markets. For example, millet prices in the capital Ouagadougou in March were still 47 higher than in the same month last year. Similarly, in Bobo Dioulasso, the second largest city in the country, prices have increased by 52 percent over the same period. Prices of sorghum followed a similar pattern, and in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso they are currently 42 and 46 percent higher than in March 2011, respectively.

By contrast, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, are stable at around the same levels of March 2011 in most markets, including Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

Food and agricultural assistance is needed

An early start of the lean season and high cereal prices, caused by the poor 2011 cereal production, have led to severe food insecurity in several parts of the country. About 46 percent of the country's communes, mainly in the North, East, Plateau central, Sahel and Centre regions, have been classified "at risk" of food insecurity by the country's early warning system (Comité de Prévision de la Situation Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (CPSA)) as of mid-January 2012.

Moreover, the country is seriously affected by the influx of refugees from



neighbouring Mali. As of mid-March, according to OCHA, more than 21 000 displaced people settled in Oudalan and Soum provinces of the northern Sahel region, which is already facing food shortages, high cereal prices and high malnutrition rates (the chronic malnutrition rate, at 40.2 percent, is the highest among all the regions). On 2 March 2012, the Government of Burkina Faso has officially declared that the country is facing a critical food and nutrition crisis, and called for international assistance.

Subsidized sales by the government and targeted free distribution by development partners have started in the affected areas. In addition, the CPSA recommended specific measures such as the distribution of high yielding seed varieties and other inputs to producers in order to boost the output of the off season crop, usually harvested from March.

To support the national response plan, WFP has scaled up its operations and extended them until May 2012, mainly expanding its Food and Cash for Work activities.

Reference Date: 10-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Coarse grains production is estimated to decline by 17 percent in 2011
- Coarse grains prices recorded sharp unseasonal increases during December, reflecting the reduced production
- Assistance is needed for large segments of the population, especially in the northern provinces

Coarse grains production reduced by irregular and insufficient rains

Harvesting of the 2011 cereal crops was completed in December. A late onset and an irregular distribution of rains throughout the growing period, coupled with an early cessation in some areas, damaged crops, reduced coarse grains yields and production and delayed harvests in several parts of the northern regions (Nord, Sahel, Centre-Nord) but also in the centre and in the east of the country (Centre-Ouest and Centre-Est regions). Moreover, the dry conditions caused pasture and fodder deficits and lowered water points level in the pastoral and agropastoral areas in the north of the country.

A joint CILSS/FAO/FewsNet/WFP crop assessment mission, which visited the country in October 2011, estimated the aggregate coarse grains output at around 3.5 million tonnes, which is 16 percent lower than last year and 4 percent below the five year average. Production of millet and sorghum, the main staple cereals in the country, is estimated to decrease by 21 and 18 percent compared to last year, respectively.

Reduced supplies supported unseasonal price increases in December

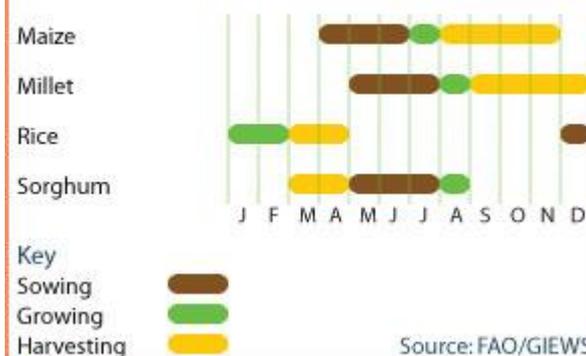
Coarse grains prices followed a similar trend in all monitored markets. They increased from their low levels from July/August onwards, supported by poor crop prospects, levelled off or slightly decreased in November with the new supplies from the 2011 harvest entering markets, and resumed their upward trend unseasonably increasing in December as a result of this year's reduced output. For example, millet and sorghum prices in the capital Ouagadougou increased between November and December by 38 and 13 percent, respectively and they are currently 63 and 57 percent higher than in December 2010. Similarly, in Bobo Dioulasso, the second largest city in the country, prices of millet increased between November and December by 33 percent and are 60 percent higher than in the same month last year.

By contrast, prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, are stable at around the same levels of December 2010 in most markets, including Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

Food and agricultural assistance is needed

An early start of the lean season and high cereal prices, caused by the poor 2011 cereal production, may lead to severe food insecurity in the

Crop calendar Burkina Faso

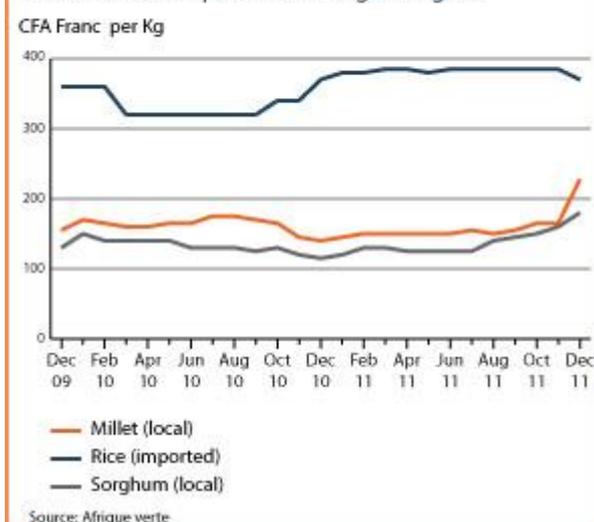


Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Sorghum	1 682	1 990	1 634	-18
Millet	1 103	1 148	906	-21
Maize	889	1 133	993	-12
Others	190	289	291	1
Total	3 863	4 560	3 824	-16

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

Burkina Faso Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



coming months in several parts of the country.

About 41 percent of the country's communes, mainly in the north-eastern provinces, have been classified "at risk" of food insecurity by the country's early warning system (CPSA Comité de Prévission de la Situation Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle) as of early November.

Subsidized sales by the government and targeted free distribution by development partners have started in affected areas. In addition, the CPSA recommends specific measures such as the distribution of high yielding seed varieties and other inputs to producers in order to boost the output of the off season crop, usually harvested in March.

Reference Date: 20-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2011 cropping season has started in the South
- A record crop was gathered in 2010 and pasture regeneration was satisfactory countrywide
- Coarse grains prices dropped following the good harvest. However, the food situation still requires close monitoring

Rains have started in the south

Early but limited rains were registered in the southern part of the country in May allowing land preparation and first plantings to start. Elsewhere seasonably dry conditions prevail.

A satisfactory food supply situation expected during the 2010-11 marketing year (November/October)

Favourable weather conditions throughout the cropping season resulted in a record cereal crop last year. The official estimate puts the 2010 aggregate cereal production at 4.5 million tonnes, an increase of 26 percent over the drought affected crop in 2009.

Coarse grain prices have remained mostly stable across the country, reflecting ample supplies. For example, millet prices in Ouagadougou in April 2011 were about 9 percent below their level of a year earlier. However, price of imported rice increased by 19 percent over the same period. This may be partly due to the impact of the political crisis in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire which has adversely affected trade flows between both countries.

The food situation still requires close monitoring

The generally favourable food supply situation nevertheless follows a difficult year. In 2010, the combination of a fall in cereal production, poor rangeland conditions, and high food prices and low livestock prices, has led to high food insecurity in several areas. Hardest hit areas include the Sahel, Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions of the country where pastures were seriously damaged. Moreover, heavy rains led to substantial flooding in the northern parts of the country in July and August 2010. The floods have caused serious damage to infrastructure in several regions of the country including areas previously affected by drought (Centre-North, East, and Sahel regions). Considerable localised damage to agriculture has also been reported with about 6 500 hectares of crops flooded in the East and Centre-North. In these areas, market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be closely monitored in order to provide assistance as soon as it is necessary.



Reference Date: 01-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A record crop was gathered in 2010 and pastures have regenerated countrywide
- Coarse grains prices dropped following the good harvest. However, the food situation still requires close monitoring.

A satisfactory food supply situation expected during the 2010-11 marketing year

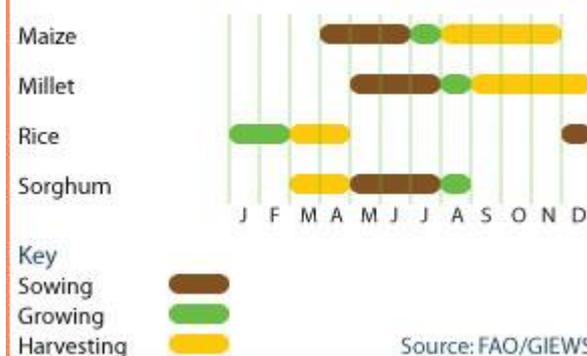
Favourable weather conditions throughout the cropping season resulted in a record cereal crop last year. The pest situation has been on the whole calm and pasture conditions are good. A recent CILSS/FAO/Government mission provisionally estimated 2010 cereal production at 4.4 million tonnes, an increase of 23 percent over the drought affected crop of 2009. This, in addition to favourable crop prospects in neighbouring countries, should result in improved household access to food in 2010/11.

Coarse grain prices started declining from September, reflecting the arrival of new harvests into the markets. For example, after peaking in July-August, millet prices dropped by over 20 percent in November in Ouagadougou, the capital city. Prices of coarse grains remained relatively low until January. However, the continuing political crisis in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire is likely to adversely impact trade flows between both countries, which is likely to affect food supply and prices.

The food situation still requires close monitoring

This generally favourable situation nevertheless follows in the wake of a difficult year. In 2010, the combination of a fall in cereal production, poor rangeland conditions, and high food prices and low livestock prices, has led to high food insecurity in several areas. Hardest hit areas include the Sahel, Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions of the country where pastures were seriously damaged. Moreover, heavy rains led to substantial flooding in the northern parts of the country in July and August 2010. The floods have caused serious damage to infrastructure in several regions of the country including areas previously affected by drought and lack of pastures (Centre-North, East, and Sahel regions). Considerable localised damage to agriculture has also been reported with about 6 500 hectares of crops flooded in the East and Centre-North. In these areas, market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be closely monitored in order to provide assistance as soon as it is necessary.

Crop calendar Burkina Faso

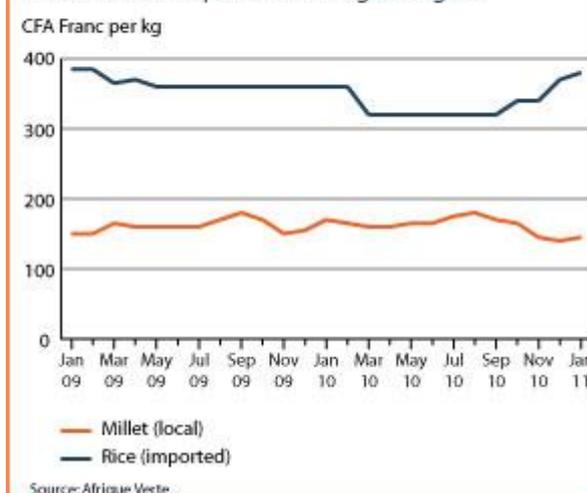


Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1595	1522	1957	29
Millet	1113	971	1175	21
Maize	822	895	1027	15
Others	153	240	296	23
Total	3682	3627	4454	23

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

Burkina Faso Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



GIEWS Country Brief

Burkina Faso



Reference Date: 9-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Overall harvest prospects remain favourable in spite of serious localised flooding
- The food situation requires close monitoring, although harvesting is about to start

Harvest prospects are favourable in spite of serious flooding in parts of the country

Rains and soil moisture have been generally adequate to allow satisfactory development of crops since the beginning of the growing season, although heavy rains led to substantial flooding in the northern parts of the country in July and August. The floods have caused serious damage to infrastructure in several regions of the country including the Centre-North, East, Haut-Bassin and Sahel regions. No comprehensive evaluation of the impact of the floods on the agriculture sector is yet available. However, considerable localised damage has been reported with about 6 500 hectares of crops flooded in the East and Centre-North. Overall crops prospects remain favourable with millet and sorghum crops in the heading and early maturation stages. Pastures have regenerated countrywide, improving livestock conditions.

Last year, cereal production dropped by 17 percent compared to 2008, following erratic rains and extended dry spells during the cropping season. Pastures were seriously damaged in the Sahel, Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions of the country. The high biomass deficit has led to increased and earlier transhumance to neighbouring countries.

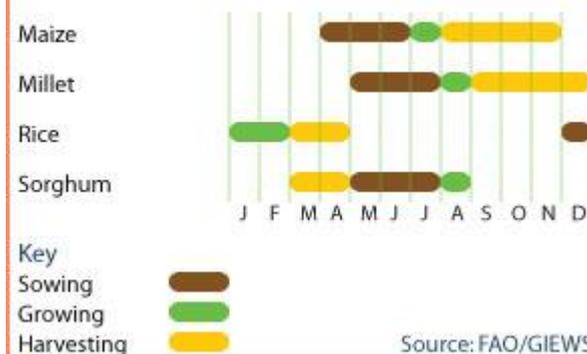
High food prices coupled with low livestock prices affect food access

Cereals prices have shown signs of stabilising since early 2009, but still remain high. Despite a sharp decline in prices from the peak they reached in August-September 2008, wholesale millet prices on the Ouagadougou markets in August 2010 were still 50 percent higher than in pre-food price crisis in August 2007. Imported rice prices are 33 percent higher than three years ago. On the other hand, livestock prices have declined significantly leading to significant deterioration of the terms-of-trade for pastoralists.

The food situation requires close monitoring in spite of current emergency interventions

The combination of a fall in cereal production, poor rangeland conditions, and persistently high food prices and low livestock prices, has led to high food insecurity and increased malnutrition in several areas, notably in regions affected by high pastures deficit. In response, several emergency interventions were carried out including sale at subsidized prices of about 33 000 tonnes of cereals by the Government, as well as distribution of animal feed and seeds by FAO. However, market and price conditions and the situation of vulnerable groups, need to be closely monitored until harvest of current crops.

Crop calendar Burkina Faso

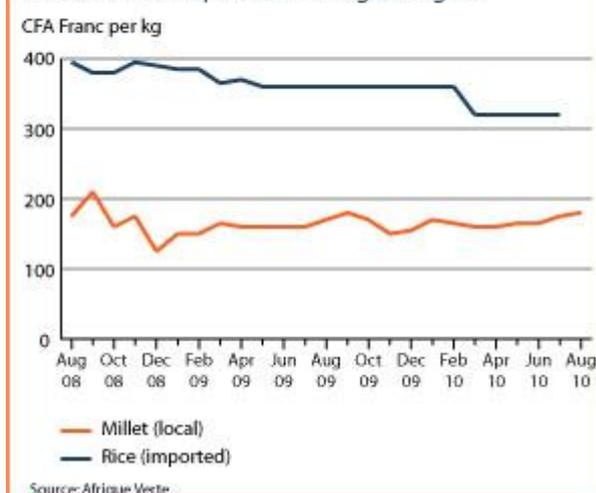


Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1570	1875	1522	-19
Millet	1106	1255	971	-23
Maize	739	1014	895	-12
Others	121	215	240	12
Total	3536	4358	3627	-17

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

Burkina Faso Selected cereal prices in Ouagadougou



Reference Date: 15-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production declined by 17 percent in 2009 due to irregular rains.
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices

Irregular rains caused a decline in cereal and pastures production in 2009

Land preparation for planting of the 2010 cereal crops has just started. In 2009, erratic rains and extended dry spells constrained crops and pastures production in several areas. The official estimate puts the 2009 aggregate cereal production at 3.6 million tonnes, close to the 5 years-average but 17 percent lower than the 2008 good output. Pastures were seriously damaged in the Sahel, Centre-North, East and Centre-East regions of the country. The most affected provinces are Séno, Yagha, Oudalan and northern Namentenga. The high biomass deficit has led to increased and earlier transhumance to neighbouring countries.

High food prices coupled with declining livestock prices affect food access

Cereals prices have shown signs of stabilising over the past year, but still remain high. Despite a sharp decline in prices from the peak they reached in August-September 2008, wholesale millet prices on the Ouagadougou markets in April 2010 were still 28 percent higher than in April 2008; imported rice prices are 33 percent higher than two years ago. On the other hand, livestock prices have declined significantly leading to significant deterioration of the terms-of-trade for pastoralists. Moreover, serious floods had led to loss of crops and food stocks by the households in September 2009, notably in Ouagadougou.

The food situation requires close monitoring and safety net interventions.

The combination of a fall in cereal production, poor rangeland conditions, and persistently high food prices and declining livestock prices, could lead to sharp increases in malnutrition. Therefore, there is a need for close monitoring of market conditions and the plight of the vulnerable groups throughout the country in order to provide timely assistance. Safety net interventions, such as targeted distribution, sales at subsidized prices, food for work or cash for work activities will be required during the lean season with quantities depending on the extent of food supply and pasture deficits in specific areas.



Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1570	1875	1522	-19
Millet	1106	1255	971	-23
Maize	739	1014	895	-12
Others	121	215	240	12
Total	3536	4358	3627	-17

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



Reference Date: 26-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production declined by 11 percent in 2009 due to irregular rains.
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices

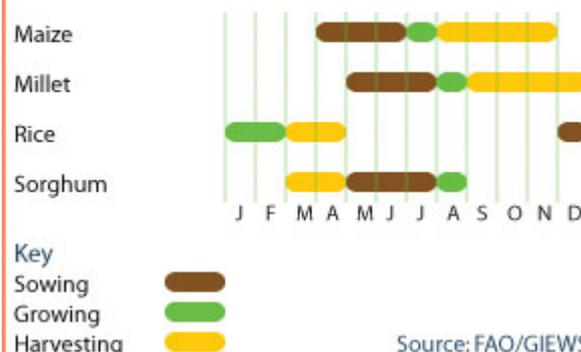
Irregular rains caused a decline in cereal production

A joint CILSS/FAO/FewsNet Crop Assessment Mission in October 2009 gave a provisional estimate of the aggregate output of cereals at around 3.9 million tonnes, which is 10 percent lower than the previous year's record crop but 4 percent above the 5 years-average.

Food access is difficult because of high prices

Despite a good cereals harvest in 2008, food access remained difficult in 2009 for a substantial proportion of the population because of persistent high food prices. Cereals prices have shown signs of stabilising in the past few months, but they still remain high. Despite a sharp decline in prices from the peak they reached in August-September 2008, wholesale millet prices on the Ouagadougou markets in December 2009 were still 19 percent higher than in December 2007; imported rice prices are 50 percent higher than two years ago. Moreover, serious floods led to loss of crops and food stocks by the households in September 2009, notably in Ouagadougou. Therefore, the market conditions and the plight of the vulnerable groups must be constantly monitored throughout the country in order to provide them with assistance if necessary.

Crop calendar Burkina Faso

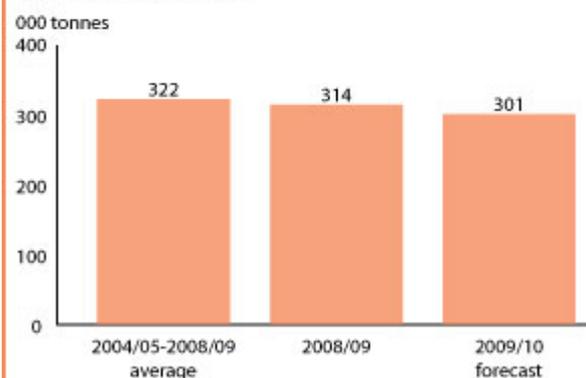


Burkina Faso Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1570	1875	1684	-10
Millet	1106	1255	1020	-19
Maize	739	1014	949	-6
Others	121	215	249	16
Total	3536	4358	3902	-10

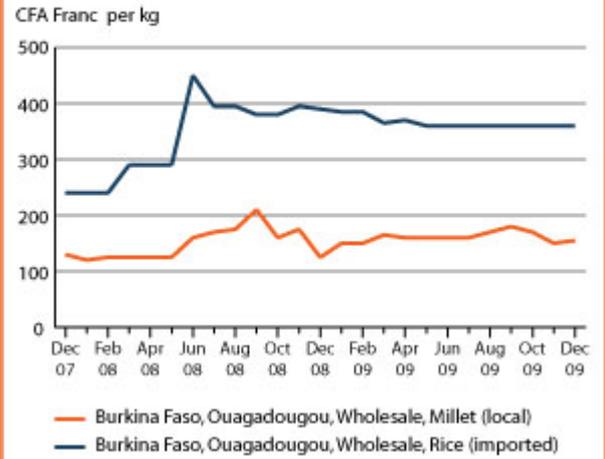
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

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

Burkina Faso Selected cereal prices



Reference Date: 24-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop prospects uncertain following irregular rains at the beginning of the season
- Floods caused significant casualties and damaged crops in a few localities.
- Food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices

Vegetation conditions improved at the end of July thanks to flooding in several regions

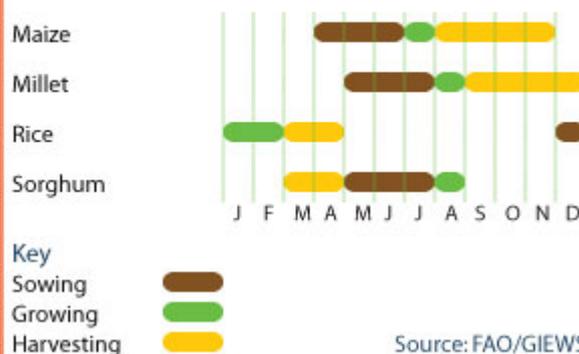
Following the irregular rains that were below average until the end of June, making it necessary to re-seed most of the regions and shortening the vegetation period, the rainfall increased in intensity in July and remained abundant throughout August. Floods were reported in the Central Plateau, Centre South, Centre North, Centre East, East, Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions but the heaviest rainfall was at Ouagadougou on 1 September, when 263.3 millimetres fell in 12 hours causing considerable damage to infrastructure and leaving thousands of people homeless. No evaluation of the impact of the floods on the agriculture sector is yet available but it is not expected that there will have been any widespread damage to crops.

Despite the violent storms that occurred recently there was considerable variation from one region to another in crop development stages and an overall delay in comparison with normal years because of the difficult start of the rainy season. Except for a few regions where cereals are in the ear-emerging or flowering stage, millet and sorghum are generally in the elongation phase. Due to the late arrival of the rains and the initial drought it must continue to rain until October if the crops are to fully ripen. The rangelands have been considerably regenerated throughout the country. On the whole, the pest situation is reportedly calm.

Food access is difficult because of high prices

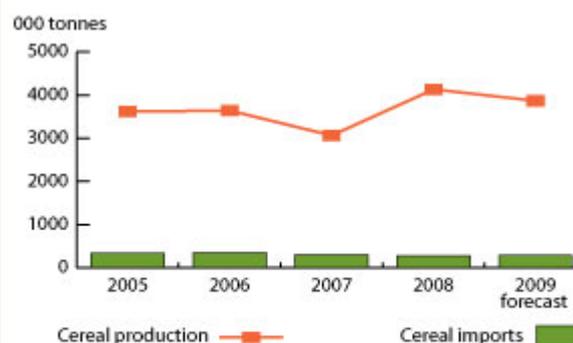
Despite a good cereals harvest in 2008, food access remains difficult for a substantial proportion of the population because of persistent high food prices. Cereals prices have shown signs of stabilising in the past few months, but they still remain high. Despite a sharp decline in prices from the peak they reached in August-September 2008, wholesale millet prices on the Ouagadougou markets in July 2009 are still 33 percent higher than in July 2007; imported rice prices are 50 percent higher than two years ago. It is likely that food prices will increase on the Ouagadougou markets due to the loss of food stocks by the households affected by flooding. These households not only need emergency aid, but the market conditions and the plight of the vulnerable groups must be constantly monitored throughout the country in order to provide them with assistance if necessary.

Crop calendar Burkina Faso



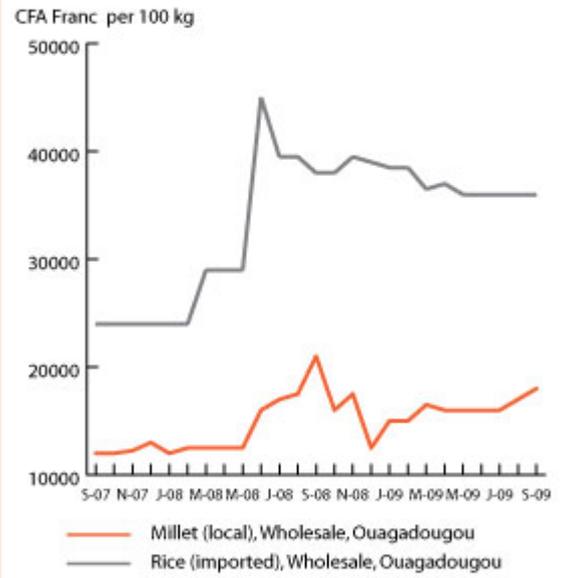
Cereal production and imports Burkina Faso

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		forecast	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Sorghum	1585	1950	1650	-15.4%
Millet	1095	1199	1200	0.1%
Maize	697	804	875	8.8%
Other	69	180	143	-20.6%
Total Cereals	3467	4133	3868	-6.4%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Burkina Faso Selected cereal food prices



Source: Afrique Verte