



# GIEWS Country Brief The Gabonese Republic

Reference Date: 06-December-2024

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable soil moisture levels for 2024 main maize crop
- Gross domestic product (GDP) forecast to increase in 2025

## Favourable soil moisture levels for 2024 main maize crop

The main food crops are cassava, plantains, maize and groundnuts. Sowing of the 2024 main season maize crops, to be harvested from late December, started in July and it was completed by early October 2024. According to estimates based on satellite data, precipitation amounts have been well distributed since the beginning of the cropping season, benefitting soil moisture levels. Sowing of the 2025 secondary season maize crops is expected to begin in January 2025.

## GDP forecast to increase in 2025

Agriculture contributes to a small portion (less than 1 percent) of the national GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The GDP increased by about 3 percent in 2024, mainly due to a surge in crude oil prices. In 2025, the national economy is forecast to grow by about 2.7 percent. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the annual inflation is estimated at 2.1 percent in 2024 and it is forecast at 2.2 percent in 2025, mainly reflecting easing domestic food prices.

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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

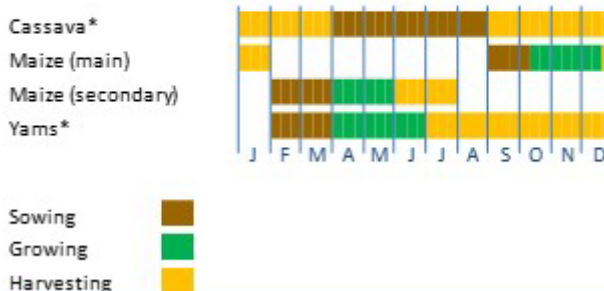
<https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

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

## Gabon

Crop Calendar

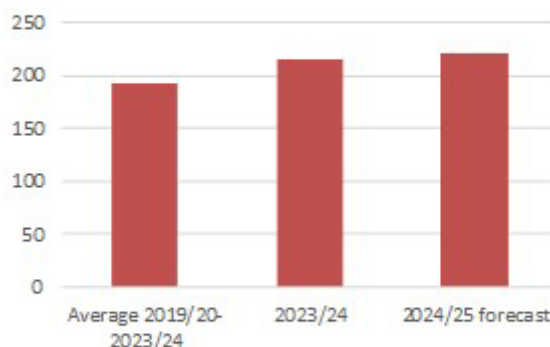
(\*major foodcrop)



## Gabon

### Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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



## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 05-December-2022

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable soil moisture levels for 2022 main maize crop
- Gross domestic product (GDP) forecast to increase in 2022

### Favourable soil moisture levels for 2022 main maize crop

The main food crops are cassava and plantains, but also a very small amount of maize is produced in the country.

Planting of the 2022 main season maize crops, to be harvested from late December, started in mid-August, two weeks earlier than usual due to the early onset of the rainy season. Planting was completed by early October. According to estimates derived from satellite-based imagery, precipitation amounts have been adequate and well distributed since the beginning of the cropping season, benefitting soil moisture levels.

Sowing of the 2023 secondary season maize crops is expected to begin in February next year.

### Gross domestic product (GDP) forecast to increase in 2022

Agriculture contributes to a small portion (less than 1 percent) of the national GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The GDP declined by about 2 percent in 2020, owing to the effects of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on global oil prices (which fell sharply) and on the country's economy. In 2021, the GDP increased by about 1.5 percent, mainly due to a surge in crude oil prices. In 2022, economic growth is forecast to rise further to about 3 percent.

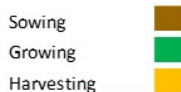
The war in Ukraine resulted in rising global food prices and international transportation costs, exerting inflationary pressure in the country. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the annual inflation was estimated at 1 percent in 2021 and is forecast at 3.5 percent in 2022 and 3.2 percent in 2023.

The country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization. With a

### Gabon

#### Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

population of about 2.4 million, imports of cereals in 2022 are forecast at a near-average level of 196 000 tonnes, including about 110 000 tonnes of wheat and 80 000 tonnes of rice.

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## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 01-March-2022

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2022 secondary maize crop ongoing
- Gross domestic product rose slightly in 2021

### Planting of 2022 secondary maize crop ongoing

The main food crops are cassava and plantains, but the country also produces a small amount of maize.

Harvesting of the 2021 main season maize crops finalized in January and the output is estimated at a near-average level following overall beneficial weather conditions during the season, which had a positive impact on yields.

Planting of the 2022 secondary season maize crop, to be harvested in June and July, is ongoing under overall conducive weather conditions. According to satellite-based imagery, precipitation amounts have been adequate and well distributed since last December in most croplands, benefitting soil moisture levels. However, weather forecasts until May point to below-average rainfall amounts in the country, which may negatively affect yields.

### Gross domestic product rose slightly in 2021

Agriculture contributes to a small portion of the national gross domestic product (GDP), reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. It is estimated that the GDP contracted by about 2 percent in 2020, owing to the effects of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on global oil prices (which fell sharply) and on the country's economy. In 2021, the national GDP started to increase again, but slightly, by about 1.5 percent, mainly due to stronger crude oil prices.

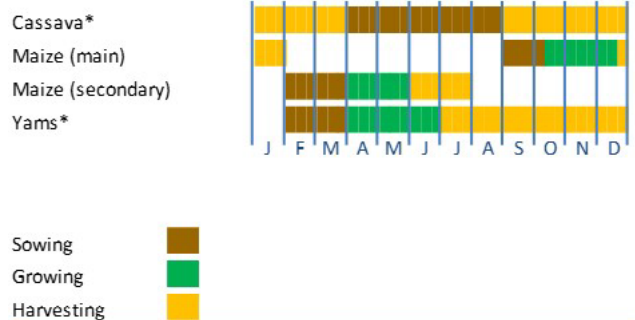
The country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization. With a population of about 2.3 million, imports of cereals in 2021 are estimated at a slightly below-average level of 171 000 tonnes, including about 110 000 tonnes of wheat and 55 000 tonnes of rice.

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### Gabon

#### Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.



## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 29-April-2021

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions for 2021 secondary maize crops
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by about 3 percent in 2020

### Favourable weather conditions for 2021 secondary maize crops

The main food crops are cassava and plantains, but the country also produces a small amount of maize.

Planting of the 2021 secondary maize crop, to be harvested in June and July, was completed in March under overall favourable weather conditions. According to satellite-based imagery, precipitation amounts have been adequate and well distributed since the beginning of the season, benefitting soil moisture and resulting in near-average vegetation conditions as of mid-April.

Harvesting of the 2020 main season maize crops finalized last January and the output is estimated at near-average levels following beneficial weather conditions during the season, which had a positive impact on yields.

### GDP declined by about 3 percent in 2020

Agriculture contributes to a small portion of the national GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. It is estimated that the national GDP contracted by about 3 percent in 2020, owing to the effects of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on global oil prices (which fell sharply) and on the country's economy.

The country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization. With a population of about 2.2 million, import requirements of cereals in 2020 are estimated at a near-average level of 190 000 tonnes, including about 108 000 tonnes of wheat and 75 000 tonnes of rice.

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### Gabon

Crop Calendar

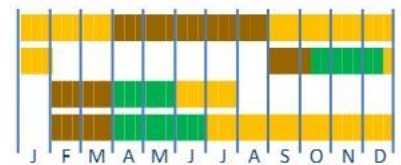
(\*major foodcrop)

Cassava\*

Maize (main)

Maize (secondary)

Yams\*



Sowing

Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.



# GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 14-October-2020

## FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited 2020 secondary maize crops
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) allocates funds to address COVID-19 impacts over economic sector
- Imports of cereals forecast at near-average level in 2020

## Favourable weather conditions benefited 2020 secondary maize crops

The main food crops are cassava and plantains, but the country also produces a small amount of maize.

Harvesting of the 2020 secondary maize crop finalized in July and the output is estimated at near-average levels due to adequate and well-distributed rainfall in the season which had a positive impact on yields.

Planting of the 2020 main season maize crops finalized in early October under favourable weather conditions and crops will be harvested from late December.

## IMF allocates funds to address COVID-19 impacts over economic sector

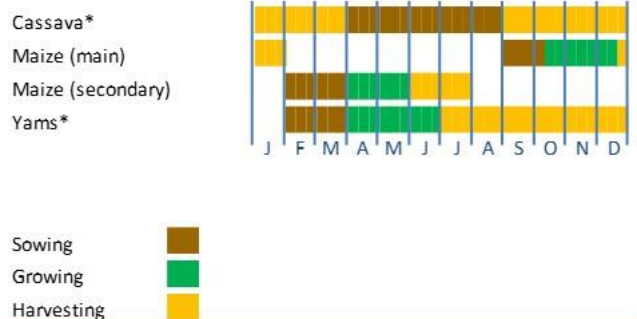
Agriculture contributes to a small portion of the national Gross Domestic Product, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry.

On 9 April 2020, the IMF Executive Board allocated about [USD 147 million](#) through its Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic over the country's economy. However, since then, weaker external demand and a more pronounced impact of containment measures further deteriorated the country's economic growth prospects. The impact of the measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic on non-oil Government revenue and spending, combined with losses in the oil sector, put significant pressures on public finances and public debt. Therefore, on 31 July 2020, the IMF allocated an additional amount of about [USD 153 million](#) through a second RFI.

## Gabon

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

## Imports of cereals forecast at near-average level in 2020

Imports of cereals account for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization. With a population of about 2.2 million, total cereals imports in 2020 are forecast at a near-average level of 180 000 tonnes, including about 100 000 tonnes of wheat and 75 000 tonnes of rice.

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## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 29-May-2020

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited 2020 secondary maize crops
- Imports of cereals estimated at average level in 2019
- Inflation rates at generally low levels in recent years

### Favourable weather conditions benefited 2020 secondary maize crops

The main food crops are cassava and plantains, but the country also produces a small amount of maize.

Harvesting of the 2020 secondary maize crop is ongoing under favourable weather conditions and, following mostly adequate and well-distributed rainfall in the season, the output is expected at near-average levels.

Planting of the 2020 main season maize crops is expected to begin in September.

### Imports of cereals estimated at average level in 2019

Agriculture contributes to a small portion of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization. With a population of about 2.2 million, imports of cereals in 2019 are estimated at a near-average level of 190 000 tonnes, including about 100 000 tonnes of wheat and 80 000 tonnes of rice.

### Inflation rates at generally low levels in recent years

In recent years, the rates of inflation have been at generally low levels (about 3 percent) due to Government subsidies on many basic goods, including food staples, and the relatively strong local currency that exerts downward pressure on prices of imported goods.

### Gabon

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)

Cassava\*

Maize (main)

Maize (secondary)

Yams\*



Sowing

Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

## COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 10 April 2020, the Government declared a State of Emergency by:

- Restricting the entry and exiting from the country.
- Imposing quarantine measures, curfews and movement limitations within the country.
- Prohibiting international and national conferences, political demonstrations, cultural, religious and sporting events.
- Imposing the mandatory wearing of facemasks, strict hand washing and the use of sanitizers, observance of physical distancing and closure of schools.

The State of Emergency was lifted on 10 May 2020; however, restrictive measures remain in place.

On 3 April 2020, the Government announced the implementation of a number of measures in response to the outbreak to provide financial assistance to the people in need, including funds for water and electricity bills, unemployment benefits and the creation of a food bank.

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## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 12-February-2020

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefiting planting of 2020 secondary maize crops
- Imports of cereals estimated slightly above average in 2019
- Inflation rates at generally low levels in recent years

### Favourable weather conditions benefiting planting of 2020 secondary maize crops

The main food crops are cassava and plantains, but the country also produces a small amount of maize. Harvesting of the 2019 main maize crop was completed in January 2020. The cropping season was characterized by mostly adequate and well-distributed rainfall, as a result the 2019 output of maize is estimated at near-average levels.

The 2020 secondary season maize crops are currently being planted under overall favourable weather conditions and the harvest is expected to take place starting from July.

### Imports of cereals estimated slightly above average in 2019

Agriculture contributes to a small portion of the national GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for approximately 90 percent of the total cereal utilization. With a population of about 2 million, imports of cereals in 2019 are estimated at about 190 000 tonnes, slightly above the average volume and include about 100 000 tonnes of wheat and 80 000 tonnes of rice.

### Inflation rates at generally low levels in recent years

In recent years, the rates of inflation have been at generally low levels (about 3 percent) due to Government subsidies on many basic goods (including food staples) and the relatively strong local currency that exerts downward pressure on prices of imported goods.

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### Gabon

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)

Cassava\*

Maize (main)

Maize (secondary)

Yams\*



Sowing

Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.



## GLEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 28-March-2019

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited planting of secondary maize crops
- Inflation rates at generally low levels (less than 3 percent) in recent years

### Adequate rainfall benefited planting of 2019 secondary maize crops

The main food crops are cassava and plantains, but the country also produces also a small amount of maize. Harvesting of the 2018 main maize crop was completed in January. The main cropping season was characterized by mostly adequate and well-distributed rainfall contributing to normal crop development and performance. As a result, the 2018 output was at near average levels. Moreover, harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway.

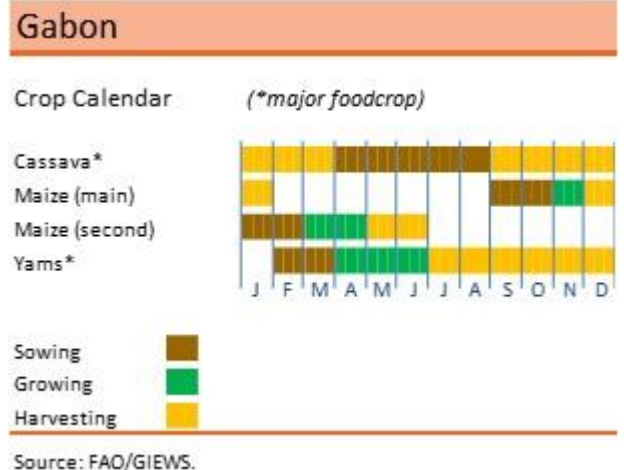
Planting of the 2019 secondary season maize crop, for harvest in June, has concluded in February. According to satellite images, rainfall has been adequate in most areas benefitting planting operations.

### Inflation at generally low levels in recent years

Agriculture contributes to only about 8 percent of the GDP reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry and the country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 90 percent of the total consumption requirement. In the 2019 marketing year (January/December), cereal import requirements, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast at about 188 000 tonnes, which is similar to the previous year and about 6 percent above average.

In recent years, the rates of inflation have been at generally low levels (less than 3 percent) due to Government subsidies on many basic goods (including food staples) and the relatively strong local currency which exerts downward pressure on prices of imported goods. According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rates were about 3 percent in 2017, 2.8 percent in 2018 and are forecast to fall slightly to 2.5 percent in 2019.

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## GLEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 03-October-2018

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited secondary maize crops
- Inflation rates at generally low levels (less than 3 percent) in recent years

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

The main food crops are cassava and plantain, but the country also produces a small amount of maize. Harvesting of the secondary season maize harvest was completed in June. According to satellite images, the secondary maize cropping season was characterized by mostly adequate and well-distributed rainfall favouring crop development and performance. Planting of the 2018 main maize crop is underway, while planting of cassava, one of the main staple crops, was recently completed under generally favourable conditions.

### Inflation at generally low levels in recent years

Agriculture contributes to only about 8 percent of the GDP reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry and the country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 90 percent of the total consumption requirement. In the 2018 marketing year (January/December), cereal import requirements, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast at about 188 000 tonnes, showing a 6 percent increase from the previous year.

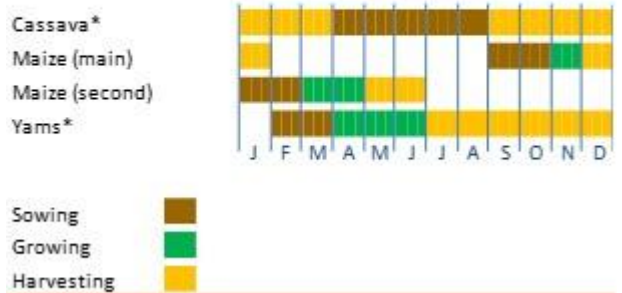
In recent years, the rates of inflation have been at generally low levels (less than 3 percent) due to Government subsidies on many basic goods (including food staples) and the relatively strong local currency which exerts downward pressure on prices of imported goods. According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rates were about 2 percent in 2016, 3 percent in 2017 and are forecast to fall slightly to 2.8 percent in 2018.

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### Gabon

Crop Calendar

(\*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.



## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 17-January-2018

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Average to above-average 2017 crop production expected due to favourable weather conditions
- Inflation rates at generally low levels (less than 3 percent) in recent months

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

The main food crops are cassava and plantain, but the country also produces a small amount of maize. Harvesting of the 2017 main maize crop will be completed in end-January, while that of cassava, the principal staple in the country, will be completed at the end of March. According to satellite images, the main cropping season was characterized by mostly adequate and well-distributed rainfall contributing to a normal crop development and performance. Planting of the 2018 secondary season maize crop, for harvest in June-July, is underway under generally favourable conditions.

### Inflation stable in recent years

Agriculture contributes to only about 8 percent of the GDP reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry, and the country imports the bulk of its cereal requirements through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 90 percent of the total consumption requirement. In the 2018 marketing year (January/December), cereal import requirements, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast at about 188 000 tonnes, showing a 6 percent increase from the previous year.

In recent years, the rates of inflation have been at generally low levels (less than 3 percent) due to Government subsidies on many basic goods (including food staples) and the relatively strong local currency which exerts downward pressure on prices of imported goods. According to the International Monetary Fund, the average inflation rates were about 2 percent in 2016, 2.5 percent in 2017, and are forecast to remain at 2.5 in 2018.

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## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 03-May-2017

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable conditions for secondary maize crop at start of season
- Wheat prices increased steeply in recent months

### Adequate weather conditions at start of 2017 secondary maize cropping season

The main food crops are cassava and plantain, but the country also produces a small amount of maize. Planting of the 2017 secondary season maize crop, for harvest in June-July, was completed in February. According to satellite images, rainfall has generally been adequate in recent months contributing to normal crop development and performance.

Harvesting of the main 2017 maize crop was completed in January while that of cassava, the principal staple in the country, was completed at the end of March. The main cropping season was characterized by mostly erratic precipitations.

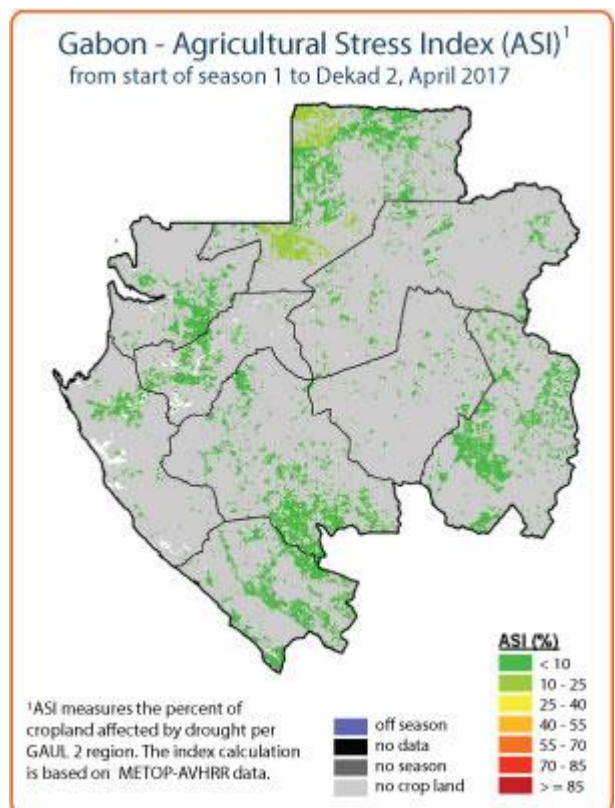
### Average import requirement levels forecast in 2017

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to the GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry and the country imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 90 percent of the total consumption requirement.

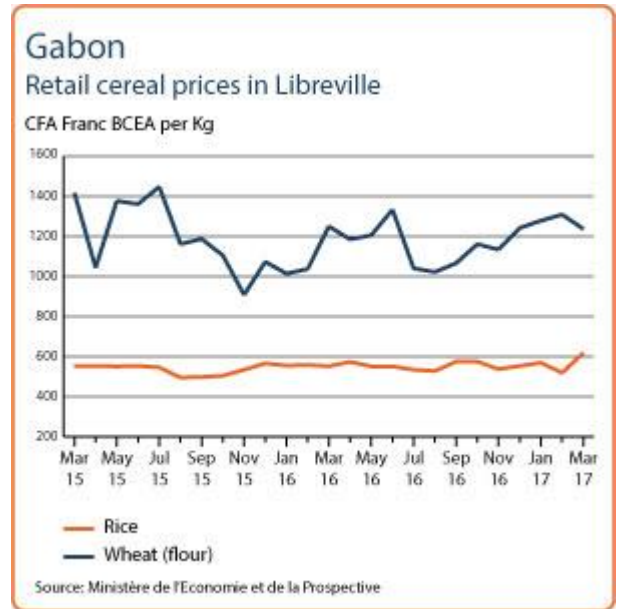
In the 2017 marketing year (January/December), cereal import requirements, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast at around 170 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

### Wheat prices declined in March 2017 after increasing steeply in recent months

Prices of imported rice have remained mostly stable over the last few years, but increased by 19 percent in March 2017 compared to the previous month. By contrast, prices of imported wheat, the most important staple for urban consumers, recorded a marked volatility in 2015 and 2016 in the capital, Libreville. After being on the rise since mid-2016 and peaked in February 2017, wheat prices declined in March 2017 by about 6 percent.



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## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 23-November-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Main maize crop affected by early season dryness in parts**
- **Cereal prices increasing in September**

### Main maize crop affected by early season dryness in parts

Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Planting of the main season maize crop, for harvest in early 2017, is normally completed in October, but has been delayed in western and central parts by a late onset of seasonal rains. Precipitation amounts and distribution in the coming weeks will be crucial for crop development and performance.

The secondary season maize crop was harvested late in July and output was below average. Crops were affected by an unfavourable rainy season that started with prolonged dry weather conditions in January/February, which delayed plantings, continued with above average amounts in March/April and had an early cessation in May.

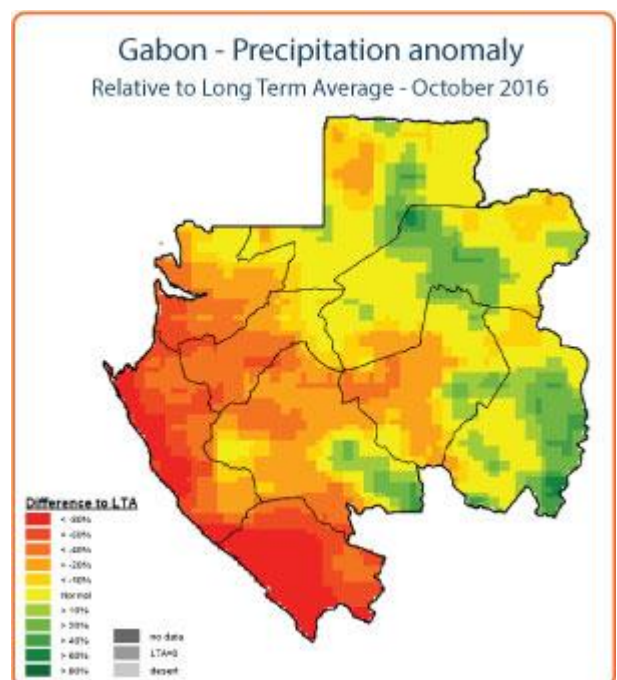
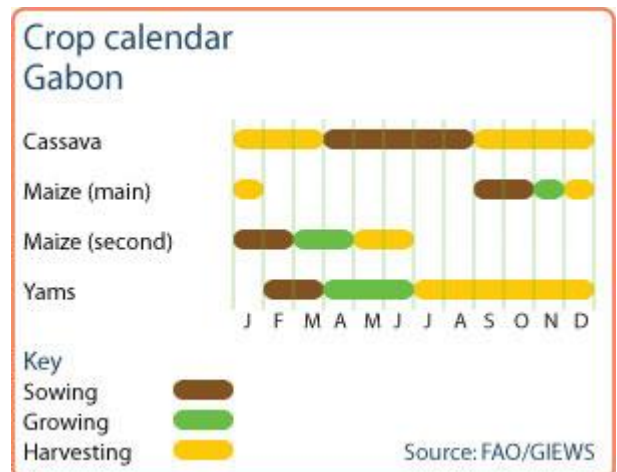
### Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to the GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry and the country imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 90 percent of the total consumption requirement.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

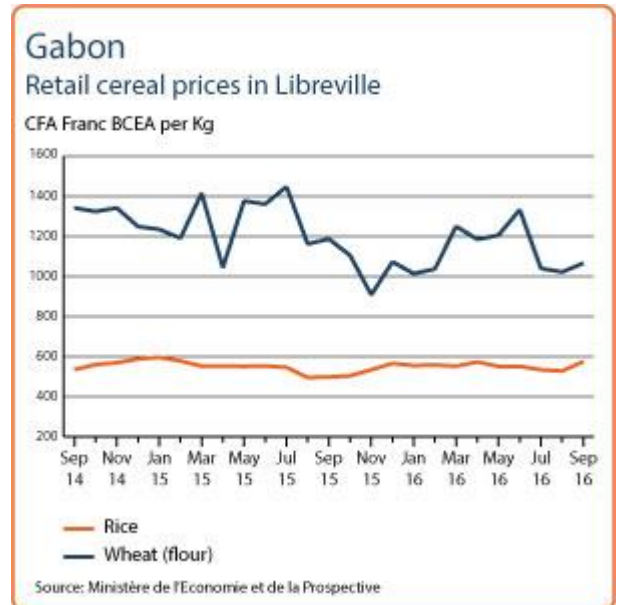
### Cereal prices increasing in September

Prices of imported wheat, the most important staple for urban consumers, recorded a marked volatility in 2015 and 2016 in the capital Libreville. Wheat prices, after having peaked in June, sharply declined by about 22 percent in July, leveling off in August and subsequently increasing by about 4 percent in September,



when, at CFA francs 1 066 per kg, they were 10 percent lower than 12 months earlier. Prices of imported rice, stable in recent months, also rose in September, increasing by about 9 percent, and at CFA francs 575, they were 15 percent higher than one year earlier.

The average annual inflation rate, which declined from 4.5 percent in 2014 to 0.1 percent in 2015, driven by lower oil prices and a reduction in Government expenditure, has increased to 2.5 percent in 2016. In the last several years, the rates of inflation were quite volatile, declining from 5.3 percent in 2008 to 1.9 percent in 2009, to 1.5 percent in 2010 and to 1.3 percent in 2011, rising to 2.7 percent in 2012 and declining again to 0.5 percent in 2013.





## GIEWS Country Brief Gabon

Reference Date: 01-September-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Secondary maize cropping season affected by erratic rainfall
- Wheat prices increasing but still at same levels of one year earlier

### Secondary maize cropping season affected by erratic rainfall

The secondary season maize harvest, normally completed in June, was delayed and production has been affected by erratic rainfall. Unusually dry weather conditions in January and February delayed planting operations (see Precipitation anomaly Map). Although above average precipitation in March and April offset early seasonal moisture deficits, rains subsided in May, one/two dekads earlier than usual. According to remote sensing data, vegetation conditions in June were below average in several cropping areas (see NDVI anomaly Map).

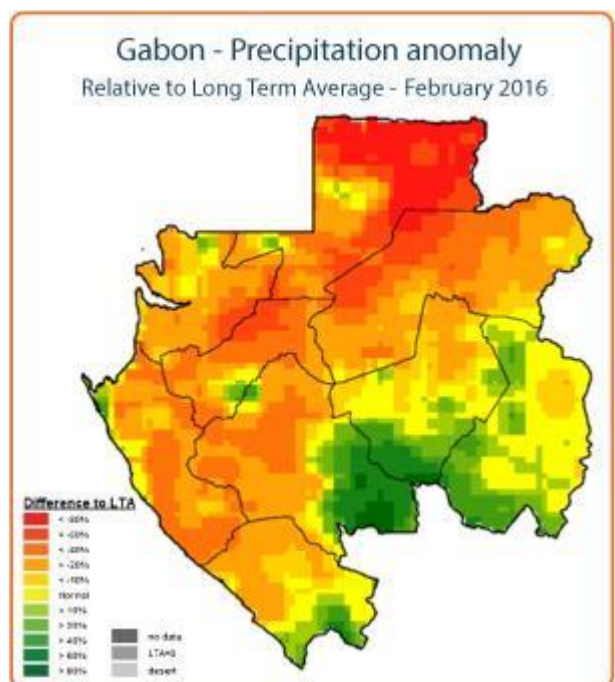
### Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantains, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports almost 90 percent of its cereal requirement through commercial channels.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

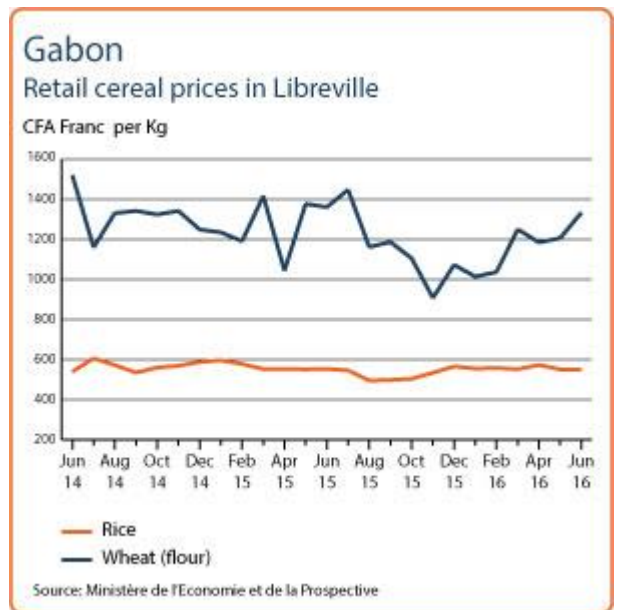
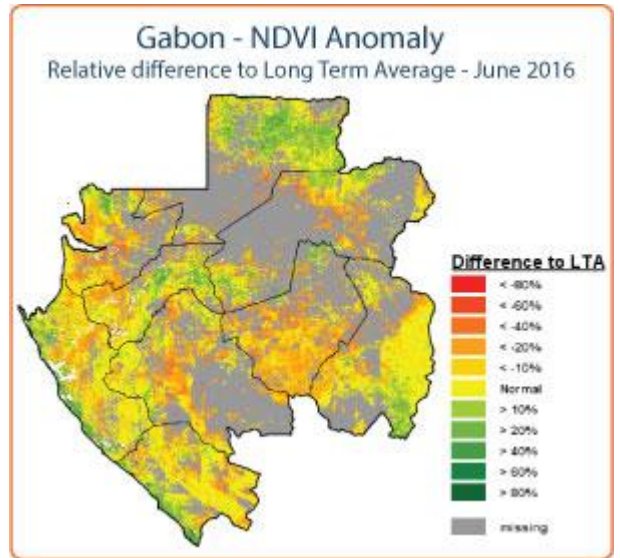
### Wheat prices on the increase

Prices of imported wheat, the most important staple, increased in the capital, Libreville, by about 30 percent in the first semester of 2016. In June, however, at CFA 1 333 per kg, wheat prices were still slightly below their levels of 12 months earlier. By contrast, prices of rice were relatively stable in recent months and in June, at CFA 551 per kg, rice was traded at about the same price of one year earlier.



The average annual inflation rate, which declined from 4.5 percent in 2014 to 0.1 percent in 2015, driven by lower oil prices and a reduction in Government expenditure, is forecast to increase to 2.5 percent in 2016.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were quite volatile, declining from 5.3 percent in 2008 to 1.9 percent in 2009, to 1.5 percent in 2010 and to 1.3 percent in 2011, rising to 2.7 percent in 2012 and declining again to 0.5 percent in 2013.



Reference Date: 10-March-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather conditions at start of 2016 secondary maize cropping season
- Wheat prices declining

### Dry weather conditions at start of 2016 secondary maize cropping season

Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Planting of the 2016 secondary season maize crop, for harvest in June-July, is normally completed in February. However, unusually dry weather conditions in January and February (see precipitation anomaly Map), may have delayed planting operations.

### Average import requirement levels forecast in 2016

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantains, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

In the 2016 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

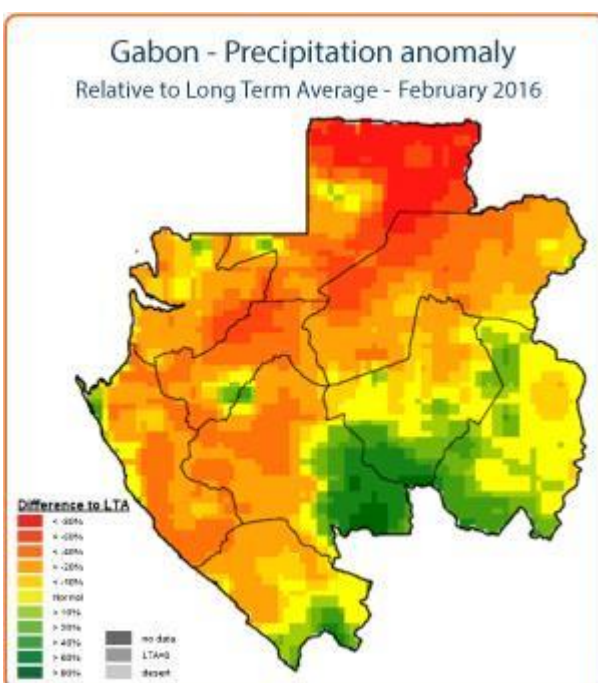
### Wheat prices declining

Prices of imported wheat, the most important staple, at high levels in the capital, Libreville, since early 2014 after the removal of price control measures, declined by 26 percent between July and December 2015, partly due to decreasing international prices. In December 2015, at CFA 1 073 per kg, prices of wheat flour were 14 percent lower than 12 months earlier but still 13 percent higher than 24 months earlier, when they started to increase.

By contrast, prices of rice increased by 14 percent between August and December 2015. However, in December 2015, at CFA 566 per kg, prices were 4 percent below the levels of 12 months earlier.

The average inflation rate, which increased from a low 0.5 percent in 2013 to 4.7 percent in 2014, mainly reflecting increasing food prices, declined to 2.5 percent in 2015 and is forecast to further decline to 1.6 percent in 2016, due to lower food prices and a reduction in Government spending.

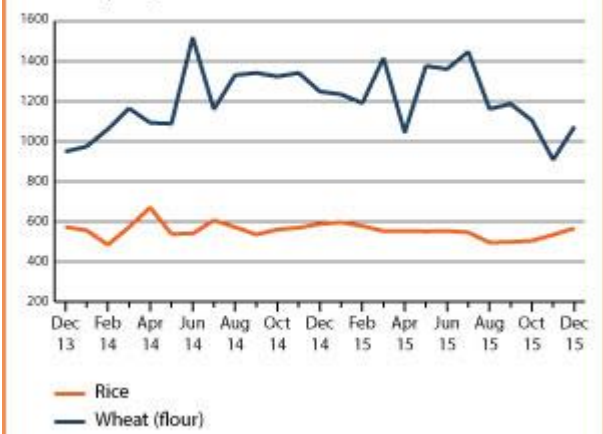
In the last several years, rates of inflation were volatile, varying from the low levels of -1.4 percent and -1 percent in 2006 and 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008, declining to 1.3-1.9 percent in 2009-2011, and rising again to 2.7 percent in 2012.



## Gabon

### Retail cereal prices in Libreville

CFA Franc per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'Economie et de la Prospective

Reference Date: 06-July-2015

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions except in northern Woleu-Ntem Province, where crops have been affected by erratic rainfall
- Prices of wheat volatile and at high levels since mid-2014

### Favourable weather conditions except in northern parts

Planting of cassava, the main crop grown in the country is underway. The main season maize harvest was completed in January, while that of the second crop has been completed recently.

According to satellite-based analysis, average to above-average rainfall was received by most cropping areas throughout the growing period. However, in Northern Woleu-Ntem Province, although cumulative rainfall was about 15 percent higher than the long-term average, it was very erratic thus negatively affecting yields (see map).

### Average import requirement levels forecast in 2015

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

In the 2015 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

### High and volatile wheat prices

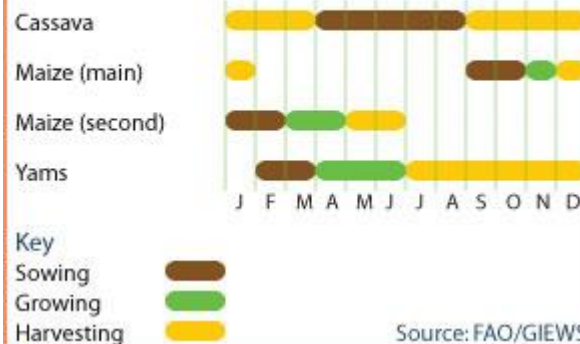
Prices of imported wheat, the most important staple, started to increase in the capital, Libreville, since early 2014 after the removal of price control measures. Prices surged by 56 percent between January and June 2014, when they reached record levels. Subsequently, despite some declines, prices remained high and more volatile. In May 2015, at CFA 1 377 per kg, prices of wheat flour were 27 percent higher than 12 months earlier and 41 percent higher than in January 2014, when they started to increase.

By contrast, prices of rice were stable at low levels in recent months. In May 2015, at CFA 551 per kg, prices were around the same levels of 12 months earlier.

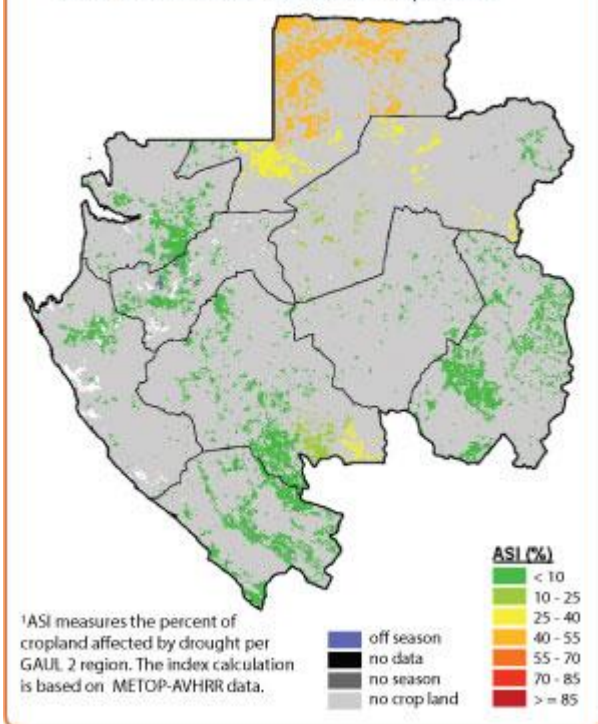
The average inflation rate, which increased from a low 0.5 percent in 2013 to 4.7 percent in 2014, mainly reflecting increasing food prices, is forecast to decline to 2.5 percent in 2015, due to lower oil prices and a reduction in Government spending.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were volatile, varying from the low levels of -1.4 percent and -1 percent in 2006 and 2007 to about

### Crop calendar Gabon



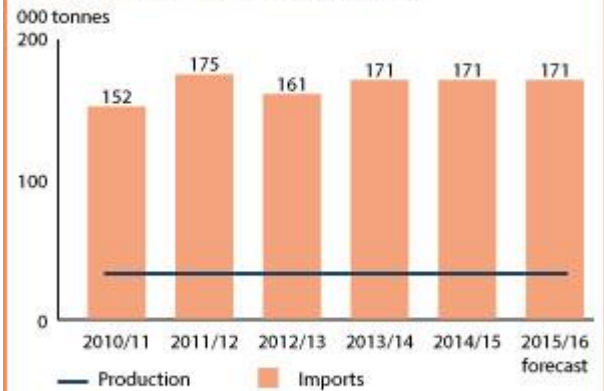
### Gabon - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)<sup>1</sup> from start of season 1 to Dekad 3 April 2015



5 percent in 2008, declining to 1.3-1.9 percent in 2009-2011, and rising again to 2.7 percent in 2012.

## Gabon

### Total cereal production and imports



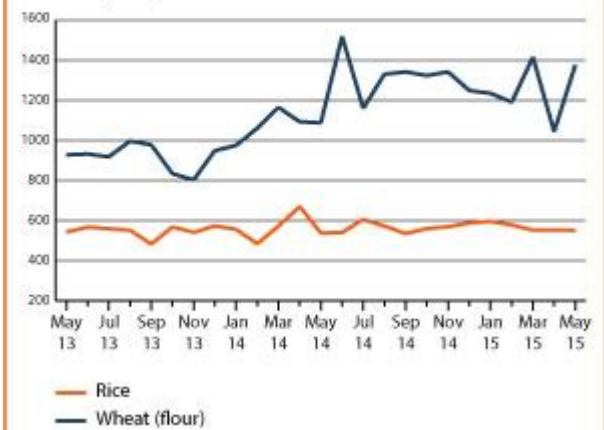
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

## Gabon

### Retail cereal prices in Libreville

CFA Franc per Kg



Source: Ministère de l'Economie et de la Prospective

Reference Date: 13-November-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A late onset of seasonal rains affects planting of the main season maize crop
- Prices of wheat increasing in 2014

### A late onset of seasonal rains delays the start of the main season maize crop planting

Harvesting of cassava, the principal staple in the country, is currently underway. Satellite-based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions have been generally favourable.

By contrast, the planting of the main 2014 maize crop, normally completed in October, have been affected in parts following delayed onset of rains during the first and second dekads of October. However, abundant rainfall in the third dekad of October reduced moisture deficits and improved vegetation conditions.

Earlier in the year, the second season maize crop, planted from February, was harvested in June-July. According to satellite imagery analysis, crops benefited from adequate rainfall throughout the growing period.

### Average import requirement levels forecast in 2015

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels, with cereal imports accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

In the 2015 marketing year (January/December), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat and rice, is forecast at around 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year.

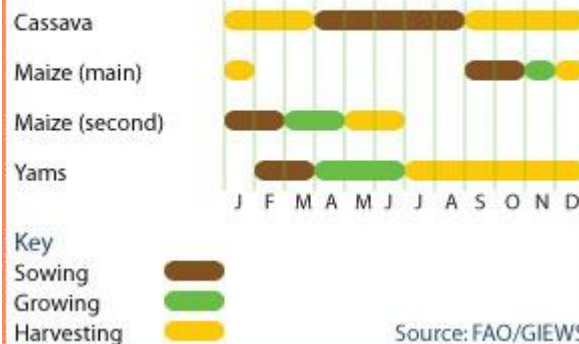
### Prices of wheat increasing in 2014

Prices of imported wheat, the most important staple, are on the increase in the capital Libreville since January 2014, following the removal of price control measures. Wheat prices, at CFA francs 1 331 per kg in August 2014, increased by 37 percent between January and August and were 34 percent higher than 12 months earlier. A series of strikes of customs workers at Owendo port, which serves the capital and is the main thoroughway for imports, exerted additional pressure on prices and contributed to the marked volatility recorded in recent months.

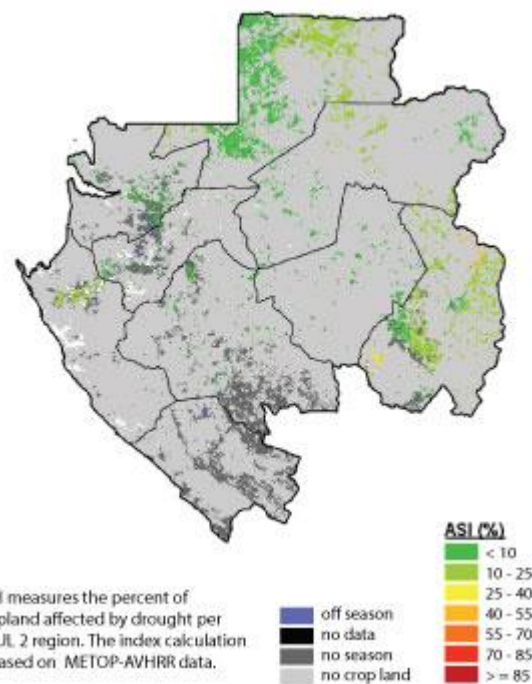
Similarly, prices of rice in 2014 were more volatile than in recent years. However, in August 2014, at CFA francs 572 per kg, prices were around the same levels of 12 months earlier.

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which declined from 2.7 percent in 2012 to 0.5 percent in 2013, is forecast to increase again

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)<sup>1</sup> from start of season 2 to Dekad 3 October 2014

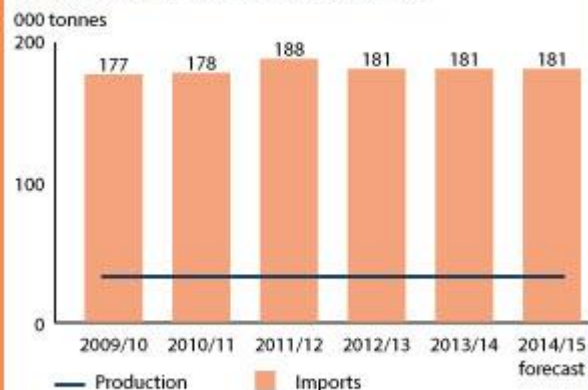


to 4.7 percent in 2014, due to increasing food prices and the high share of Government spending on the public sector payroll.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from the low levels of -1.4 percent and -1 percent in 2006 and 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008, then declining to 1.9 percent in 2009, 1.5 percent in 2010 and 1.3 percent in 2011.

## Gabon

### Total cereal production and imports

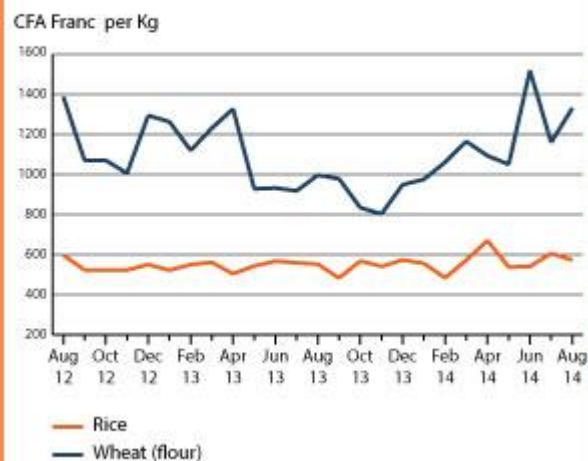


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

## Gabon

### Retail cereal prices in Libreville



Source: Ministère de l'Economie et de la Prospective

Reference Date: 15-May-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited crop development
- Prices of wheat increasing in recent months

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Planting of cassava, the main crop grown in the country is underway. The main season maize harvest was completed in January, while the second crop is being gathered. Satellite-based vegetation index analysis indicates that adequate and well-distributed rainfall was recorded in most of the producing regions during both cropping seasons.

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereal imports in 2014, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast to reach about 177 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

### Prices of wheat increasing in recent months

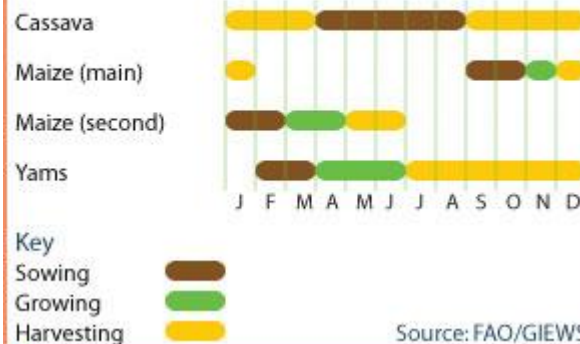
Prices of imported wheat, the most important staple, declined between April and November 2013 (-39 percent), following the Government's decision in May 2013 to expand the number of food commodities that are subject to price control from 66 to 166, including wheat flour. Subsequently, prices began to increase (+52 percent) between November 2012 and March 2013, thus reverting to their high levels of early 2013, despite the Government's efforts to curb food price inflation.

Prices of rice increased by 30 percent between February and March 2014, when they were 12 percent higher than one year earlier.

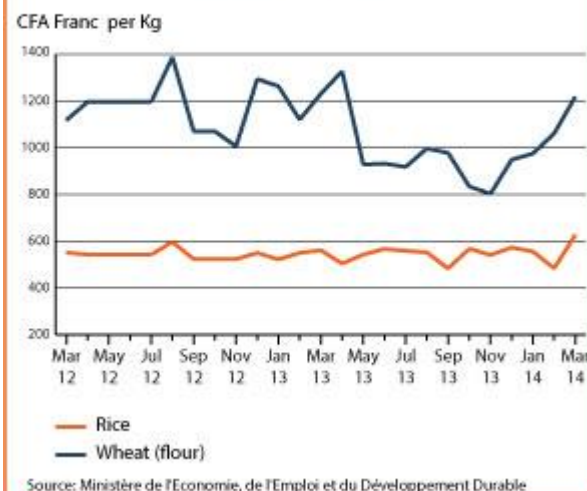
According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which declined from 2.7 percent in 2012 to 0.5 percent in 2013, is forecast to increase again to 5.6 percent in 2014, due to increasing food prices and the high share of government spending on the public sector payroll.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from the low levels of -1.4 percent and -1 percent in 2006 and 2007 to about 5 percent in 2008, then declining to 1.9 percent in 2009, 1.5 percent in 2010 and 1.3 percent in 2011.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Retail cereal prices in Libreville



Reference Date: 06-February-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited crop development
- Prices of wheat at low levels in the second semester of 2013

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Harvesting of cassava is underway, while the harvest of the main season maize crop has been recently completed.

Satellite based information and analysis indicate that crop growing conditions have been generally favourable in most regions following near average to average rainfall.

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereal imports in 2013, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast to reach about 177 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

### Prices of wheat declining in recent months

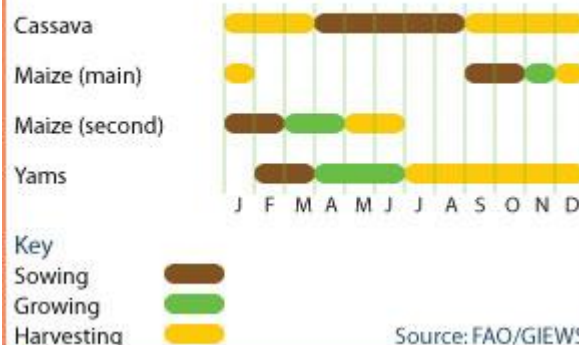
Prices of imported wheat, the most consumed staple, sharply declined between April and May 2013 (-30 percent), mainly due to the Government's decision in May 2013 that expanded the number of food commodities subject to price control from 66 to 166, including wheat flour. Subsequently, despite some volatility, prices remained at low levels, and in December 2013 they were 27 percent below their levels of 12 month earlier.

Prices of rice, similarly, showed some variations in recent months, and in December they were around the same levels of 12 months earlier.

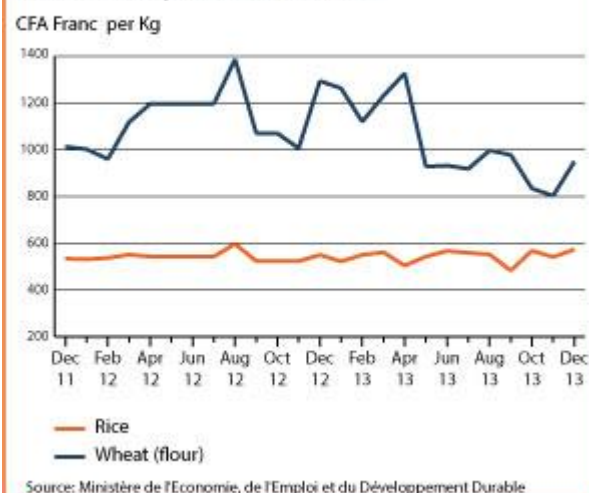
According to the IMF, the average inflation rate, which declined from 2.7 percent in 2012 to -1.5 percent in 2013, is forecast to increase again to 2.5 percent in 2014, due to a weakening national currency and the high share of government spending on the public sector payroll.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of -1.4 percent in 2006 to about 5 percent in 2007 and 2008, then declining to 1.9 percent in 2009, 1.5 percent in 2010 and 1.3 percent in 2011.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Retail cereal prices in Libreville



Reference Date: 27-November-2013

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited crop development
- Prices of wheat declining in recent months

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Harvesting of cassava is underway, while harvesting of the main season maize crop is about to start.

Satellite based information and analysis indicate that so far crop growing conditions have been generally favourable in most regions following near average to average rainfall.

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereal imports in 2013, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast to reach about 177 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

### Prices of wheat declining in recent months

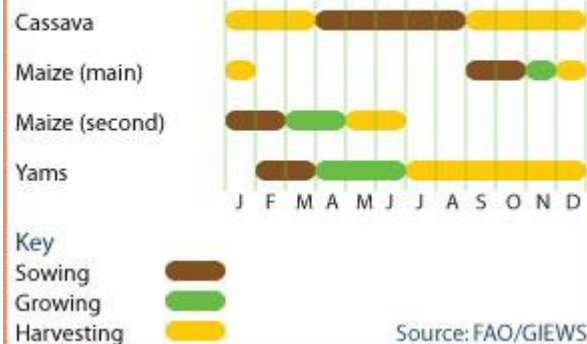
Prices of imported wheat, the most consumed staple, decreased in recent months, declining by 16 percent from August to October 2013. October prices were 22 percent below the levels of 12 months earlier and 37 percent lower than the peak reached in April 2013, mainly due to the Government's decision in May 2013 that expanded the number of food commodities subject to price control from 66 to 166, including wheat flour.

Prices of rice, stable in recent months, increased by 18 percent between September and October, when they were 9 percent higher than 12 months earlier.

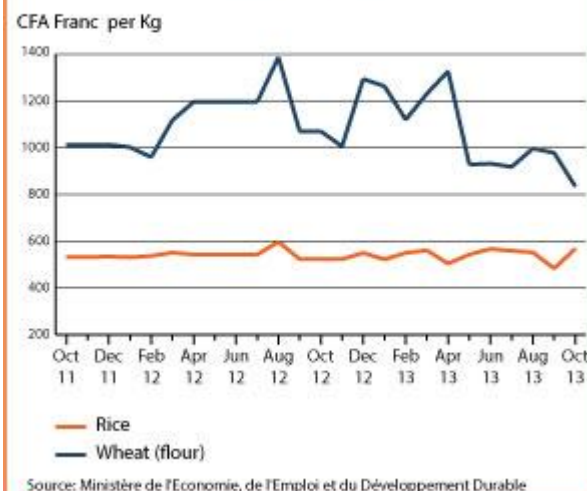
According to the IMF, the average inflation rate declined from 2.7 percent in 2012 to -1.5 percent in 2013, reflecting the appreciation of the local currency, lower international commodity prices and the widening of the scope of price controls measures.

In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of -1.4 percent in 2006 to about 5 percent in 2007 and 2008, then declining to 1.9 percent in 2009, 1.5 percent and 2010, 1.3 percent in 2011.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Retail cereal prices in Libreville



Reference Date: 04-June-2013

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions benefited crop development
- Prices of wheat volatile and at relatively high levels

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Planting of cassava, the main crop grown in the country is underway. The main season harvest was completed in January, while the second maize crop is being gathered. Satellite based vegetation index analysis indicates that adequate and well distributed rainfall was recorded in most of the producing regions during both cropping seasons.

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereal imports in 2013, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast to reach about 177 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

### Prices of wheat volatile and at relatively high levels

According to the IMF, the average inflation rate sharply increased from 1.3 percent 2011 to 3 percent in 2012, driven by high commodity and import prices, and is forecast to remain firm at 3 percent in 2013. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of -1.4 percent in 2006 to about 5 percent in 2007 and 2008, then declining to 1.9 percent and 1.5 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Prices of imported wheat, the most consumed staple, started to increase in February 2012, reaching record levels in August, supported by increasing international prices. Subsequently, wheat prices have recorded a marked volatility; in March, they were 10 percent higher than 12 months earlier, and 28 percent higher than 24 months earlier. Prices of rice increased slightly in February and March, but they are still stable at around the levels of 12 and 24 months earlier.

In August 2012 the Government reduced the value-added tax rate, the suspension of import duties and introduced price controls on 65 food items in an effort to curb food price inflation. In March 2013, the number of food products covered was expanded to 166.



Reference Date: 29-January-2013

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rainfall during 2012 benefited crops
- Food inflation stabilise in 2012 following policy interventions

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Harvesting of the main maize crop is about to be completed, while harvesting of cassava is still underway. Satellite based indexes indicate that adequate and well distributed rainfall benefited crop development in most of the producing regions during 2012.

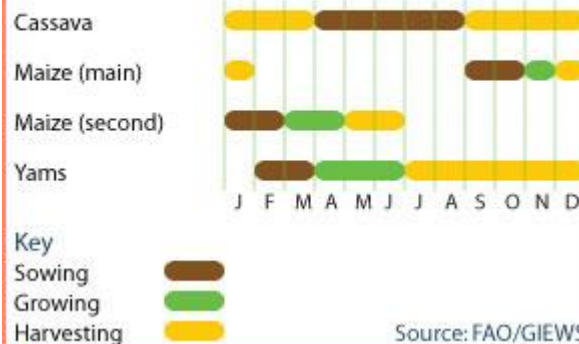
Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with a small amount of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Gabon imports the bulk of its cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereal imports in 2013, mainly wheat and rice, are forecast to reach about 177 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of the total consumption requirement.

### Policy measures helped to contain food price rises

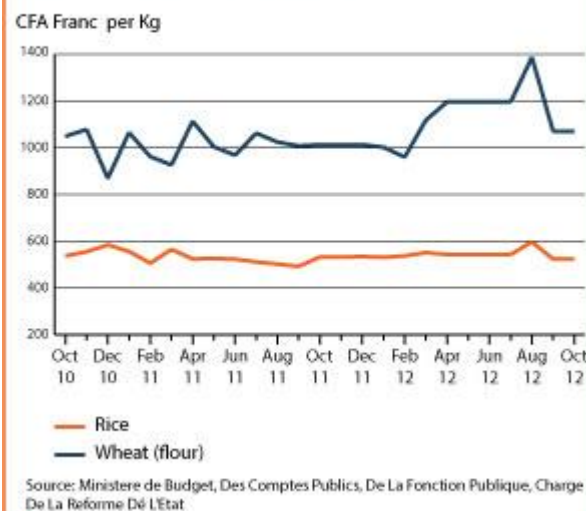
According to the IMF, the average inflation rate increased from 1.3 percent 2011 to 2.3 percent in 2012. In the last several years, rates of inflation were highly volatile, varying from a low of -1.4 percent in 2006 to about 5 percent in 2007 and 2008, then declining to 1.9 percent and 1.5 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Prices of imported wheat, the main staple in the country, started to increase in January 2012, and by August were 35 percent higher and at record levels. However, prices declined by 23 percent in September and stabilised by October, at about the same level as a year earlier. Prices of rice, albeit more stable, similarly peaked in August and decreased in September. The price declines recorded in September can be partly attributed to the policy measures (temporary reduction in the value-added tax rate, suspension of import duties, price controls on some food items) implemented in August by the Government to curb food price inflation.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Retail cereal prices in Libreville



Reference Date: 31-July-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rainfall during the first semester of 2012 benefited crop growth
- Relative increase observed in consumer price inflation in 2012

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Agriculture contributes only about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops grown in the country are cassava and plantain, together with small amounts of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum).

Harvesting of the second maize crop was completed in June, while cassava is being harvested. Satellite estimates indicate that crop growing conditions have been favourable in most regions, as poor precipitations in January were followed by well distributed and above average rainfall during the remainder of the cropping season, until May. In early June heavy rains hit the capital city of Libreville, causing floods which seriously damaged houses and infrastructures, affecting some 78 000 people (15 600 families).

### Inflation accelerating in 2012

Gabon imports the bulk of the cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereal imports in 2012, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated at about 177 000 tonnes, accounting for about 80 percent of total consumption requirement.

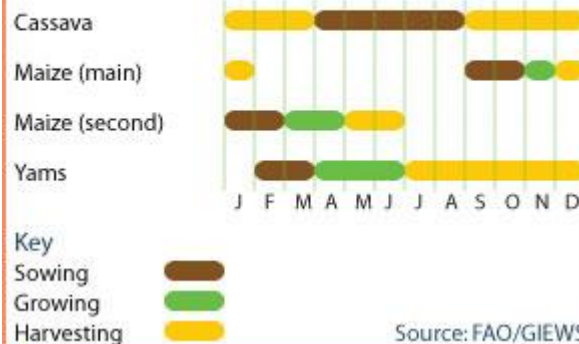
The country suffered from increased inflation in 2007 and 2008 (when the annual inflation rate reached 5 percent) due to the country's high dependence on imported cereals, which eroded the purchasing power and access to food of a large number of vulnerable people in both urban and rural areas. Food prices remained mostly stable in 2009 and the first half of 2010. In spite of renewed increase in international prices in 2010 and 2011, the inflationary pressure on the domestic food market was rather limited due to a stronger currency, subsidies and cuts in the value-added tax rate in 2011. The average annual consumer price inflation is estimated to have accelerated only marginally from 1.7 to 1.8 percent between 2010 and 2011.

A more substantial increase was registered in late 2011, reaching 2 percent in May 2012. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, the average annual consumer price inflation is expected to reach 3.3 percent in 2012, due to a weaker currency and increased government spending.

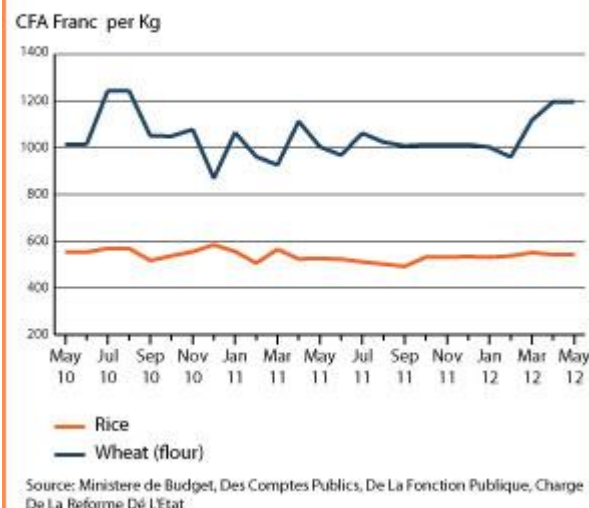
Prices of imported wheat increased in the first semester of 2012 and in May 2012 wheat prices were 19 percent above their levels in May 2011. By contrast, prices of rice remained stable and were at about the same level in May 2012 as one year earlier.

### A rural infrastructure rehabilitation programme was launched in 2011 to boost agricultural growth and food security

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Retail cereal prices in Libreville



In an effort to enhance food security, Gabon is currently committed to diversify the economic sectors and to boost agricultural production. , Some of the most significant constraining factors to the development of the agricultural sector are identified as the inadequate road network and marketing infrastructures together with and the lack of an appropriate funding mechanism. To tackle these constraints, the Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation Support Project (PARIR) was launched in August 2011 jointly by the Government and the African Development Bank (ADB) to rehabilitate feeder roads, markets and storage facilities. The project activities will involve the entire Woleu-Ntem Province in Northern Gabon, an area with high potential for agriculture and to trade with the capital Libreville, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.

Reference Date: 29-March-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rainfall during 2011 benefited crops
- Moderate increase in consumer price inflation in 2011

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Agriculture contributes about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops are cassava and plantain, and the country also produces a small amount of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum).

Harvesting of the main maize crop was completed in January. Adequate and well distributed rainfall benefited crops in most producing regions during 2011.

### Moderate inflation despite high international food prices

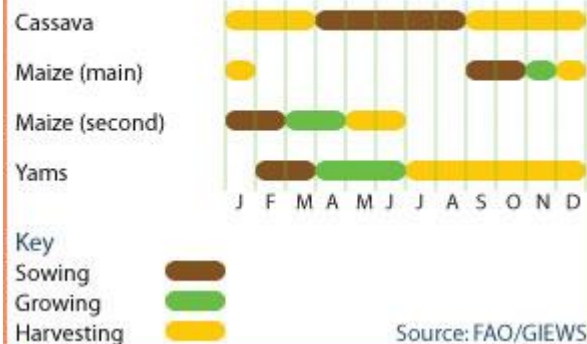
Gabon imports the bulk of the cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereals imports in 2011, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated at about 177 000 tonnes, about 80 percent of total requirement.

The country suffered from high inflation in 2007 and 2008 (when annual inflation rate reached 5 percent) because of its high dependence on imported cereals, which greatly eroded purchasing power and access to food of a large number of people in both urban and rural areas. Food prices remained mostly stable in 2009 and the first half of 2010. In spite of renewed increase in international prices in 2010 and 2011, inflationary pressure on the domestic food market was limited due to a stronger currency, subsidies and cuts in the value-added tax rate in 2011. Average annual consumer price inflation is estimated to have accelerated only marginally to 1.9 percent in 2011 compared to 2010. In January 2011, prices of imported wheat and rice were, respectively, 6 and 4 percent below the levels of January 2011.

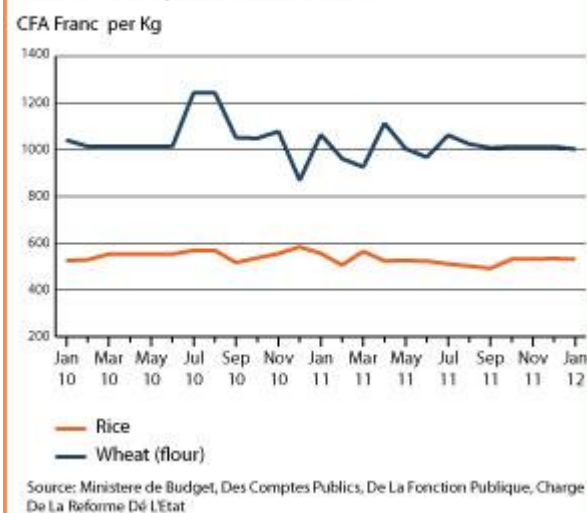
### A joint Government/African Development Bank project launched to rehabilitate rural infrastructures

In an effort to enhance food security, Gabon is currently committed to diversifying the economy and developing agricultural production. However, several factors constraint the development of the agricultural sector, the most significant being inadequate road network and marketing infrastructures, and the lack of an appropriate funding mechanism. To tackle these constraints, the African Development Bank launched in August the project PARIR (Rural infrastructure Rehabilitation Support Project) to support the efforts of the government in boosting agricultural production through the rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, market and storage facilities. The project activities will involve the entire Woleu-Ntem Province in Northern Gabon, an area with a high potential for agriculture and trade with the capital Libreville, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Retail cereal prices in Libreville



Reference Date: 23-January-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adequate rainfall during 2011 benefited crops
- Moderate increase in consumer price inflation in 2011

### Favourable weather conditions benefited current crops

Agriculture contributes about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops are cassava and plantain, and the country also produces a small amount of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum).

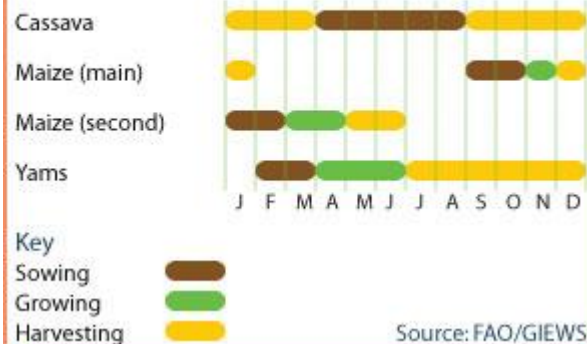
Harvesting of the main maize crop is nearly complete. Adequate and well distributed rainfall benefited crops in most producing regions during 2011.

### Moderate inflation despite high international food prices

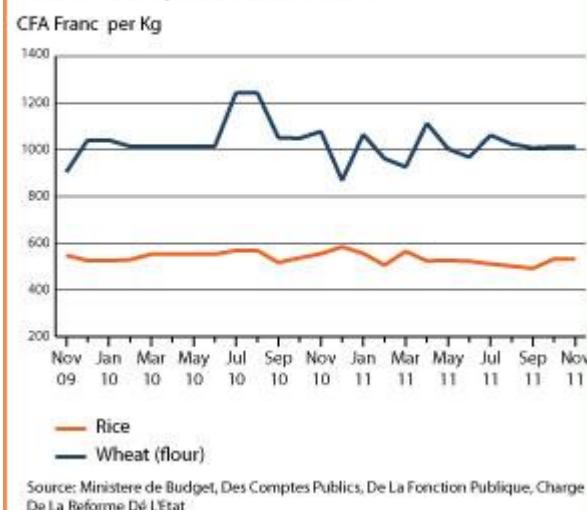
Gabon imports the bulk of the cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereals imports in 2011, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated to reach about 177 000 tonnes, about 80 percent of total requirement.

The country suffered from high inflation in 2007 and 2008 (when annual inflation rate reached 5 percent) because of its high dependence on imported cereals, which greatly eroded purchasing power and access to food of a large number of people in both urban and rural areas. Food prices remained mostly stable in 2009 and the first half of 2010. In spite of renewed increase in international prices in 2010 and 2011, inflationary pressure on the domestic food market was limited due to a stronger currency, subsidies and cuts in the value-added tax rate in 2011. Average annual consumer price inflation is estimated to have accelerated only marginally to 1.9 percent in 2011 compared to 2010. In November 2011, prices of imported wheat and rice were, respectively, 6 and 4 percent below the levels of November 2010.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Retail cereal prices in Libreville



Reference Date: 27-May-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The country is exposed to international price fluctuations due to its high dependence on imports
- National food price index increased in recent months

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

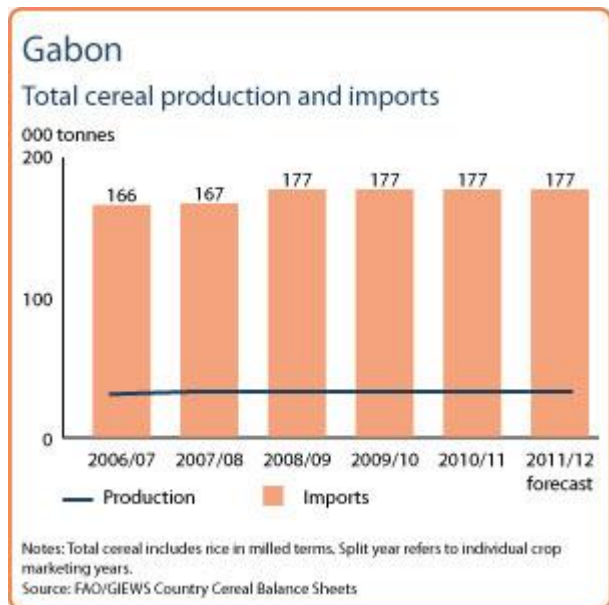
Agriculture contributes about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops are cassava and plantain, and the country also produces a small amount of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum).

Harvesting of the main maize crop was completed in January, while the second maize crop is being gathered. Harvesting of cassava is also underway. Satellite imagery indicate that general vegetation conditions have been favourable in most regions. However, in late December/early January heavy rains, floods and violent winds caused considerable casualties and damage to houses and infrastructure in the southern part of the country. The hardest hit localities include Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele.

### Food prices increased in recent months

Given the low production levels, Gabon imports the bulk of the cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereals imports in 2011, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated to reach about 177 000 tonnes.

The country suffered from high inflation in 2007 and 2008 because of its high dependence on imported cereals, which greatly eroded purchasing power and access to food of a large number of people in both urban and rural areas. Food prices remained mostly stable in 2009 and the first half of 2010. However, recent developments in the international food market have led to high inflationary pressure on the domestic food market. Annual consumer price inflation is forecast to reach 3.9 percent in 2011 up from 0.7 percent in 2010 according to Economist Intelligence Unit. The increase is driven mostly by higher food and energy prices.



Reference Date: 07-February-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The country is exposed to international price fluctuations due to its high dependence on imports
- National food price index increased in recent months

### Favourable weather conditions benefited crops

Agriculture contributes about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops are cassava and plantain, and the country also produces a small amount of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum).

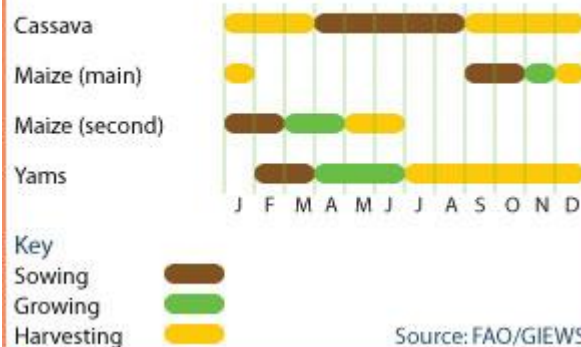
Harvesting of the main maize crop was completed in January, while planting of the second crop is underway and cassava is being harvested. Satellite estimates indicate that crop growing conditions have been favourable in most regions. However, heavy rains and floods in late December/early January caused considerable casualties and damage to houses and infrastructure in several areas. The hardest hit localities include Tchimbanga, Franceville, Mimongo and Dzenzele.

### Food prices increased in recent months

Given the low production levels, Gabon imports the bulk of the cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereals imports in 2011, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated to reach about 177 000 tonnes.

The country suffered from high inflation in 2007 and 2008 because of its dependence on imported cereals, which greatly eroded purchasing power and access to food on the part of consumers both in urban and rural areas. Food prices remained mostly stable in 2009 and the first half of 2010. However, recent developments in the international food market have led to high inflationist pressure on the domestic food market. The year-on-year rate of inflation in the food sector increased from 1.5 percent in April 2010 and 4.1 percent in September to 10.72 percent in November 2010.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Gabon Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	32	33	33	0
Total	32	33	33	0

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

Reference Date: 17-September-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Inflation dropped in 2009 but the country is exposed to international price fluctuations due to its high dependence on imports

### Good rains at the beginning of the year benefited crops

Land preparation is underway for planting of the main maize crop. Planting of cassava, one of the main staple crops, is nearly completed. Crops have benefited from good rains since the beginning of the year.

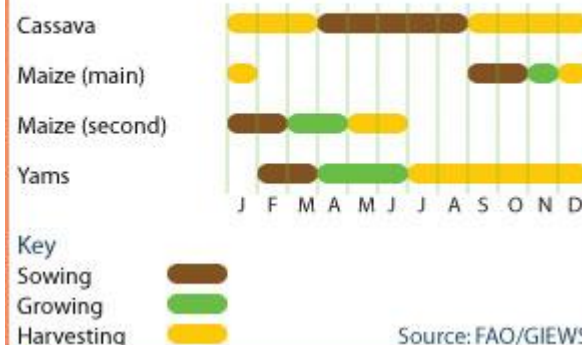
### Imported volumes of cereals remains high

Agriculture contributes about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops are cassava and plantain, and the country also produces a small amount of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum). Given the low production levels, Gabon imports the bulk of the cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereals imports in 2010, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated to reach about 170 000 tonnes.

### Food prices stabilized since 2009

The country suffered from high inflation in 2007 and 2008 because of its dependence on imported cereals, which greatly eroded purchasing power and access to food on the part of consumers both in urban and rural areas. Food prices have stabilized since 2009, with the national food price index increasing marginally by 1.5 percent in April 2010, compared to levels one year earlier. However, recent developments in the international wheat market are likely to lead to high inflationist pressure on the domestic food market.

### Crop calendar Gabon

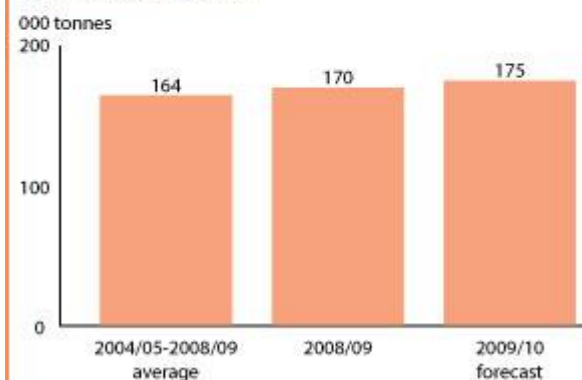


### Gabon Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	32	33	33	0
Rice	1	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

### Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 18-January-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The country was hard hit by high food prices in 2008 due to high imports dependence
- Inflation dropped in 2009 reflecting sharp fall in global food prices, but rice prices are persistently higher than levels in 2007, before the food price crisis

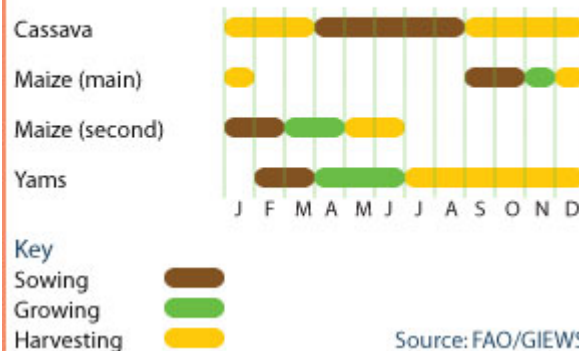
### High dependence on imported cereals

Agriculture contributes about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops are cassava and plantain, and the country also produces a small amount of maize (on average, approximately 33 000 tonnes per annum), with the main harvest scheduled to be completed in January 2010. Given the low production levels, Gabon imports the bulk of the cereal requirement through commercial channels. Cereals imports in 2010, mainly wheat and rice, are estimated to reach about 170 000 tonnes.

### Cereal prices declined from highs in 2008, but remained at above average levels in 2009

The country suffered from high inflation in 2007 and 2008 because of its dependence on imported cereals, which greatly eroded purchasing power and access to food on the part of consumers both in urban and rural areas. Food prices stabilized during 2009, with the national food index increasing marginally by 3 percent between January and September 2009. However, cereal prices still remain above levels observed in 2007, prior to the food price crisis. In Libreville, the price of rice was 31 percent higher in September 2009 than prices recorded two years earlier, but was 4 percent lower relative to prices observed in 2008, principally on account of reduced international prices in 2009.

### Crop calendar Gabon

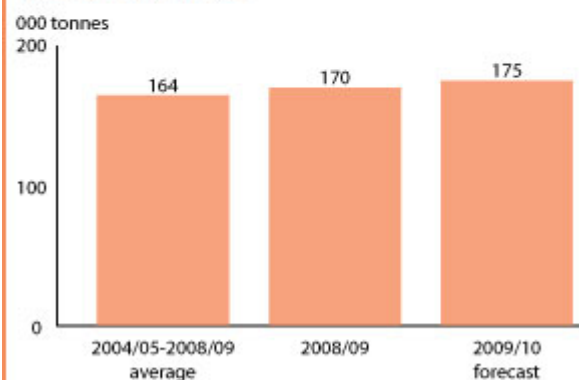


### Gabon Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	32	33	33	0
Rice	1	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

### Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 24-September-2009

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The country was hard hit by high food prices in 2008 due to high imports dependence
- Inflation dropped in 2009 reflecting sharp fall in global food prices

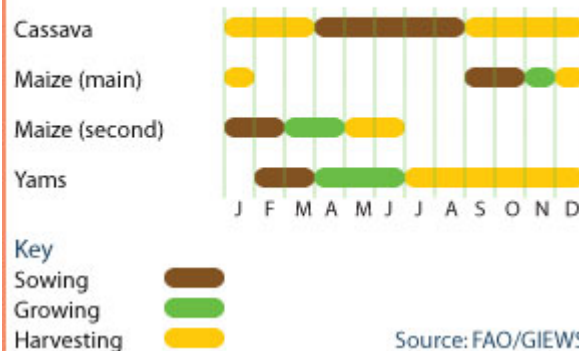
### High dependence on imports is making the country vulnerable to international price fluctuations

Agriculture contributes about 8 percent to GDP, reflecting the predominance of the petroleum industry. The main food crops are cassava and plantain, and the country also produces a little maize (about 30 000 tonnes) and imports the bulk of the cereals it needs through commercial channels. Cereals imports in 2009, mainly wheat and rice, are expected to reach about 170 000 tonnes.

### Inflation has fallen following the slump in prices on the world market

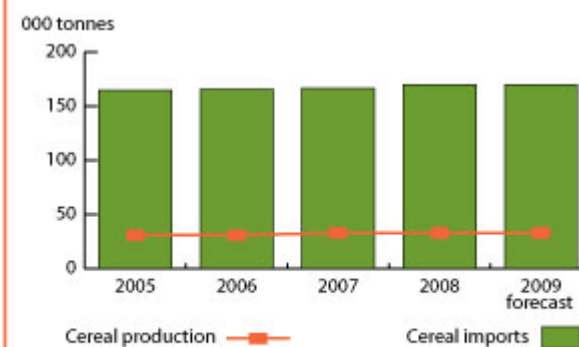
Gabon suffered from high inflation in 2007 and 2008 because of its dependence on imported cereals, which greatly eroded purchasing power and access to food on the part of consumers both in the towns and in the countryside. Domestic prices fell in 2009 with the decline in international food prices. According to forecasts by the Economist Intelligence Unit, inflation should fall to 3.1 percent in 2009 from 5.6 percent in 2008.

### Crop calendar Gabon



### Cereal production and imports Gabon

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	32	33	33	0%
Total Cereals	32	33	33	0%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets