Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
The Republic of Guatemala

Reference Date: 20-August-2025

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Erratic precipitations and above-average temperatures hampered 2025 maize plantings**
- **Cereal import volumes in 2024/25 estimated 18 percent above average**
- **Prices of white maize and black beans declined year-on-year due to increased import volumes**
- **About 2.8 million people estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity between March and May 2025**

Erratic precipitations and above-average temperatures hampered 2025 maize plantings

Harvesting of the 2025 maize main *Primera* crop is expected to start in September, with a one-month delay in some of the main central and northern producing areas. Erratic precipitations and above-average temperatures at planting and early development stages between March and May 2025 hampered crop emergence, requiring some replanting. Moderate rainfall amounts in the second half of June replenished soil moisture levels and, despite irregular precipitations in July in central-western regions, satellite images point to average to above-average crop conditions (VCI map) and output is anticipated at a near-average level. The sown area is estimated at a near-average level, declining from the 2024 large acreage due to lower year-on-year prices at planting time.

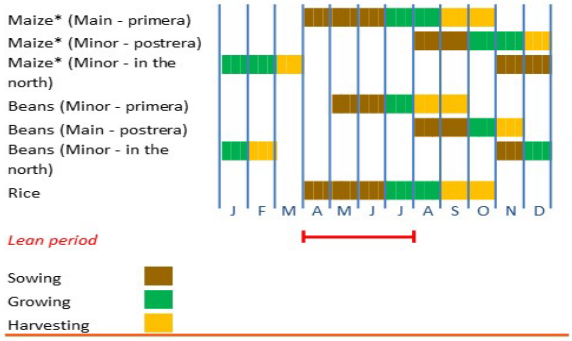
Plantings of the 2025 minor *Postrera* maize crops, accounting for about 40 percent of the annual production, are expected to start at the end of August, with a one-month delay due to erratic precipitations and high temperatures in the main cropping regions. Weather forecasts point to average precipitations in the September-November trimester, improving soil moisture conditions and yield potential. The 2025 Atlantic hurricane season (June-November) is forecast to be above normal, with an above-average number of expected storms and hurricanes forecast in the season, requiring close monitoring.

Cereal import volumes in 2024/25 estimated 18 percent above average

Cereal imports in the 2024/25 marketing year (July/June) are estimated at 2.9 million tonnes, about 18 percent above the previous five-year average. Cereal imports have been increasing

Guatemala

Crop Calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2020-2024 average	2024	2025 estimate	change 2025/2024
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 076	2 040	2 010	-1.5
Sorghum	45	42	43	2.4
Rice (paddy)	26	26	25	-3.8
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	2 148	2 109	2 079	-1.4

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

over the last decade, mostly due to the rising demand for yellow maize from the feed sector and for wheat for domestic consumption. Cereal import requirements are expected to increase also in the 2025/26 marketing year due to sustained demand.

Prices of white maize and black beans declined year-on-year due to increased import volumes

Wholesale prices of black beans in Guatemala City were nearly stable during the first half of 2025 and, as of July, they were almost 20 percent below their level of one year before, reflecting abundant market supply from large import amounts. After declining for two consecutive months in April and May, white maize prices in Guatemala City increased seasonally in June and July 2025, amid ongoing plantings of the main *Primera* season. In July 2025, wholesale maize prices were about 10 percent lower than one year earlier, on account of large market availability from abundant carryover stocks, compounded by the 25 percent year-on-year import rise in 2024. Prices of rice remained unchanged from March to July 2025, with ample supply due to the 60 percent yearly increase in imports between October 2024 and March 2025, which more than offset the low domestic output in 2024. Wholesale rice prices were about 10 percent higher year-on-year in July 2025.

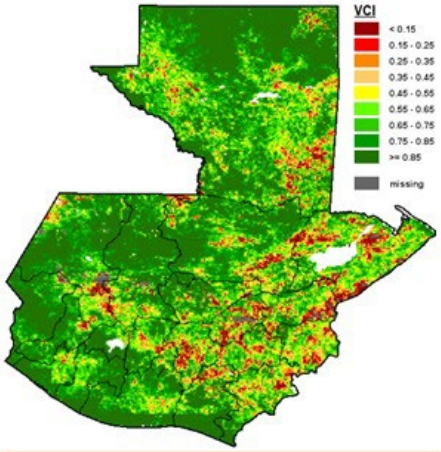
About 2.8 million people estimated to face high levels of acute food insecurity between March and May 2025

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 2.7 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) between September 2024 and February 2025, down from 3.1 million between September 2023 and February 2024. The improvement was mainly driven by the year-on-year reduction in food inflation. In July 2025, in line with larger year-on-year import amounts of staple food and lower international prices, the food inflation rate reached 0 percent, down from 8.1 percent the previous year. The decline in food inflation partially eased the negative impact of the prolonged lean season caused by the delayed start of the *Primera* harvest on food access of most vulnerable households.

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/.

Guatemala - Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

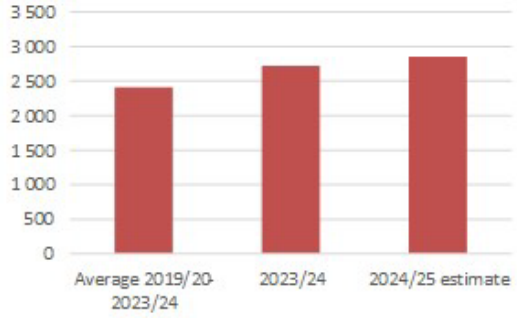
July 2025



Guatemala

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

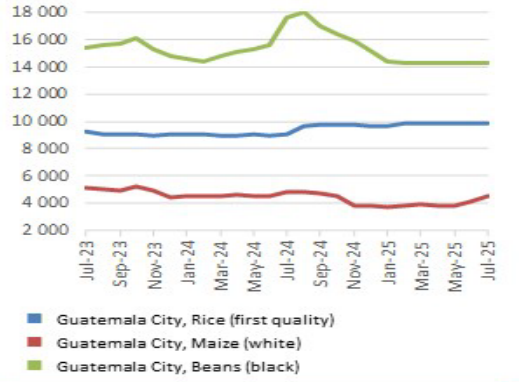


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices

Quetzal per tonne



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
The Republic of Guatemala

Reference Date: 23-December-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Output of delayed 2024 maize season estimated at average level**
- **Cereal import requirements in 2024/25 marketing year preliminary forecast at above-average level**
- **Prices of white maize and rice decreased year-on-year in October due to improved market availability**
- **Acute food insecurity decreased by 12 percent year-on-year, in line with lower food inflation**

Output of delayed 2024 maize season estimated at average level

Harvesting of the main season maize crop is nearing completion, slightly later than usual, as dry spells in the key producing areas of Petén and Verapaz in the March to May period caused soil moisture deficits and delayed plantings by about one month. The grain-filling and maturation stages between June and August were negatively affected by severe dry weather conditions, with frequent short periods of heavy rains which caused flooding and waterlogging, further curbing crop development. Harvesting operations started around mid-September and the outcome is estimated at average level as the impact of expected low yields is likely to be fully offset by an expansion of the planted area.

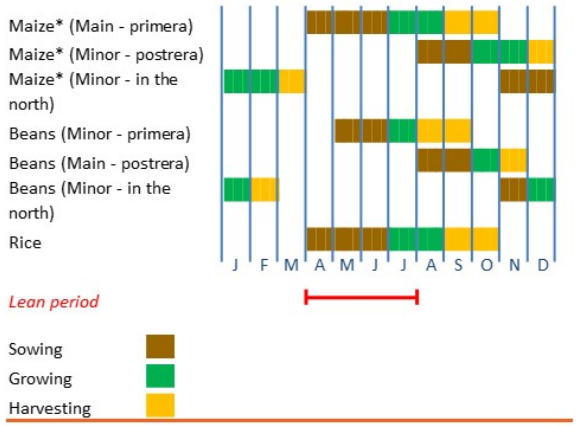
Harvesting operations of the minor maize season crops are expected to start at the end of December. Despite dry weather conditions and high temperatures in the main producing region of Petén in September and October had a negative impact on soil moisture levels, favourable precipitation amounts in November partially restored conducive conditions for the crop maturation stage.

Cereal import requirements in 2024/25 marketing year preliminary forecast at above-average level

Cereal import requirements in the 2024/25 marketing year (July/June) are expected at an above-average level of about 2.8 million tonnes. The increase of cereal imports over the last decade has been primarily driven by the high demand of wheat for food consumption and yellow maize to support the steady growth of the poultry sector.

Guatemala

Crop Calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2019-2023 average	2023	2024 estimate	change 2024/2023
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 039	2 105	2 050	-2.6
Sorghum	46	40	42	5.0
Rice (paddy)	26	30	32	6.7
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	2 111	2 176	2 125	-2.3

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Prices of white maize and rice decreased year-on-year in November due to improved market availability

Prices of white maize weakened seasonally from September to November 2024 following the commercialization of newly harvested crops and were about 20 percent lower than the previous year, reflecting ample stocks from the 2023 output and large import flows during the prolonged lean season between July and mid-September 2024. Rice prices were stable for seven months since December 2023 and rose between August and September 2024, just ahead of the start of the main season harvest. Then, in October 2024, prices started declining seasonally and were about 9 percent above the previous year's level in November. Wholesale prices of black beans decreased for the third consecutive month last November, on account of the improved seasonal supply from the main harvest. Prices were slightly higher than one year earlier, after sustained increases from February to August 2024.

Acute food insecurity decreased by 12 percent year-on-year, in line with lower food inflation

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 2.7 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) between September 2024 and February 2025, about 12 percent below the 3.0 million people in the same period a year before. Food inflation decreased from 9.16 percent in October 2023 to 2.46 percent in October 2024, the lowest level recorded since November 2021, significantly easing access to food. However, the extended lean season in 2024 has severely affected most vulnerable rural households in some areas of Alta Verapaz, Altipiano and the Dry Corridor, where the delay of the main season harvest last August has worsened livelihood conditions and hampered access to food.

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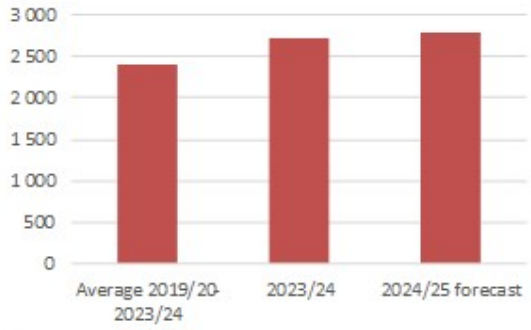
FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring
https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/.
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) https://www.ipcinfo.org/.

Guatemala

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

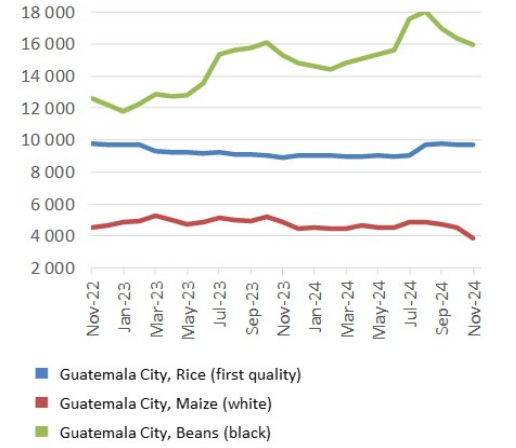


Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split years refer to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices

Quetzal per tonne



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
The Republic of Guatemala

Reference Date: 29-April-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Favourable weather conditions expected at planting time of 2024 main maize crop**
- **Maize 2023 output estimated at above-average level**
- **Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2023/24 marketing year**
- **Prices of black beans 15 percent higher year-on-year in March**
- **Number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity marginally lower year-on-year**

Favourable weather conditions expected at planting time of 2024 main maize crop

Planting operations of the main season maize crop typically starts in May in most cropping areas, while these are already ongoing in minor producing areas of western highlands. Rainfall amounts in April and May 2024 are forecast at average level, likely replenishing localized current soil moisture deficits due to below-average precipitation amounts between January and mid-March, especially in northern areas. Weather forecasts point to above-average precipitation amounts in the June to August period, typically associated with the La Niña phenomenon, which coincides with crop grain-filling and maturation stages, and the start of the harvest. If excessive rains materialize, they could diminish yields and constrain harvesting operations. In addition, hotter-than-average temperatures are forecast throughout the main cropping season, likely causing pest infestations. The 2024 hurricane season (from June to November) is preliminarily forecast to be above average, and thus a close monitoring is required.

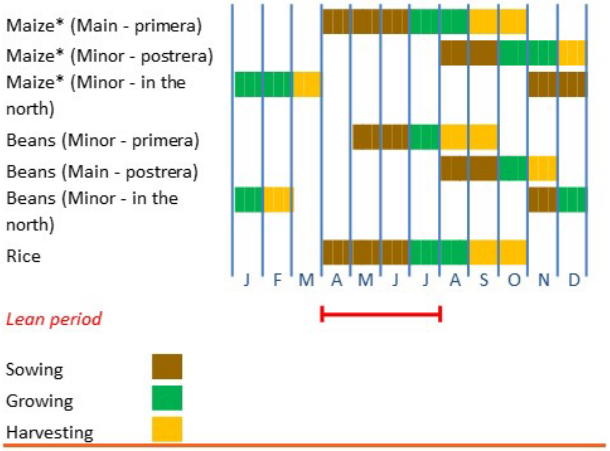
The area sown is likely to be above the average due to the expected favourable weather conditions at planting time. However, compared to the previous year's large sowings, a slight reduction in planted area is forecast in 2024 due to lower year-on-year prices.

Maize 2023 output estimated at above-average level

According to official sources, 2023 maize production is estimated at about 2.1 million tonnes, 5 percent above the five-year average, although crops in some localized areas have been negatively affected dry weather conditions during the *primera*

Guatemala

Crop Calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 estimate	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	2 013	2 057	2 105	2.3
Sorghum	49	45	40	-11.1
Rice (paddy)	48	50	52	4.0
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	2 111	2 153	2 198	2.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

season as well as excessive rainfall amounts during the *postrera* season.

Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2023/24 marketing year

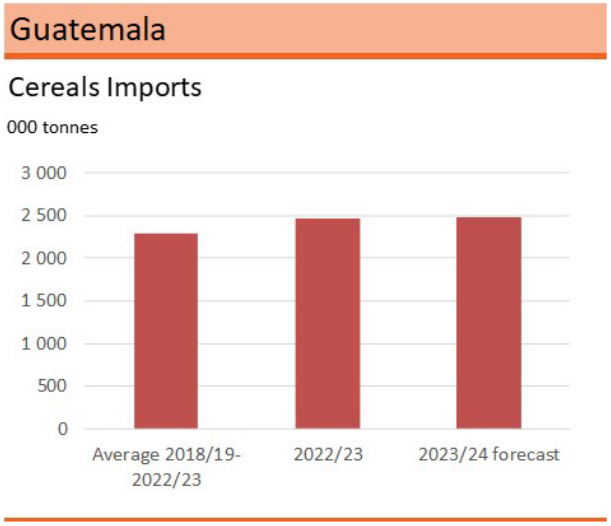
Cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (July/June) are expected at an above-average level of 2.5 million tonnes. Cereal imports have been increasing steadily over the last decade due to strong demand for yellow maize by the feed industry, combined with the sustained demand of wheat-based food products in line with an increasing population.

Prices of black beans 15 percent higher year-on-year in March

Wholesale prices of black beans rose moderately in March 2024 following seasonal declines in the past four months. Prices were 15 percent above their year-earlier levels in March 2024, after sustained increases during the first ten months of 2023. Prices of white maize remained stable during the first three months of 2024, following seasonal declines at end-2023, and were about 15 percent lower year-on-year on account of ample supplies from the above-average harvest in 2023. Prices of rice have been generally weakening since December 2022, reflecting declines in export prices in the United States of America, the country's main rice supplier. As of March 2024, rice prices were 4 percent lower compared to a year ago.

Number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity marginally lower year-on-year

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 3.1 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) between September 2023 and February 2024, slightly down from the 3.2 million people in the similar period a year before. The year-on-year improvement is mainly due to the stabilization of the food inflation, which decreased from 15.4 percent in February 2023 to 4.9 percent in February 2024. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the number of people in need in food security and nutrition sectors is estimated at 4.3 million in 2024, slightly lower than the 4.6 million in 2023.



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

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FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring
https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/.
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) https://www.ipcinfo.org/.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
The Republic of Guatemala

Reference Date: 14-July-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

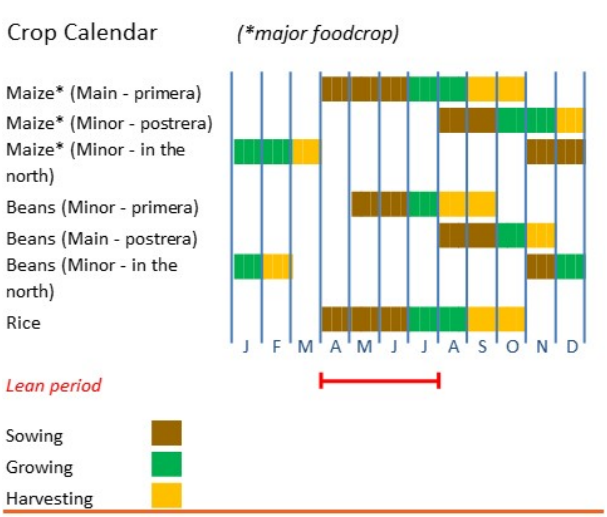
- **Dry weather conditions in key producing northern region curtail production prospects of 2023 main season maize**
- **Wholesale prices of black beans more than 10 percent higher year-on-year in June**
- **Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2023/24 marketing year**
- **About 4.3 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 lean season due to elevated food prices**

Dry weather conditions in key producing northern region curtail production prospects of 2023 main season maize

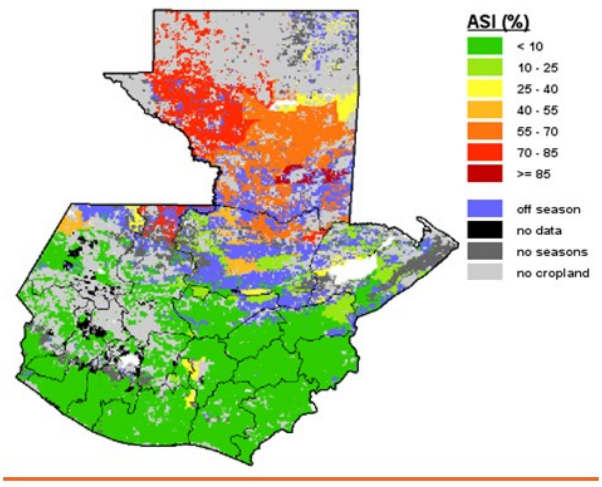
The 2023 main season maize crop is currently at vegetative and flowering stages. According to satellite imagery, crop conditions are unfavourable in the main producing departments of Petén and Alta Verapaz (red/orange areas in the ASI map), due to below-average precipitation amounts during the second quarter of 2023, associated with the El Niño phenomenon. In these areas, dry and hot weather conditions are forecast to persist between July and September, with negative effects on the main season production. In the rest of the country, where average crop conditions are observed, weather forecasts point to average to above-average rainfall amounts in the July-September period, providing conducive conditions for crop development. The seasonal output is preliminarily forecast at a below-average level, as dry weather conditions resulted in a contraction in plantings and affected crop yields in the key producing northern areas.

In order to mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions on agricultural livelihoods, the government expanded the coverage of agricultural insurance from 40 000 beneficiaries in 2022 to 100 000 smallholder farmers in 2023. The insurance is designed to pay up to GTQ 3 000 (about USD 385) to compensate for the crop losses caused by drought or excessive rains. In 2023, the government continues to distribute certified maize or bean seeds, to nearly 100 000 smallholder farmers in El Progreso, Sacatepéquez, Chimaltenango, Escuintla, Sololá, Suchitepéquez and Guatemala departments.

Guatemala



Guatemala - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)



Wholesale prices of black beans more than 10 percent higher year-on-year in June

Wholesale prices of black beans rose in June for the second consecutive month, reflecting the seasonal decline in supplies, and they were more than 10 percent above their year-earlier levels. This reflects persistent high production costs as well as lower year-on-year imports during the first four months of 2023.

After declining in April and May with harvests from the northern region, prices of white maize rose in June, as concerns over the impact of dry weather conditions on crop germination and development provided upward pressure. Maize prices in June were slightly lower year-on-year when the upsurge of fertilizer costs drove the sharp increases in prices.

Prices of rice have been generally declining since December 2022, reflecting the recent weakening of export prices in the United States of America, the country's main rice supplier and were near their June 2022 values. Diversification of rice imports from origins with lower prices than the United States of America also provided downward pressure.

Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2023/24 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (July/June) are expected at an above-average level of 2.5 million tonnes. Cereal imports have been increasing steadily over the last decade due to strong demand for yellow maize by the feed industry, combined with the sustained demand of wheat-based food products in line with an increasing population.

About 4.3 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in 2023 lean season due to elevated food prices

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, about 4.3 million people are estimated to face acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) during the June-August 2023 lean season, slightly down from the 4.6 million people in the June-September 2022 period. Despite the year-on-year improvement, about 24 percent of the analyzed population is expected to experience high levels of food insecurity as a result of elevated prices of food, fuel and fertilizers. The situation might be compounded by the adverse effects of ongoing dry weather conditions on crop production. Although food inflation has decelerated since March 2023, the annual inflation rate of food items remained at high levels of 11.2 percent in May 2023. High prices of food and agricultural inputs have diminished the purchasing power of vulnerable households and producers, affecting their access to food and agricultural livelihoods.

Since the beginning of the year to mid-June, the Ministry of Agriculture has distributed a food package, including rice, beans, maize flour, etc. to 389 000 people. The provision was carried out under the Food Assistance Programme dedicated to the most vulnerable households as well as the *Alimentos por Acciones* (Food for actions) Programme, which aims to engage households in community work and prevent the deterioration of their food security situation.

Guatemala

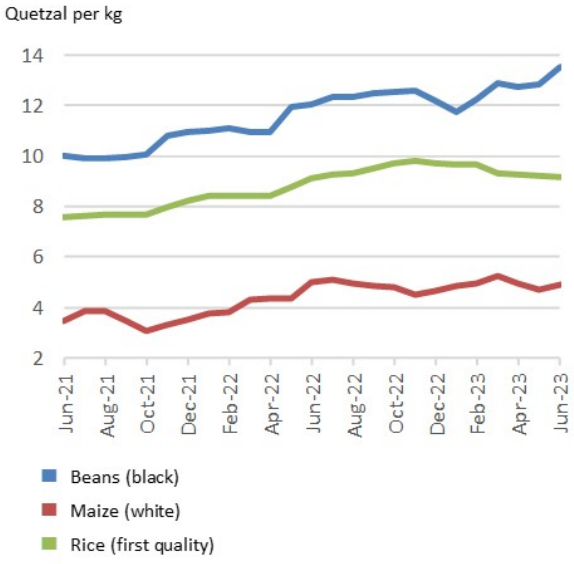
Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 forecast	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 942	1 950	1 880	-3.6
Sorghum	49	45	40	-11.1
Rice (paddy)	30	32	33	4.4
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	2 023	2 028	1 954	-3.6

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

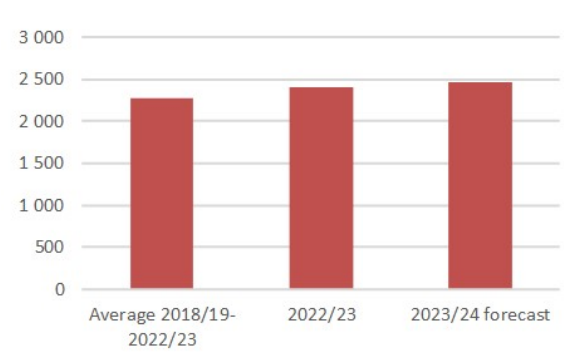
Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City



Guatemala

Cereals Imports



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

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FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/.
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) https://www.ipcinfo.org/.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 07-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Acute food insecurity in October 2022-February 2023 period projected to worsen compared to previous year**
- **Prices of staple food items well above year-earlier levels in September**
- **Production prospects for 2022 maize crops generally favourable**
- **Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year**

Acute food in security in October 2022-February 2023 period projected to worsen compared to previous year

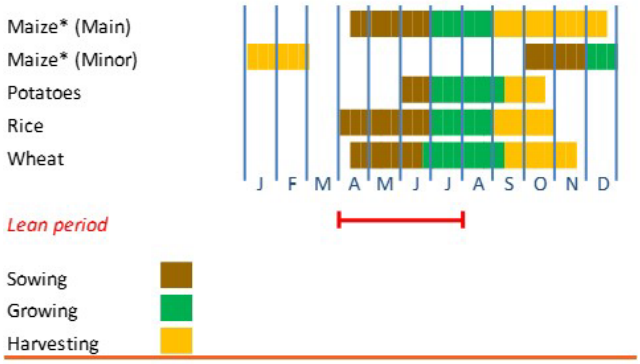
According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the population facing acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) is projected at 3.2 million people during the October 2022-February 2023 period, up from the 2.5 million people in the September 2021-Janaury 2022 period. The year-on-year deterioration is mainly due to high prices of food, transportation and agricultural inputs that are diminishing the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households and limiting their access to food. Food prices are at elevated levels, with the annual food inflation rate estimated at 13.3 percent in August 2022.

However, as the October 2022-February 2023 period coincides with the harvest of the main maize crop, food stocks are expected to increase from the low level of the previous lean season. As of early September 2022, it was reported that reserves of white maize and black beans held by households for their own consumption were overall lower than the same period in 2021 and 2020 in eastern and western regions. In addition, harvesting operations of cash crops, such as coffee, cardamom and sugarcane, also take place during the last quarter of the year. This will generate income opportunities for agricultural labourers that rely on daily wages, improving their livelihoods.

Prices of staple food items well above year-earlier levels in September

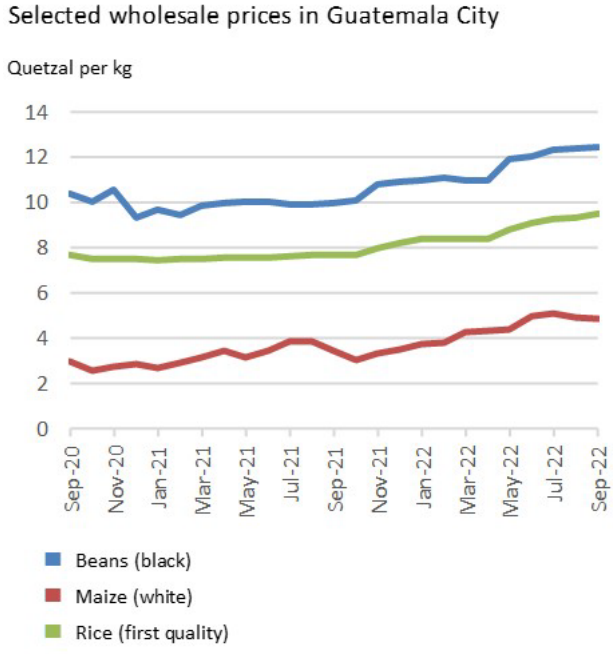
Wholesale prices of white maize weakened in August and September as the new harvest increased market supplies. However, prices in September were more than 40 percent higher year on year and at near-record levels, following sustained increases since November 2021 due to the elevated costs of agricultural inputs and fuel.

Guatemala



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala



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

High production and transportation costs also exerted upward pressure on prices of black beans throughout 2022, which were 25 percent above their year-earlier levels in September. Prices are expected to ease in the coming months as the harvest of the main season bean crops starts in November.

Prices of rice have been generally on the rise in 2022, reflecting increasing international prices in the United States of America, the country's main rice supplier. In September, rice prices were nearly 25 percent above their values a year earlier.

The domestic supply of wheat relies mainly on imports from the United States of America and Canada, plus some volumes from Mexico. High international wheat quotations contributed to rising domestic prices of wheat flour, which were 45 percent higher year on year in September. As the country imports mostly wheat grain and produces wheat flour, elevated processing and transportation costs provided additional upward pressure on prices of wheat flour.

Production prospects for 2022 maize crops generally favourable

Harvesting of the 2022 main season maize crops is ongoing, with favourable recent dry weather conditions aiding operations especially in the key producing northern region. Although an official production forecast is not yet available, the National Association of Basic Grains estimates the main maize output at an above-average level. This is mainly due to an expansion of sowings, driven by high prices at planting time, which more than offset the negative effects of the elevated input costs. Weather conditions have been generally conducive and contributed to average yields.

Sowing operations of the 2022 minor season maize crops will take place after the completion of the main crop harvest. Weather forecasts point to average rainfall amounts in the October-December period, boosting yield expectations for the minor crop. However, as the Atlantic hurricane season will last until the end of November, there is still risk that torrential rains and strong winds could negatively affect crops.

The country relies on imports to meet its domestic fertilizer requirements and, during the 2017-2021 period, two-thirds of fertilizers imports originated from China (mainland), the Russian Federation and Belarus. Imports of fertilizers during the first seven months of 2022 declined by nearly 15 percent compared to the previous three-year average. The decline in imports as well as the high international prices of fertilizers have constrained domestic market availabilities and access.

Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2022/23 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2022/23 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an above-average level of 2.28 million tonnes. Cereal import requirements have been increasing steadily over the last decade due to the strong demand for yellow maize by the feed industry, combined with the sustained demand of wheat-based food products in line with an increasing population.

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Guatemala

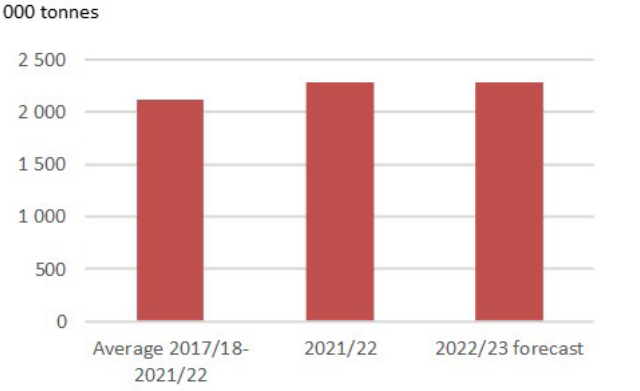
Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 953	1 950	1 970	1.0
Sorghum	42	42	42	0.0
Rice (paddy)	31	33	32	-4.3
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	2 028	2 028	2 047	0.9

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

Guatemala

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.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 14-June-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Planting of 2022 main maize crop ongoing under favourable weather conditions**
- **Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year**
- **Prices of white maize and black beans remained at elevated levels in April**
- **According to recent IPC analysis, food security situation projected to severely worsen between June and September 2022**

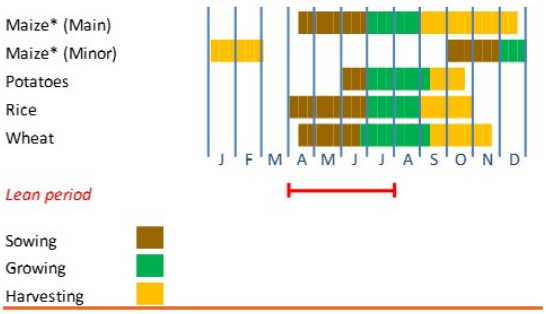
Planting of 2022 main maize crop ongoing under favourable weather conditions

Planting operations of the 2022 main season maize crop are ongoing, supported by favourable soil moisture conditions. Some replanting was carried out in localized southern areas along the Pacific coast and northeastern areas due to torrential rainfalls that resulted in flooding and landslides. According to satellite imagery, conditions of germinating crops are favourable (NDVI anomaly map). Despite well above-average producer prices, elevated costs of agricultural inputs and fuel are likely to limit the extent of planted area.

The country depends on imports to meet its domestic fertilizer requirements and two-thirds of fertilizers imports originated from China (mainland), the Russian Federation and Belarus during the 2017-2021 period. Imports of fertilizers between December 2021 and March 2022 declined by 30 percent compared to the previous three-year average as a result of the temporary export ban or quota introduced by China (mainland) and the Russian Federation. A decline in imports is likely to constrain market availabilities in domestic markets.

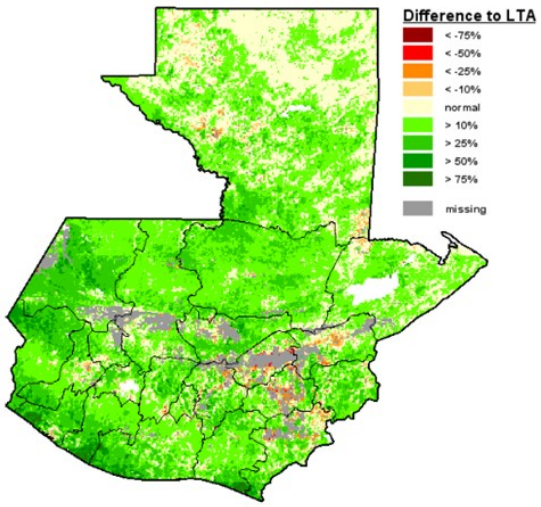
Amid increasing concerns about the high prices of agricultural inputs, the government plans to disburse GTQ 1 000 (about USD 130) to 180 000 smallholder farmers by end-June 2022 with the aim to improve their access to agricultural inputs. It is reported that some farmers plan to increase the use of organic fertilizers due to the shortage of chemicals. According to the official forecast, precipitation amounts are expected at an average level during the May to July period in most parts of the country, with positive impacts on crop yields. Precipitation amounts are forecast to be above the average level in northeastern (*Franja Transversal del Norte*) and southwestern (*Boca Costa*) regions.

Guatemala



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala - NDVI anomaly



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Cereal import requirements expected at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated at an above-average level of 2.1 million tonnes, with maize imports accounting for two-thirds. Cereal import requirements have been increasing steadily over the last decade due to the strong demand for yellow maize by the feed industry, combined with the sustained demand of wheat-based food products in line with an increasing population.

Prices of white maize and black beans remained at elevated levels in April

Prices of white maize rose in May after the sustained increases between November 2021 and April 2022. As of May, prices were nearly 40 percent higher year on year and the highest level since mid-2011. Although markets are supplied adequately, the high prices can be attributed to rising transportation and production costs.

Prices of black beans, which had been overall stable since December 2021, rose in May, as seasonally low availabilities exerted upward pressure on prices. Prices in May were 10 percent higher than the same period last year. Regarding rice, prices have been generally on the rise since November 2021 and were 15 percent above year-earlier levels in May.

The domestic supply of wheat grain and flour entirely relies on imports, mostly from the United States of America and Canada, plus some volumes from Mexico. Below-average harvests of wheat in 2021 in the two major exporters contributed to rising domestic prices of wheat flour, which were 35 percent higher year on year in May.

According to recent IPC analysis, food security situation projected to severely worsen between June and September 2022

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the population in acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) is projected at a record of 4.6 million people during the June-September lean season, nearly one-third of the total population. This represents an increase of 1.2 million people compared to the period May-August 2021. The severe deterioration in food security is mainly due to high food prices that are limiting the purchasing power of the vulnerable households. As of early May, it is reported that reserves of white maize held by households for consumption purposes were lower than the same period in 2021 and 2020. When stocks will be completely depleted, households have to necessarily resort to markets and face very high prices of staple food until the start of the 2022 main season harvest in September. If high production costs result in reduced farming activities, it is likely to decrease yields attained in subsistence and commercial farms as well as income-generating opportunities of agricultural labourers that depend on daily wages.

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Guatemala

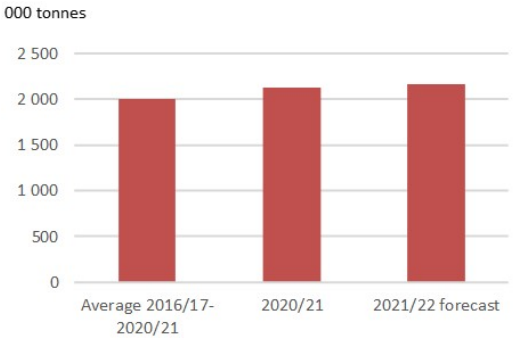
Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 943	1 910	1 960	2.6
Sorghum	42	42	42	0.0
Rice (paddy)	31	32	33	3.8
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	2 018	1 987	2 038	2.6

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

Guatemala

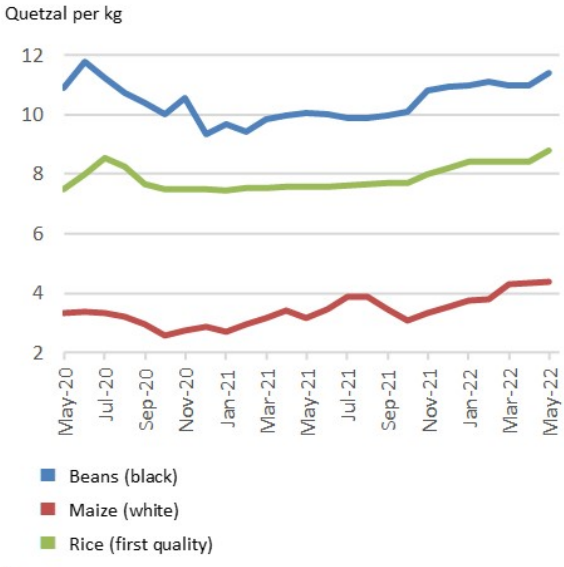
Cereals Imports



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.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City



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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 22-October-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Production of 2021 main season maize crop anticipated at near-average level**
- **Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year**
- **Prices of white maize 15 percent higher year on year in September**
- **Food insecurity situation projected to improve in September 2021 to January 2022 period**

Production of 2021 main season maize crop anticipated at near-average level

Harvesting the 2021 main season maize crop just finalized in the southern region and in the key producing departments of Petén and Alta Verapaz. In centralwestern highlands, where the cropping cycle is longer, harvesting will take place in the November to December period. Seasonal production is forecast at an average level, mainly reflecting near-average accumulated rainfall amounts between April and August and an average planted area.

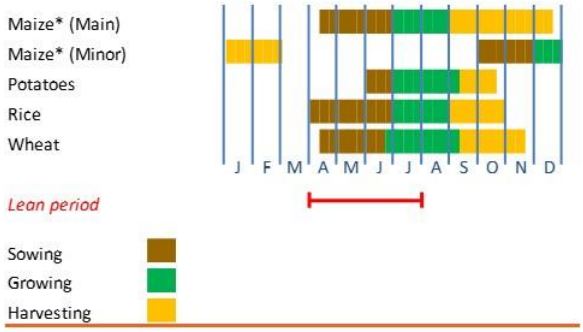
Planting operations of the 2021 minor season maize crop have recently started in northeastern areas, where seasonal production is concentrated. Reduced precipitation amounts since end-September have negatively affected soil moisture levels and resulted in below-average crop conditions (NDVI Anomaly map). Slightly below-average precipitation amounts are forecast in northeastern areas for the rest of 2021, with potentially negative effects on crop yields. If the forecast materializes, the impact is likely to be greater for black beans that are mainly grown in the current *postrera* season.

Cereal import requirements forecast at high levels in 2021/22 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an above-average level of 2.2 million tonnes, with maize imports accounting for two-thirds. Cereal import requirements have been increasing steadily over the last decade due to the strong demand for yellow maize by the feed industry, combined with the sustained demand of wheat-based food products in line with an increasing population.

Guatemala

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 943	1 910	1 950	2.1
Sorghum	42	42	42	0.0
Rice (paddy)	31	32	36	12.5
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	2 018	1 987	2 031	2.2

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

Prices of white maize 15 percent higher year on year in September

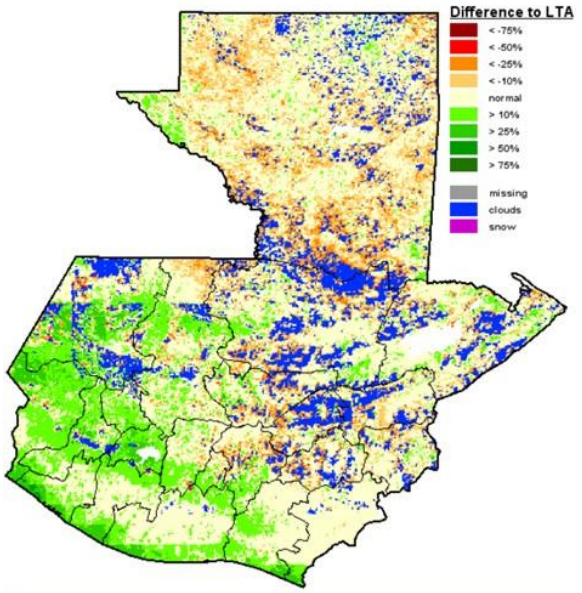
Despite a decline in September due to commercialization of the 2021 main season harvest, prices of white maize were more than 15 percent higher year on year. The high level of prices was due to sustained increases during the first half of 2021, in line with trends in the international market. Increasing production and transportation costs added upward pressure on prices. Prices of black beans and rice have been overall stable throughout 2021, reflecting adequate market supplies.

Food insecurity situation projected to improve in September 2021 to January 2022 period

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, population in acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] or above) is projected at 2.5 million between September 2021 and January 2022, with a decrease of nearly 1 million people compared to the May to August period. The improvement in food security conditions is mainly due to increased supplies of staple food and improved seasonal farm labour opportunities for cash crops. After an economic slowdown in 2020 due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the gradual recovery of the local economy in 2021, together with a rebound in inflows of remittances, are expected to restore livelihoods.

Guatemala - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average - Dekad 1, October 2021

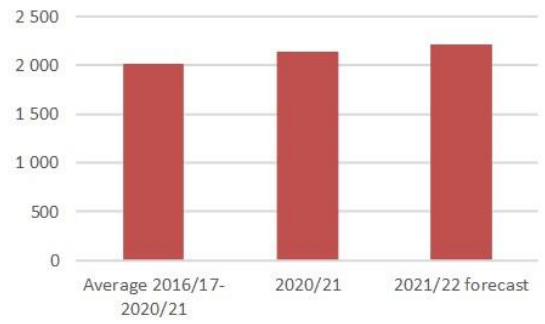


Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Guatemala

Cereals Imports

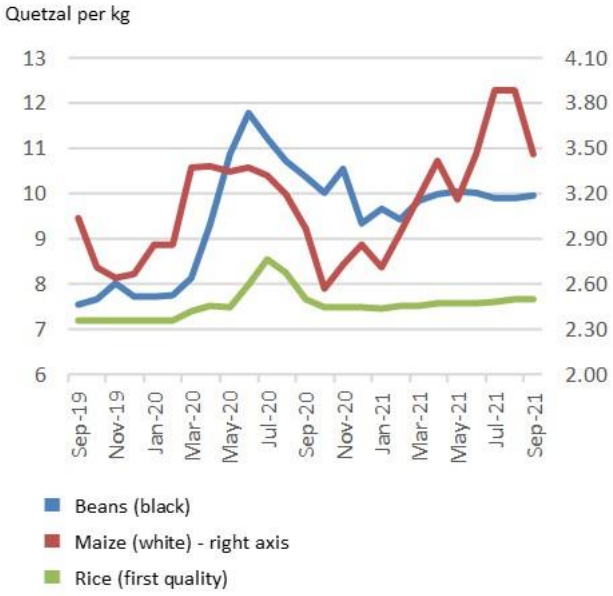
000 tonnes



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

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City



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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 06-May-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Planting operations of 2021 main season maize crop ongoing**
- **Cereal production in 2020 estimated close to average level**
- **Cereal import requirements anticipated at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year**
- **Prices of white maize and black beans increased seasonally in March**
- **Food insecurity situation worsened in late 2020 following livelihood losses caused by hurricanes**

Planting operations of 2021 main season maize crop ongoing

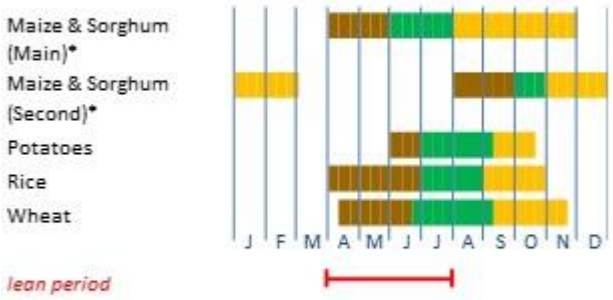
Planting the 2021 main season maize crop is ongoing, following a timely onset of seasonal rains in April. The seasonal outlook is favourable as weather forecasts point to average precipitation amounts in the May-July period, which coincides with the critical crop development and flowering stages. The Ministry of Agriculture is distributing bio-fortified maize seeds to 51 000 smallholder producers in 13 departments in order to improve farmers' access to agricultural inputs.

Cereal production in 2020 estimated close to average level

The 2020 cereal production, mostly maize, is estimated at about 2 million tonnes, near the previous five-year average. In the main maize season, an above-average output was obtained due to excellent yields, reflecting favourable weather conditions. However, some localized crop losses occurred during the minor season in maize producing departments of Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Petén, Santa Rosa and Quiché, due to the passage of two hurricanes in November 2020. According to official estimates, the affected area was reported to be about 50 000 hectares, about 5 percent of the annual sowings. The aggregate maize output in 2020 is estimated at a near-average level of 1.9 million tonnes. Heavy rains brought by the November hurricanes and consequent flooding, severely affected the main season bean crops.

Guatemala

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 920	1 975	1 900	-3.8
Sorghum	42	42	42	0.0
Rice (paddy)	33	34	38	11.8
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	1 998	2 054	1 983	-3.5

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

Cereal import requirements anticipated at high levels in 2020/21 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an above-average level of 2.3 million tonnes, with maize imports accounting for two-thirds. The requirements are anticipated to decline year on year, reflecting large carryover stocks. Cereal import requirements have been increasing steadily over the last decade due to the strong demand for yellow maize by the feed industry, combined with the sustained demand of wheat-based food products.

Prices of white maize and black beans increased seasonally in March

Prices of white maize and black beans increased in March 2021 following seasonal trends. While maize prices were about 5 percent lower year on year due to abundant supplies from the 2020 near-average harvests, prices of beans were 20 percent higher than those a year earlier. The high price level of beans reflects an upsurge in demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the adverse impact of the November hurricanes on the main season bean crops. Prices of rice remained stable for the fifth consecutive month in March 2021 and are near their year-earlier levels, reflecting adequate supplies mostly from imports.

Food insecurity situation worsened in late 2020 following livelihood losses caused by hurricanes

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the estimated population in acute food insecurity (classified under IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" or above) is estimated at 3.73 million between November 2020 and March 2021. This is an increase of nearly 1 million people from the projection for the same period, made before the November hurricanes. The worsening of food security conditions is mainly due to crop and livelihood losses caused by the passage of hurricanes in November 2020. Job and income losses as well as low remittances amid the COVID-19 pandemic have also exacerbated the already fragile food security situation of the country. Under the Programme of Food Support (*Programa de Apoyo Alimentario*), the Government distributed free staple foods (maize, beans, rice, cooking oil, salt and sugar, etc.) to 319 000 urban families and 265 000 rural families between April and December 2020.

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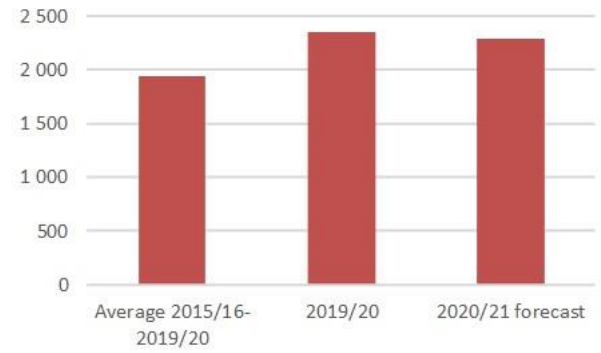
Guatemala

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes

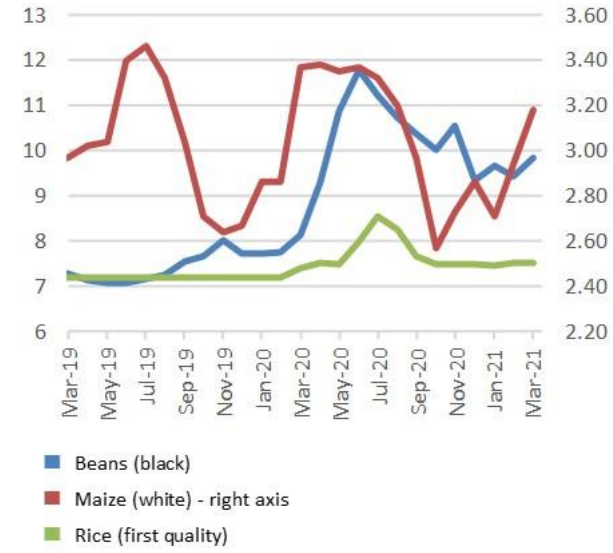


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City

Quetzal per kg



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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 19-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Weather conditions forecast to be favourable during 2020 main season maize crop**
- **Cereal production in 2019 estimated at average level**
- **Cereal import requirements forecast to continue to increase in 2019/20 marketing year**
- **Prices of staple grains higher year on year**

Weather conditions forecast to be favourable during 2020 main season maize crop

Planting of the 2020 main season maize crop started in the southwestern and coastal regions with the timely onset of seasonal rains. In the key producing northern area, planting operations are expected to start from late May. Precipitation amounts are forecast at average to above-average levels in the May-July period across the country and are expected to benefit crop development.

Cereal production in 2019 estimated at average level

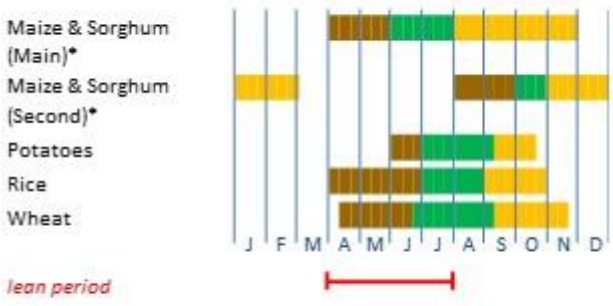
Maize output in 2019 is estimated at a near-average level of 1.9 million tonnes. Production of the main *Primera* season crop was favourable in the main northern producing areas. However, reduced rainfall amounts and above-average temperatures during the critical period of grain filling constrained crop yields in the centraleastern *Corredor Seco* area. In the minor *Postrera* season, improved rainfall in the September-October period provided good soil moisture for crop development, with a positive impact on yields. However, torrential rainfall in late October caused flooding in the coastal region with localized crop losses.

Cereal import requirements forecast to continue to increase in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal import requirements have been growing steadily over the last decade due to the strong demand for yellow maize by the poultry sector, combined with the sustained demand of wheat-based food products. In the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June), cereal import requirements are forecast at well above-average level of 2.3 million tonnes, with maize imports accounting for two-thirds.

Guatemala

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 874	1 922	1 870	-2.7
Sorghum	42	42	42	0.0
Rice (paddy)	40	38	42	10.5
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	1 958	2 005	1 957	-2.4

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

Prices of staple grains higher year on year

Prices of white maize stabilized in April, after the upsurge in March due to a sharp increase in demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In April, increased market supplies from the northern producing areas and imports from Mexico put downward pressure on prices, however, prices were well above their year-earlier levels. Similarly, prices of black beans were higher year on year, following the sharp price increases in the previous two months due to high domestic demand. In the case of rice, prices tend to be stable, as the country mostly depends on imports to cover the domestic demand. However, prices started increasing from March, mainly reflecting the low imports in the first quarter of the year, exacerbated by the high prices of the United States of America, the country's main rice supplier.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

Amid the COVID-19 breakout, the Government authorized the duty-free imports of 200 000 tonnes of white maize and 152 000 tonnes of rice valid until the end of 2020, with the aim to boost domestic supplies. Following the recent increases in market prices, the Customer Protection Office published suggested prices of staple food and is also strengthening the monitoring of market prices.

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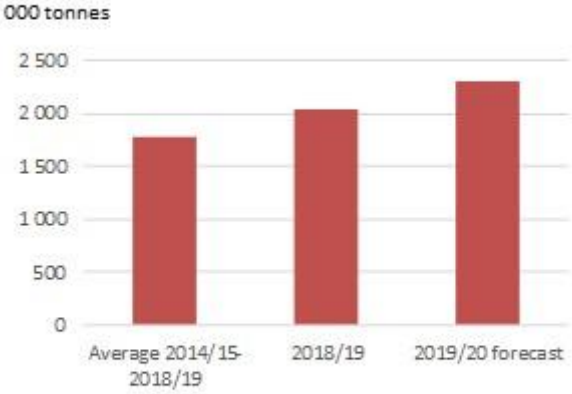
Guatemala

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.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City

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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 19-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Weather conditions forecast to be favourable during 2020 main season maize crop**
- **Cereal production in 2019 estimated at average level**
- **Cereal import requirements forecast to continue to increase in 2019/20 marketing year**
- **Prices of staple grains higher year on year**

Weather conditions forecast to be favourable during 2020 main season maize crop

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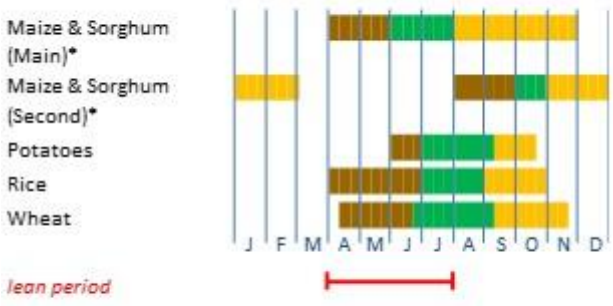
Guatemala

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



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Guatemala

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Prices of staple grains higher year on year

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COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

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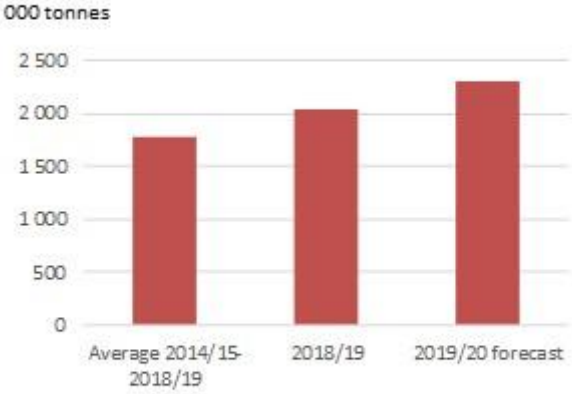
Guatemala

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.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City

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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 05-November-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Maize production in 2019 anticipated at below-average level due to dry weather conditions**
- **Cereal import requirements forecast to increase in 2019/20 marketing year**
- **Prices of maize started to seasonally decline in August**

Maize production in 2019 anticipated at below-average level due to dry weather conditions

Harvesting of the 2019 main maize crop is ongoing in the main producing department of Petén. Production is expected at a below-average level, mainly driven by dry weather conditions, coupled with high temperatures that exacerbated the process of evaporation, in the June-August period that corresponds to the critical flowering and grain-filling stages. Rainfall amounts received during this period were well below the long term average (1989-2018). Differently from last year, when dry weather conditions affected crops almost exclusively in subsistence farming areas, the reduced precipitation in 2019 had a negative impact on production at the national level. The major producing northern departments of Petén, Alta Verapaz and Quiché, production of which contributes to about 40 percent of the main season output, received cumulative precipitation that were between 20 and 30 percent below the average.

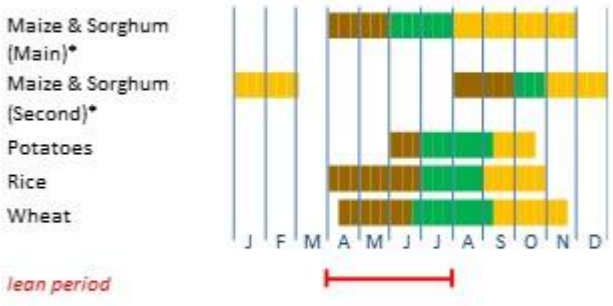
The 2019 minor season maize crop, that accounts for about 20 percent of the annual production and will be harvested in December, is at the development stage in southern and eastern producing areas. Increased rainfall amounts since mid-September have been beneficial for crop development. Overall, the aggregate maize production in 2019 is anticipated at a below-average level of 1.7 million tonnes.

Cereal import requirements forecast to remain above average in 2019/20 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain at an above-average level of 2.06 million tonnes, due to the expected low 2019 maize production, coupled with population growth. Cereal imports have been on the rise, reflecting the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry and a high demand of wheat-based food products.

Guatemala

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

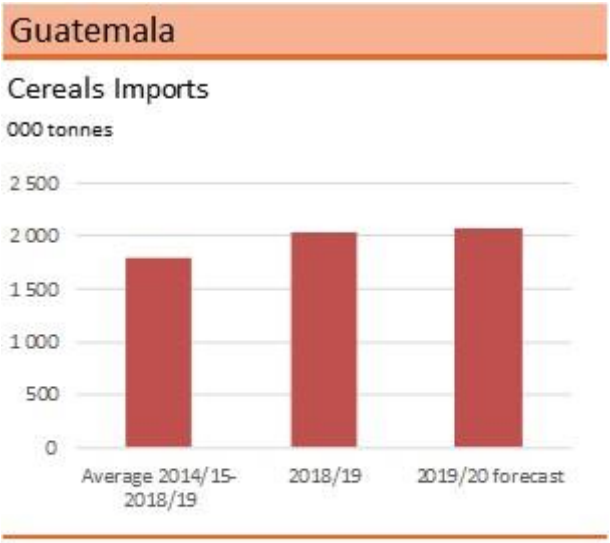
Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 863	1 900	1 740	-8.4
Sorghum	42	42	42	0.0
Rice (paddy)	40	38	42	10.5
Others	3	3	3	0.0
Total	1 947	1 983	1 827	-7.9

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

Prices of maize started to seasonally decline in August

Prices of white maize declined for the second consecutive month in September, reflecting improved market supplies from the southern and eastern producing areas, where the 2019 main season harvest started during the second half of August. Imports from Mexico, similar to their year-earlier levels, also provided downward pressure on prices. Prices of black beans have been increasing seasonally since June and are expected to start declining not earlier than November with the main season harvest. Prices of rice are stable since early 2019, mainly reflecting adequate import volumes.



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.

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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 05-June-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

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

Planting of main maize crop ongoing under favourable weather conditions

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

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

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

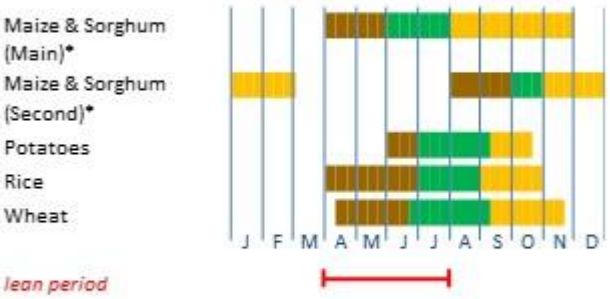
Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are anticipated to increase and reach an above-average level of 1.8 million tonnes, reflecting the low 2018 maize production and the sustained demand for yellow maize by the feed industry. Wheat imports are expected to increase, following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

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

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

Guatemala

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

Cereal Production

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

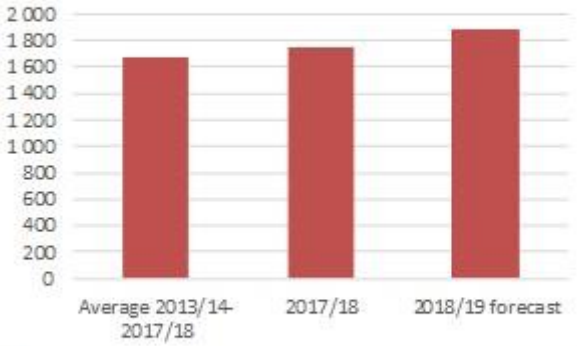
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

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

Guatemala

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



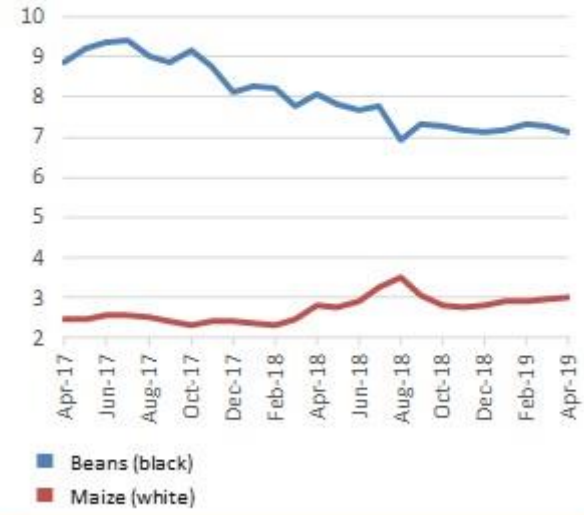
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City

Quetzal per kg



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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 05-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

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

Planting of main maize crop ongoing under favourable weather conditions

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

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

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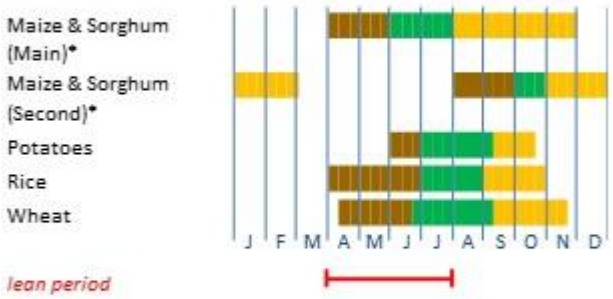
Guatemala

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET.

Guatemala

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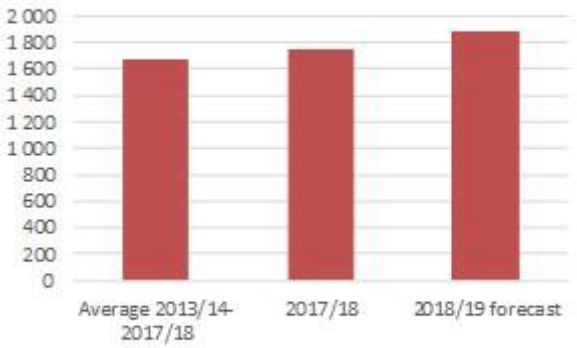
Guatemala

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



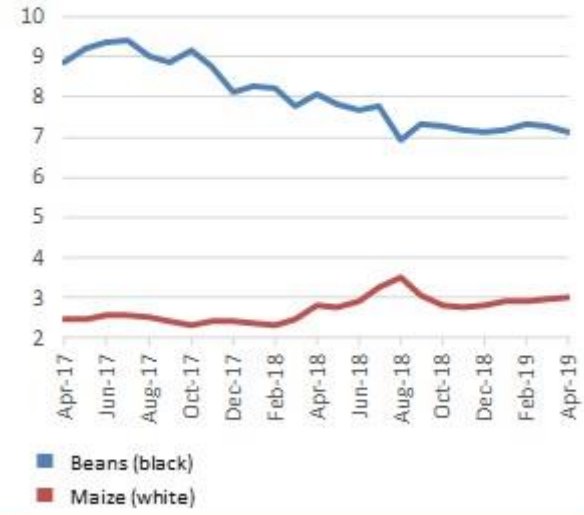
Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

Guatemala

Selected wholesale prices in Guatemala City

Quetzal per kg



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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 23-May-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Cereal production in 2017 forecast to moderately increase**
- **Cereal import requirements forecast to decline during 2016/17 marketing year**
- **Prices of maize and beans followed mixed trends in April**

Cereal production in 2017 forecast to moderately increase

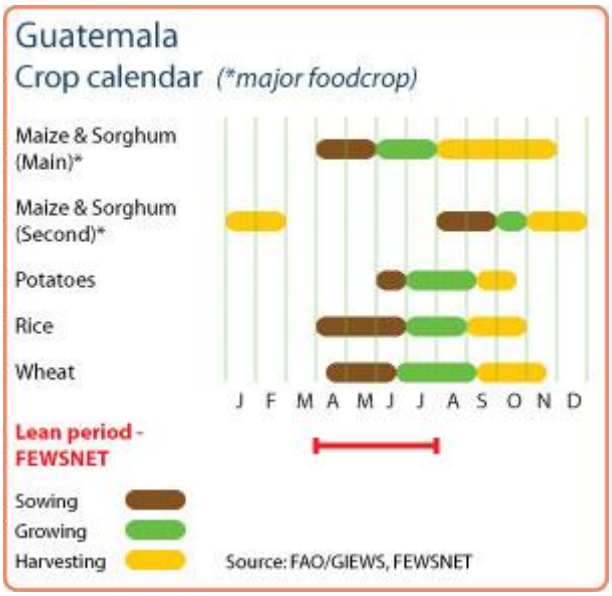
Planting of the main 2017 cereal season is expected to begin by the end of May. Weather conditions for the planting period are forecast to be favourable. Initial official production forecasts point to 1 million tonnes, about 3 percent above last year's level. The forecast mainly reflects higher maize sowings, driven by strong domestic demand and robust local prices. However, there is a high level of uncertainty around this preliminary forecast as there is a moderate probability that an El Niño event may develop in the June to August period, affecting yields of first season crops and planting conditions for second season crops, which will begin in late August. Precipitation forecasts made in April point to a moderate probability of rainfall deficits in the northern part of the country during the secondary season.

Cereal import requirements forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decline sharply from last year's record level, reflecting the good 2016 cereal production. The bulk of the decline stems from lower maize imports for the 2016/17 marketing year (September/August). Total cereal imports in 2016/17 are forecast at about 600 000 tonnes, some 40 percent below last year's record level and below the five-year average.

Prices of maize and beans followed mixed trends in April

White maize prices in April were significantly below their year-earlier levels and remained virtually unchanged month-to-month, reflecting well-supplied markets from the harvest in March and continued imports from Mexico. Prices of black beans increased moderately in April after declining during the two previous months. The increase is mainly due to the completion of the harvests in the northern region of Petén.

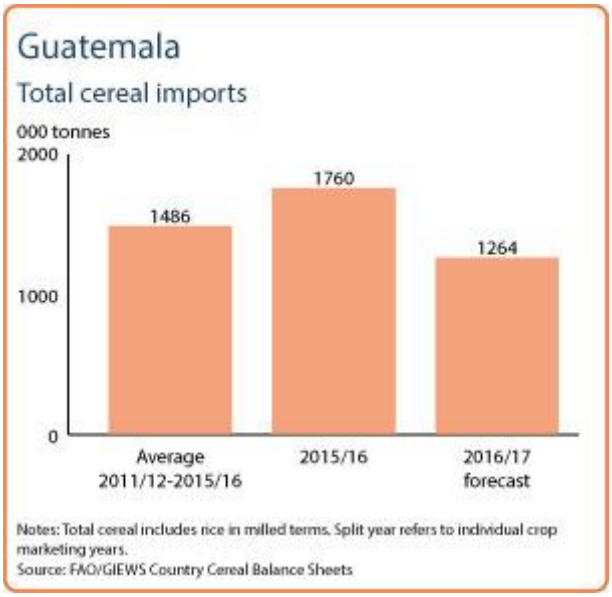


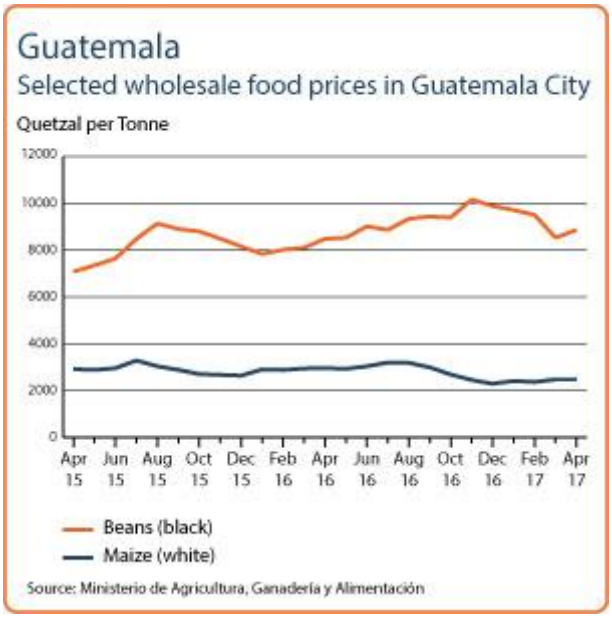
Guatemala

Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	879	900	926	3
Sorghum	42	42	41	-2
Rice (paddy)	33	31	33	6
Others	3	3	3	0
Total	956	976	1,003	3

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





Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 02-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Cereal production in 2016 anticipated at bumper level**
- **Cereal imports forecast to decline during 2016/17 marketing year**
- **Prices of maize and beans followed mixed trends in November**

Cereal production in 2016 anticipated at bumper level

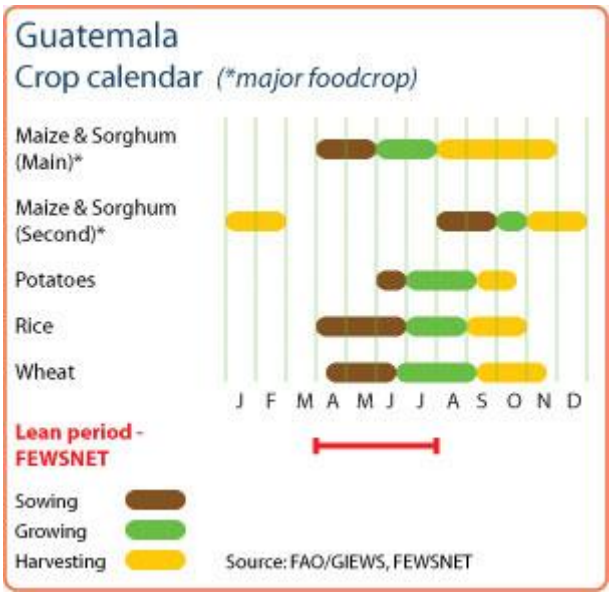
The aggregate 2016 cereal production is forecast by FAO at close to 2 million tonnes, marginally above last year's high level and well above the five-year average. The forecast reflects the favourable results of the main "de primera" cereal season, concluded in October, following the dissipation of the El Niño event in early June. Prospects for the second season, whose harvest will conclude towards the end of December, are also favourable, despite below average rainfall levels during the last 20 days of October. However, prospects for the dry corridor in the centre of the country remain somewhat uncertain as crops were affected by dryness in October.

Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal import requirements in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decline sharply from last year's record level, reflecting the positive outlook for 2016 cereal production. The bulk of the decline stems from lower maize imports for the 2016/17 marketing year (September/August). Total cereal imports in 2016 are forecast at about 1.3 million tonnes, 28 percent below last year's record level and below the five-year average.

Prices of maize and beans followed mixed trends in November

White maize prices continued their declining trend of the previous two months in November, following the good first season harvest and were well below their level from a year earlier. By contrast, prices of black beans, an important staple food, increased sharply as seasonal trends were strengthened by the lower-than-anticipated output due to lower yields for the minor second season, harvested in October.



Guatemala

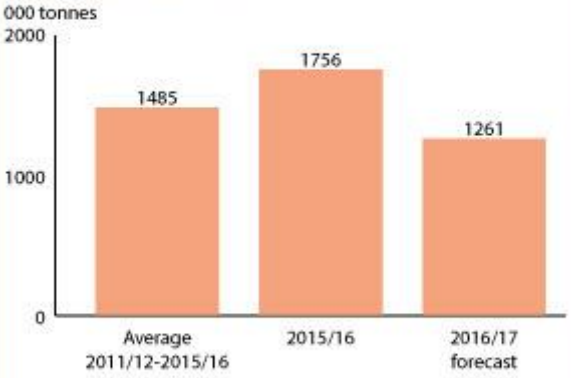
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 767	1 858	1 900	2
Sorghum	43	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	32	30	31	3
Others	3	3	3	0
Total	1 845	1 933	1 976	2

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

Guatemala

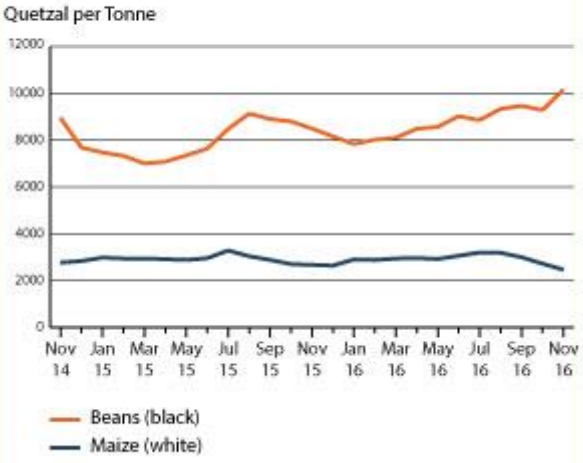
Total cereal imports



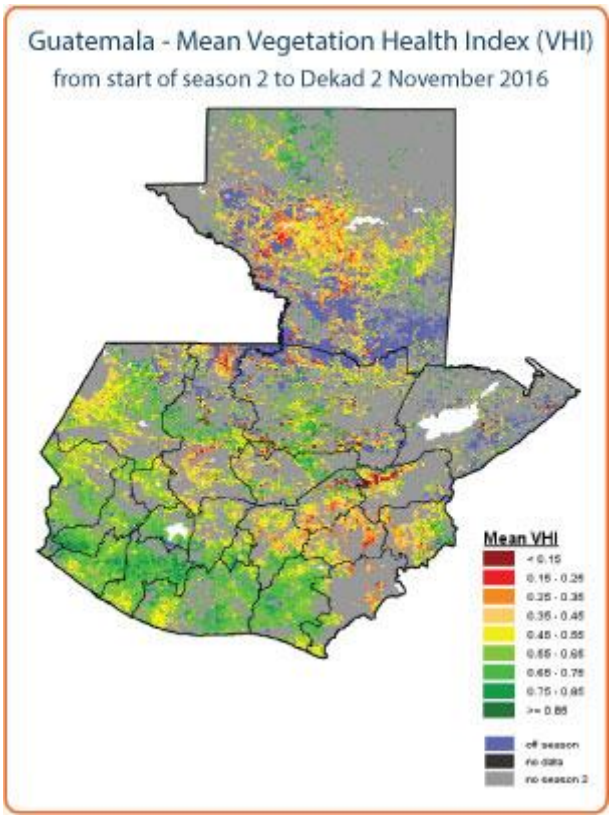
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Guatemala

Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City



Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación


Guatemala - Mean Vegetation Health Index (VHI)
from start of season 2 to Dekad 2 November 2016
Mean VHI
< 0.15
0.15 - 0.25
0.25 - 0.35
0.35 - 0.45
0.45 - 0.55
0.55 - 0.65
0.65 - 0.75
0.75 - 0.85
>= 0.85
off season
no data
no season 2

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 07-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Cereal production in 2016 anticipated to recover from last year's drought-reduced level**
- **Cereal imports forecast to decline during 2016/17 marketing year, but remain above average**
- **Prices of maize and beans stable in September**

Cereal production in 2016 anticipated at bumper level

The harvest of the main 2016 "de primera" cereal season is well advanced, although somewhat later than normal because of the late plantings. Output prospects are good reflecting generally satisfactory precipitation for crop growth following the dissipation of the El Niño event in early June. Planting of the second cereal season crops is virtually concluded and was carried out under normal weather conditions. Assuming normal weather conditions throughout the second growing season, latest forecasts point to a record aggregate (first and second) 2016 cereal output, mainly reflecting better yields for maize, as area sown is anticipated to remain near recent high levels. Total cereal production in 2016 is forecast to reach close to 1.9 million tonnes.

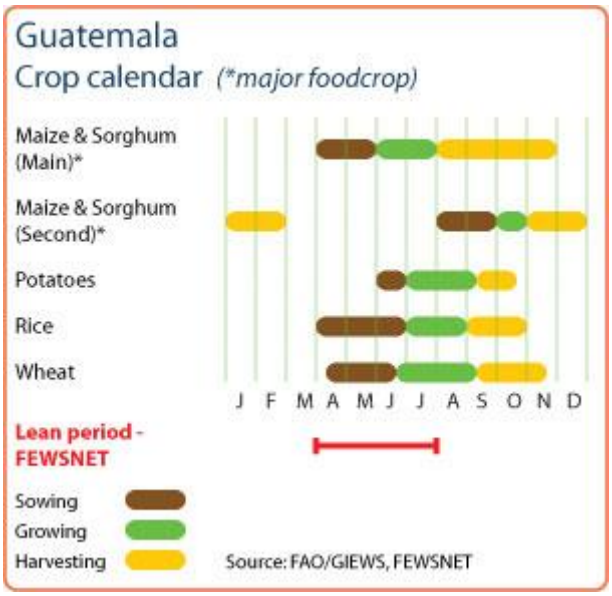
Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decline sharply from last year's record level, reflecting the positive outlook for 2016 cereal production. The bulk of the decline stems from lower maize imports for the 2016/17 marketing year (September/August). Total cereal imports in 2016 are forecast at 1.6 million tonnes, an almost 8 percent reduction from last year. However, at this level, imports remain high and well above the country's five-year average, reflecting the strong demand from the feed sector.

Prices of maize and beans stable in September

White maize prices declined moderately in September with the beginning of the harvest, reflecting harvest delays and remained relatively below last year's level.

Black bean prices, an important staple food, remained stable in September and moderately above their levels for the same month last year as harvest delays and reduced imports from Mexico impacted supplies in the market.



Guatemala

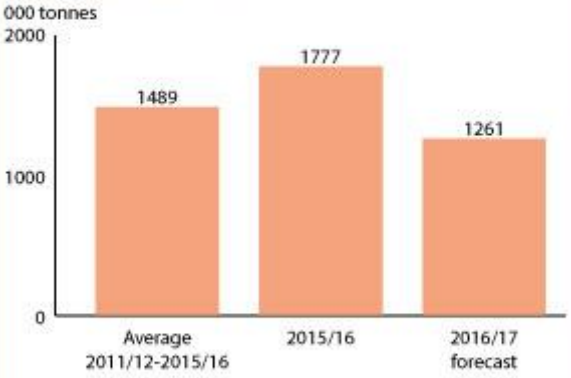
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 767	1 858	1 900	2
Sorghum	43	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	32	30	31	3
Others	3	3	3	0
Total	1 845	1 933	1 976	2

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

Guatemala

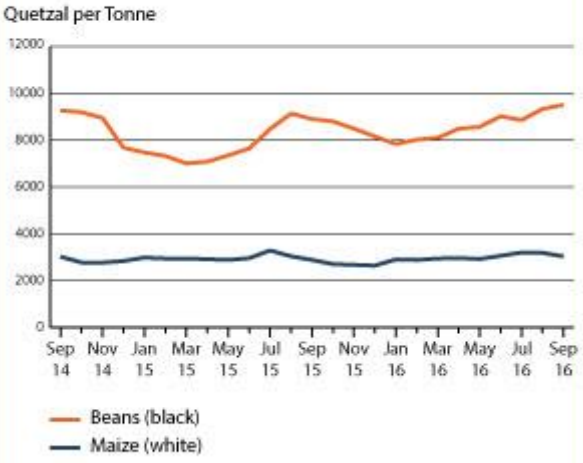
Total cereal imports



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

Guatemala

Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City



Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIEWS Country Brief
Guatemala

Reference Date: 22-June-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Cereal production in 2016 anticipated to recover from last year's drought-reduced level**
- **Cereal imports forecast to decline during 2016/17 marketing year, but remain above average**
- **Prices of maize and beans stable in May**

Cereal production in 2016 anticipated to recover from last year's drought-reduced level

Planting of the main 2016 "de primera" season, mostly maize and rice, is underway, although somewhat later than normal. With rainfall levels below average in May, most likely still an impact of the recent strong El Niño event, which is now dissipating, the Government encouraged farmers to delay plantings until the beginning of June. Generally improved rainfall in the first dekad of June favoured planting activity. Preliminary information points to a normal level of sowings should favourable conditions continue.

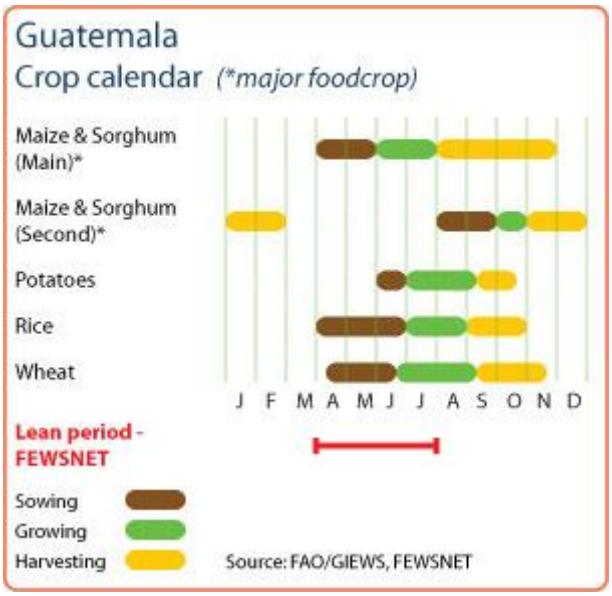
Official forecasts, assuming a return to generally normal weather conditions throughout the growing season, point to a strong recovery in cereal production in 2016 compared to last year's drought-reduced level, resting entirely on an expected increase in maize production. Total cereal production in 2016 is forecast to reach close to 1.8 million tonnes.

Cereal imports forecast to decline in 2016/17 marketing year

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decline sharply from last year's record level, reflecting the positive outlook for 2016 cereal production. The bulk of the decline stems from lower maize imports for the 2016/17 marketing year (September/August). Total cereal imports in 2016 are forecast at 1.6 million tonnes, an almost 8 percent reduction from last year. However, at this level, imports remain high and well above the country's five-year average, reflecting the strong demand from the feed sector.

Prices of maize and beans stable in May

Wholesale white maize prices remained relatively unchanged and moderately above their levels in May last year reflecting seasonal trends. A continued flow of imports and good prospects for the main "de primera" season have prevented strong price increases.



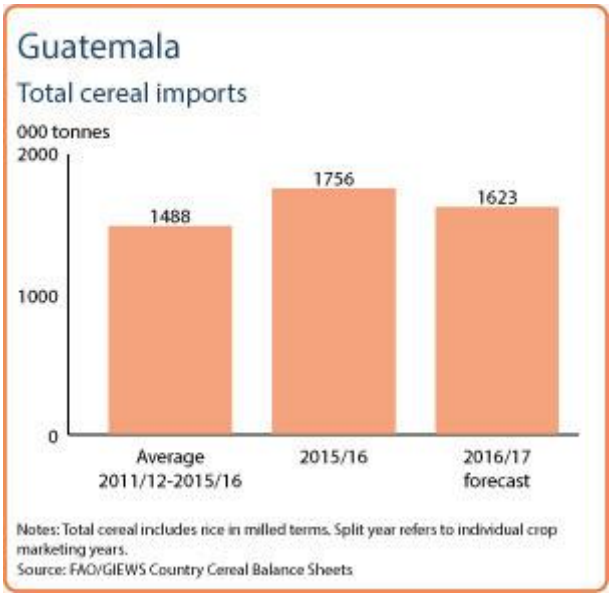
Guatemala

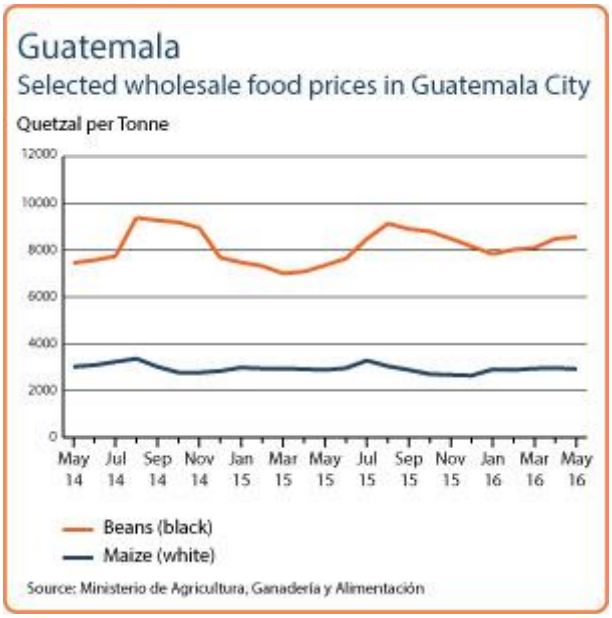
Cereal production

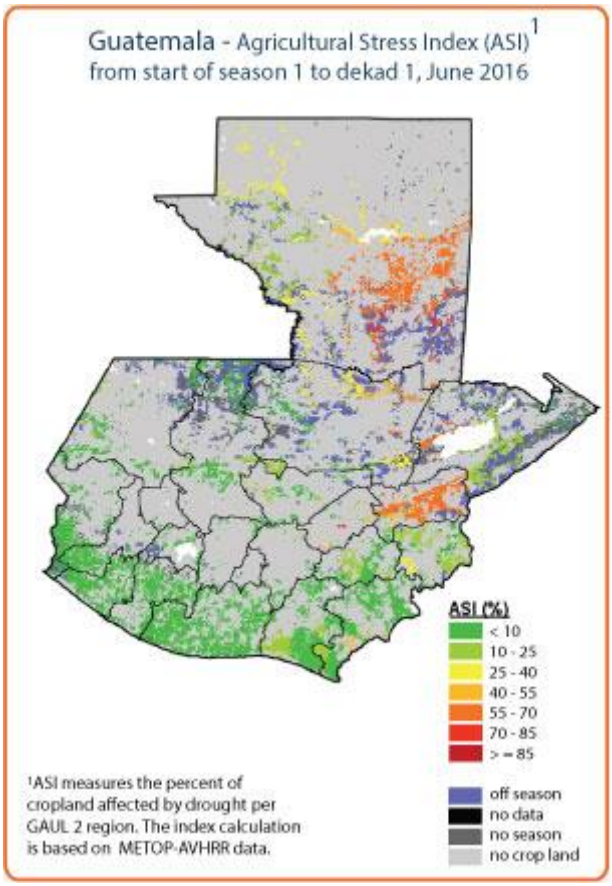
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 674	1 472	1 700	15
Sorghum	43	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	32	30	30	0
Others	3	3	3	0
Total	1 751	1 547	1 775	15

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

Prices of black beans remained unchanged in May, but were 16 percent up on a year earlier. Seasonal trends were strengthened as the flow of imports into the market, primarily from Mexico, have been less than last year and carryover stocks from 2015 have been lower than anticipated.






Guatemala - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)[1]
from start of season 1 to dekad 1, June 2016
ASI (%)
< 10
10 - 25
25 - 40
40 - 55
55 - 70
70 - 85
> = 85
off season
no data
no season
no crop land
[1]ASI measures the percent of cropland affected by drought per GAUL 2 region. The index calculation is based on METOP-AVHRR data.

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 30-December-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Cereal production in 2015 forecast below last year's high level**
- **Cereal imports forecast to increase during 2015/16 marketing year**
- **Prices of maize and beans declined in November**

Cereal production in 2015 forecast below last year's high level

Cereal production in 2015 is forecast at almost 1.8 million tonnes, 5 percent lower than last year's record level and about average. Prolonged and severe dry weather associated with the prevailing strong El Niño event, during the "de primera" season (May/September) reduced yields in the dry corridor of the country, which represents some 4 percent of total production. However, in the major producing northern department of Peten, where planting of the second season maize crop recently concluded, a recovery in rains since November allowed sowings to proceed almost as normal. Production of rice, harvested in September and October is estimated to have recovered from 2014's reduced level mainly due to increased yields, as the availability of adequate water reserves for irrigation permitted a normal development of the crop. The current cereal production forecast might be revised upwards pending the outcome of the second season maize harvest to begin in February.

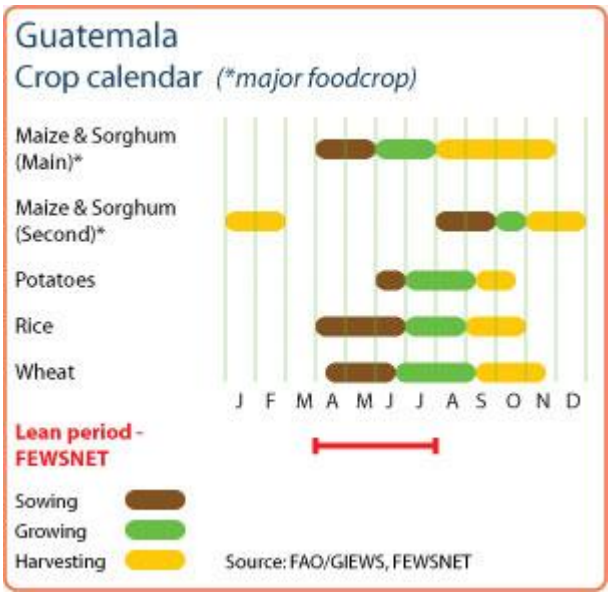
Cereal imports forecast to increase during 2015/16 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2015/16 marketing year are forecast to increase from the previous year by almost 5 percent. This mainly reflects the projected growth in maize imports, expected to reach 900 000 tonnes, to satisfy the sustained demand from the animal feed industry and to compensate for the drought-reduced first season harvest. By contrast, purchases of wheat, the country's second most important cereal import, are anticipated to remain virtually unchanged from last year's level at 585 000 tonnes.

Prices of maize and beans declined in November

Wholesale prices of white maize continued to generally decrease in November and were lower than at the same time last year reflecting adequate availabilities. Improved prospects for the second season maize crop, to be harvested from February, added to the downward pressure.

Black bean prices, the variety mostly produced and consumed, declined in November reflecting this year's good harvest, but were only slightly below their year-earlier values.

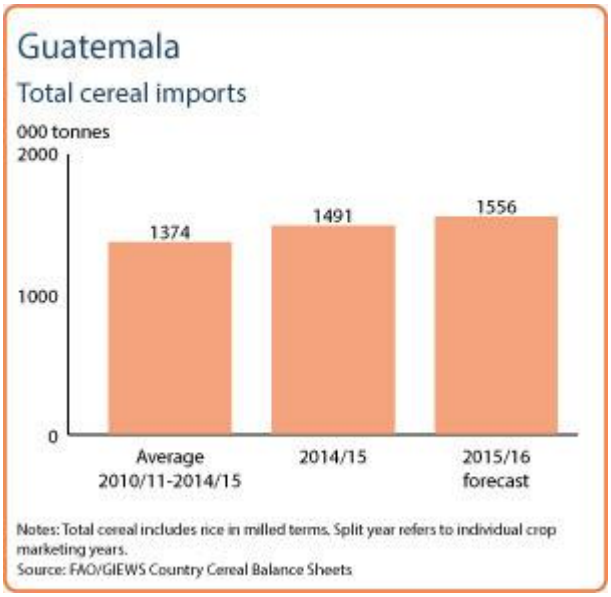


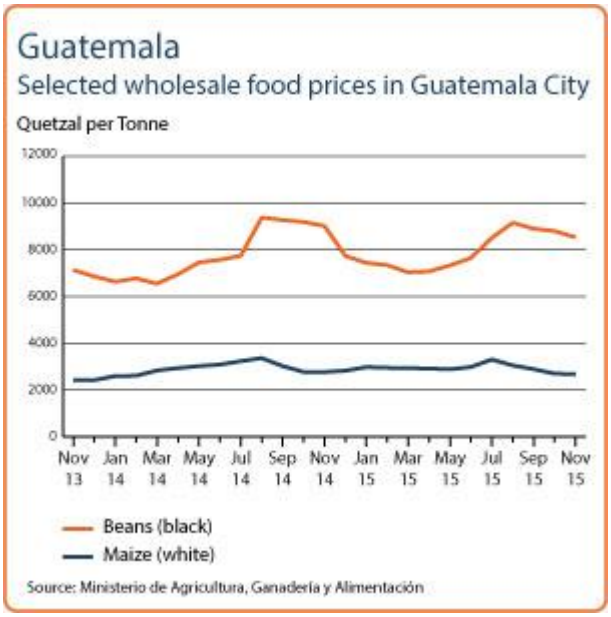
Guatemala

Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 709	1 789	1 700	-5
Sorghum	44	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	31	29	32	10
Others	3	3	3	0
Total	1 786	1 863	1 777	-5

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




Guatemala
Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City
Quetzal per Tonne
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
Nov 13
Jan 14
Mar 14
May 14
Jul 14
Sep 14
Nov 14
Jan 15
Mar 15
May 15
Jul 15
Sep 15
Nov 15
Beans (black)
Maize (white)
Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 30-December-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Cereal production in 2015 forecast below last year's high level**
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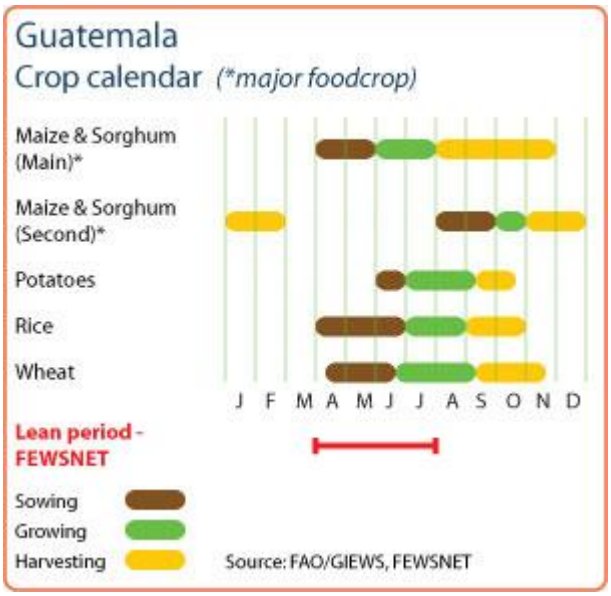

Guatemala

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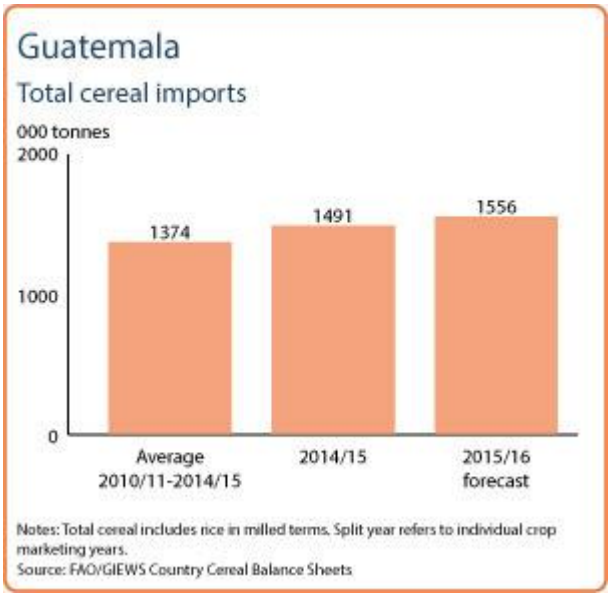

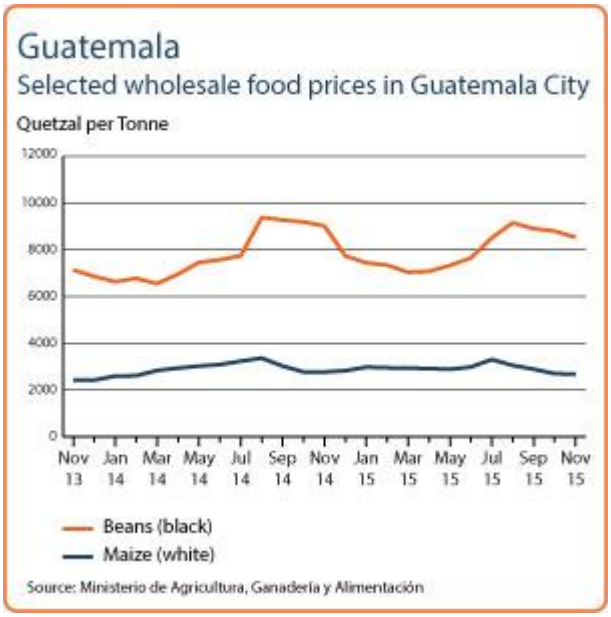
Guatemala
Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City
Quetzal per Tonne
12000
10000
8000
6000
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0
Nov 13
Jan 14
Mar 14
May 14
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Nov 14
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Mar 15
May 15
Jul 15
Sep 15
Nov 15
Beans (black)
Maize (white)
Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 16-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Planting prospects uncertain due to El Niño conditions**
- **Estimates for 2014 cereal production point to slight increase in output**
- **Cereal imports to firm up in 2014/15**
- **Prices of maize and beans decline in March**

Planting prospects uncertain due to El Niño conditions

Planting of the 2015 main season cereal and beans crops is scheduled to start from late May. During March through early April 2015, the threshold conditions for a weak El Niño (ENSO) event had been reached. The consensus of ENSO prediction models indicate that these conditions, which are associated with dry weather and high temperatures in the Central American region, could continue and strengthen toward mid-2015.

Remote sensing data for Guatemala indicate lower-than-average rainfall levels during the first dekad of April, particularly in Alta Verapaz the second most important agricultural region, which could result in lower soil moisture for the upcoming planting season in late May, delaying or reducing sowings.

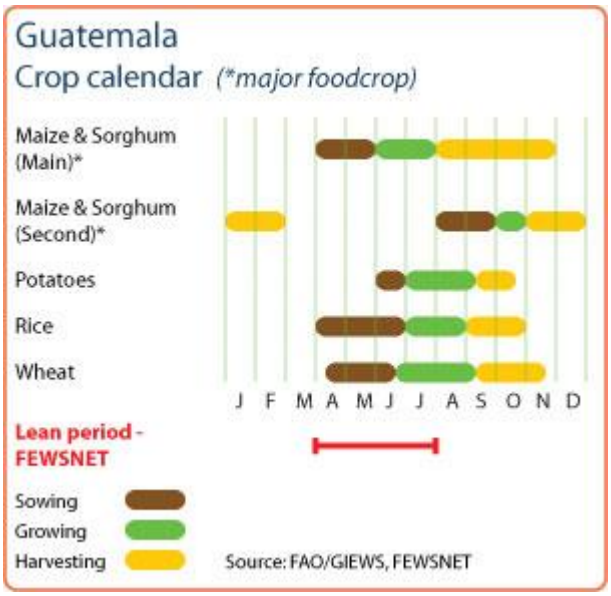
Estimates for 2014 cereal production indicate slight increase in output

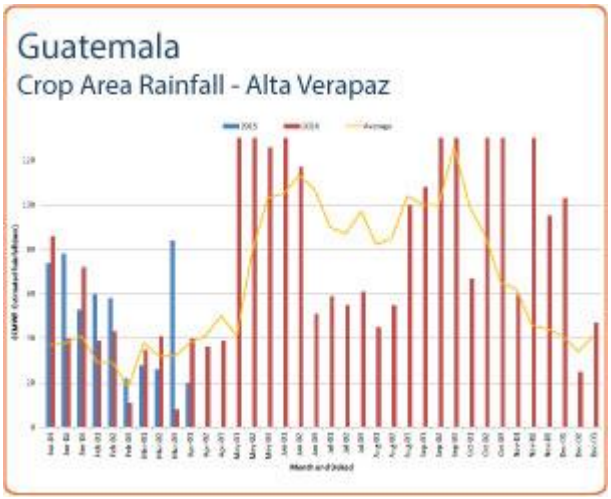
Cereal production for 2014 has been preliminarily estimated at 1.9 million tonnes for 2014, or 3 percent above last year's high level. Drought conditions during the main first season (May/September) severely reduced yields or caused total crop losses in the *Dry Corridor,* located in the Departments of El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jutiapa and Baja Verapaz, preventing production gains despite increased plantings. However, optimal weather conditions in the northern region of Petén during the third maize season (December/March) compensated for these earlier losses at a national level, although production was sharply reduced at local level.

Final estimates of the population affected by the extended drought period during the *de primera* season stand at 268 000 families. Crop losses among the affected population were officially estimated to have reached 86 000 tonnes for maize and 30 000 tonnes for beans.

Cereal imports to firm up in 2014/15

Cereal imports for the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to increase from the previous year by almost 6 percent and reach a record level. This mainly reflects the projected growth in maize imports, expected at 830 000 tonnes, to satisfy the sustained demand from the animal feed industry and to compensate for the drought-reduced 2014 output. By contrast, wheat imports are anticipated to decrease slightly from last year's level.





Guatemala

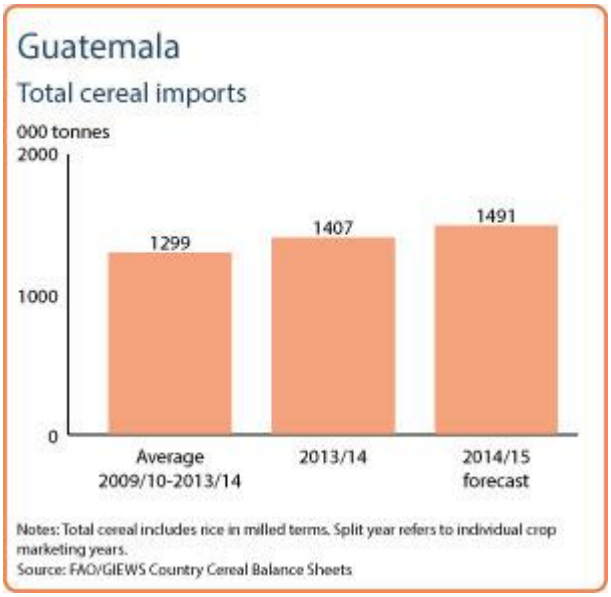
Cereal production

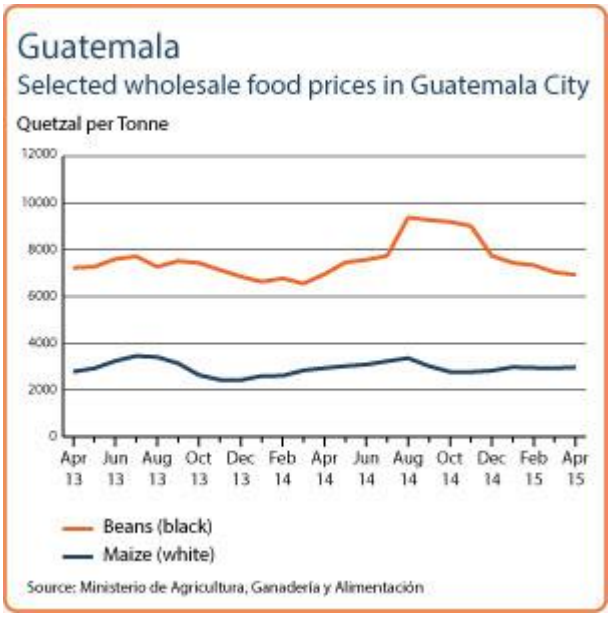
	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 715	1 820	1 873	3
Sorghum	45	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	29	32	29	-9
Others	3	3	3	0
Total	1 792	1 897	1 947	3

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

Prices of maize and beans declined in March

Maize prices in March eased somewhat with supplies from the ongoing harvest in the Peten region, and were close to their year-earlier levels. Substantial maize imports from Mexico have helped to keep prices relatively stable. Similarly, prices of black beans also declined with the recent harvest and remained relatively unchanged from a year earlier reflecting the ample supplies in the market.





GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 07-March-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Estimates for the 2013 maize and bean crops indicate an increase in production
- Cereal imports forecast to remain close to last year's level
- Prices of maize and beans remain low, despite a seasonal increase in January in maize prices

Estimates for the 2013 maize and bean crops indicate an increase in production

The third maize season "de apante" is well advanced particularly in the main producing department of Peten in the north. Similar to the first and second seasons, production is considered to be good due to favourable weather conditions during all of the cropping seasons. Preliminary official estimates indicate an aggregate 2013 maize production of 1.7 million tonnes, up 2 percent from last year's good harvest and record. The increase in production reflects both higher yields and plantings.

The harvest of the third season bean crop - "de apante" - has begun. Following adequate weather conditions during the season, the outlook is positive. The previous 2013/14 cropping seasons ("primera" and "postrera") benefited also from favourable weather. Preliminary official estimates put the aggregate 2013 bean crop at 225 000 tonnes, up 3 percent from last year's good harvest and almost 9 percent from the average. The increase in production is mainly due to yield gains as area planted remained fairly close to the previous year's level.

Cereal imports to firm up in 2013/14

Cereal imports for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are tentatively forecast to increase from the previous year by about 3 percent. This mainly reflects the projected 5 percent growth in maize imports, which are expected to reach 704 000 tonnes, to satisfy the sustained demand from the animal feed industry. Wheat imports are anticipated to remain around last year's levels.

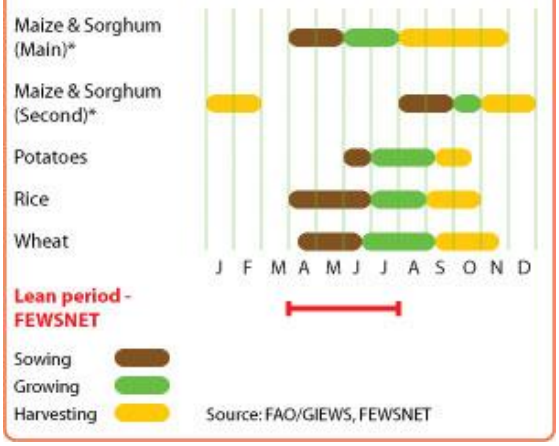
Prices of maize and beans remain low

Wholesale prices of white maize stabilized in February as the harvest from the third "de apante" season from the main producing department of Peten started to reach the market. Prices remained almost 8 percent below a year earlier, reflecting the ample supplies in the market.

Reflecting this year's good black bean harvest prices that had been in a declining in the past months strengthened by 3 percent in February. An anticipated reduction in the subregional bean output provided price support to local markets.

Guatemala

Crop calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Guatemala

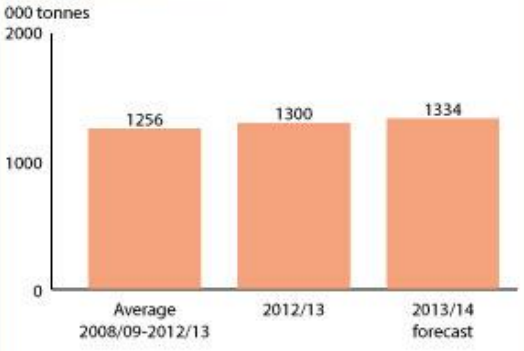
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 650	1 690	1 732	2
Sorghum	42	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	27	30	30	0
Others	9	9	9	0
Total	1 728	1 771	1 813	2

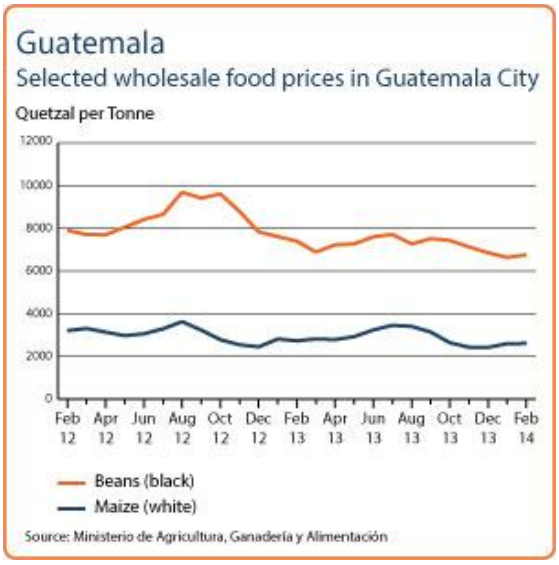
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Guatemala

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


Guatemala
Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City
Quetzal per Tonne
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
Feb 12
Apr 12
Jun 12
Aug 12
Oct 12
Dec 12
Feb 13
Apr 13
Jun 13
Aug 13
Oct 13
Dec 13
Feb 14
Beans (black)
Maize (white)
Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 24-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2013 maize production expected around last year's good level
- Cereal imports in 2013/14 marketing year forecast to increase from 2012/13
- Maize and bean prices continue to decline in October

2013 maize production expected around last year's good level

Planting of the secondary 2013 "de postrera" season maize was completed in September under good weather conditions. Prospects for the harvest, which will begin in November, remain favourable. Harvesting of the 2013 main season 'de primera' maize, which represents almost 6 percent of total production, gathered until September was estimated slightly up from last year's level reflecting optimal weather conditions that benefited crops in the main producing areas of Peten, Alta Verapaz and Jutiapa. Overall, maize production for 2013 is forecast at 1.7 million tonnes, marginally up from last year and its five-year average level.

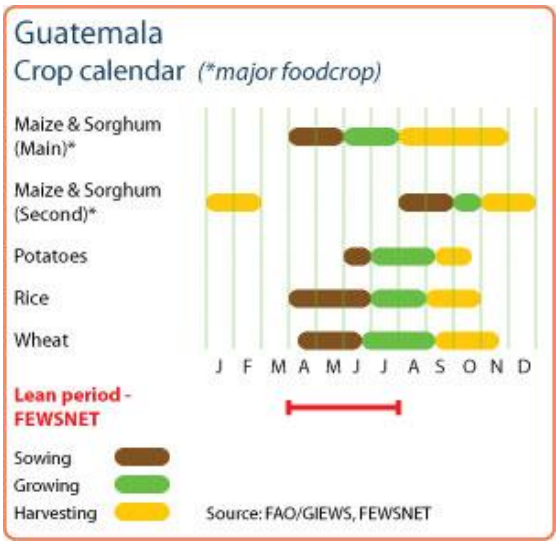
Cereal imports forecast to increase in the 2013/14 marketing year

Cereal imports for the 2013/14 marketing year (July/June) are tentatively forecast to increase from the previous year by about 3 percent. This mainly reflects the projected growth in maize imports which are expected to reach 714 000 tonnes, 6 percent above the previous year, mainly to satisfy the sustained demand from the animal feed industry. Wheat imports are anticipated to remain firm at last year's levels.

Maize and bean prices continue to decline in October

Wholesale prices of maize further declined in October and were about 11 percent below their levels in the previous month, reflecting high stocks on the market from the recently harvested 2013 main, but relatively unchanged from October 2012.

Black bean prices also showed a declining trend in October with the arrival into markets of the new harvest and were about 23 percent below their levels in October 2012 following successive bumper harvests in 2012 and 2013.

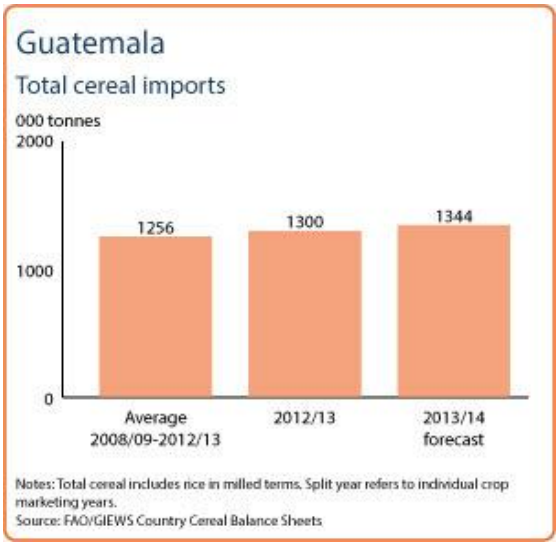


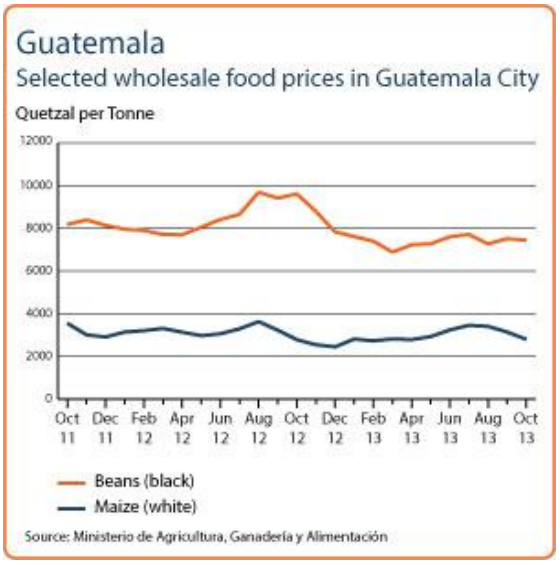
Guatemala

Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 650	1 690	1 700	1
Sorghum	42	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	27	30	30	0
Others	9	9	9	0
Total	1 728	1 771	1 781	1

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




Guatemala
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Quetzal per Tonne
12000
10000
8000
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0
Oct 11
Dec 11
Feb 12
Apr 12
Jun 12
Aug 12
Oct 12
Dec 12
Feb 13
Apr 13
Jun 13
Aug 13
Oct 13
Beans (black)
Maize (white)
Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 31-May-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2013 main cereal season started under favourable rainfall conditions
- Coffee leaf rust affects farmers' incomes
- Cereal imports to increase slightly in 2012/13 (July/June)
- Maize prices seasonally increasing

Favourable rainfall conditions for the 2013 main cereal season

Sowing of the 2013 main maize crop season has been completed under favourable rainfall conditions. Assuming normal weather during the remaining of the season and average yields, early forecasts point to a 2013 aggregate maize production of 1.7 million tonnes of maize, similar to the level reached in 2012. However, current forecasts may not materialize as a result of the coffee leaf rust crisis, which has reduced farmers' incomes and their capacity to purchase inputs for the new season, which may have caused reductions in the area planted.

Official estimates put the 2012 aggregate cereal production (maize and other secondary cereals) at close to 1.8 million tonnes, slightly above the previous year's level. The increase mainly reflects higher maize plantings.

Coffee leaf rust affects farmers' incomes

During the 2012/13 (August/April) coffee season, approximately 70 percent of the total coffee production area—mainly in the Guatemala, Santa Rosa, San Marcos and Solola departments—were severely affected by coffee leaf rust. Official estimates indicate a 10 percent decrease in harvest, placing it at 161 000 tonnes. Forecasts for the 2013/14 season point to even greater losses as a result of the number of plantations which will need to be eliminated in order to control the spread of the leaf rust.

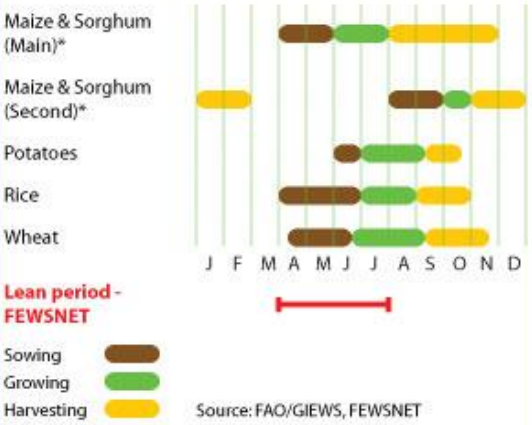
The coffee sector represents one of the major sources of employment in rural areas and of income for small farmers. Official forecasts project a loss of up to 15 percent in employment. In order to reduce the impact of reduced incomes on food security, the Government will launch in July temporary community based employment programmes. At the same time, the Ministry of Agriculture is distributing fungicides and providing training on crop management practices so that farmers can better protect the 2013-14 production.

Cereal imports increase slightly

Based on official estimates until March 2013, imports of wheat, which is only marginally produced in the country, are forecast at 540 000 tonnes in 2012/13 marketing year (July/June), some 5 percent up on the previous year. Maize imports are

Guatemala

Crop calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET

Guatemala

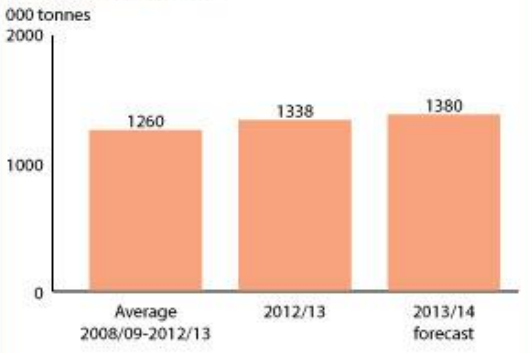
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1,650	1,690	1,700	1
Sorghum	42	42	42	0
Rice (paddy)	27	30	30	0
Others	9	9	9	0
Total	1,728	1,771	1,781	1

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

Guatemala

Total cereal imports

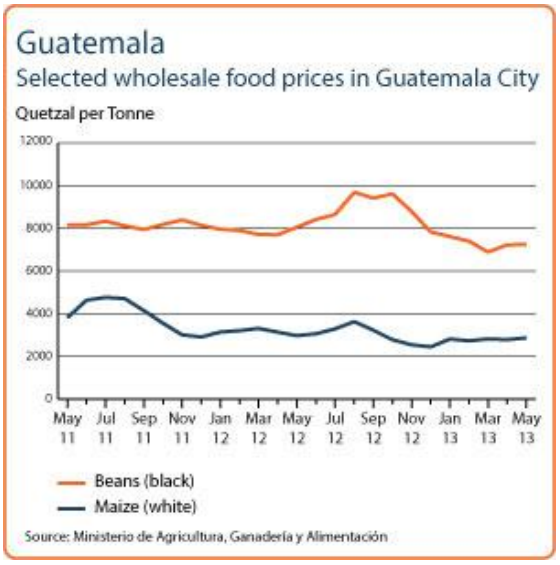


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

also forecast to increase, reflecting the growing demand from the feed industry.

Maize prices seasonally increasing

In May, average wholesale prices for white maize seasonally increased by almost 7 percent from the previous month. However, they remained lower than their levels of a year earlier, following the good production of 2012. It is expected that the upward pressure on white maize prices will continue until the next harvest from August. Black beans and rice prices either remained stable or marginally decreased in the past few months.



GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 06-July-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable
- Bean prices seasonally increasing

Early prospects for the 2012 main season cereal crops are favourable

Planting of the 2012 main "de primera" season cereal crops (mainly maize), for which harvesting will begin in August, was completed in May. In June, rains were regular and benefited crop development in the main producing areas of the country. In northern Guatemala, heavy rains since mid-May have increased river levels and led to flooding concerns in the Petén, Alta Verapaz, and Izabal departments. The National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) is coordinating assistance to the affected population. However, weather forecasts indicate that rainfall in July may be scarce during the "*canícula*" period (July 10-20), and that may affect the "de primera" season crops. The main season cereal output will thus depend on weather conditions in the coming weeks. Assuming normal weather conditions, early forecast point to a 2012 maize aggregate production ("de primera", "de postrera" and "de apante" crops) of 1 690 000 tonnes, 6 percent above the average of the last five years and record.

Cereal import requirements in 2012/13 (July/June) to remain close to average

Cereal import requirement for 2012/13 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 1.2 million tonnes, close to the average of the past five years. Despite the good production levels in the past few years, the relatively high level of imports reflects the sustained demand for yellow maize by the agro-industrial sector.

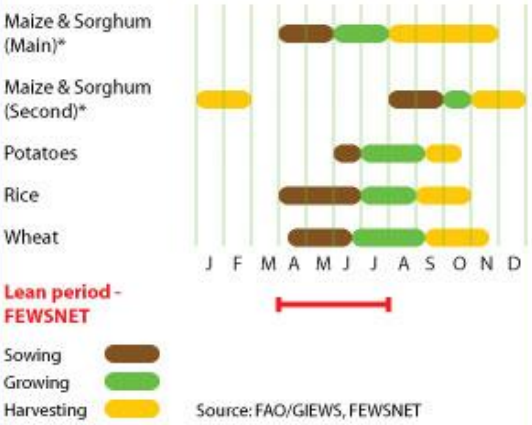
Bean prices seasonally increasing

Black bean prices in July 2012 seasonally increased for the second consecutive month and were 9 percent higher than in April 2012. Despite the recent increase, prices in June remained only 3 percent higher than their levels at the same time a year ago.

Maize prices increased slightly in June but were 34 percent below their levels in June 2011. Prices are at low levels as a result of the sharp decrease in the second half of 2011 following the 2011 "de primera" season harvest and imports from Mexico.

Guatemala

Crop calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET

Guatemala

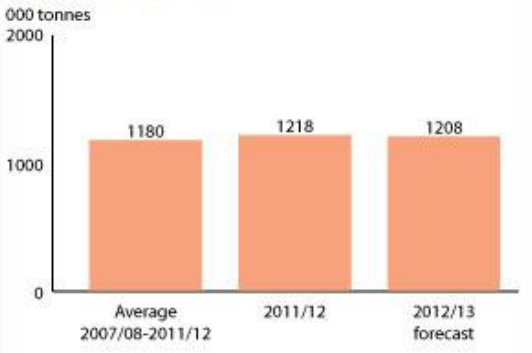
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 601	1 670	1 690	1
Sorghum	42	40	42	5
Rice (paddy)	27	26	26	0
Others	9	9	9	0
Total	1 679	1 745	1 767	1

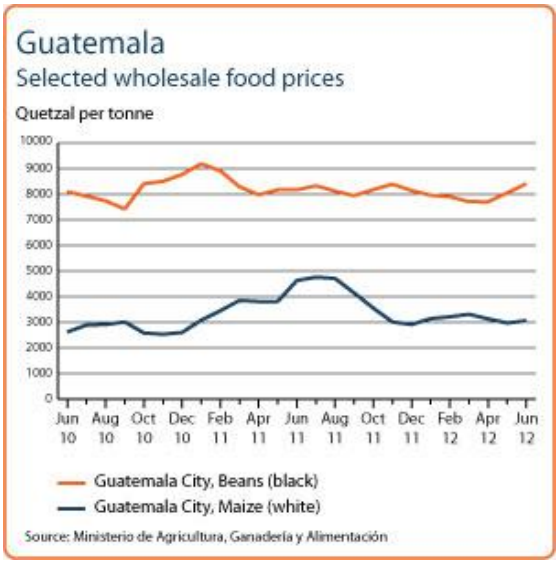
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Guatemala

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


Guatemala
Selected wholesale food prices
Quetzal per tonne
10000
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Jun 10
Aug 10
Oct 10
Dec 10
Feb 11
Apr 11
Jun 11
Aug 11
Oct 11
Dec 11
Feb 12
Apr 12
Jun 12
Guatemala City, Beans (black)
Guatemala City, Maize (white)
Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 28-February-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2011 maize production satisfactory
- Maize and bean prices down

Above average maize production in 2011 despite October flooding

Harvesting activities of the 2011 second "de postrera" season — the country's main bean crop — has just ended. The season was hampered by torrential rainfall associated with tropical depression 12-E in mid-October. The resulting floods and landslides caused localized crop losses, particularly in southern coastal areas, in the south of Petén province and parts of the Altiplano. Production losses are provisionally estimated at 37 000 tonnes of maize, and a further 1 500 tonnes of beans — a crop that is highly sensitive to excess water and high humidity. Crop damage is not significant nationally, however, and annual maize production (first and second seasons) is set to be above the average of the last five years — thanks to generally adequate rainfall and higher yields obtained in the main "de primera" season, for which harvesting began in August.

Cereal import requirements to decline in 2011/12 (July/June)

Cereal import requirement for 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 1.2 million tonnes or 5 percent below last year's level as a result of the higher output estimated in 2011.

Bean prices fall in January, while maize prices slightly increase

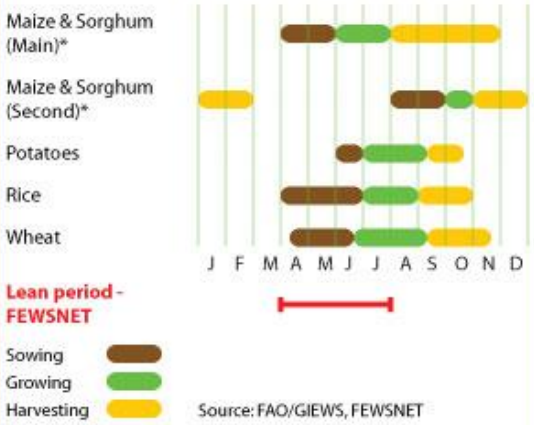
Maize and bean prices in Guatemala City retreated from their July 2011 peaks as the 2011 "de primera" harvest came in from August onwards, before stabilizing at relatively low levels in January 2012.

Maize prices hit record levels in July 2011, and fell from August onwards as a result of the 2011 "de primera" season harvest, which is the main maize crop. However, in January 2012 they were 8 percent above their December level owing to a seasonal year-end surge in demand.

Black bean prices in January 2012 were 2 percent down compared to December 2011 and about 13 percent lower than a year earlier, as a result of the harvest in the eastern and northern regions and parts of the south, and imports from Mexico and Nicaragua.

Guatemala

Crop calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET

Guatemala

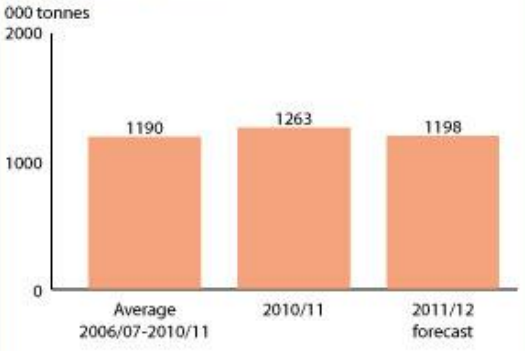
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 503	1 620	1 650	2
Sorghum	44	39	40	3
Rice (paddy)	29	28	29	4
Others	9	9	9	0
Total	1 585	1 696	1 728	2

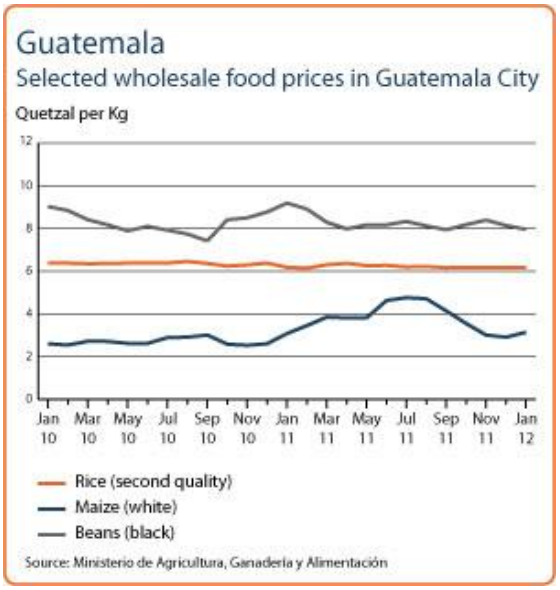
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Guatemala

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


Guatemala
Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City
Quetzal per Kg
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Jan 10
Mar 10
May 10
Jul 10
Sep 10
Nov 10
Jan 11
Mar 11
May 11
Jul 11
Sep 11
Nov 11
Jan 12
Rice (second quality)
Maize (white)
Beans (black)
Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 11-November-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Torrential rains in October caused loss of human lives and damages to infrastructure and crops
- Maize production in 2011 is forecast to be satisfactory
- Maize prices fall

2011 maize production set to be above average, despite the October flooding

Harvesting activities of the 2011 second "postrera" season — the country's main bean crop — is currently ongoing. The season was hampered by torrential rains caused by tropical depression 12-E in mid-October. The resultant flooding and mudslides caused 39 deaths, serious damages to the road network and other infrastructures, and localized crop losses, particularly in southern coastal areas, in the south of Petén province and parts of the altiplano. Production losses are provisionally estimated at 37 000 tonnes of maize, and a further 1 500 tonnes of beans — a crop that is highly sensitive to excess water and high humidity. Crop damage is not significant nationally, however, and annual maize production (first and second seasons) is expected to be satisfactory, and above the average of the last five years — as a result of generally adequate rainfall and higher yields obtained in the main "de primera" season.

Maize prices drop but bean prices rise slightly

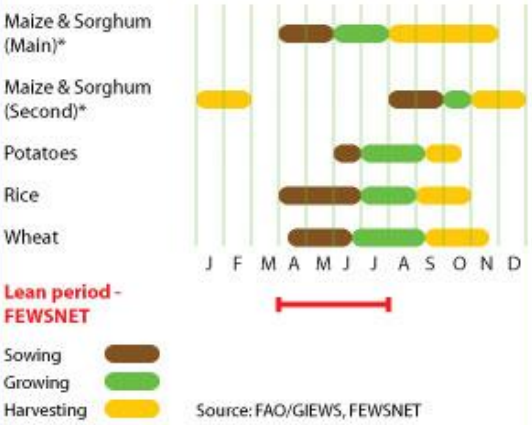
Maize prices in October were 14 percent below their September levels. Despite a sharp hike in mid-October, when marketing activities were interrupted by the torrential rainfall, market supply was subsequently normalized and prices fell back quickly. This reflected the good level of market supply following the "de primera" crop, which had been harvested before the tropical depression swept through the country. The price of maize in October 2011 was 39 percent above its level a year earlier.

Bean prices rose slightly in October, compared to their September level, and were about the same as in October 2010.

In October general inflation was negative (-0.04 percent), for the second consecutive month.

Guatemala

Crop calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET

Guatemala

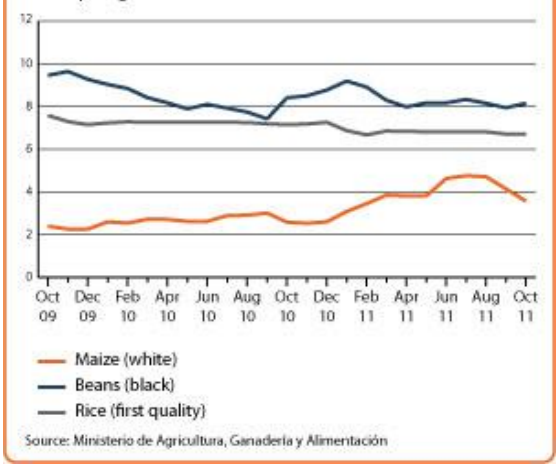
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 503	1 620	1 650	2
Sorghum	44	39	40	3
Rice (paddy)	29	28	29	4
Others	9	9	9	0
Total	1 585	1 696	1 728	2

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

Guatemala

Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City



Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 30-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains benefited sowing of 2011 main season crops after the weakening of La Niña
- 2010 maize production was satisfactory
- Maize prices high

Favourable rains benefited sowing of 2011 main season crops

Sowing of the main cereal crops of 2011 has begun. After the weakening of the La Niña phenomenon, from February to April, a return to normal conditions is forecast for the next few months. Seasonal rainfall in May, which in several regions began in April, maintained sufficient humidity conditions in the soil and favoured sowing operations. However, the crops and yield for this season could be affected by the increased price of fertilizers that on average have risen by 26 percent since last year. The government is helping producers by distributing fertilizers across the country, benefiting 650 000 families.

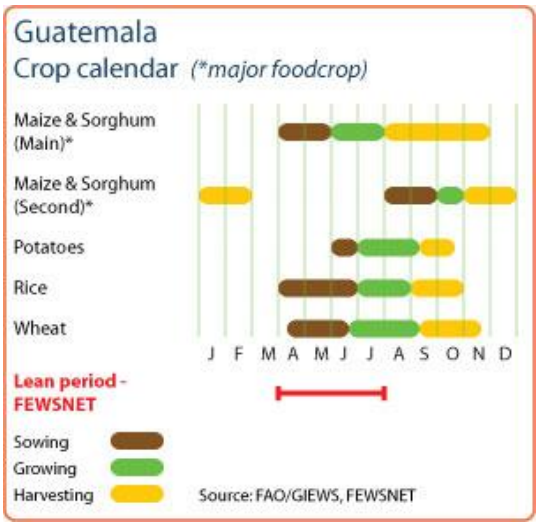
2010 maize production was satisfactory but bean production decreased

Maize production in 2010 remained at the same favourable level as last year. The loss of white maize crops due to excessive rainfall, after the passage of tropical storms, was compensated by an increase in the sown area. However, substantial losses of bean crops, which are more sensitive to excessive humidity, were recorded.

Maize prices high

Prices of maize, the main food product, remained stable over the last two months after falling from the record levels reached in March 2011. However, prices in May were still 45 percent above the level of last year. High prices of maize reflect increased prices in the international markets as the country imports substantial amounts of yellow maize for the feed industry.

In May, prices of beans, another basic product of the national diet, were close to the levels of last year after the decrease in recent months due to the harvest in Petén.

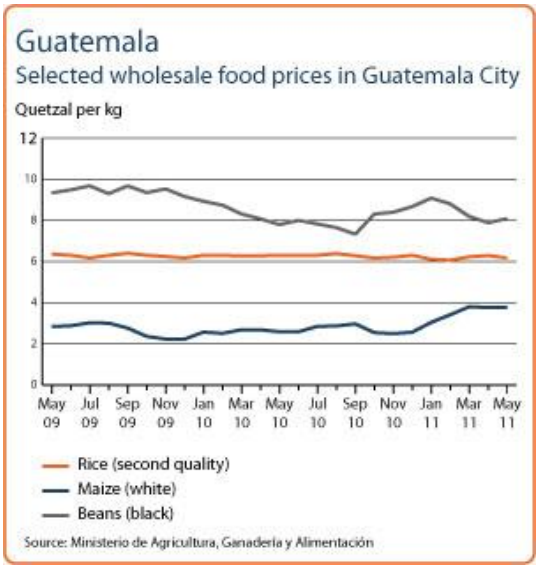


Guatemala

Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1 190	1 250	1 203	-4
Sorghum	49	50	49	-2
Rice (paddy)	30	28	30	7
Others	49	50	49	-2
Total	1 278	1 337	1 291	-3

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



GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 9-March-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereals and beans of the 2010 second ("postrera") season have been harvested. Bean production was affected by excessive rainfall
- The damage to maize and bean crops caused by excessive rainfall in 2010 led to increased prices in local markets
- It is likely that the sowing of crops in the first season of 2011, which will take place in April/May, will continue to be affected by the La Niña phenomenon

La Niña will continue to affect the sowing of the 2011 first season crops

The main crops of the second season of 2010 have been harvested and minimal agricultural activities take place in March. It is predicted that the sowing of crops in the first season of 2011, which will begin in April/May, will continue to be affected by the La Niña phenomenon. Although the phenomenon has started to ease off, above average and irregular rainfall is forecast for the months in which the first season's crops are sown.

Maize production was satisfactory in 2010 but there were substantial losses of bean crops

In general, maize production benefited from excessive rainfall during the 2010 first and second season. A slight increase is estimated compared to average production over the last five years. However, significant losses were recorded for beans crop, which in turn affected local market prices.

Import of cereals remains at around the same level as last year

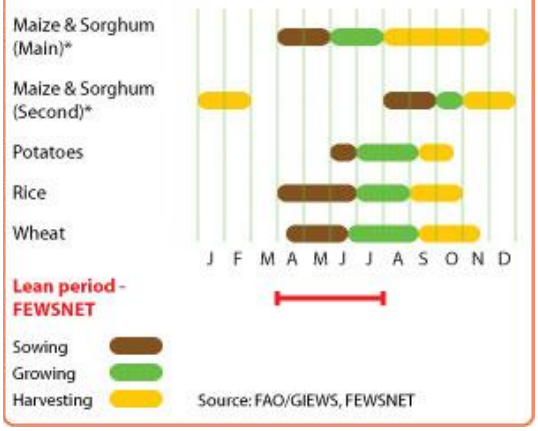
It is estimated that almost 1.5 million tonnes of cereals will be imported in the 2010/11 marketing year (August/July) which is close to the level of 2009/10, but 7 percent higher than the average of the last five years.

Increase in prices of white maize and decrease in prices of black beans

Prices of white maize in March 2011 were 50 percent higher compared with the levels in November 2010, before the upward trend began. However, prices of black beans, which rose significantly from October 2010 to January 2011, have fallen in the last two months and in March were at a similar level to price one year earlier. The price of rice remains relatively stable in local markets.

Guatemala

Crop calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Source: FAO/GIEWS, FEWSNET

Guatemala

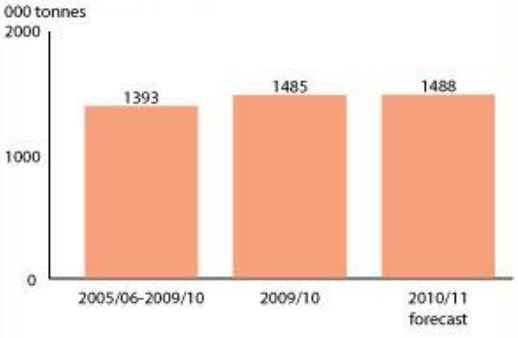
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1156	1250	1250	0
Sorghum	49	50	50	0
Rice (paddy)	32	31	28	-10
Others	10	10	9	-10
Total	1246	1341	1337	0

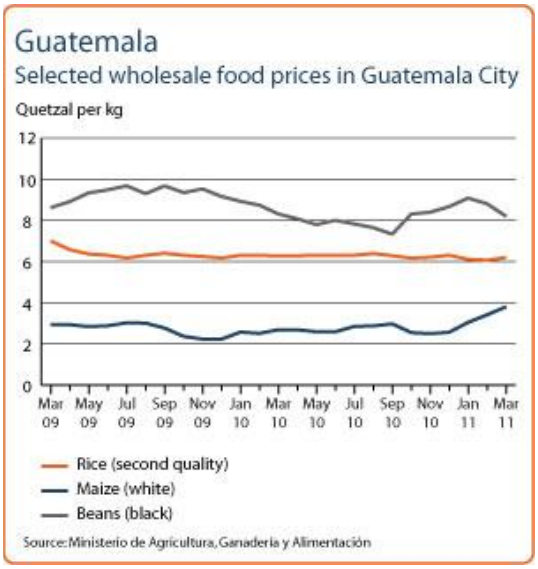
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Guatemala

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


Guatemala
Selected wholesale food prices in Guatemala City
Quetzal per kg
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Mar 09
May 09
Jul 09
Sep 09
Nov 09
Jan 10
Mar 10
May 10
Jul 10
Sep 10
Nov 10
Jan 11
Mar 11
Rice (second quality)
Maize (white)
Beans (black)
Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 15-November-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The dry weather since the end of September is affecting 2010 second season beans and cereals production
- It is estimated that 335 000 people are suffering from food insecurity as a result of adverse natural events
- Bean prices have been rising in recent months

Uncertain outlook for 2010 “de postrera” beans and cereals

Harvesting of the 2010 “de postrera” second season crops will is about to start, but the outlook is uncertain. The “de postrera” crop season is the principal one for bean production, which has declined as a result of losses in the “de primera” season.

Sowing began in August with generally adequate rainfall, but heavy rains in September followed by water deficits in October badly affected the crops, and yields are expected to be lower. The zones most seriously affected by the dry weather are in the Departments of Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Petén, Zacapa, Chiquimula and Jutiapa.

2010 first season nationwide maize harvest should be satisfactory but bean production is down

Severe local crop losses were caused by the heavy rainstorms during the “de primera” season from April to August as a result of a number of tropical storms compounded by ash from the Pacaya volcanic eruption. At the national level, losses of maize, the main “de primera” season crop, were not so serious and output should be satisfactory. Conversely, the production of beans, which is very sensitive to waterlogging, declined sharply.

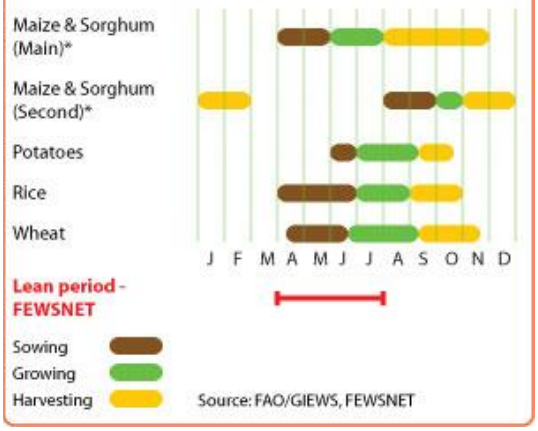
355 000 people are estimated to be in a state of food insecurity

The food security of many households is deteriorating rapidly as a result of the negative repercussions of a series of adverse natural events. Following the severe drought in 2009, the passage of the tropical storm Agatha and eruption of the Pacaya volcano in May 2010 caused serious localized losses of maize, beans, sugarcane and bananas, and damaged agricultural infrastructure. This was followed by the tropical storm Alex and the tropical E 11 depression in September which caused torrential rain and yet more flooding and crop losses.

It is estimated that a total of 355 000 people are living in a state of food insecurity (both moderate and serious) as a result of their crop losses, and are in need of food aid. WFP is distributing assistance to 215 000 such people. The beneficiaries include acutely malnourished children. To provide financial support, the government declared a state of emergency and organized an international donors’ conference in mid-October for the reconstruction of the rural areas affected by the adverse natural events. In addition to emergency assistance, the government is also continuing to implement social protection network programmes.

Guatemala

Crop calendar *(*major foodcrop)*



Guatemala

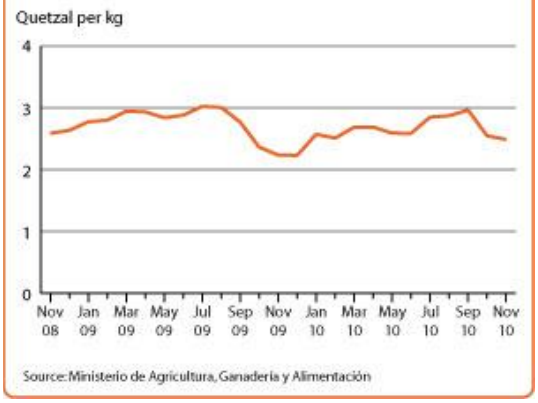
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1156	1250	1250	0
Sorghum	49	50	50	0
Rice (paddy)	32	31	28	-10
Others	10	10	9	-10
Total	1246	1341	1337	0

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

Guatemala

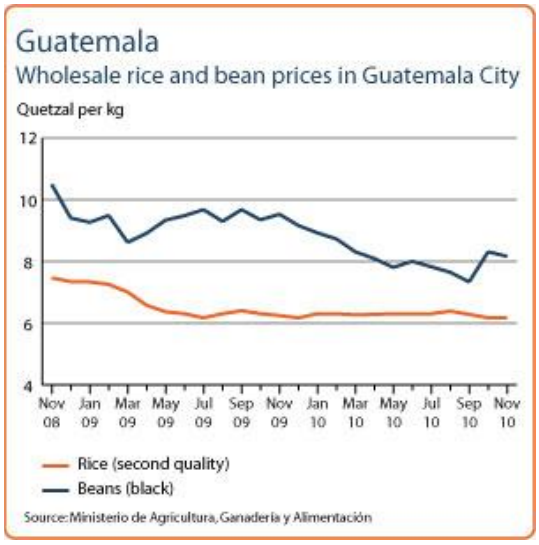
Wholesale maize price in Guatemala City



Staples prices are mixed

October and November maize prices fell as the “de primera” harvest gradually came onto the market. Wholesale prices fell by 16 percent between September and mid-November to GTQ 114/QQ.

Black Bean prices, conversely, rose between September and October by 13 percent, and in early November reached GTQ 375/QQ. The price increase has mainly been due to bean crop losses during the “de primera” season and uncertainties about the prospects for the “de postrera” season”.



GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 07-June-2010

- FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Storm Agatha brings heavy rains that caused damage to agriculture and infrastructures
- Planting of the 2010 main season crops is complete; rainfall damages reported
- Prices of maize are declining following the harvest from the main northern farming areas

The pacific storm Agatha causes severe damages

Agatha, the first tropical storm of the 2010 Pacific hurricane season (which runs from mid-May to November), brought heavy rainfall and damage in various departments, particularly those facing the western coast of the country. The departments most affected are Escuintla, Suchitepéquez, Retalhuleu, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán, Sololá, Chimaltenango and Guatemala. Local damages were also recorded in coffee plantations, especially in Chiquimula and Jalapa, already suffering from above-average rains in April. The coffee harvest, scheduled to start in October, is a major source of revenue for the area's population. Widespread damages to infrastructures and buildings are also reported.

In addition, the volcano eruption of the Pacaya covered the capital city and neighbouring farming areas with a thick layer of ash and stones and forced the evacuation of more than 150 000 people.

Planting of the 2010 main season crops is almost complete

Planting of the main maize and sorghum crops in the coastal and highland areas, is nearing completion. Recent reports indicate that this year, in an attempt to take advantage of the early onset of seasonal rains, farmers anticipated the planting of crops by few weeks. In parts of April and May some irregular rains and unseasonably high temperatures affected growing crops. This was followed by the recent torrential rains. Estimates of official losses are not yet available.

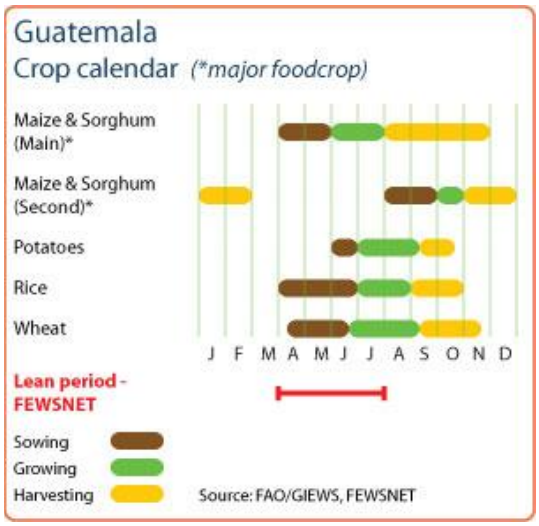
Food insecurity persist in the highlands

Food insecurity is a major cause of concern in the highlands where the population suffered significant crop losses in the previous year due to drought and has already depleted their food reserves. Poor households are also affected by rising food prices as the lean season (March-July) coincided with a reduction in options for employment opportunities.

Currently approximately 50 000 households are reported to be highly food insecure. The current situation is not expected to improve until the first harvest, in August-September.

Prices of maize show a slight decline in May

In the important market of Guatemala city, the price of maize that was on the increase since December 2009 has shown a slight drop in May 2010.This is mainly due to the harvest in the departments of the southern coastal producing areas and the northern fertile agricultural departments (including the department of Petén and Izabal) where planting took place

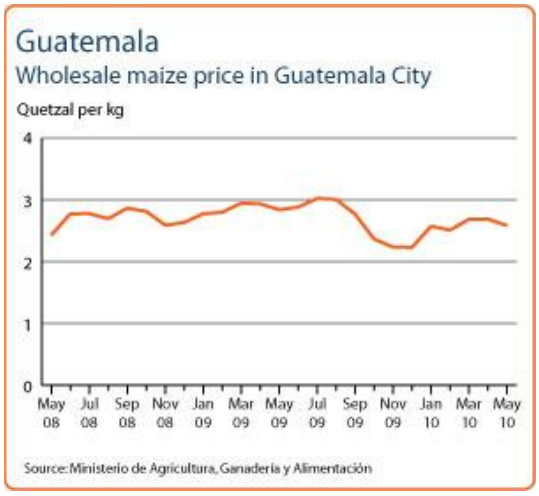


Guatemala

Cereal production

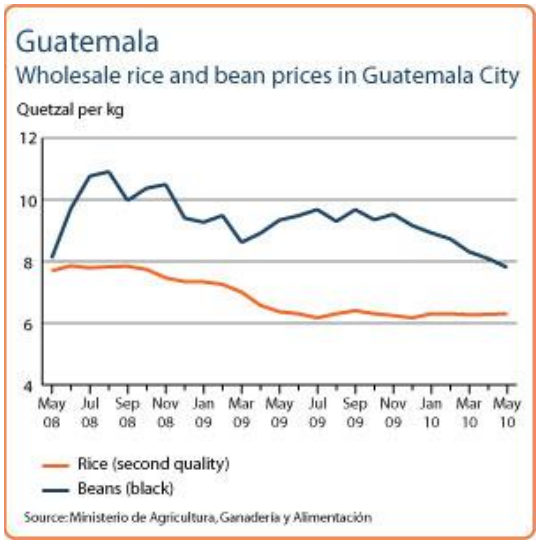
	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1081	970	1100	13
Sorghum	50	45	50	11
Rice (paddy)	34	34	34	0
Others	10	9	10	11
Total	1175	1058	1194	13

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



in November and December last year.

In May, the average price of black beans was below the level in 2008. Despite the lower harvest gathered during the second cropping season of 2009, markets are sufficiently supplied due to imports from Mexico. Quotations of rice, almost totally imported, have remained stable in the last year.



GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 16-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early depletion of food reserves in drought-affected areas
- 2009 maize production estimated about average by FAO/WFP Mission
- Prices of maize regain strength in recent months

The outlook for the 2010 cereal crops uncertain due to "El Niño" event

The sowing of basic grains (maize, sorghum and rice) for the 2010 *primera* season harvest is scheduled to begin in April in the western highlands, and will continue through to June in the humid tropical coastal zones. It is, however, expected that El Niño will continue to affect the climate at least until May, which could upset the onset of the rainy season.

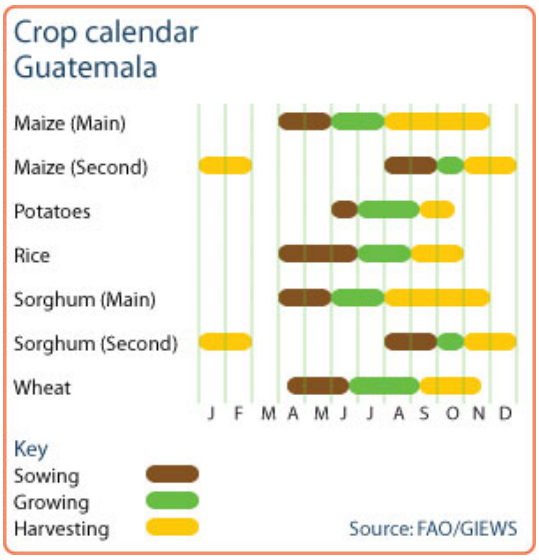
2009 maize production reduced in the "Dry Corridor" but satisfactory at national level

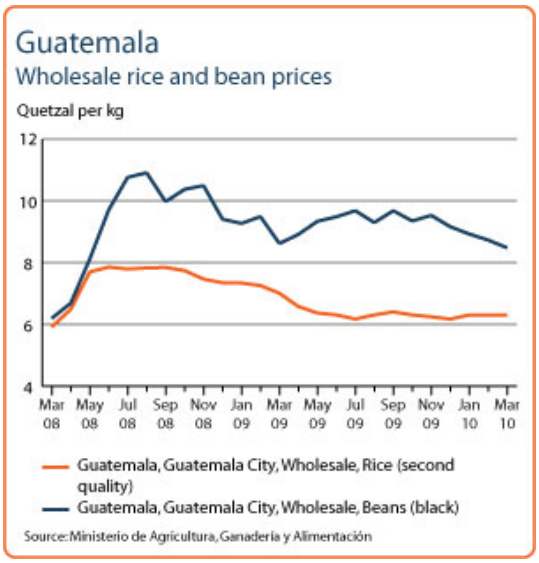
An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Evaluation Mission visited the country in November 2009 to assess the local situation in the wake of the drought conditions that had affected the primera and segunda basic grains production in certain areas. Substantial production losses were reported in the departments of El Progreso, Baja Verapaz, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Chiquimula, Sacapa in the Dry Corridor, and San Marcos, Quetzaltenango and Huehuetenango in the Highlands. It was estimated that about 145 000 households were affected in these departments and require emergency food assistance. However, adequate and well-distributed rainfall in major grain production areas in the North had boosted yields there, guaranteeing a good level of *primera* output at the national level. In view of the favourable prospects for the 2009 *segunda* season harvest, which is currently in progress in the North and will end in early April, the Mission tentatively estimated that the aggregate 2009 maize production would be 1.7 million tonnes, around 1.5 percent below average.

Cereal import requirements for the 2009/10 (July/June) commercial season are forecast to average 670 000 tonnes of maize (mainly yellow maize for the animal feed industry) and 510 000 tonnes of wheat.

Food reserves of vulnerable households depleted in drought affected areas

The food security of many households is rapidly deteriorating because of the early depletion of their food reserves. The period of food shortages has just begun particularly in the drought-affected departments in the East of the *Corredor Seco* and the western highlands, some one/two months earlier than normal. This is being compounded by the fact that the strong demand for farm labourers, to harvest coffee and cane sugar for example, is about to end, further reducing the capacity of the poorest households to buy food. A Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Appeal, was launched at the beginning of March for projects targeting the *Corredor Seco* and neighbouring departments of Izabal and Quiché. Proposed projects for agriculture mainly focus on income generating-activities for rural communities, provision of technical support to production of basic grains and reactivation of orchard production systems and livestock.





Price of food staple maize increased in January, while those of bean remain high

White maize wholesale prices slumped between August and December 2009, with the gradual arrival of the new supplies on the market. But as from January 2010, the prospects of a longer than usual period of food shortages once again pushed up the prices of white maize whose quotations reached in March 2010 GTQ 118.5 per Spanish quintal (more than USD300 per tonne), an increase of more than 15 per cent over the December 2009 prices.

Although prices of black beans have gradually declined from November 2008, quotations in the major market of Guatemala City (GTQ 8.48/kg) are still more than 30 percent higher than the level of two years ago.

There have been minimum price fluctuations for rice (second quality) since April 2009.

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 18-February-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early depletion of food reserves in drought-affected areas
- 2009 maize production estimated about average by FAO/WFP Mission
- Prices of maize regain strength in recent months

The outlook for the 2010 cereal crops uncertain due to "El Niño" event

The sowing of basic grains (maize, sorghum and rice) for the 2010 primera season harvest is scheduled to begin in April in the western highlands, and will continue through to June in the humid tropical coastal zones. It is, however, expected that El Niño will continue to affect the climate at least until May, which could upset the onset of the rainy season.

2009 maize production reduced in the "Dry Corridor" but satisfactory at national level

An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Evaluation Mission visited the country in November 2009 to assess the local situation in the wake of the drought conditions that had affected the primera and segunda basic grains production in certain areas. Substantial production losses were reported in the departments of El Progreso, Baja Verapaz, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Chiquimula, Sacapa in the Dry Corridor, and San Marcos, Quetzaltenango and Huehuetenango in the Highlands. It was estimated that about 145 000 households were affected in these departments and require emergency food assistance. However, adequate and well-distributed rainfall in major grain production areas in the North had boosted yields there, guaranteeing a good level of primera output at the national level. In view of the favourable prospects for the 2009 segunda season harvest, which is currently in progress in the North and will end in early April, the Mission tentatively estimated that the aggregate 2009 maize production would be 1.7 million tonnes, around 1.5 per cent below average.

Cereal import requirements for the 2009/10 (July/June) commercial season are forecast to average 670 000 tonnes of maize (mainly yellow maize for the animal feed industry) and 510 000 tonnes of wheat.

Food reserves of vulnerable households depleted in drought affected areas

The food security of many households is rapidly deteriorating because of the early depletion of their food reserves. The period of food shortages has just begun particularly in the drought-affected departments in the east of the Corredor Seco and the western highlands, some one/two months earlier than normal. This is being compounded by the fact that the strong demand for farm labourers, to harvest coffee and cane sugar for example, is about to end, further reducing the capacity of the poorest households to buy food.

Price of food staple maize increased in January, while those of bean remain high

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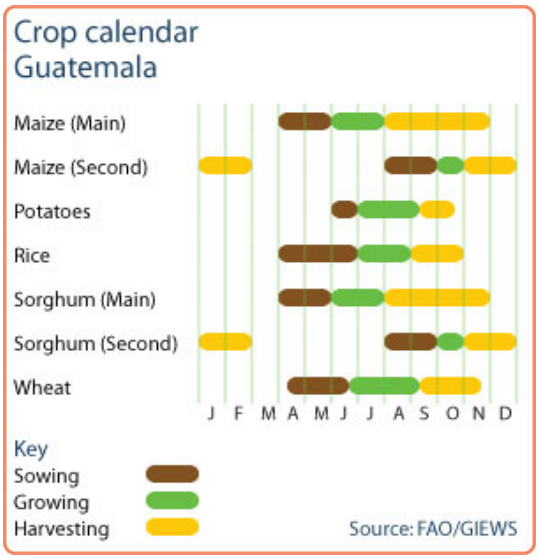
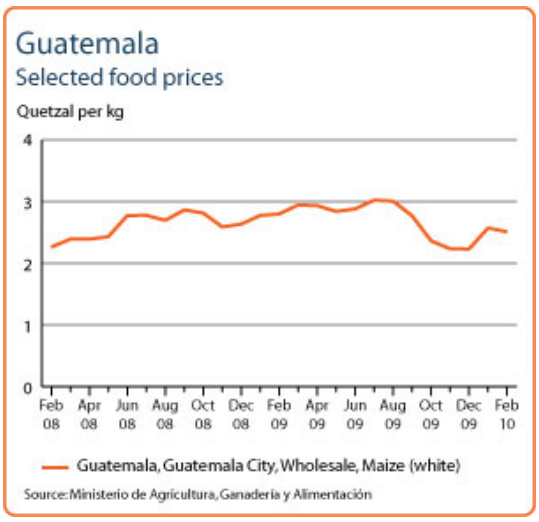
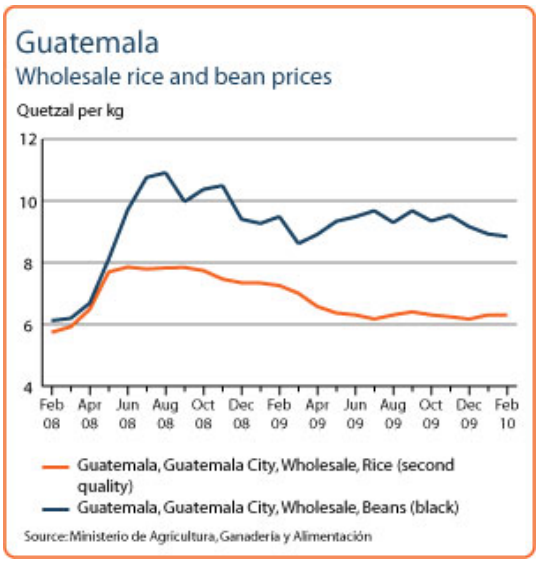






from January 2010, the prospects of a longer than usual period of food shortages once again pushed up the February 2010 prices of white maize to GTQ 115 per Spanish quintal (approximately USD300 per tonne), an increase of approximately 12 per cent over the December 2009 prices.

GIEWS Country Brief

Guatemala

Reference Date: 09-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prolonged drought still affecting poorest departments
- Rice harvesting is underway with no reported damage
- Still very high the prices for beans in Guatemala

The prolonged Canicula Period affected the poorest departments in the country

Every year, the country suffers from a mid-summer drought period between June and August, called the *canícula*, which was particularly prolonged this year and caused a sharp decline in primera bean and maize harvests.

The *canícula* had a very serious effect on the region of the Oriente Dry Corridor, which compises the eight departments of Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jutiapa, Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Quiché, where most of the severely degraded lands lie.

The farmers who managed to sow their crops with the first rains that fell in May were able to harvest what they had sown.

Conversely, virtually the whole of the maize and bean harvest sown between the first week of July and the first few days of August was lost.

No damage has been reported to the rice harvest

The rice harvest should be taking place at the present time.

So far, no losses have been caused to rice production because it is mainly concentrated in the departments of Izabal, Alta Verapaz and only partially in the departments of Santa Rosa and Jutiapa affected by the current drought.

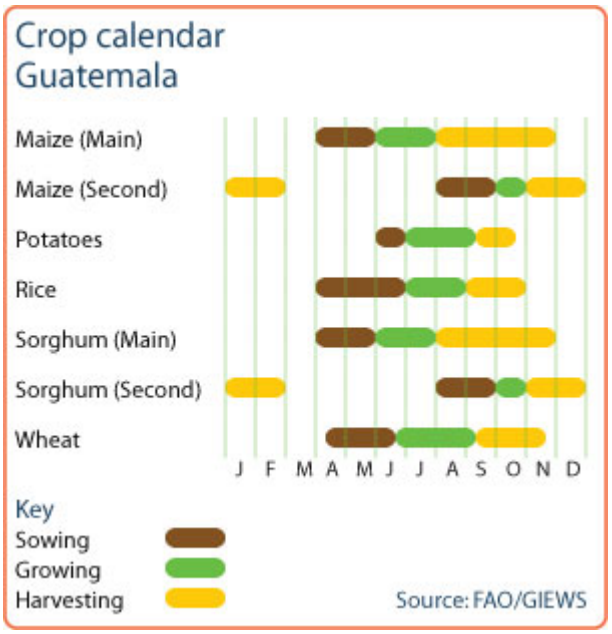
Food insecurity is increasing among the poorest households

According to official data 53 000 basic grain producers are directly affected, representing about 20 percent of the rural population living in Guatemala's Dry Corridor.

Taking account of all the small farmer households possessing and farming land together with the poor non-farming families, it is estimated that 90 000 households are currently threatened by food insecurity as a result of the 2009 drought.

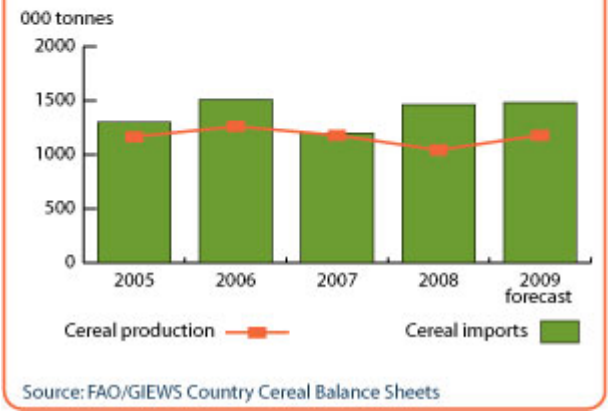
To address the emergency situation and the shortage of staples affecting the country, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food has been implementing a *Food Contingency and Emergency Plan 2009* covering the period August-December 2009 to supply poor households with basic foodstuffs such as maize, maize flour, beans, bean flour, rice and seed for sowing.

The high black bean wholesale prices on the Guatemala City market have fallen by about 6 percent below 2008, even though they still remain above mid-2008 pre-crisis levels.



Cereal production and imports
Guatemala

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	1081	970	1100	13.4%
Sorghum	50	45	50	11.1%
Rice (milled)	22	20	21	5%
Other	10	9	10	11.1%
Total Cereals	1162	1044	1181	13.1%



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

The government is thinking of tackling food shortages by authorising duty-free imports

Faced with reduced black bean production in the current harvest, the Ministry of the Economy may authorise duty-free grain imports.